Chapter 2  Undergraduate Students: Admissions & Enrollment

Goals
Access is a central priority for the University admissions and enrollment process. The goal is to enable qualified students to attend regardless of socioeconomic background. For many years, the U-M has provided financial aid packages that meet full cost of attendance to admitted in-state students with demonstrated need. Recently the University added a new program – the Go Blue Guarantee – that pledges to provide the full cost of tuition to all admitted, in-state students whose family income is less than $65,000 and family assets are less than $50,000 (see Chapter 3).

The University also seeks to enhance the student learning experience by improving the student-faculty ratio, encouraging international experiences, supporting academic multicultural initiatives, keeping pace with instructional technology and facilities, and expanding undergraduate engaged learning opportunities (see Chapter 8).

Overview
This chapter details application, admission and enrollment trends for first-time undergraduates and new transfer students.

Student interest in the University continues to grow. Applications from first-time first-year students have more than doubled since 2010, although the 2020 application count was only slightly higher than last year. As a highly selective institution, U-M offers admission to fewer than half of those who apply. The number of newly enrolling first years has been fairly level over the last decade; new enrollees have increased by only a few hundred.

Undergraduate students who enroll in the U-M have excellent grade point averages and standardized test scores. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions has described U-M students as “bright and inquisitive, coming from a diverse range of backgrounds, and driven to succeed.” These students are attracted to the University of Michigan for numerous reasons, including the institution’s reputation, the quality of its faculty and academic programs, and the campus atmosphere.

The U-M offers some 250 academic programs for undergraduates, opportunities for international study, more than 1,600 student clubs to join, and 27 NCAA Division I teams to cheer on. No other public university spends more on research, making it possible even for undergraduate students to have hands-on research experiences. The cosmopolitan campus community and college town atmosphere make it one of the most interesting places in the country.

The University actively pursues students from the state of Michigan, the nation and around the globe. In fall 2020, the U-M enrolled undergraduate students from all 83 Michigan counties, all 50 states, and 91 countries. Fifty-three percent of undergraduates are from the state of Michigan. The diverse origins, backgrounds and experiences found in every entering class contribute to the varied interests and characteristics of the student body.

For More Information
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
(admissions.umich.edu)

Enrollment and Degree Reports, Office of the Registrar
(ro.umich.edu/reports)

Office of Budget and Planning (see Campus Statistics)
(obp.umich.edu)

Chart updated since the October 2020 edition.

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2.1.2 Applications, Admission offers, and Enrollment for New Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2010-2020.
2.2 Selectivity Rates for Undergraduate First-Year and Transfer Students, Fall 2010-2020.
2.2.2 Yield Rates for New First-Year and Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2010-2020.
2.3.1 GPA and Standardized Test Scores of New First-Year Students, Fall 2010 and Fall 2020.
2.3.2 SAT Math and Critical Reading Scores for New First-Year Undergraduate Students at U-M and Peer Institutions, Fall 2019.
2.3.3 SAT Math and Critical Reading Scores for New First-Year Undergraduate Students at U-M and Public Big Ten Universities, Fall 2019.
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2.5.3 U-M Ann Arbor Campus Undergraduate Student Enrollment from the State of Michigan by County, Fall 2020.
2.5.4 U-M Ann Arbor Campus Undergraduate Student Enrollment by State, Fall 2020.
U-M first-year undergraduate applications have doubled since 2010, although the total has plateaued in the last few years. Enrollment has increased only 6 percent over the same time frame.

2.1.1 Applications, Admission Offers, and Enrollment for New First-Year Students, Fall 2010-2020.

Over the last decade, new first-year undergraduate application totals for the University of Michigan have trended upward at a fairly rapid rate through the Fall 2018 enrollment period. This growth is largely attributed to the adoption of the Common Application, which makes it simpler for students to include the University of Michigan on the list of institutions they want to consider.

Importantly, the U-M has continued to enroll highly qualified students even as the number of applications has grown and in spite of a decline in the number of high school graduates from Michigan high schools and from most states across the nation.
U-M transfer applications and enrollment have increased compared to ten years ago.

2.1.2 Applications, Admission Offers, and Enrollment for New Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2010-2020.

Over the last decade, undergraduate transfer application totals for the University of Michigan have trended upward, although much more slowly than have new first-years applications. Nonetheless, new transfer enrollment has increased by 44 percent over 2010.
The trend in selectivity rates is mainly influenced by changes in application numbers, although the decline in high school populations in Michigan also has an impact.

