



UNIVERSITY OF
DETROIT
MERCY

2026
REPORT

Economic & Community Impact

on Metro Detroit



Learn more about Detroit Mercy at udmercy.edu.

4001 W. McNichols Road | Detroit, MI 48221-3038

University of Detroit Mercy exists to provide excellent student-centered undergraduate, graduate and professional education in an urban context with a spirit of hospitality and a focus on moving from compassion into action.

Our staff, faculty, administrators and students come from all faiths and backgrounds and are devoted to a holistic approach to education.

Detroit Mercy offers degrees in 107 programs, including five-year master's and certificate programs. At the graduate level, the University offers 41 master's degree programs, one specialist program and nine doctoral professional-level programs, including law, dentistry and optometry. Additionally, the University awards graduate certificates in 24 programs.

Detroit Mercy operates four campuses. The McNichols Campus is the largest and has been part of Northwest Detroit for nearly 100 years. The Riverfront Campus on Jefferson Avenue in the heart of the city's thriving downtown is the home of Detroit Mercy Law. The School of Dentistry operates at the Corktown Campus on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the Novi Campus on 12 Mile Road is home to the School of Optometry and some Nursing programs. Through partnerships, UDM also offers programs at Aquinas College, Macomb Community College and Oakland Community College and dental programming in Vermont.

The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse ranked UDM No. 36 on its 2026 list of best colleges and universities in the nation. This makes Detroit Mercy the second-highest ranked university in Michigan, the No. 2

Catholic university in the Midwest and the No. 3-ranked Catholic university in the country.

A 2025 Georgetown University study ranked Detroit Mercy among the top 9% of institutions nationwide for salary earned over a period of 15 to 40 years during a graduate's career. This means that UDM graduates can expect to earn more than \$2.1 million in salary over a 40-year career compared to those who forgo a college education.

In 2026, *U.S. News & World Report's* influential rankings put Detroit Mercy among the top 200 colleges and universities in the nation and ranked us No. 22 in the Best Value Schools category.

In fall 2025, the University defied a national trend of lower enrollment by welcoming its largest first-year class since the 1990 consolidation of University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit established University of Detroit Mercy. This was the third year in a row that UDM increased new student enrollment. In 2027, the University will celebrate 150 years of service to Detroit and its people.

University of Detroit Mercy has been named one of just 216 Research Universities by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a designation that helps the University attract more students, highly qualified faculty and research grants.





Economic Impact on Metro Detroit

University of Detroit Mercy employs **1,368 people**, including adjunct faculty and has an estimated annual economic impact of more than **\$381,910,000** on the metro Detroit community.

In the 2025-26 fiscal year:

- The operating budget totaled **\$181 million**.
- Employee compensation totaled **\$117 million**.
- Detroit Mercy students contributed more than **16,900** volunteer hours to more than 100 metro Detroit community service agencies.
- Detroit Mercy invested **\$39 million** in renovations and new facilities projects on its campuses.
- Approximately **\$30 million** in contracts were awarded to metro Detroit vendors.

OUR CORE VALUES

In November 2025, the University announced a set of five core values created through a collaborative effort that included students, alumni, staff and faculty. These values speak to who we are as an institution, honoring our deep history and with our eyes on a hopeful future.



EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON — We integrate the intellectual, spiritual, ethical and social development by promoting academic excellence, transformative learning and holistic well-being for everyone in our community.



CULTIVATING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY — We cultivate a diverse and inclusive community by nurturing a welcoming environment where each individual belongs and thrives.



EMBODYING MERCY & COMPASSION — We embody mercy and compassion by acting on our commitments to radical hospitality, respect for the dignity of each person and care of all creation.



FOSTERING FAITH & JUSTICE — We provide opportunities for all to discern transcendent truths through reflection, academic inquiry and religious and spiritual practices, which compel us to build a more just world.



SERVING & LEADING IN DETROIT — We serve and lead in our surrounding communities, collaborating with diverse partners in pursuit of mutuality, the common good and full flourishing for all.

Each entry in this Economic & Community Impact report will feature an icon identifying it with one of our Core Values to emphasize the strength of our commitment to our students and the community in which they live and work.

Business & Community Development Initiatives



In 2015, Detroit Mercy and The Kresge Foundation co-founded **Live6 Alliance** to strengthen Northwest Detroit, especially the Livernois Avenue and McNichols Road commercial corridor. Efforts include establishing the Live6 Community Advisory Board, collaborating with community organizations to plan events in the corridor, providing tours of the area to foundation representatives and others, and holding workshops on neighborhood revitalization.



