

2021 M-Sci Academy Fact Sheet

Q. What is the M-Sci Academy?

- A. M-Sci is the component of the M-STEM (Michigan Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academies that serves the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA). It is designed to maximize the academic, personal, and professional success of students, with the goal of preparing them for the global workforce and/or graduate or professional school. The M-Sci Academy spans the first two years of collegiate study and includes a pre-freshman six-week summer transition program, customized advising, career guidance, learning enrichment activities, and assistance in obtaining a paid professional summer internship or research opportunity.

Q. How would participation in the M-Sci Academy benefit me?

- A. Our experience, supported by national data, indicates that participation in a summer transition program, followed by comprehensive and robust support throughout the academic year, increases academic excellence. The M-Sci Academy is designed to simultaneously build upon students' strengths while customizing services so that all M-Sci scholars will be able to fully experience and benefit from the scope, scholarship, and scale of the University. In addition to the services provided by the program, participants in good standing will receive a stipend of \$1,000 - \$1,500 (depending on the format of the summer program) after completion of the summer transition program and will be eligible for additional scholarships in years one and two.

Q. How are students selected to apply to the M-Sci Academy?

- A. Students who are admitted to the University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science and the Arts are among the very best students in the country, and there is an expectation of high academic achievement for all. Invitations to prospective participants of the M-Sci Academy are based upon a holistic approach that considers academic interests, life experiences and diverse backgrounds, in addition to academic profiles.

Q. How long is the commitment to the M-Sci Academy and when would my commitment begin?

- A. The M-Sci Academy is a two-year program, running from Summer 2021 through the end of the second year (April 2023). The M-Sci Academy begins during the summer with a six-week academic program. Through this experience, students will broaden their academic skills, enhance their personal and professional development, create support networks, and familiarize themselves with the campus and its resources. Specifically, M-Sci Academy scholars will be required to participate in the Summer Transition Program from **June 26 – August 7**. **Participants must commit to the entire duration of the Summer Program with the exception of the optional weekend home (Friday, July 23, 5:00 p.m. – Sunday, July 25, 6:00 p.m.)**

(Due to the uncertainties related to COVID-19 restrictions, the program format and dates are subject to change. If you apply to M-Sci and are offered a space, you will not be asked to commit to the program until all of the expectations and time commitments are fully detailed.)

Q. How are the two years of the M-Sci Academy structured?

A. **Summer 2021:**

During the summer transition program, M-Sci allows M-Sci Scholars to preview the expectations for first-year students. Additionally, scholars will further broaden their academic skills and knowledge of the University environment and available resources and develop a strong community of peers. M-Sci Scholars will reside on North Campus and participate in classes in mathematics, science and writing. There will be seminars, workshops, and academic skills development activities to further enhance their personal, professional, and academic development. Classes and seminars are taught by faculty, staff, and graduate student instructors who also teach courses during the academic year. This provides scholars the opportunity to become acquainted with the style and rigor of college classroom instruction, but in a more structured and

supportive environment than is typical during the academic year. Upon successful completion of the summer program, scholars will receive a \$1,000 - \$1,500 stipend (depending on the format of the summer program).

Academic Year One:

During the first academic year, all M-Sci Scholars will live in Bursley Houses to continue to benefit from the community support developed during the summer program. An academic coach will help scholars to achieve success by helping them manage academic and personal challenges. M-Sci Scholars are able to conduct research in a faculty laboratory through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and participate in group scheduling with their M-Sci peers for core courses, as well as specially-designed academic sessions. There will also be monthly group meetings to address topics relevant to M-Sci Scholars.

Summer 2022:

M-Sci Scholars will be assisted in finding career exploration experiences during the summer between the first and second years. A variety of options may be available including research experiences at the University or another institution, internships, community-based research projects, or employment with the M-STEM summer program. Scholars will gain hands-on experience that will augment what you learned in the classroom and demonstrate the vast problem-solving challenges and opportunities in the fields of math and science.

Academic Year Two:

During the second academic year scholars will continue to pursue academic and career goals with advisors and peers and continue to participate in group learning activities. Academic coaching and advising will continue to be tailored for them based on their curriculum and interests. In addition, scholars will receive specific information and support as they transition to their desired major. Typically, once students enter a department with a solid academic background, they continue to excel.

Q. Would participation in the M-Sci Academy preclude me from participating in other campus programs and activities?

- A. M-Sci Academy scholars can still participate in the many campus programs and activities such as student project teams, student societies, study abroad programs, Honors, and many others. However, M-Sci scholars would not be able to participate in any other Living-Learning Community on campus, due to the time commitments of the individual programs and the requirement that all M-Sci Scholars live in Bursley Houses during their first year.

Q. How much would the M-Sci Academy cost me?

- A. The College of Literature, Science and the Arts is on the frontier of new and innovative education and is strongly committed to increasing the number of responsible mathematicians and scientists who contribute to our society. M-Sci is a significant commitment, however we are proud to provide this experience at no cost to participants because of the support from the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and private donors.

Q. How do I apply?

- A. You can apply to become an M-Sci Scholar by completing the online application at <http://mstem.umich.edu/apply>

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