### 2.2.1 Selectivity Rates for New Undergraduate First-Year and Transfer Students, Fall 2010-2020.

![Selectivity Rates Chart]

The U-M sets annual targets for entering first-year undergraduate students. The class-size target and a prediction of how many admitted applicants will enroll influence the number of admissions offers. Tuning admissions selectivity to produce desired enrollment levels is something of an art, informed by data and experience. Selectivity is the ratio of admission offers to total applications. Yield is the ratio of enrollment numbers to admission offers.

In chart 2.2.1, a lower percentage indicates greater selectivity, an indicator of student quality. What the chart does not show is the high quality of a majority of applicants, and that admission offers stem from a broad range of factors, not just high school grads and test scores.

In chart 2.2.2, a high percentage indicates the school is successful in convincing the sought-after students to enroll here instead of other schools. Yield is lower for out-of-state students (dotted green curve) compared to in-state students (dotted red curve) likely due to the U-M commitment to providing financial aid to in-state students and relatively greater competition the University faces for out-of-state students.

### 2.2.2 Yield Rates for New Undergraduate First-Year and Transfer Students, Fall 2020-2020.

![Yield Rates Chart]
The academic preparation of first-time first-year students entering the U-M, already high, is improving, as indicated by the grade point averages and standardized test scores of the Fall 2020 first-year undergraduate students compared to their 2010 counterparts.

### 2.3.1 GPA\(^1\) and Standardized Test Scores of New First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2010 and Fall 2020.

Data on new U-M first-year students confirms that students enrolling in the U-M have experienced a high level of academic success in high school. Furthermore, the level of academic achievement of new first-years has increased, as indicated by comparing percentile rankings of high school grade point averages (GPA) and standardized test scores of the Fall 2010 and 2020 first-years classes.

The University of Michigan calculates each student's high school GPA on a 4.0 scale after eliminating any weighting from the applicant’s high school transcript. In 2010, the GPA was calculated based on academic subjects only in grades 9 to 11. In 2020, the GPA was calculated for all subjects taken in grades 9 to 11.

U-M applicants must submit a score for the SAT or the ACT (and some submit scores for both tests). The reported scores for Fall 2020 first-year undergraduate students come from a relatively new version of the SAT. The SAT results reported for Fall 2010 first-years combine the scores from the Verbal and Math tests given that year.

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\(^1\) A grade point average was not recorded in admissions data for every newly enrolled first-years.
2.3.2 SAT Math and Critical Reading Scores (25th to 75th Percentiles) for New First-Year Undergraduate Students at U-M and Peer Institutions, Fall 2019.

The universities chosen for comparison are those that the U-M considers as academic peers. The schools have been ordered by the sum of the 75th percentile SAT Critical Reading and Math scores for the institution’s fall 2019 new first-year students (the most recent year for which data is available for U-M peer institutions). Each institution’s full-time first-year undergraduate enrollment for fall 2019 is in parentheses after the school name. Although only about one-half of Fall 2017 U-M first-years submitted SAT scores (while about 75% submit ACT scores), the SAT score is the only measure available for many of these peer institutions.

2 A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.
New U-M first-year undergraduate student scores on the combined Math and Reading sections of the SAT equal those of comparable students at University of Wisconsin and are higher than all other Big Ten public institutions.

2.3.3 SAT Math and Critical Reading Scores (25th to 75th Percentiles) for New First-Year Undergraduate Students at Public Big Ten Universities, Fall 2019.

SOURCE: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

The school list is ordered by the sum of the 75th percentile SAT Math and Critical Reading scores for the institution’s fall 2019 new full-time first-time students. Each institution’s full-time new first-years enrollment for fall 2019 is in parentheses after the school name.
Undergraduate degree-seeking transfer students enter with slightly higher grade point averages today than 10 years ago.

2.3.4 Average College GPA of New Undergraduate Transfer Students\(^3\), Fall 2010 and Fall 2020.

2.3.5 New Undergraduate Degree-Seeking Transfer Students by Class Level at Enrollment, Fall 2010 and Fall 2020.

\(^3\) A grade point average was not recorded in admissions data for every undergraduate transfer student.

SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

About 94 percent of new transfer students for Fall 2020 entered with sophomore or junior academic standing.
Total undergraduate enrollment in 2020 is 16 percent higher than in 2010. The size of the 2020 class of first-year undergraduates is 6 percent higher than its 2010 counterpart.

