Honors Program

THE POWER

For more than fifty years, the LSA Honors Program has helped ambitious students take full advantage of what Michigan has to offer. In 2012, the Program was ranked #1 in the nation for overall excellence among public universities. The 500 students who enroll each year combine a deep exploration of the liberal arts with a comprehensive approach to their major, including research experiences that culminate in a senior thesis. By participating in Honors, they join an exciting, diverse campus community which builds friendships and habits of mind that last a lifetime.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Implicit in the word “Honors” are challenge and intellectual stimulus. The Honors Program at the University of Michigan offers a rigorous academic career through special courses, research with faculty, prime housing and commons space, and a vigorous intellectual community that includes Honors faculty fellows. The Honors Program enables students to identify their intellectual interests and to pursue them deeply. Graduates of the Honors Program are particularly prepared to enter the world and meet its challenges, solve its problems, and make a difference.

Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name “Victors.” The $400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That’s why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the front-lines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.
HONORS CORE CURRICULUM FELLOWS
$180,000 annually/$15,000 per fellow annually
For many decades, Great Books has been the one shared classroom experience for students in the LSA Honors Program. We plan to strengthen the intellectual community of our first-year Honors students by developing a set of Honors Core Courses extending across the three divisions of the College. These courses will also engage all first-year students in a monthly Core Symposium featuring top faculty and visitors engaged in interdisciplinary panels. To develop these courses, we will invite a select group of faculty members, all experienced in Honors and recognized for their excellence in teaching, to join a development team of 12 ‘Honors Faculty Fellows.’

HONORS STUDENT LEADERSHIP
$50,000 annually
Honors housing is at the core of our student experience, bringing together all of our incoming students in a vibrant living-learning community. Each year, the Honors Residential Advisors and Peer Mentors develop a rich program of student-led academic, service, and cultural activities both on campus and off. These are premiere leadership opportunities for upper-division Honors students. We provide training, supervision, and guidance to students involved in this work. Gifts would support Honors stipends for our RAs and cover expenses for activities.

HONORS STUDENT ACTIVITIES
$10,000 annually
To enrich the Honors community and broaden our students’ cultural horizons, we sponsor a wide variety of events. Our well-established “Lunch with Honors” series features lunch with faculty and visiting celebrities who give short talks followed by discussion. This series has hosted such illustrious guests as Salman Rushdie, Mary Sue Coleman, and Laurie Anderson, as well as members of the Royal Shakespeare Company, John Beilein, Bob King (UAW President), and Zingerman’s founder Ari Weinzweig. Also, we provide group tickets to such activities as concerts, plays, and other events, with group discussions before or afterwards.

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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