Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

general campus info
Prospective Admit,

Welcome to the University of Michigan! As you prepare to begin your decision to attend the Urban Planning program, please review the following information:

CAMPUS INFORMATION CENTERS:
The CIC serves as the comprehensive information and referral source for all of the University of Michigan. CIC can provide you with information on UM offices, services, facilities, and procedures. You may reach CIC at 734-763-4636 or visit their website at www.campusinfo.umich.edu.

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION
Parking Permits: For information about student parking permits, please visit the parking and transportation website at www.pts.umich.edu/permit_parking/students.php. There is a visitor parking lot directly behind the Art & Architecture Building (access off Fuller Rd.). The current hourly rate is $1.10 from 6 am to 5 pm. After 5 pm the lot is free.

UM Bus system: UM buses travel around North Campus and back and forth between North Campus and Center/Medical/Athletic Campuses every 5 to 10 minutes. So navigation between and around the UM Campuses is fairly easy.

Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) and University of Michigan buses are FREE for students. Both systems run frequently during weekdays and are very reliable. The maps (right) will depict the AATA bus lines, whose locations you may want to consider in choosing housing. As you can see, AATA routes 1, 3 and 22 provide direct service to North Campus, but transfers from other lines are timely and simple (most transfer downtown at the Blake Transit Center). See www.aata.org for more info. Additionally, UM’s Commuter, Northwood, Northwood Express, Bursley-Baits, Diag-to-Diag Express, and North Campus lines serve the Art and Architecture Building. UM bus maps can be viewed here: www.pts.umich.edu.

Ann Arbor is 40 miles west of Detroit. Detroit Metropolitan Airport is not in Detroit, but actually about halfway between Detroit and Ann Arbor. www.campusinfo.umich.edu/article/airport for travel options.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID:
If you have any questions about your Federal Financial Aid package, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 734-763-6600 or www.finaid.umich.edu.
COMPUTING SERVICES:
Computing services are available for your use. Computing services are centrally funded and are provided free of charge, although there is a nominal charge for printing. These services include use of computers and software at Campus Computing sites. The University of Michigan has 14 computing sites around campus with 1,400 computers. For a complete list, please see www.itcs.umich.edu/sites/labs/maps. Taubman College also has computers in the Design Studio, Computer Lab, and Environmental Technology Lab. Faculty will make computer recommendations during orientation. To get a sense of what has been recommended in the past, please see www.taubmancollege.umich.edu/digital_tech/computing/recommendations. Students will be able to purchase hardware and software from the UM Computer Showcase.

HEALTH SERVICES AND HEALTH INSURANCE:
All U of M students are eligible to visit University Health Service (UHS). For students who are enrolled for the current semester on the Ann Arbor campus, most UHS services are covered by the health service fee, which is paid as part of tuition. See www.uhs.umich.edu/who to learn about eligibility to use UHS and coverage through the health service fee. Students should have health insurance although it is not required to receive services at UHS. For information on student health insurance plans, please visit the following website www.uhs.umich.edu/msa. The Taubman College Student Life Counselor is available for consultation with students enrolled at Taubman College.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:
StudentOrgs.umich.edu is the central home for student organizations at the University of Michigan. With over 1,200 recognized student organizations and thousands of University departments and programs, student leaders need to have a lot of information at their fingertips. StudentOrgs.umich.edu was created by the Center for Campus Involvement and is maintained by CCI and Student Organization Accounts Service (SOAS) to make the necessary information accessible and easy to understand for student organizations.

STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN: www.studentswithchildren.umich.edu.
This website is dedicated to the needs of students at the University of Michigan who juggle parenting or elder care, study and work. It is maintained by the Work Life Resource Center (WLRC) and was created by the former Committee on Student Parent Issues (COSPI).

HOUSING OPTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN:
For housing information (off campus, family, and single graduate student), please visit the housing office’s website at www.housing.umich.edu. If you click on
Off-Campus Housing, then Housing Listings, it will pull up a search engine for available housing. You might also want to check any other search engines such as www.orangesorbet.com, www.rent.com, www.roommates.com, and www.craigslist.org for other possible listings. We will also send out periodic housing advertisements to the email group as we receive them. If you are an international student interested in Family Housing, please submit a Housing Application Request. If you are a U.S. Citizen and are interested in Family Housing, please contact the Housing Information Office by e-mail at housing@umich.edu with your name, address, and UM ID number to request a family housing application form.

