

Supporting Nontraditional Students - Frequently Asked Questions

Who are nontraditional students?

The Center for the Education of Women + (CEW+) at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor Campus defines 'nontraditional' as being a member of one or more groups that represent less than 20% of the total student body. On the Ann Arbor campus, the following are some (but not all) markers of nontraditional students: lower-income, students with disabilities, students who enroll in non-fall terms, students with gaps in education, undocumented, part-time, veterans, athletes, first-generation, international, transfer, students with caregiver responsibilities, commuters, students from a single-parent household, under-represented minorities, LGBTQ+, freshman 20 and older, rural, and employed 20+ hours per week.

Where can I find more information?

Please consider taking the online training module [COUNTS Toolkit for Student Success](#), which was developed by CEW+, COUNTS, and University Human Resources Organizational Learning. The Toolkit highlights a variety of experiences, challenges, and topics that many nontraditional students face on the Ann Arbor campus. The Toolkit is intended for student-facing staff to 1) develop an increased awareness of nontraditional students and the common challenges they face; 2) learn about resources across campus that help address the needs of nontraditional students, and 3) build recognition of the many strengths nontraditional students bring to campus. Module topics include impostorism, wayfinding, navigating the hidden curriculum, and addressing financial obstacles.

How do I support students who are...

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CAREGIVERS

CEW+ maintains a website of resources available to student caregivers and their allies; to learn more, visit [the CEW+ website](#). Resources specifically for faculty and staff supporting student caregivers include a [best practices guide](#), a [syllabus statement PDF](#), and a [PDF including ideas for creating child-friendly spaces](#) on campus. You can contact them directly at studentcaregivercoordinator@umich.edu. Sponsored student organizations include:

- [Michigan Caregivers and Student Parents](#) (MCaSP) (email: UmichMCaSP@umich.edu)
- Parents in Medicine (email: jhoxie@umich.edu)

COMMUTERS

- A great [Michigan Daily article about student commuters](#) can be found here
- A website containing [Information about parking permits](#) (available after sophomore year)
- Free parking is available by using the Park & Ride locations and taking the Ann Arbor City Bus with a valid MCard. To learn more, visit the [Facilities and Operations website](#) and [The Ride website](#)
- Services for Students with Disabilities offers paratransit for students with disabilities. To learn more, visit the [Services for Students with Disabilities Website](#).

HAVE DISABILITIES

The [Services for Students with Disabilities website](#) has an extensive list of available resources. You can contact them directly at ssdoffice@umich.edu. Sponsored student organizations:

- Medical Students for Disability Health and Advocacy (email: MSDHA_leadership@umich.edu)

FIRST-GENERATION

The First Gen Gateway is housed in the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) and is for “all first-generation undergraduate and graduate students and their allies.” To learn more, visit the [First Gen Gateway website](#). You can contact them at firstgeninfo@umich.edu. The Kessler Scholars program supports first-gen students; visit the [Kessler Scholars Program website](#) to learn more. Sponsored student organizations:

- First Generation College Students at Michigan (email: firstgeneboard@umich.edu)
- First Generation Engineers (email: 1stgenengin.sab@umich.edu)
- Michigan Medicine First in Family (email: firstinfamilyboard@umich.edu)

VETERANS

Training for faculty and Staff and student support resources can be found on the [Veteran and Military Services webpage](#); the office is located in the Student Activities Building. The program director, Philip Larson, can be reached at pnlarson@umich.edu. Notable support services include:

- [Financial aid information webpage](#)
- [Housing and transportation resource webpage](#)
- [Scholarships webpage](#)
- [Emergency aid webpage](#)
- [Peer advising webpage](#)

INTERNATIONAL

The U-M International Center is located in the student activities building and provides support services for both undergraduate and graduate international students and can be reached at icenter@umich.edu. More information can be found on the [International Center webpage](#). The English Language Institute offers courses and workshops for undergraduate and graduate students and can be reached at eli-information@umich.edu; more information is available on the [English Language Institute Webpage](#). Sponsored student organization:

- [Graduate Rackham International webpage](#) (email: grin.contact@umich.edu)

LGBTQ+

The Spectrum Center is located in room 3020 of the Michigan Union and hosts annual events, workshops, and training for faculty and staff. To learn about programs that are offered, visit the [Spectrum Center Events webpage](#), [Workshops and Training for Faculty and Staff webpage](#), and [Scholarships webpage](#). They can be reached at spectrumcenter@umich.edu. Sponsored student organizations:

- LGBTQ+ Nursing (email: rushika@med.umich.edu)
- OUT-MD (email: outmd-leadership@umich.edu)

TRANSFERRING INTO U-M

- The is located in the LSA building and provides support for transfer students, including a Transfer Mentorship Program and important transfer student policy

information. To learn more about the center, visit the [Transfer Student Center website](#); to learn more about the mentorship program, visit the [Transfer Mentorship Program Website](#); visit the [LSA website](#) for information about transfer student policies. You can contact the Transfer Student Center directly at LSAtransfercenter@umich.edu.

