

Wolverine Pathways

2025 IMPACT REPORT

M *for what's next* ▶ Look to Michigan





As we mark the 10th anniversary of Wolverine Pathways, we are pleased to present this report celebrating the program's achievements over the past year. Inside, you will receive a closer look at how your generosity has positively impacted youth from underserved communities in our state, connecting their neighborhoods with the opportunities afforded by a world-class education.

Since its inception, Wolverine Pathways has broken barriers, inspiring the ambitions of motivated students, increasing their academic preparation, and expanding their network of supportive mentors and peers. Momentum is strong as we enter the program's second decade, where Wolverine Pathways will continue to expand and serve as a cornerstone of the University of Michigan's renewed commitment to providing access and opportunity to those of all backgrounds.

In this report, you will read stories and see data that speak to the success of these efforts. Approximately 35% of WP scholars will be first-generation college students. Your philanthropy funds programs that strengthen their skills in math and literacy, expose them to numerous professions, build up their community of support, and spark a vision for a future they may never have imagined possible. Together, we are launching the next generation of leaders and best and helping them reach their full potential. I look forward to seeing this program grow and thrive in the years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,

DOMENICO GRASSO
President

COMMITMENT DAY

is an important affirmation of achievement and possibility. Here we honor the work of our scholars as they publicly mark the beginning of their next chapter!



SUMMER ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCES

provide an opportunity for scholars to explore a range of university-level academic subjects as well as campus life at the University of Michigan.



PATHWAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION

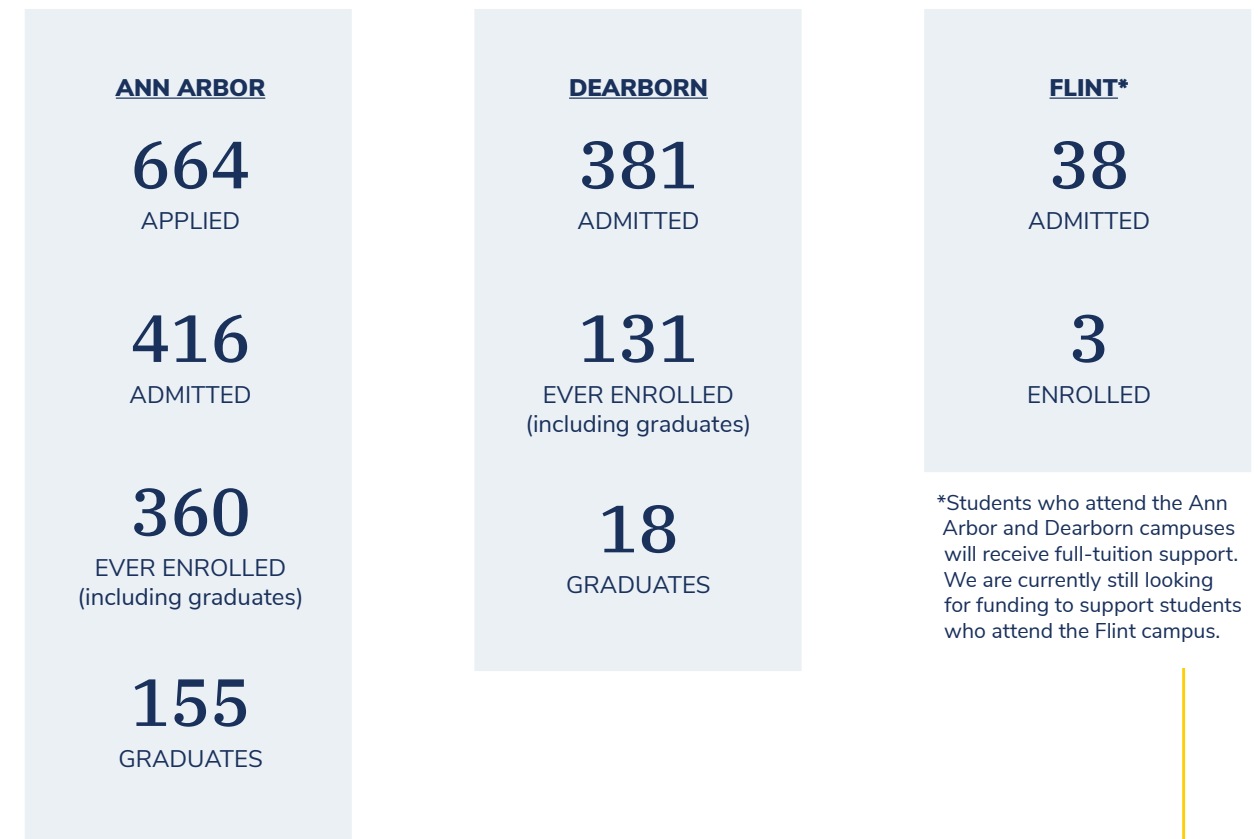
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN WOLVERINE PATHWAYS 2024-2025

$$221 + 173 + 91 + 30 = 515$$

FROM DETROIT FROM SOUTHFIELD FROM YPSILANTI FROM GRAND RAPIDS **TOTAL SCHOLARS**
(485 from Detroit, Southfield, and Ypsilanti—SE Michigan ONLY)

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE	
7th Grade	67
8th Grade	63
9th Grade	57
10th Grade	114
11th Grade	112
12th Grade	102
TOTAL	515

U-M ENROLLMENT AT ALL CAMPUSES



STUDENT SUCCESS

GPA DATA AT UM-ANN ARBOR	
Mean	3.20
Mode	4.0
Median	3.30

*Cumulative GPA as of winter 2025, inclusive of 296 UM-Ann Arbor students (including graduates) who have been enrolled for at least one semester.

