

Higher Education

General Overview

There are 15 public universities in the State of Michigan that have two primary funding sources: State appropriations and tuition and fee revenue. State appropriations as a percentage of total university general fund revenue are not uniform, and range from 23.5% at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor to 41.7% at Northern Michigan University. Unlike most other states in the nation, Michigan's Constitution (Article VIII, Sections 5 and 6) grants to each Michigan university the autonomy to "have general supervision of the institution and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds".

During the annual State budget process, operating appropriations for the 15 public universities, as well as funding for grants and financial aid programs for public community colleges, public universities, and independent colleges and universities are included within the Higher Education appropriations bill. Operating appropriations for the State's 28 community colleges are included in a separate appropriations act. Capital outlay appropriations for both community colleges and universities are contained in yet another appropriations bill.

Major Divisions and Programs

Operating Appropriations. Funding for the State's 15 public universities comprises the bulk of the Higher Education budget and dollars are allocated to the following universities: Central, Eastern, Ferris, Lake Superior, Michigan State, Michigan Technological, Northern, Oakland, Saginaw Valley, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Michigan-Flint, Wayne State, and Western. Appropriations for the Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service are included as separate line items under Michigan State University.

State and Regional Programs. There are two items funded in this category: the Higher Education database and Midwestern Higher Education Compact dues.

Martin Luther King, Jr.-Cesar Chavez-Rosa Parks (KCP) Initiative. The KCP Initiative encompasses six programs: 1) College Day, students in grades 6-11 visit campuses; 2) Future Faculty Fellowships, stipends for minority graduate students pursuing college teaching careers; 3) Select Student Support Services, grants for disadvantaged student retention projects; 4) College and University Partnership, grants to increase the number of disadvantaged student transfers; 5) Visiting Professors; and 6) Educator Development, grants to increase minority completion of K-12 teacher education.

Grants and Financial Aid. The programs financed from State General Fund dollars are all need-based and generally can be divided into two categories: direct grants to students (via State Competitive Scholarships and Tuition Grants), and campus-based programs (such as Work Study, Part-time Independent Student Grants, and Education Opportunity Grants). All of the State grants and aid are available to both two- and four-year schools, but the campus-based programs were eliminated in FY 2009-10.

Michigan Merit Awards. Eligibility for these scholarships, used for education and training at postsecondary institutions, is based on student achievement on the MEAP tests or the Work Keys jobs skills tests. Beginning with the 2007 high school graduating class, these awards were replaced with Michigan Promise Grants. Funded from the Michigan Merit Award Trust Fund.

Michigan Promise Grants. Students who take the high school Merit Exam were eligible to receive a \$4,000 scholarship after successful completion of two years of college; program was eliminated in FY 2009-10.

Tuition Incentive Program (TIP). This program provides an incentive to Medicaid-eligible middle and high school students to complete high school by pledging to pay their college tuition and fees if they graduate from high school. Funded from the Michigan Merit Award Trust Fund and State General Fund dollars.

Children of Michigan Veterans Tuition Grant Program. Eligibility for these tuition grants is based on being a child of a Michigan veteran who was killed or permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected incident. Funded from a State Income Tax check off.