



ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES

An interdisciplinary lens to understand the complex world we inhabit

The Organizational Studies program integrates the university's great strengths—its public legacy, faculty expertise, student energy, and alumni know-how—in programs that begin with rigorous courses but reach far beyond the conventional classroom. Organizational Studies (OS) is a small, highly selective, and rigorous major whose dedicated faculty and staff offer the best interdisciplinary education available to exemplary Michigan students. Students are required to articulate an individualized curricular pathway based on their intellectual and career interests. They are prominently represented in student organizations and provide input into departmental decision making. They also benefit from frequent opportunities to connect with our active alumni for professional mentoring and career advice. OS strives to enhance students' academic experiences by providing multiple opportunities for initiative and leadership.

Dedication to undergraduate education is a core value in Organizational Studies. The program prepares high-achieving students for the complex organizational world of the 21st century. Our intellectually rigorous liberal arts program combines theory and research with on-site learning. Students experience a broad exposure to fields such as business, communications, public health, and public policy on the solid foundation of social science. Research opportunities test our students' ability to apply knowledge while building their store of practical experience and problem-solving expertise in real-world organizations. This comprehensive, balanced approach equips OS graduates with skills that complement their rigorous classroom education.

Support for the Organizational Studies program can take many forms. Students benefit from scholarships and leadership opportunities within the program that allow them to gain valuable experience and contribute to OS and the broader community. As OS continues to grow in breadth and popularity with students, we need to attract the very best faculty to teach and mentor undergraduates. To that end, support for faculty through research funds, development funds for innovative curriculum, and for other projects helps us to recruit scholars who are leaders in their fields.

STRATEGIC FUND

Gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually to the Strategic Fund allow Organizational Studies the flexibility to respond to new opportunities and challenges. Many of our most successful programs have begun with investments from this fund. The Strategic Fund is also a critical source of support for courses that have value to OS that are developed and taught by faculty from outside the program. This expendable, discretionary fund is a wellspring of new ideas and the source of our ability to respond to shifting needs.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INNOVATION FUND

A world-class program requires world-class faculty. OS competes for faculty with other leading universities and with business schools at those universities that are able to provide enormous resources to their faculty. We also expect our faculty members to focus exclusively on undergraduate education and to develop new, innovative curricula. Providing resources for the development of new curricula, funding groundbreaking research, and supporting the integration of research and coursework in OS is crucial in the retention and recruitment of faculty who are at the cutting-edge of innovation. And gifts of \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually would ensure we continue to recruit and retain the best and the brightest

COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP FUND

A commitment of \$250,000 annually or \$5,000 per project to the Community Citizenship Fund will allow us to guarantee that each student has the opportunity to participate in a project they helped design and for which we offer seed funding. These projects enable OS to develop our students into citizen leaders who work together on sustained projects that contribute to the betterment of our communities. By working as a member of a team, students learn how various types of work styles and leadership contribute to projects. Projects would provide opportunities for students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to the real world in a way that engages their passions. Also students will have the freedom to take risks on innovative ideas and develop resilience through pursuing ambitious goals in a context that shields them from suffering possible consequences that could occur if similar risks were taken in their careers. The Community Citizenship Fund will provide the resources for OS to develop relationships with relevant organizations and sponsor project costs—such as transportation, training, and data collection and analysis—to create these engaging experiences for undergraduates.



“I am finally able to study what I am truly passionate about— understanding why organizations work well and what makes a positive and inclusive organizational culture. Because I am so interested in the ‘why’ of human behavior within organizations, I plan to double major in psychology.”

–Amelia Berry, LSA Class of '23



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

A course with an international component helps students to engage with other cultures and ways of thinking. They learn through personal experience how organizations are affected by their environments and local cultures. An endowed investment of \$2.2M for the International Education Initiative would enable students to take OS leadership into the world by providing them with opportunities for gaining practical experience working with organizations in different parts of the globe. Funding of \$100,000 annually would provide the resources for OS to develop and offer two courses per year.

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/orgstudies