ANN ARBOR RETENTION & GRADUATION

Retention/grad rates	WP students at UM-Ann Arbor
One-year retention	98.6%
Two-year retention	98.0%
Three-year retention	96.2%
Four-year graduation	55.8%
Four-and-a-half-year graduation rate	62.2%
Five-year graduation	77.2%
Six-year graduation	80.7%

*Retention rates for first-year admits include all WP students who entered U-M-AA as first-year students between 2018 and 2024. Rates reflect the percentage of students who, as of Fall 2025, have graduated or not disenrolled.

*The six-year graduation rate, the federally recognized standard for assessing college completion, only captures two WP cohorts (the 2018 and 2019 graduating classes from WP) and is subject to fluctuation. WP transfers—scholars who attended another college before matriculating to UM-Ann Arbor—are not included in these calculations and have a six-year graduation rate of 100%.

*Academic, financial, health, and familial hardship, particularly those stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, contributed to lower four-year graduation rates among earlier WP cohorts. These influences were particularly acute for the 2019 cohort. This is evidenced by the nearly 20 percentage point difference in graduation rates between the 2019 cohort and later cohorts, the 100% retention rates of more recent cohorts, as well as WP scholars' own reports as to the influence of these factors in the alumni follow-up survey. Later cohorts were less affected by the exacerbation of hardships stemming from the pandemic and demonstrated an upward trend in graduation rates.

*Differences also emerged by school or college of enrollment. A smaller proportion of scholars in the College of Engineering graduated within four years. In contrast, larger proportions of scholars in the School of Education, the College of Pharmacy, the School of Public Policy, the School of Information, and the School of Public Health graduated within four years.



GRADUATES OF WOLVERINE PATHWAYS ARE

CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES IN MICHIGAN



...AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

INCLUDING

- Bowling Green State University, OH
- Clark-Atlanta University, GA
- Columbia University, NY
- Florida A&M University, FL
- Harvard University, MA
- Howard University, DC
- Morehouse College, GA
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (AT&T), NC
- Northwestern University, IL
- Spelman College, GA
- Wittenberg University, OH
- Xavier University of Louisiana, LA





THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Our partners are critical in supporting our scholars on their journeys to higher education and beyond. Philanthropic giving and volunteerism are vital to providing support for these talented students from across Southeast Michigan.

7TH GRADE

Math instruction
Success coaching



START
PROGRAM HERE

8TH GRADE

Math, science, &
literacy instruction

High school
readiness curriculum

Success coaching

9TH GRADE

Math, science, &
literacy instruction

High school
transition curriculum

Success coaching
and college advising

10TH GRADE

SAT prep

Theme lecture series

Visit UM-Flint campus

College prep course
& College admissions
conference

U-M academic
summer camps—
residential & day
options

Success coaching



START
PROGRAM HERE

11TH GRADE

SAT prep

Visit UM-Dearborn
campus

College & career prep

Internship fair

Professional
development
conference

U-M academic
summer camps—
residential and
day options

12TH GRADE

Three-day, two-night
stay on UM-Ann Arbor
campus

College application
boot camp

College essay
assistance

Pre-college courses

College prep &
transition workshops

In-person & virtual
internships

Financial aid nights

OR

THE WOLVERINE PATHWAYS EXPERIENCE

Did you ever imagine that you would work on an autonomous vehicle in high school? Did you envision yourself being taught by a professor before you even enrolled in college? These are examples of what Wolverine Pathways scholars had access to during the summer of 2025. Wolverine Pathways partners with companies, organizations, and U-M academic units to provide in-person and remote courses, camps, and experiential learning opportunities. With these experiences, Wolverine Pathways scholars are prepared to thrive as soon as they step foot on a college campus.