The **Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC)** is a program of the School of Architecture & Community Development (SACD) that provides professional community-engaged design services to nonprofit community and civic organizations citywide. The DCDC has worked with partners on a range of notable projects that include designing community landscapes, neighborhood planning, citywide infrastructure and community engagement efforts and a reflection garden on Detroit Mercy's McNichols Campus. DCDC initiatives include Detroit Mercy architecture students through SACD's cooperative education program, the second oldest in the nation.



Through the **Center for Social Entrepreneurship**, the College of Business Administration helps launch 15 new business ventures each year that strengthen society and provides \$35,000 in seed money through the Social Innovation Fund, which Social Entrepreneurship students help to allocate. Additionally, the center recently launched **BizLab**, a student consultancy in which business students provide technical analysis and advice to start-ups and other small businesses in the community.



Detroit Mercy's Institute for Advanced Continuing Dental Education offers more than 130 continuing education courses annually for oral health professionals across the globe, including free continuing education courses to support practitioners in managing stress and mental health.



The **Clinical & School Psychology Health Engagement & Resource Education (C-SPHERE)** initiative at UDM received a \$2.4-million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to expand the behavioral health workforce and increase access to care for underserved communities. In addition, this grant supports statewide educational webinars to strengthen Michigan's behavioral health infrastructure and addresses critical shortages in youth mental health services. Partnering with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Detroit, Psychology faculty, students and alumni help deliver the Mentally Fit Program which serves more than 1,500 individuals annually.



Each summer, the College of Engineering & Science hosts **educational camps and pre-college programs** on technology, AI, cybersecurity and a teacher bootcamp that assists high school teachers with integrating microelectronics and robotics into their lessons.



Through a Ford Motor Company Fund grant, Detroit Mercy's Institute for Leadership & Service led a project in which **115 Detroit Mercy students served approximately 635 individuals** in the community over the course of the year.

Community Service & Advocacy



Detroit Mercy Law is committed to advancing social justice. Each year, students provide more than 35,000 hours of pro bono legal services to the community through externship and clinic programs. The externship program provides support to nonprofit and government employers. The clinic program provides pro bono legal services to under-resourced metro-Detroit residents and communities across several high-need areas.



Detroit Mercy Dental regularly participates in outreach initiatives vital to broadening access to care for thousands of people each year who need it most. There are six clinical service-learning programs that reach a diverse range of patients. Through these programs, students facilitated 6,080 patient visits, addressing the need of 3,559 individual patients.



From July 2025 through February 2026, the **Detroit Mercy Dental Clinic** completed 47,249 patient visits, which included \$270,490 in uncompensated care. Under-reimbursed care was provided through Medicaid rates made possible through institutional support of \$3,478,383, state support of \$1 million and federal cost-based reimbursement of \$46,638.



The **School of Optometry** faculty and students participated in multiple community health fairs and vision screening events in Detroit, Hamtramck and Canton, providing eye examinations and screenings for nearly 300 community members. These efforts often focus on uninsured patients, school-aged children and individuals with limited access to routine eye care.



The College of Business Administration's **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program provided free income tax preparation to 184 community residents last year, generating \$333,594 in refunds for them and saving them an estimated \$55,200 in commercial fees.



The **Psychology Clinic** serves approximately 300 clients annually and the **Counseling Clinic** serves approximately 250 individuals each year, providing no-cost counseling to Wayne County residents who otherwise would not have access to mental health services.



New first-year students engage in a four-day program called **Prologues, Transitions & Viewpoints** before classes start.

Students work with faculty to learn how to succeed academically, participate in activities that create a sense of connectedness with other students and the community and are introduced to Detroit's vibrant neighborhoods and cultural environments through projects with residents.



The **University's libraries** hold a combined collection of nearly 2 million items, which includes books, articles and media in print and electronic formats. The McNichols Campus Library is designated the Dudley Randall Literary Landmark by the American Library Association. The University Archives is home to several special collections, including the Black Abolitionist Archive, the Padre Guadalupe Carney Latin American Solidarity Archive and the Fr. Edward J. Dowling, S.J., Marine Historical Collection. Community members may access the McNichols Campus Library on weekdays.



The **Titan Equity Nourish Network (TENN)** advances solutions to challenges within Detroit's food system by connecting student passion with community expertise. Through hands on service and reflective learning, students address immediate food access needs while examining the systemic issues that shape them. In 2025, TENN's leadership team was supported by more than 220 volunteers. Together, they delivered more than 36,000 pounds of food across Detroit and strengthened neighborhood partnerships with local organizations.

