Chapter 1  Overview of the University

The University of Michigan is guided by “a larger sense of purpose,” to borrow a phrase used by former U-M president, Harold Shapiro. His words referred to the University’s commitment to provide the educational programs that society demands, to generate new knowledge for the benefit of all, and to serve as a thoughtful critic of society so that it may continually better itself.

The U-M’s mission statement reinforces these ideals, which are to serve the people of Michigan and the world through preeminence in creating, communicating, preserving and applying knowledge, art, and academic values, and in developing leaders and citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future.

Founded in 1817 as the Catholepistemiad or University of Michigania, it was officially renamed in 1821 as 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 six 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 2020 enrollment of undergraduate, graduate and professional students was 47,907. Typically, the U-M provides campus housing to 9,500 undergraduate students in 24 residence halls and apartment buildings (fewer during the pandemic).

Based on the Fall 2020 count, the U-M has 3,202 tenured or on a tenure-track faculty. Lecturers, clinical faculty, research professors, librarians, and archivists add 4,465 to the Ann Arbor campus academic staff. All other staff total 15,972. (Another 4,145 students have paid appointments as graduate student instructors and research assistants; these individuals are counted with students in chart 1.3).

The FY2020 operating revenues from the state appropriation, tuition, research grants and contracts, gifts and other sources reached $4.3 billion for the Ann Arbor campus. The U-M Health System revenues added almost $5.0 billion for a grand total of nearly $9.3 billion. According to the latest national data, in FY2018 the U-M spent $1.53 billion on research – more than any other U.S. public university.

1.1 School/College Origins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/College</th>
<th>Est.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>1817</td>
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<tr>
<td>School/College</td>
<td>First Dean Appointed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical School</td>
<td>1850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law School</td>
<td>1859</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Literature, Science &amp; the Arts</td>
<td>1875</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Dentistry</td>
<td>1875</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Pharmacy</td>
<td>1876</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Engineering</td>
<td>1895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Education</td>
<td>1921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen M. Ross School of Business</td>
<td>1924</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Music, Theatre &amp; Dance</td>
<td>1927</td>
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<td>School of Environment &amp; Sustainability</td>
<td>1927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taubman College of Architecture &amp; Urban Planning</td>
<td>1931</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Nursing</td>
<td>1941</td>
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<td>School of Public Health</td>
<td>1941</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Social Work</td>
<td>1951</td>
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<td>School of Information</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penny W. Stamps School of Art &amp; Design</td>
<td>1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Kinesiology</td>
<td>1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy</td>
<td>1995</td>
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</table>

1 New name as of July 1, 2017. Previously called the School of Natural Resources & Environment.

For More Information

History of U-M (historyofum.umich.edu)
Bentley Historical Library (bentley.umich.edu)
Office of Budget and Planning – Campus Statistics (obp.umich.edu/campus-statistics)

Charts in Chapter 1

1.1 School/College Origins.
1.2.1 Student Enrollment, Fall 1841-2020.
1.2.2 Student Enrollment by Level, Fall 1960-2020.
1.3 Composition of U-M Ann Arbor Campus Community, Fall 2020.
1.4.1 Operating Revenues for the Ann Arbor Campus (including U-M Health System), Adjusted for Inflation, FY2010-2020.
1.4.2 Operating Revenues for the Ann Arbor Campus (including U-M Health System) by Percent, FY2010-2020.

Chart updated since the October 2020 edition.
Since World War II ended, enrollment has more than doubled from 19,176 in 1946 to 48,090 in 2020.

1.2.1 Student Enrollment, Fall 1841-2020.

An enrollment headcount based on a fall count is available starting in 1841 and continuing about every five years to 1929. The first class in 1841 consisted of six undergraduates. Graduate student enrollment began during the 1840s, and 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 1960-2020.

SOURCE: U-M Office of the Registrar

University of Michigan undergraduate student enrollment has risen nearly every year since 1960. The Fall 2020 enrollment is 2.2 times larger than the Fall 1960 enrollment. The undergraduate increase from last fall is 63 students (0.2%).

Graduate student enrollment growth has not grown with the same consistence as for undergraduates, although the current Fall enrollment is 1.8 times larger than for Fall 1960. Graduate enrollment declined by 246 students since last fall (-1.5%).

These changes from last fall are largely attributed to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
The University community includes 47,907 students and 7,292 faculty members.

1.3 Composition of U-M Ann Arbor Campus Community¹, Fall 2020.

![Pie chart showing the composition of the University community]

SOURCE: U-M Office of the Registrar; U-M Human Resources Data Sets

Undergraduate Students ................................ 31,329
Graduate Students ......................................... 13,862
Professional Students ...................................... 2,716
Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty ........................ 3,202
Lecturers ............................................................. 989
Clinical Faculty ............................................... 2,247
Research Faculty ................................................ 854
Other Academic ................................................. 375
Research Fellows/Post-Doctoral Fellows ........ 1,156
Staff ............................................................... 15,972
Ann Arbor Campus Total¹ ............................. 72,702

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). In this chart, the staff count includes regular staff, clinical interns and professional specialists. Students who also have supplemental staff appointments as graduate student instructors, graduate student research assistants, and graduate student staff assistants are included in student counts.

The professional student count includes students enrolled in the MD, DDS, JD, PharmD and DNP programs. The graduate student count includes all other graduate students. See Appendix C for details.

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 combined increased from $6.19 billion in FY2010 to $8.98 billion in FY2020. The state appropriation in inflation-adjusted dollars declined from $376 million in FY2010 to $287 million in FY2020.

1.4.1 Operating Revenues for the Ann Arbor Campus (including the U-M Health System), Adjusted for Inflation\(^2\), FY2010-2020.

1.4.2 Operating Revenues for the Ann Arbor Campus (including the U-M Health System), by Percent, FY2010-2020.

SOURCE: University of Michigan 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 2020 U.S. Consumer Price Index