



LSA | THE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

The Vision

Since 1967 the Residential College (RC) has offered undergraduate students a unique living-learning experience in which they benefit from being members of a small college community with full access to the offerings and resources of a world-class research university.

The distinctive educational mission of the RC is to enable students to develop their intellectual interests and creative talents in an environment in which they can find their own voice and relate learning with doing. The RC faculty and staff challenge students to take the initiative in shaping their own education, to participate actively in classes and in extra-curricular programs, to think critically about what they are learning and reflectively about what they are doing, and to engage with the University community as well as the outside world.

The Value

Four interrelated principles reflect the unique value of an RC education:

Critical Thinking – An RC education trains students to evaluate evidence, interpret points of view, and assess and engage issues across disciplinary boundaries.

Active Learning – An RC education challenges students to decide what it is they want to learn and supports them in their efforts to take control of their education, to shape its direction, and to justify its goals.

Linking Learning and Doing – The RC living-learning program combines classroom learning (ideas, reflection, study) with participatory action (whether campus-based, community-oriented, or global in orientation).

Building Skills to Sustain Risk-Taking – The RC encourages students to develop skills that will serve them in many kinds of endeavors. Competence in writing, fluency in a foreign language, and creative practice in the arts are at the center of the RC curriculum – not only because these skills are basic to successful career paths and engaged citizenship in the world of the 21st century, but also because they encourage students to push beyond limits and test their capacities.

These principles have been a foundation of RC learning since the beginning. Today, we seek to renew and strengthen their value in the following priority funding areas:

The Difference

The RC Intercultural Experiences Fund

The Goal: *To develop higher standards of foreign language proficiency and cultural understanding by enhancing students' access to intercultural experiences.*

**The Needs (annually):**

- Travel expenses for 15 RC students in the annual Mexican Border trip as part of an RC experiential course on Globalization (\$15,000).
- Staffing the newly developed Spanish Language Internship Program (SLIP), which provides upper-level RC Spanish students with language/culture experiences in Detroit-area community organizations. (\$15,000)
- Offering several more Project-Abroad Scholarships and establishing new foreign language awards for RC students who have shown extraordinary development of their language and cultural skills. (\$10,000)

An \$800,000 endowment fund would provide sustainable annual programming support for these needs.

The RC Community Engagement Fund

The Goal: *To coordinate and expand the many community engagement endeavors of RC students, alumni, faculty and staff.*

The Needs (annually):

- Support for the RC's participation in the new Detroit Center – a U of M sponsored community outreach office based in downtown Detroit. (\$10,000)
- Support for guest “community faculty” to co-design and co-teach experiential-based courses. (\$15,000)
- Student stipends to further support and encourage long-term internships with community-based organizations. (\$12,500)

A \$750,000 endowment fund would provide sustainable annual funding for these needs.

The RC Creative Arts Fund

The Goal: *To enable the RC Arts Programs to integrate the creative arts more fully into the academic and extra-curricular life of the College.*

The Needs (one-time):

- \$100,000 would support the renovation and upgrading of music practice rooms and studio space.
- \$25,000 would allow the RC to purchase new instruments for the expanding RC music program.
- \$5,000 would support the purchase of an outside sign on East University for the RC Auditorium.



In addition, a \$500,000 endowment fund would provide annual program and staffing support for the RC Art Gallery (\$15,000) and a visiting writer's program (\$10,000).

The RC Living-Learning Community Fund

The Goal: *To strengthen the quality of life of the RC living-learning community at its home in East Quad.*

The Needs (annually):

- Support for student staffing to maintain circulation of books, CDs and DVDs at the Benzinger Library. (\$7,500)
- Resources for RC student-led groups – such as The RC Republic, RC Players, and the EQ Music Co-op – to undertake special projects. (\$7,500)

A \$300,000 endowment fund would provide sustainable annual funding for these areas.

