Introduction

Western Michigan University is a national research university with a warm and welcoming feel that provides the top-notch programs, faculty, facilities, and hands-on learning opportunities students need to excel in graduate school, the workplace, and life. A public institution founded in 1903, it offers a learner centered, discovery driven, and globally engaged environment where its nearly 24,000 students from across the United States and some 100 other countries can flourish.

- The Carnegie Foundation classifies WMU as a higher-research doctoral university.
- Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious honor society, has chosen to grant chapters to WMU and just 102 other public institutions.
- *U.S. News & World Report* has designated WMU one of America’s best national universities for 25 consecutive years, placing it in the top-tier since 2011.
- *Washington Monthly* categorizes WMU as both a top-100 national university and a Best Bang for the Buck school.
- *INSIGHT Into Diversity* presented awards to WMU in 2013, 2014 and 2015 in recognition of its “outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.”
- *Military Times EDGE* magazine ranks WMU among the best U.S. institutions for military veterans, and WMU is the only Michigan school to appear on all six years of its annual Best for Vets list.
- The Sustainable Endowments Institute named WMU one of the country’s six winners of 2015 Best of GRITS—Green Revolving Investment Tracking System—awards, honoring the University as the large institution with the most carbon emissions saved to date.

WMU offers 254 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 148 bachelor's programs, the second most undergraduate programs of any public school in the state; 74 master's programs; and 31 doctoral programs. Many of these offerings have earned a national or international reputation, and several are provided online or close to home through regional sites in the Michigan cities of Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Royal Oak, Muskegon, and Traverse City. In addition, WMU is formally affiliated with two private, nonprofit schools that bear its name: the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, located in Kalamazoo, and WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, with three campuses in Michigan and one in Florida.

Faculty members have been trained at the world's leading universities and bring a global perspective to their classrooms. In addition to being passionate about teaching, these scholars conduct $20-$30 million in externally funded research each year. They regularly involve undergraduate as well as graduate students in their work, and routinely share their cutting-edge discoveries in class. This dynamic academic environment is bolstered by some of the finest instructional facilities and research institutes in the Midwest, as well as a rich array of study-abroad programs, internship opportunities, and public/private-sector collaborations. Despite its size, complexity and status, however, 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 2015-16, while continuing to provide a friendly and supportive climate. At WMU, students expect and receive one-on-one attention even from senior-level faculty members, and experienced mentors, tutors, advisors and career specialists are always within easy reach.