Cultural, Spiritual & Athletic Activities



In addition to traditional Catholic prayers such as adoration and Mass, **University Ministry** offers Catholic, ecumenical and interfaith programs to engage students in experiences of community, prayer, action and reflection. These programs include faith sharing, retreats, daily liturgies, weekly Jumma Prayer, student leadership formation and spiritual accompaniment. Detroit Mercy annually sends a group to the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C., the largest Catholic social justice gathering in the nation. What's the Tea with Ministry is a podcast that brings mission-centered conversation, storytelling and connection to the campus and beyond. Students attend Mercy, Jesuit and interfaith conferences that create awareness of social justice issues and advocacy for current issues, especially those that affect the most marginalized.



The College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences' **Discover Detroit Series** engages students in the city's cultural, sports, historical and art scenes. In summer, the College hosts the GM Student Corps, which brings more than 100 youth to campus to experience "A Day in the Life of a College Student."



More than 250 student-athletes participate in the 17 **NCAA Division I** sports the University sponsors for men and women. Our student-athletes have gone on to success in all the major league sports and on the world stage in the Olympics and other international competitions.

College & School Initiatives

College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences



The **Detroit Mercy Black Box Theatre** opened in fall 2025, marking the first permanent theatre space on the McNichols Campus and a major investment in Detroit's cultural landscape. This flexible, community-centered venue expands access to partnerships and creative programming along the Livernois corridor, strengthening Detroit Mercy's role as a hub for artistic excellence and neighborhood engagement.



The Department of Religious Studies hosted the second annual **Robert and Judy Bruttell Lecture**. "Black Freedom, Religious Excitement and the Invention of a Public Health Crisis" featured Judith Weisenfeld, the Agate Brown and George L. Collord, Professor of Religion and Chair of the Department of Religion at Princeton University.



Since 2014, **Rx for Reading Detroit** has raised more than \$155,000 and distributed 275,000 new and gently used children's books in Detroit and surrounding communities. Rx for Reading, staffed by Detroit Mercy students and volunteers, works to expand access to quality children's books and support low-income families in reading with their children.

College of Engineering & Science



The College is in its fifth year of Department of Defense funding totaling more than \$2 million for the **VICEROY** program to educate the next generation of cybersecurity leaders. Previous funding enabled the creation of a graduate certificate and master's degree program in Vehicle Cybersecurity Engineering (VCE) as well as a state-of-

the-art VCE Lab. Scholarships and stipends have expanded opportunities for students to directly strengthen the United States' cybersecurity resilience. Additionally, CES has enhanced pre-college and community college pathways to attract more students to the field.



CES has created an alliance with other top engineering universities in Michigan to create the **Michigan National Security Consortium**. Currently seeking University Affiliated Research Center status, the Consortium unites academia, industry and government to deliver research, cutting-edge technology and a skilled workforce dedicated to national security.



As part of the College of Engineering & Science's NSF-supported effort to engage with local small businesses and startups, Detroit Mercy hosted the first **EPIIC Industry-Academic Summit** in partnership with three other Michigan universities. The event brought together over 150 faculty and leaders from the local tech ecosystem to learn and network on potential ways to collaborate.



The CES launched the **Reading Professionals in Mobility** (RPM) program with a grant from the Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation to promote the hiring of student interns by Michigan small businesses, offering companies administrative support and the expertise of the College's over 100-year-old co-op program.



The **iDRAW** program continued its tradition of high school teacher development through its expansion of the national SCALE K-12 program to the state of Michigan. Detroit Mercy hosted a week-long bootcamp and developed curriculum to help local high school technology teachers prepare students for future careers in semiconductors and microelectronics.



Through **Faces on Design**, Mechanical Engineering seniors and Nursing students work together to build assistive devices for clients with disabilities. This year's projects included a device to facilitate transfer from a wheelchair to a car, a grip device to aid in dressing and reaching objects and a lift to assist an athlete in moving sports equipment from his house to his car.



The University of Detroit Mercy **Chemistry Club** partners with local Girl Scout troops to host a STEM Career Exploration merit badge workshop in the UDM Chemistry Building.

College of Health Professions



In fall 2026, the CHP will begin offering **undergraduate degrees in Health Sciences and Sports & Exercise Sciences**. Together, these programs will help to answer the enormous need for healthcare workers across a variety of fields. The University is renovating two spaces on the McNichols Campus to accommodate the needs of these new programs.



