

University of Michigan

Commitment To Native Student Education

When the University of Michigan (U-M) was established in late summer 1817, it had no home. A month later, the People of the Three Fires (the Odawa, Ojibwe and Bodewadimi), donated nearly 2,000 acres in Detroit to be used for the fledgling college, and the histories of the Native peoples of Michigan and the University of Michigan have been intertwined ever since. In conferring their extraordinary gift at the Treaty of Fort Meigs, September 29, 1817, the People of the Three Fires stated their wish that “some of their children hereafter [be] educated” at the university. Today, U-M’s academic community benefits from the presence of their descendants and those of many other tribes from across the country.

Recently, U-M ranked near the top among universities with the highest enrollment of American Indian graduate students, and offers academic and cultural opportunities that provide Native American students a top-tier education as well as a strong dedication to family, community and tradition.

“The American Indian community sponsors several academic and social events every school year. These activities draw our community together,” says U-M alumna Brooke Simon, Ojibwe and Delaware, former co-chair of the Native American Student Association (NASA). “As a U-M student, you can grow in so many ways. You will meet life-long friends, including faculty, who become mentors, teaching you to really think and engage.”

Philip Deloria, Dakota heritage, Professor of History and Native American Studies and immediate-past Director of the Program in American Culture says, “Native American Studies within the Program in American Culture has seen steady growth in faculty and courses over the last few years. It has supported for nearly 30 years the teaching of Ojibwe language and culture, and more recently established an academic minor in Native American Studies. The minor is wonderful for students focusing on science or engineering, but wish to explore Native American Studies.”

Within this expansive university community, there are numerous financial aid opportunities for prospective students. Tuition waivers are made available through the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program, in collaboration with the Michigan Intertribal Council. A financial aid program called M-PACT makes a U-M education more affordable by providing grant funds to replace loan debt for students from many financial backgrounds, from the greatest need to middle income. The university’s new collaboration with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation focuses substantial resources on recruitment, retention and financial aid initiatives with Michigan’s tribal colleges.

“There is no relationship of longer standing at our University than that with Native Americans, and it continues today. Tradition is very important at the University of Michigan, and I am particularly proud of our union with the Native American community.”
 --Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University of Michigan

the
michigan
difference



12 **top-ranked** schools and colleges...

over 226 **undergraduate degree programs...**

nearly **1,100 clubs** and organizations...

25 **NCAA Division I** intercollegiate teams...

students from all 50 states and 129 different countries...



Learn more about the Michigan Difference!
www.admissions.umich.edu/U-M