



HONORS PROGRAM

Where our talented scholars deeply pursue their intellectual interests

For more than sixty years, the LSA Honors Program has helped ambitious students take full advantage of what Michigan has to offer. The 350 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.

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. 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.

Gifts to Honors help us to increase the intellectual vitality of the program and to admit and recruit students of the highest caliber. By putting a variety of academic and cultural initiatives into place, we bring faculty and students together for informal intellectual gatherings, research experiences, and leadership opportunities that extend and enrich the Honors community.

HONORS IN ENGAGED LIBERAL ARTS

Unlike like the traditional Honors major, which typically requires the writing and submission of a thesis, Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts (HELA) is a path to graduation for students in any major who wish to combine their academics with civic or leadership experience by developing projects that involve a serious engagement with a significant intellectual, social, political, or practical problem. HELA requires that students integrate curricular learning with co-curricular and engaged modes of learning in which they exercise their own agency to solve problems, enhance civic assets, or otherwise catalyze meaningful change within a community. Annual gifts of \$5,000 - \$25,000 are needed to fund students' project-based initiatives, including research and travel, and to fund the development of robust intellectual, academic, and engaged learning program tailored to the needs of each year's HELA student cohort. An endowed gift of \$500,000 will meet the needs of HELA students in perpetuity.

HONORS RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS

Honors supports student research activities, helping to pay for research travel, extraordinary expenses, and conference fees. Requests for funding have grown in both number and size and have expanded to include requests for unpaid internships as well as research support. Gifts will enable students to pursue their theses, may inspire a life in research, and will encourage students to engage in the vital hands-on learning necessary in today's world. With requests outstripping our capacity, we are in need of additional support to make research and internships accessible to all Honors students. We also have a special application grant called a "Critical Difference" that allows students to take advantage of suddenly-arising opportunities. An expendable gift of \$50,000 annually will provide the funds to support the research, internship, and Critical Difference needs for all Honors grant applicants.



“Honors has defined much of my Michigan experience. It’s given me my best friends, key mentors, and innumerable opportunities to both explore intellectually and pursue my interests with fervor. Looking back, I think Honors has been a catalyst for personal growth. The program’s support has given me confidence in my ability to navigate challenges and has shown me the value in my own ideas.”

–Sarah Renberg, LSA Class of '22



HONORS SPEAKERS AND ACTIVITIES

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 illustrious guests from all walks of life. We also subsidize group tickets to activities such as concerts, plays, and other events, with group discussions before or afterwards. In addition, support is urgently needed to fund speakers or experts for the Honors core curriculum, which requires holding a symposium every semester for all students in core courses. Gifts of \$10,000 annually would help ensure the continuation of these important activities.

HONORS SUMMER FELLOWS

We successfully completed a \$2.5M endowment for Honors Summer Fellows, which will fund a full cohort of fellows. Additional annual funding of \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually is needed to support administrative costs, including a student intern who will provide organizational leadership throughout the summer. Significant expendable giving or further building of the endowment would ensure that the faculty Honors director can provide intellectual leadership and academic guidance to the program.

NAMING THE HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program has a distinguished history going back more than a half century. It has produced much innovation over the years, not only in the college and university-wide, but also in the nation. As the top-ranked honors program in the nation, LSA Honors sets the pace in honors admissions, course development, and activities. We are a strong factor in recruiting excellent students and top faculty to the college and the university. A \$25M endowment would generate \$1M a year for the program, enough to support current activities and provide funds for significant innovation.

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.

CONTACT INFO

LSA Advancement // College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
101 N. Main Street, Suite 850 // Ann Arbor, MI 48104

P. 734.615.6333 // F. 734.647.3061 // lsa.umich.edu/honors