Laptop Program

$20,000 annually for 10 students / $2,000 per student

For low-income LSA students, not having a reliable laptop to use in class for note-taking and group projects, research, or accessing course content is a major obstacle to academic success. Laptops are an essential tool for students to write papers, create presentations, take notes while reading and studying, visit course websites, and participate in required online course activities.

To address the digital divide among undergraduates, LSA piloted the Laptop Program. Low-income students are offered the opportunity to borrow a new, university-owned MacBook Air to use throughout their undergraduate years. Laptops are loaned to students so as not to reduce their financial aid. They have the option to purchase the laptop for a nominal fee when they graduate.

According to one student, "My family, particularly my dad, was stressing out for not being able to provide a laptop that could run all the required programs for college. I was using an old Chromebook that would constantly crash during class if it was running..."
too many processes at once. I'm ever so grateful for this laptop, and it truly lifted a lot of burdens off of my and my family's shoulders. It helped with my studies, and I was able to accomplish so much more.”

In the three years since the program began, more than 700 students have experienced a significant, positive impact on their academic outcomes. The demand for laptops is increasing as the four-year pilot nears its conclusion. The college has already received requests for laptops from 400 students entering LSA in fall 2018.

Support is needed to continue to offer this important resource to help level the academic playing field for low-income students. A gift of $20,000 would provide funding for 10 new laptops for students to use while studying at Michigan. Gifts of all sizes are needed to make sure that all students have the tools they need to thrive during their time on campus.