- The transfer financial aid coordinator, Ashley Popp, can be reached at poppa@umich.edu.
- The Office of New Student Programs hosts welcome events; visit the [ONSP Events webpage](#) to learn more.
- aMplify and moMentum are transfer student programs that are hosted through optiMize. To learn more about either program, visit the [optiMize website](#) (email: optimizemi@umich.edu).

OLDER/RETURNING STUDENTS

Visit the [CAPS website](#) for a list of resources for adults returning to education.

- For students over 65 years of age, reduced enrollment cost is available (up to 50% off); visit the [Office of the Registrar website](#) to learn more.

HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE

Blavin is a program that supports students who have experienced foster care and is located in Pierpont Commons room B420; visit the [Blavin Scholars website](#) to learn more. Notable services include coaching, housing and financial aid assistance, and community connection. Contact them directly at blavinscholar@umich.edu.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

LSA defines full-time status as being enrolled in 12 credits per semester or six credits per half semester, with important implications for financial aid and insurance; visit the [LSA website](#) to learn more. Credit fees are detailed on the [Office of the Registrar's webpage](#).

ATHLETES

Athletes Connected is a program that is facilitated by the U-M School of Social Work, the Eisenburg Family Depression Center, and Michigan Athletics; more information can be found on the [Athletes Connected website](#). Athletic counseling is available through the Athletic Counseling Team (ACT) via phone at (734) 647-9656 or email at

bdonlan@umich.edu. Athletic medicine resources are also available and listed on the [MgoBlue webpage](#). Sponsored student organizations include:

- Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) (email: alkorn@umich.edu)

UNDOCUMENTED/DACAmented

- Undocumented Student Services has a resource page for faculty and staff; to learn more, visit the [Undocumented Students website](#). They can be reached directly via email at undocumented@umich.edu or by phone at (734) 763-0794. They also provide a list of funding opportunities; visit the [Undocumented Students website](#) to learn more about funding.
- The Office of Multicultural Initiatives, located in the Student Activities Building, provides coaching and tutoring support; visit the [Office of Multicultural Initiatives website](#) to learn more.
- The Office of Financial Aid has a list of key contacts for undocumented students; visit the [Office of Financial Aid website](#) to learn more.
- The U-M National Center for Institutional Diversity has an Undocumented Students Knowledge Community for faculty and staff; visit the [LSA website](#) to learn more. “For more information, please contact co-chairs [Catalina Ormsby](#), associate director at the U-M Center for Educational Outreach; [John Burkhardt](#), professor in the Center for the Study of Higher Education; and [Dr. Tabbye Chavous](#), assistant vice provost for equity, inclusion, & academic affairs.”

ENROLLED OUTSIDE OF FALL TERM

- The housing application including winter enrollment deadlines can be accessed on the [Michigan Housing website](#).
- The Transfer Center is a good place to connect with a community; learn more on the [Transfer Center Website](#).
- The LSA Opportunity Hub offers LSA Connect for students in LSA programs; visit the [LSA website](#) to learn more.

EMPLOYED 20+ HOURS PER WEEK

- If employed by the university via a work-study program(s), hours cannot exceed 29 hours/week; more information is available on the [Student Employment Office website](#).
- The Financial Aid Office is dedicated to helping students find jobs (both work-study and otherwise); more information is available on the [Financial Aid website](#).

- The Student Employment office offers assistance with finding employment; more information is available on the [Student Employment Office website](#).
- The Standard Practice Guide provides definitions of temporary student employment; more information is available on the [University of Michigan Standard Practice Guide Website](#).
- There are stipulations for F-1 and J-1 students who are working; more information is available on the [International Center website](#).
- Hear more about the experience and benefits of working while studying directly from a UM undergraduate student. Blog post: [We Work \(Michigan Student Edition\)](#) by Lisa Kim.

FROM RURAL AREAS

- To learn more about rural student presence on campus, read the Michigan Daily article, [ACUM panel event highlights rural students' unique experiences on campus, difficulties](#): by Chen Lyu.

