



# PSYCHOLOGY

Driving scientific breakthroughs, solving big societal challenges, and training tomorrow's leaders

The University of Michigan Department of Psychology is consistently ranked as one of the top departments in the world in research and undergraduate and graduate education. We teach thousands of students annually and provide enriching, hands-on service-learning opportunities and laboratory experiences. Together, we are tackling some of the biggest and most pressing issues confronting our society today using cutting-edge psychological research. We see science and public impact as going hand in hand and are poised to use our incredible research and educational infrastructure to make our world a better place.

Some examples of the cutting-edge research being tackled by the faculty and students in our department include:

- Promoting and understanding healthy aging and preventing Alzheimer's and dementia through brain imaging, large-scale longitudinal samples, and intervention studies
- Identifying the neural, genetic, and societal influences on addictions from drugs to ultra-processed foods, and assessing the efficacy of prevention programs
- Conducting longitudinal studies of child development that address how families and communities can foster resilience, brain health, and academic achievement, even in the face of adversity
- Understanding how to prevent mental illness and promote mental health and wellness through a translation from basic science to community-based interventions
- Increasing our understanding of decision making and impacts on political polarization, climate beliefs, altruistic behavior, selection of medical treatments, and other socially-relevant issues
- Understanding how inequality in our society impact child development and adult well-being
- Exploring neurodiversity in children and adults with dyslexia, ADHD, and other cognitive differences

Funding for public higher education has shifted away from state support, and fundraising is now essential. We have been highly successful in obtaining funding from government agencies (e.g., the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation) and foundations (e.g., the Templeton Foundation, the New School Venture Fund). To maintain and expand our cutting-edge research, the Department of Psychology needs additional support for our mission—funding to support prominent faculty, recruit talented graduate students, and engage undergraduate students in research. Psychology is meeting the moment, addressing major societal issues, and working to enhance our infrastructure and the impact of our research and teaching.

## PSYCHOLOGY STRATEGIC FUND

Expendable, undesignated gifts of all sizes are extraordinarily important to the continuing success and growth of the department. Contributions to the strategic fund help us fill in the gaps in our funding or meet unexpected needs and challenges. Strategic Funds are used for new faculty research so that they can generate preliminary data to apply for external grants, to support curriculum development to improve our undergraduate offerings, to host workshops and conferences to bring together scholars from around the world, to support student clubs and activities, and to provide monetary support for classroom enrichment activities for undergraduates such as collecting experimental data for class projects. Gifts of any size make a positive impact on our students and faculty.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FUND

Engaging our undergraduates in research is the best way to help them gain a deep understanding of psychological science, to develop critical thinking skills, to become educated consumers of information, and to be inspired to tackle challenging societal issues. We are seeking funding so that all of our 1400+ students can be involved in life-changing research—to collect data, engage in summer internships, and present and publish their work. Gifts of \$25,000 - \$50,000 may be used to endow an undergraduate research internship program so that students have the opportunity to participate in otherwise unpaid internships. Gifts of \$10,000 - \$25,000 can create an annual fund to pay undergraduates to engage in research who might otherwise need to take paying part-time jobs while in school, which can help level the playing field and provide all students deep research experience, regardless of their resources.



**“I cannot explain how grateful I am for the STAR Scholars program and everything the team has been doing for us mentees. Not only has it successfully made me feel competent enough for a professional environment, research position, and graduate school, it has also significantly eased my anxiety and impostor syndrome.”**

*— Psychology STAR Scholars Program participant (Scholarship, Transferable skills, Academia & Research)*



## ENDOWED GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate students are vital to the research mission of the department, and training our graduate students helps to build the infrastructure for addressing major societal issues by building more experts and researchers in the field. But graduate training, especially excellent training, is expensive. While any amount is helpful, gifts of \$50,000 can sponsor a student for a year and gifts of \$1M can endow a named, annual graduate fellowship. Support will help us provide research seed funds, student academic-year fellowship support, awards for graduate student travel, or summer funding so that graduate students can continue to make progress on their work year-around. Gifts can help launch new careers to tackle important issues in our world.

## NAMED ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

To be one of the top departments of psychology in the world, we must hire and retain internationally renowned scholars. Yet our faculty are continuously being recruited to other universities. Named professorships, with an endowed gift of \$2.5M, will allow us to attract top faculty to our department or to retain these scholars. We especially seek endowed professorships for scholars doing impactful foundational research and translating that work to address important societal issues such as racism, mental illness, healthy aging, addiction, or child development/education and scholars who are at the cutting edge methodologically, embracing novel approaches to understanding the human mind and brain.

## TARGETED RESEARCH CENTER

Our department conducts important research in many societally relevant fields, and we seek to maximize its impact by creating one or more targeted research centers. Gifts of \$10M or more would allow us to build on our strengths and bring together leading scientists to jointly tackle a major societal problem by building new bridges between disciplines and research labs. The funds would provide support for faculty, visiting scholars, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduates along with a space and equipment, seed money for high risk/high reward research projects, and staff. A new center can help create synergy and momentum towards interdisciplinary solutions to major pressing societal needs and make big impacts.

## 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

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