2.4.1 Total Undergraduate and New First-Year Student Enrollment, Fall 2010-2020.

SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets
Fifteen\(^4\) of the 19 U-M Schools and Colleges administer undergraduate programs, which enrolled 31,329 students for Fall 2020.

### 2.4.2 Undergraduate Student Fall Enrollment Headcount by School and College, 2016-20.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/College</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taubman College of Architecture &amp; Urban Planning</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penny W. Stamps School of Art &amp; Design</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen M. Ross School of Business</td>
<td>1,733</td>
<td>2,330</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>2,404</td>
<td>2,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Dentistry (Dental Hygiene)</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Education</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Engineering</td>
<td>6,231</td>
<td>6,442</td>
<td>6,648</td>
<td>6,779</td>
<td>6,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School for Environment &amp; Sustainability(^4)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Information</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Kinesiology</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>1,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Literature, Science and the Arts</td>
<td>17,216</td>
<td>17,075</td>
<td>17,149</td>
<td>17,837</td>
<td>17,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School(^5)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Music, Theatre &amp; Dance</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Nursing</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Pharmacy</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Public Health(^6)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Art and Design / School of Music, Theatre and Dance Joint Program</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total, Undergraduate Students                  | 28,983|29,821|30,318|31,266|31,329|

SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

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\(^4\) The School for Environment & Sustainability does not accept new undergraduate students but allows students to return to an undergraduate program if enrolled in one in the past when the school offered such programs.

\(^5\) The Medical School launched an undergraduate non-degree program in Fall 2015.

\(^6\) The School of Public Health launched an undergraduate degree program in Fall 2017.
Fifteen of the 19 U-M Schools and Colleges administer undergraduate programs, which enrolled 31,329 students for Fall 2020.

2.4.3 Undergraduate Student Fall Enrollment 10-Year Trend by School and College, 2010-2020.

Enrollment counts are excluded from this chart for students in the Medical School MedPrep non-degree program and for SEAS undergraduate readmits and students who started the Pharm.D. program without holding a bachelor's degree and were counted as undergraduate students prior to Fall 2017 instead of graduate-professional students.
More than half of U-M undergraduate students are from the state of Michigan.

2.5.1 Geographic Origin of Undergraduate Students by Headcount and Percent, Fall 2010-2020.

A student’s geographic origin is defined according to the address used in the application for admission. The geographic origin of a student is similar, but not identical, to residency status, which is used to determine tuition to be paid.

The distribution of in-state and out-of-state students among undergraduates is partially dependent on the size of each high school graduating class in Michigan, which is on the decline. In 2008, the number of Michigan public high school graduates peaked at 117,487. By 2030, the total number of public high school graduates has been projected to drop to 100,430, about 17 percent below the 2008 peak. In spite of the drop in Michigan high school graduates, the U-M enrolls a significant percentage of the state's high school graduates compared to many other Michigan public universities and colleges.

The counts in this chart include a small number of students enrolled in the Pharm.D. program who were classified as undergraduate students, a practice that ended with Fall 2017.

SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

7 Student Pathways Aggregate for High Schools (HS Graduation Year 2010-11), Center for Educational Performance and Information, www.michigan.gov/cepi.

Michigan enrolls a higher fraction of out-of-state/international new first-year undergraduate students compared to most of its public university peers. In large part this is because U-M’s primary competitors for these students are selective private universities.

2.5.2 Geographic Origin of New First-Years Students, U-M and Public Big Ten and Peer Institutions\(^6\), by Percent, Fall 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>In-state %</th>
<th>Out-of-state %</th>
<th>International %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purdue U</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Wisconsin</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U MICHIGAN</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn State U</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana U</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Iowa</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Washington</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Maryland</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Virginia</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Minnesota</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State U</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Nebraska</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC-Berkeley</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Illinois</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State U</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U North Carolina</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers U</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Texas</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

IPEDS collects geographic origin data only for new first-time first-year students.

A list of the “official” public peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.
The majority of in-state undergraduate students are from Southeastern Michigan.

2.5.3 U-M Ann Arbor Campus Undergraduate Student Enrollment from the State of Michigan by County, Fall 2020.

SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets
After Michigan, the states of New York, Illinois and California are home to the largest number of U-M undergraduate students.

2.5.4 U-M Ann Arbor Campus Undergraduate Student Enrollment by State, Fall 2020.