

MAKING THE MOST OF MICHIGAN ROSS

PREPARATION INITIATIVE

For U-M students seeking to realize their full potential in business



“Of all the things I have done at Michigan, the PI has had the most impact on me. At Michigan we’re with the best of the best. Those of us in minorities don’t always feel we have the capabilities to succeed. You come to campus and see a lot of barriers you don’t think you can get through. PI helped me buckle down, improve my academics, and build my leadership skills. It made studying fun because we were doing it together. Most of all it gave me the confidence I needed to pursue business. All of us in PI have the same goal, and we go through everything together. We bounce ideas off each other, talk about our hardest problems, and we know each other’s strengths and weaknesses. We really push each other and help each other grow. The PI is my community, my family, my forever friendships.”

—Chondra Herman, BBA '15/MAcc '17

The Preparation Initiative is a learning community designed for University of Michigan undergraduates who have demonstrated excellent potential for business leadership, but who may have had limited previous exposure to rigorous academic courses.

All students with a genuine interest in studying and excelling in business are encouraged to apply. However, in keeping with the PI’s goal of increasing the diversity of business school enrollments, the program strongly encourages applications from students who come from groups that are underrepresented in business leadership positions. This includes students from economically distressed backgrounds or from racial or ethnic groups that historically have been underrepresented in business leadership.

As a student accepted into the PI program, you participate in specially designed experiences that help you to claim/reclaim your potential and excel in the Michigan Ross BBA Program. Participation will help you develop the skills and habits needed to shine academically and improve your mastery of essential mathematics and economics concepts.

FEATURES OF THE PREPARATION INITIATIVE

Pre-Term Orientation

The PI orientation gives you a realistic preview of what you will need to do in order to make the transition from excellence in high school to comparable distinction at Michigan.

Advising

As a PI student, you will meet weekly with your personal PI advisor. Your advising sessions will emphasize intelligent planning and time management, progress monitoring, and working through the inevitable challenges you will encounter along your way.

Coaching

You will have a coach for every course needed to meet key BBA Program prerequisites, including, if necessary, pre-calculus, introductory calculus, and microeconomics. With an emphasis on collaboration and “cross-teaching” with one or two classmates, your PI coach (typically a graduate student) will help you develop the skills and habits you need to master course material and to demonstrate your mastery on exams and other assessments.

Seminar

During your first two terms in the PI program, you will participate in a professional development seminar. The fall term version of the seminar is a formal course in the business school, Business Administration 101, which carries one credit hour and is graded on a credit/no credit basis. The seminar entails a variety of activities, including exposure to major business disciplines, such as finance, marketing, strategy, and entrepreneurship.

Mentoring

There is often nothing like getting the advice of a slightly older peer. You will be assigned a mentor who is a BBA junior or senior who prepared for the BBA Program, through the PI, just two or three years earlier than you.



Study Tables

Students must develop/maintain the discipline and stamina required to put in the long hours needed to perform at the high level expected of every PI student (and every successful business leader). Consequently, you are required to spend a portion of your weekly study schedule with your classmates at study tables supervised by PI mentors and coaches.

The Five-Year Plan

After careful analysis of their pre-university preparation, many PI students wisely choose to pursue a five-year rather than a four-year plan for completing their Michigan undergraduate experience. PI staff members can assist all students (and their families) in deciding whether this option is the one that best suits them. Students who opt for the five-year plan receive an additional year of PI services in order to help ensure their readiness for entering the BBA Program successfully.

NEXT STEP

For more information or to apply, contact the Office of Undergraduate Programs at rossugprograms@umich.edu. Any University of Michigan full-time student can apply to the Preparation Initiative. You must be enrolled in at least one of the BBA Program prerequisite courses and have the intent of applying to the BBA Program. The deadline is July 31 of each year.

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