Ann Arbor housing tips (purely the opinion of Brandon Zwagerman, Master of Urban Planning '06):

Central Campus: it is still easy to get to North Campus from just about anywhere during the day, but takes a bit more work to get to shopping, dining, and entertainment downtown/Central Campus from further-out parts of town at night. To give an idea, the map below depicts neighborhood names (large letters) and business areas (polygons). All areas on this map are within an easy walk of a business district and transit lines, and tend to have a more “urban” feel than areas further-out. Also, they are an easy bike-ride to North Campus. Areas just to the southeast, south, and west of the map extent are also within walking distance of amenities and are other areas where students live — I had to crop the map somewhere, though! North Campus is just a little across the river off the northeast side of the map.

The **“Student Neighborhood,”** Old Fourth Ward, and areas near Kerrytown often have the highest rents, while you’re most likely to find deals in the North Main area to the north of Kerrytown, the **“Near Northwest,”** the Old West Side, and South Main. Lower Town can be really cheap, but be aware it is across the river from downtown and can feel more isolated. Oxbridge/Burns Park is an area with many off-campus housing opportunities. It tends to be expensive, but the further south you go, especially a bit off the map, it turns into a more grad-student-friendly price-range.

As for neighborhood character, the areas directly adjacent to campus have the highest proportion of students, while areas west of Main and also in every direction off the map’s edge are predominantly non-student, with rentals scattered among owner-occupied housing. You will find entire houses for rent, houses divided into apartments, 1960s-era apartment buildings, a few historic apartment buildings, and even housing in the upper floors of some business districts.

The more people you live with, the cheaper it gets! Consider looking at “roommate wanted” ads, rather than just searching for housing itself. Sometimes rents and utilities of living in a house with 5 others can be half the cost of living alone or in a 2-bedroom apartment.

North Campus: There are several larger apartment complexes around the North Campus area that are within walking distance to the Art & Architecture Building, such as Huron Towers Apartments, www.hurontowersapartments.com; Willowtree Apartments, www.michstudenthousing.com; and the Courtyards, www.courtyardsapts.com.

There are many more around the North Campus vicinity, but located further from the Art & Architecture Building, such as:


Other Housing Options:
Inter-Cooperative Council Student Housing Co-Op
337 E. William St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-4414 fax (734) 662-5870
www.icc.coop
Some students live in the neighboring town of Ypsilanti, which lies just to the east of Ann Arbor, is home to Eastern Michigan University, has the largest historic district in Michigan, and is connected by AATA’s route 3 to North Campus. Housing here can be much more affordable than in Ann Arbor, but the commute is longer. However, if you want to live in a smaller city Ypsilanti has great nightlife, and it is much more economically diverse. Many artists and musicians who’ve been priced-out of Ann Arbor have settled here in recent years.

If you are willing to live a more suburban lifestyle, rents in apartment complexes near North Campus and elsewhere can be quite affordable!

**RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL:**
You will find an introduction to the many resources that are available to you throughout your time as a graduate student. This information will help you to know where to find resources, information and support for your academic work, your personal well-being, and your connections with life on campus and Ann Arbor. www.rackham.umich.edu/current_students/welcome.

**THINGS TO DO:**
Ann Arbor and the surrounding communities have a rich culture, interesting attractions, and exciting nightlife. For a comprehensive list of the fun activities Ann Arbor has to offer, check out the Visitors Guide: www.visitannarbor.org/visit-request/VisitorsGuide2012.pdf. The University also hosts excellent lectures, performances, and cultural events, which are available at www.umich.edu, and at www.ums.org.

**RECREATION:**
U of M has three recreation facilities (The Intramural Sports Building, Central Campus Recreation Building, and the North Campus Recreation Building). Students currently enrolled in classes are admitted to each of these facilities at no charge. The University also facilitates numerous Intramural Sports Leagues, available at www.recsports.umich.edu. In addition to the UM Rec Facilities and Programs, there are often countless informal fitness opportunities, such as running groups or ultimate Frisbee teams.

The YMCA is an affordable alternative to the campus recreation facilities: www.annarborymca.org.