LOWER-INCOME

- The Office of Financial Aid offers a list of need-based support, including the Go-Blue Guarantee; visit the [Office of Financial Aid website](#) to learn more.
- Student Life provides a list of basic needs resources; to learn more, visit the [Student Life website](#).
- View a [spreadsheet that was created by Poverty Solutions](#) to learn more about additional basic needs resources available on campus.
- The University of Michigan's Undergraduate Admissions website contains helpful a blog post: [U-M on a budget: tips for low-income students](#), by Zane Harding
- A living document about local resources for U-M students: "[Being Not-Rich at UM](#)"

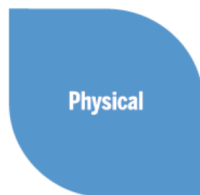
HAVE GAPS IN EDUCATION

- Information about re-admission based on school is available on the University of Michigan [Undergraduate Admissions webpage](#).

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS

Drawing from the [U-M well-being model website](#), we have listed universal campus resources that are available to all students regardless of post-traditional role.

Click on a dimension below to view the corresponding resources:



The role that you take in maintaining your body for strength, vitality and energy.



Being aware and managing your feelings, being at peace with who you are, and having the tools you need to weather life's ups and downs.



Reflects the impact your environment (home, school, city, planet) has on you and the impact you have on the environment.



Your relationship with money and skills for managing resources, as well as your ability to make good consumer choices and seek out appropriate financial opportunities.



The work you choose to do and how it contributes to your community and fulfills you.



How you choose to define and connect with your community and the people around you.



Feeling stimulated and engaged with learning and staying open to new ideas and perspectives.



Your understanding of your place and purpose, how you make meaning of what happens to you, and what your mind goes to for comfort or relief.

EMOTIONAL/MENTAL HEALTH:

- UWILL, in partnership with the University of Michigan Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), offers **6 free virtual counseling sessions/year for any student**, including out-of-state and international needs. For more information, visit the [UWILL webpage](#). This service is in addition to the on-campus counseling and psychological services offered by CAPS. For more information about CAPS, visit the [Counseling and Psychological Services website](#).
- Campus Mind Works provides faculty and staff resources for supporting students' mental health. For more information, visit the [Campus Mind Works website](#) and the [Faculty and Staff Resource Page](#).
- Mary A. Rackham Institute (MARI) is a mental health institute available to students, their families, and the community. Visit the [MARI website](#) to learn more.

PHYSICAL HEALTH:

- The Maize and Blue Cupboard provides tangible resources for students. Visit the [Maize and Blue Cupboard website](#) for more information.
- University fitness centers provide classes and spaces for physical wellness. Visit the [fitness center's website](#). For adaptive fitness information, visit the [adaptive fitness webpage](#).

FINANCIAL HEALTH:

- The Office of Financial Aid offers financial support for all students. Visit the [Office of Financial Aid website](#) for more information.
- The Center for the Education of Women+ (CEW+) offers career and counseling services. To learn more, visit the [CEW+ career and education counseling services](#) webpage, as well as the [Emergency Funding](#) and [Scholarship](#) pages.
- The Dean of Students office provides emergency funding to all students. Visit the [Dean of Students emergency funding](#) webpage for more information. (Scroll down on that page for more Unit-Specific Emergency Fund Sources.)
- The [University of Michigan Library Research Guide - Funding for Students](#) can be a good place to look for funding resources both inside and outside of U-M.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

- Visit the [Environment, Health & Safety](#) webpage for resources.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH:

- The university details guidelines for readmission to a school after an extended break. For more information, visit the [Undergraduate Admissions webpage](#).

SOCIAL HEALTH:

- The Office of the Ombuds provides insight for a variety of issues that a student may encounter. Visit the [Office of the Ombuds](#) website to connect.
- A variety of student organizations are listed on the [Maize Pages](#) webpage.

INTELLECTUAL HEALTH:

- Student Legal Services provides support for students encountering legal issues. Visit the [Student Legal Services](#) website to learn more.
- To learn more about supporting students in STEM, view the [CEW+ nontraditional students in STEM cheat sheet](#)
- Services for supporting students with math can be found on the [Math Lab](#) website; services for supporting students with science can be found on the [Science Learning Center \(SLC\)](#) website; services for supporting students with writing can be found on the [Sweetland Center for Writing](#) website; services for supporting students with physics can be found on the [Physics Help Room](#) website; and services for supporting students with language can be found on the [Language Resource Center](#) website.

SPIRITUAL HEALTH:

- The University of Michigan provides spiritual support help. To learn more, view the [resources cited in the faculty handbook](#) webpage.