8TH & 9TH GRADE: ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Algebra I jump start
College exploration
Detroit Science Center:
Dissection and laboratory workshops
Literature and composition:
Developing critical thinkers

10TH & 11TH GRADE: ACADEMIC CAMPS

ArcStart 2.0
D-RISE/Chemistry
Earth Camp/Department of Earth
and Environmental Sciences
Engineering Pathways
Film, Television, and Media
Information Changes Every-
thing/U-M School of Information
MyHealth/Michigan Medicine
Neurons Can Fly
Pathways to Pharmacology
Pathways to Psychology
Health for Public Good / U-M School
of Public Health

12TH GRADE: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Mint Artists Guild
Toyota
U-M Department of Astronomy
U-M Department of Earth
& Environmental Sciences
U-M ITS
U-M School of Public Health

12TH GRADE: SUMMER INSTITUTE

Mathematics 001
Public Policy 101
Conflict Resolution: Turning Tension
into Growth
Education/Learning Sciences 101
Wayfinding and Worldmaking:
Research on Children in Society
Information Science 001
Games & UX: Researching and
Advocating for Better Video Games
Health Science 001
Beyond the Stethoscope: Exploring
Dynamic Careers in Health Care

SUMMER INSTITUTE



“As a first-generation Michigan grad, I had to navigate so much on my own. Being part of Wolverine Pathways as an instructional aide was incredibly meaningful. I was inspired by the scholars and felt honored to support their growth. The experience strengthened my leadership skills, deepened my commitment to education, and reminded me why access and equity matter. I’m grateful and proud to have been part of a program that changes lives.”

Adrienne Nwachukwu
PMP, Wolverine Pathways Instructional Aide



SUMMER SENIOR OVERNIGHTER

Each June, Wolverine Pathways hosts its Senior Overnighter, a three-day, two-night stay on the UM-Ann Arbor campus and the launch of the college application season. The goal: to guide scholars in developing compelling applications to selective colleges, including the University of Michigan, and to magnify their excitement about attending college and the belonging they might anticipate wherever they land. During the SO, rising 12th-grade scholars live in a campus dorm, eat in undergraduate dining halls, utilize campus resources, and explore U-M and the surrounding Ann Arbor community. They meet their college-essay coaches and participate in college-essay writing workshops, and also connect with recruitment and admissions personnel from U-M's various undergraduate colleges to help them decide which U-M college they should apply to and what constitutes a competitive application. They network with WP alumni who provide the near-peer mentoring for them to imagine themselves thriving in college and at U-M, more specifically. The SO is an empowering opportunity and an imperative part of the college access process. Support from donors helps ensure these costs are covered, from transportation to the dorm experience, as well as helps connect the program to the greater campus community.



“I was able to basically be a student on campus: staying in the dorms, swiping the meal card. It was amazing. I appreciated being able to be on campus for more than just a day. To actually tour around and get a feel for what campus life is like.”

“After the informational sessions, I stayed behind to get emails. That way I could still keep in contact with them. I was able to get more information, I'm more confident about my application, and I was able to schedule a tour date to visit SMTD on North Campus.”

Evan
Enrolled in WP since 10th grade
Southfield



“One of the most impactful parts was when the admissions officer came from LSA to talk to us. I think that gave me more perspective of what they're looking for, because before, as a student, you don't exactly know. This helped me to actually understand what they look for. I saw people who came from different places and those who had similar experiences to myself. I saw how they got in and read their essays. It jump-started me with some ideas.”

“The Senior Overnighter definitely opened my perspective on the University of Michigan. Before, we would only just come up to the campus to spend a day or a few hours. But being able to sleep overnight, and feeling what that would feel like to be in a dorm room was very impactful. It just told me, ‘Oh, this is what it's like.’ So, I felt what it was like having the experience as a college student, having some of those freedoms. And then also, when they came with all the clubs and extracurricular opportunities that you could have, it definitely made me think I could really see myself at the University of Michigan. It made me want to be there even more.”

Dania
Enrolled in WP since 10th grade
Detroit



“It was really interesting to hear from both Wolverine Pathways alumni and also other students who've gone to Michigan without WP. It was nice hearing their perspective and what tips they had for incoming students. I learned a lot about how to be successful in college. They told us to be yourself; your college professors want to meet the real you.”

Arya
Enrolled in WP since 7th grade
Ypsilanti



“I received many pieces of advice, but one that stood out to me was that no matter how difficult things seem, never doubt how far you could go. It was something current students talked to us about [when sharing] their personal journeys... to always follow what our heart tells us and to never let go of those dreams—which motivated me to pursue my future career path in nursing.”

Migdalia
Enrolled in WP since 10th grade
Grand Rapids



“I met a lot of new friends and it was a good learning experience to step out of my comfort zone. Like sharing a dorm with someone new! I met a new friend when I was rooming with her, and now I talk to her every day. I'm definitely locked in now, and going to keep my head in the game: It's like 'You're almost finished with high school, and there's so much more to come.'”

Jaden
Enrolled in WP since 7th grade
Ypsilanti

SUMMER SENIOR OVERNIGHTER





“Your support for Wolverine Pathways helps create a shared promise to our community and our students: a promise that early and comprehensive education is critical for success, and that such an education should not be limited by zip codes. Now more than ever, that promise is needed. This year, we have worked hard to deliver on that promise, and I am thankful for the partnership and support from everyone who has joined us as part of the Wolverine Pathways community. Together, we can pave the way for success for our scholars today and tomorrow.”

Carla O'Connor
*Director, Wolverine Pathways and University
Diversity and Social Transformation Professor*



Thank You.





for what's next ▶ **Look to Michigan**