Chapter 1  Overview of the University

The University was founded in 1817 as the Catholepistemiad, or University of Michigania. In 1821, it was officially renamed the University of Michigan. Originally located in Detroit, the institution’s home moved to Ann Arbor in 1837. One of the original buildings on the Ann Arbor campus still stands and is used today as the President’s house.

The first Ann Arbor classes were taught in 1841, at which point the U-M had two professors and seven students. The first commencement was held in 1845 to recognize the graduation of 11 men. Women were first admitted in 1870. The University has grown to include 19 schools and colleges (table at right), covering the liberal arts and sciences as well as most professions. Student enrollment surpassed 1,000 by 1865, 10,000 in 1936, and 40,000 in 2006. The fall 2015 enrollment of undergraduate, graduate and professional students was 43,651. The U-M provides campus housing to 9,500 undergraduate students in 18 residence halls and apartment buildings.

The current faculty consists of 3,096 individuals who are tenured or on a tenure-track. Lecturers, clinical faculty, research professors, librarians, and archivists add 3,808 to the Ann Arbor campus academic staff, for a total faculty headcount of 7,056. The staff count is 14,339. The FY2015 operating revenues from the state appropriation, tuition, research grants and contracts, gifts and other sources reached $3.59 billion for the Ann Arbor campus. The U-M Health System revenues added $3.27 billion for a grand total of nearly $6.86 billion. According to the latest national data, the U-M spends more on research -- $1.35 billion in FY2014 – than any other U.S. public university.

This chapter presents an overview of the University. The chapters that follow will provide further detail on all aspects of the institution.

For More Information

Bentley Historical Library

Chart updated since the September 2015 edition.

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Since World War II ended, enrollment has more than doubled, from 19,176 in 1946 to 43,651 in 2015.

1.2.1 Student Enrollment, Fall 1841-2015.

The fall enrollment headcount is available starting in 1841 and continuing about every five years to 1929. The first class in 1841 consisted only of undergraduates (6 freshmen and 1 sophomore). Graduate student enrollment began sometime in the 1840s, since the first graduate degree (a Master of Arts) was conferred in 1849, followed by the first M.D. degree in 1851. Total enrollment is reported unless records provide an accurate accounting of the separate undergraduate and graduate student population.

The enrollment valley in the early 1940s followed by a rapid rise and peak in the late 1940s parallels the U.S. involvement in World War II followed by the war’s end and the passage of the GI Bill. The subsequent enrollment valley – reaching its low point in 1985 – synchronizes fairly closely with the end of the post-World War II baby boom’s prime college years.

Undergraduate enrollment has risen fairly steadily since 1960, with a few periods of decline. Graduate and professional enrollment reached an initial peak in 1975, underwent a period of decline through about 2000, and only returned to the 1975 level again in 2007.

**1.2.2 Student Enrollment by Level, Fall 1960-2015.**

![Student Enrollment Graph]

The University community includes 43,651 students and 7,056 faculty members.

1.3 Composition of U-M Ann Arbor Campus Community\(^1\), Fall 2015.


- Undergraduate Students: 28,312
- Graduate Students: 8,358
- Professional Students: 6,981
- Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty: 3,096
- Lecturers: 871
- Clinical Faculty: 1,792
- Research Faculty: 872
- Other Academic: 425
- Research Fellows: 1,154
- Staff: 14,339

Ann Arbor Campus Total\(^1\): 66,200

The total faculty count includes tenured & tenure-track faculty, lecturers, clinical faculty, research faculty and other academic (not-on-track faculty, adjunct and visiting faculty adjunct and visiting research faculty, and emeritus faculty). Research fellows, which may also be called post-doctoral fellows) are not included in faculty headcounts. Staff includes regular staff, clinical interns and professional specialists. The staff category does not include graduate student instructors, graduate student research assistants, or graduate student staff assistants.

\(^1\) Excludes the U-M Health System (see Appendix E for definition).
Revenues (adjusted for inflation\(^2\)) for the Ann Arbor campus and U-M Health System taken together increased from $5.2 billion in FY2005 to $6.6 billion in FY2015. The state appropriation in inflation-adjusted dollars declined from $416 million in FY2005 to $295 million in FY2015.

### 1.4.1 Operating Revenues for the Ann Arbor Campus (including the U-M Health System), Adjusted for Inflation\(^2\), FY 2005-2015.

![Bar chart showing operating revenues for the Ann Arbor campus including the U-M Health System adjusted for inflation from FY2005 to FY2015.](chart1.jpg)

### 1.4.2 Operating Revenues for the Ann Arbor Campus (including the U-M Health System), by Percent, FY 2005-2015.

![Column chart showing operating revenues for the Ann Arbor campus including the U-M Health System broken down by component and as a percentage from FY2005 to FY2015.](chart2.jpg)

SOURCE: University of Michigan Financial Reports.

Data based on the annual audited financial reports. “Net student tuition/fees” is calculated by subtracting student scholarships from total tuition and fees for the fiscal year.

\(^2\) Based on FY 2015 U.S. Consumer Price Index.