



ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES

An interdisciplinary lens to understand the complex world we inhabit

The Organizational Studies program integrates the university's great strengths—its public legacy, faculty expertise, student energy, and alumni know-how—in a program that begins with rigorous courses but reaches far beyond the conventional classroom. Organizational Studies (OS) is a small and highly selective major whose dedicated faculty and staff offer the best interdisciplinary education available to exemplary Michigan students. Students are required to articulate an individualized curricular pathway based on their intellectual and career interests. They are prominently represented in student organizations and provide input into departmental decision making. They also benefit from frequent opportunities to connect with our active alumni for professional mentoring and career advice. OS strives to enhance students' academic experiences by providing multiple opportunities for initiative and leadership.

Dedication to undergraduate education is a core value in Organizational Studies. The program prepares high-achieving students for the complex organizational world of the twenty-first century. Our intellectually robust liberal arts program combines theory and research with on-site learning. Students experience broad exposure to fields such as business, communications, public health, and public policy on the solid foundation of social science. Research opportunities test our students' ability to apply knowledge while building their store of practical experience and problem-solving expertise in real-world organizations. This comprehensive, balanced approach equips OS graduates with skills that complement their engaging classroom education.

In response to high demand from students who want the personalized, hands-on experience that Organizational Studies offers, OS is currently planning for growth. To reach a larger number of students, we need to attract the very best faculty to teach and mentor undergraduates, and ensure that we can provide access to popular co-curricular offerings, like our workplace shadowing program and our innovations in international education, to an expanded cohort of majors. Your support can be instrumental in expanding the reach and impact of Organizational Studies.

STRATEGIC FUND

As Organizational Studies plans for growth, we want to maintain our small cohorts, intimate culture, and hands-on experiences in and beyond the classroom. This means we need to attract additional world-class faculty who can bring OS to more students while retaining what makes it distinctive. OS competes for faculty with other leading universities and with business schools that can provide enormous resources. A gift of \$10,000 - \$100,000 to the Strategic Fund will allow OS to attract a new faculty member with a more competitive offer and support our goal of expanding to meet student demand. Gifts to the Strategic Fund also allow Organizational Studies the flexibility to respond to new opportunities and challenges. This expendable, discretionary fund is a wellspring of new ideas and the source of our ability to respond to shifting needs.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT FUND

Organizational Studies doesn't offer a standard degree; it offers an individually curated academic journey that is enhanced by OS co-curricular experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Faculty include guest speakers, case studies, and field trips to local organizations so students witness how their theoretical learnings are reflected in real organizations. Study abroad funding helps students learn how organizations work in other parts of the world. Career preparation, internship opportunities, and alumni shadowing and networking allow students to confidently transition into the working world. As we expand in size, additional funds are needed to ensure demand can be met for our co-curricular innovations. This endowed fund aims to support all these activities in perpetuity. A one-time gift of \$10,000 - \$15,000 to the academic enrichment fund can support 20 students on an alumni shadowing experience. A \$350,000 endowed gift would support this or another one of our academic enrichment programs indefinitely.



“I am finally able to study what I am truly passionate about— understanding why organizations work well and what makes a positive and inclusive organizational culture. Because I am so interested in the ‘why’ of human behavior within organizations, I plan to double major in psychology.”

–Amelia Berry, LSA Class of '23



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

A course with an international component helps students to engage with other cultures and ways of thinking. They learn through personal experience how organizations are affected by their environments and local cultures. An endowed investment of \$1.3M for the International Education Initiative would enable students to take OS leadership into the world by providing them with opportunities for gaining practical experience working with organizations in different parts of the globe. Funding of \$50,000 annually would provide the resources for OS to develop and implement a course with an international component each year, available to all students, regardless of financial background.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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