Introduction

Western Michigan University is a national research university with a small college feel that was founded in 1903. It is a public institution firmly focused on students succeeding on campus and in life. To that end, WMU offers a learner centered, discovery driven, and globally engaged environment in which its nearly 25,000 students from across the United States and more than 90 other countries can flourish. This dynamic environment includes the top-notch programs, faculty, facilities, and hands-on learning opportunities students need to prepare for and excel in graduate school or the workplace.

- The Carnegie Foundation classifies WMU among the nation's 147 public universities with high or very high research activity.
- Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious honor society, has chosen to grant chapters to WMU and fewer than 100 other public institutions.
- U.S. News & World Report names WMU among the nation’s best national universities, and has done so for 21 consecutive years.
- The Princeton Review includes WMU on its annual online list of the Best Midwestern Colleges.
- Military Times ranks WMU 34th on its list of the country's best four-year colleges for military veterans.
- The Sustainable Endowments Institute green report card puts WMU in an elite cadre of some 80 institutions nationwide that are billed as “Campus Sustainability Leaders.” Only two other Michigan universities are in this elite group.

WMU offers 243 degree programs through seven degree-granting colleges: Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, Haworth College of Business, and Health and Human Services. Students may choose from 141 bachelor's programs, 71 master's programs, and 30 doctoral programs. Many of these offerings have earned a national or international reputation, and several are offered close to home through regional sites in the Michigan cities of Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Muskegon, Royal Oak, and Traverse City.

WMU attracts faculty members who have been trained at the world's leading universities and who bring a global perspective to the classroom. These scholars conduct $30-$40 million in externally funded research each year and share their cutting-edge discoveries in the classroom. This robust academic environment is bolstered by some of the finest instructional facilities in the Midwest as well as a rich array of study-abroad programs, internship opportunities, research institutes and business-industry partnerships.

Despite its size, complexity and status as a major research institution, WMU remains one of the most affordable and accessible schools in Michigan. The University ranked 10th in tuition and fees among the state's 15 public universities in 2011-2012, while continuing to provide the close personal attention usually associated with small private colleges. At WMU, two-thirds of all undergraduate classes have 30 or fewer students, while first-year mentoring programs, experienced advisors and tutors, and extensive career and employment services are within easy reach.

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