

ANN ARBOR

Largest ever student body at University of Michigan this fall, officials say

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ANN ARBOR, MI - More than 50,000 students are at the University of Michigan this fall, making this the largest student body in the Ann Arbor campus' history, officials said Thursday.

This year's incoming class also is among the university's most racially and ethnically diverse classes, with 37% of first-year students identifying as persons of color.

University officials released the enrollment numbers during the Oct. 21 Board of Regents meeting on the Flint campus.

Despite a 20% acceptance rate, the influx of nearly 80,000 applicants — nearly 15,000 more than the previous year — pushed the student body number to 50,278 undergraduate and graduate students combined in Ann Arbor.

UM offered admission to 16,071 first-year students this year and 7,290 accepted, a 6% increase from last year. Three-quarters are Michigan residents, with a third coming from out-of-state.

The university credits the increase this year to its allowing of in-person classes, while also adapting to the virtual needs of prospective and admitted students during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Adele Brumfield, vice provost for enrollment management.

“Students responded to the virtual recruitment experiences, which showcased the benefits of a UM education and helped students imagine themselves as part of our community,” Brumfield said in a statement. “From what I have learned, collaboration increased and partnerships were strengthened over the past year as the campus united to enroll the fall class of 2021.”

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This year’s enrollment boost puts overall undergraduate enrollment at 32,282 students, while graduate and professional student enrollment almost reached 18,000.

Regarding the increase in diversity of students, a majority are Latino (640) and Black (404), officials said.

“The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions speaks to the importance of enrolling a diverse group of students,” Erica Sanders, director of undergraduate admissions said in a statement. “While we continue to strive for improvement, our greater diversity this year is promising and underscores the value of offering a wide range of programs specifically geared toward recruiting and enrolling a diverse campus community.”

Transfer students increased by 8% from last fall, or a total of 1,407 enrollees. Transfer students of color are up 55% over the last five years, officials said.

Students come from 77 of Michigan’s 83 counties, all 50 states, five U.S. territories and more than 70 countries from all continents except Antarctica.

Officials also credited the 6.4% increase in financial aid for attracting more students. An increase of \$15.5 million in financial aid offset a 1.4% tuition increase for most in-state students, officials said.

There is \$257 million in available financial aid for undergraduates, officials said.

“The university is committed to providing generous financial resources, which allows more students to choose U-M and thrive once they arrive here,” Brumfield said. “With the admissions season for fall 2022 in full swing, we’re looking to the future and recruiting the next talented and diverse class of Wolverines.”

Endowment increases by nearly \$5 billion

UM announced that the endowment contributed \$404 million for operations last fiscal year. The funds went towards student scholarships, faculty, research, libraries, infrastructure and clinical care, a UM release stated.

The total endowment distributions total about \$5.2 billion, the release stated. The last 20 years have seen an annualized return of 9.5%, or above the average of national colleges and universities, officials said.

"The university's long-term investment strategy combined with its endowment spending policy serves to insulate operations from expected volatility in the financial markets and provides for a stable and predictable level of spending distributions over the long term," said Geoffrey Chatas, executive vice president and chief financial officer, in a statement.

The total endowment climbed nearly \$5 billion to \$17 billion in the 2021 fiscal year that ended June 30, Chatas reported Thursday. On a per-student basis, UM boasts the nation's 92nd largest endowment among all US universities, said officials citing a report from the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

New North Campus building announced

In other action at Thursday's regents meeting, it was announced the university will erect the Leinweber Computer Science and Information Building on North Campus due to a \$25-million gift. The regents approved the naming of the building at the meeting.

The namesake of the building is software entrepreneur Larry Leinweber, and the gift from his foundation will fund a new 163,000-square-foot facility.

"This gift will bring the Computer Science and Engineering Division of Michigan Engineering and the School of Information together under one roof at UM for the first time," according to the agenda item, "strengthening the collaboration between the two disciplines to develop breakthrough technologies, conduct innovative research, and facilitate an innovative learning environment for students."

The move puts the engineering school, which is on North Campus, and the information school, which is on Central Campus, under the same roof. The price tag for the new facility is \$145 million.

There was no timeline set for when the project will be completed.

The regents also approved the appointment of Debra Weinstein as the new executive vice dean for academic affairs for the medical school. That is effective Nov. 15.

And UM President Mark Schlissel [addressed the protest by survivors](#) of late UM athletic doctor Robert Anderson in front of his on-campus house.

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