The McAuley School of Nursing's Master's Entry Advanced Generalist Nursing Program is **expanding to the University's Grand Rapids Nursing program** on the Aquinas College Campus to provide options for people with bachelor's degrees in other fields who want to enter the workforce as a nurse in less than 20 months.



Schools within the College **partner with health systems and medical centers** throughout Michigan to provide clinical placements and internships to more than 900 students in undergraduate Nursing and graduate executive leadership, Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Anesthesia, doctor of Nursing Practice, Physician Assistant, Healthcare Operations Management and Health Information Management programs.

College of Business Administration



The College of Business Administration (CBA) is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, which places it **among the top 5% of business schools in the world**. In 2026, *U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges* edition ranked the undergraduate business programs in Entrepreneurship and Management No. 18 in the nation, and the undergraduate program in Finance No. 36. It also ranked the MBA No. 16 among graduate Management programs, and No. 8 among graduate Management programs online.



Through the **Charlton Center for Responsible Investing**, CBA students manage a real portfolio, publish an investment newsletter, compete in international competitions and interact with industry professionals. Recent speakers have included the president of the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the vice chair of the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors.



The CBA's **Center for Practice & Research in Management & Ethics (PRIME)** hosts a sustainability competition, a business ethics essay contest, and speakers who have included the founder of the United Nations Global Compact, the director of Counterintelligence for the FBI, a U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner, and the presidents of Campbell Soup, TrueCar, Cardinal Health and Unilever.

School of Law



The School of Law is fully immersed in metro Detroit, and its Riverfront Campus is in the heart of downtown. The Detroit Mercy Law **graduating Class of 2025 had an overall employment rate of 93 percent** in legal and professional positions with law firms, the judiciary, businesses, government and public interest organizations across the United States and Canada.



The School of Law is committed to increasing access to legal education for the community and **will offer the state's first online JD** beginning in fall 2026. The faculty also provides free legal education programming throughout the year. Faculty, administrators and student organizations partner to support programming for local high school and college students.

School of Optometry



The **University of Detroit Mercy Eye Institute** on the University's Novi Campus continues to expand access to high-quality eye care while supporting the growth of the Detroit Mercy School of Optometry, which welcomed its inaugural class of 35 students in fall 2025.



Serving as both a **patient care facility and a clinical training site** for optometry students, the Eye Institute provides comprehensive eye care services and offers reduced-cost services for uninsured patients. Through the Titan Vision Program, the clinic provides sponsored examinations and eyewear for individuals who might otherwise go without care.

School of Architecture & Community Development



SACD presents a family movie for the community in a drive-in format on the McNichols Campus, to demonstrate the University's commitment to being a good neighbor.



Each year, students in the Master of Community Development program work closely with Detroit communities and organizations on a capstone project that makes a difference.



SACD was a key collaborator to the Detroit/It Sustainable Urban Design Summit. The one-day event brought together experts, architects, and community leaders to focus on urban resilience, mobility, and sustainable development.



2025 - 2026

FAST FACTS

OUR STUDENTS

FALL 2025

5,778 Total Enrollment

3,577
Undergraduate

884
Graduate

1,317
Professional

73%
Full-time

27%
Part-time

59%
Women

41%
Men

STUDENT DIVERSITY

9%
Black/African American

7%
Asian

7%
Hispanic/Latino

24%
International

5%
Chose not to report

3%
Multirace

45%
White

STATISTICS

NON-PROFESSIONAL LEVEL

86%
Commuters

14%
Residents

98%
Undergraduates Receiving
Financial Aid (full-time)

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

68%
Michigan

89%
Metro Detroit

7%
Out-of-state

25%
International

FACULTY

225 | **187**
Full-time | Part-time

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

126 | **140**
Full-time | Part-time

FULL-TIME FACULTY WITH
TERMINAL DEGREE

92%

STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO

12:1

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

18

ALUMNI

117,424
Degrees Awarded

60%
Living in Metro Detroit

70%
Living in Michigan

90,433
Living Alumni

ALUMNI COMPOSITE

2%
Architecture & Community
Development

16%
Business Administration

10%
Dental

16%
Engineering & Science

19%
Health Professions

12%
Law

25%
Humanities, Arts & Social
Sciences

5%
Other graduate degrees

AFFORDABILITY

\$196.8 MILLION
Total tuition and fees revenue

\$33,604
Undergraduate tuition

\$65.8 MILLION
Institutional scholarships and
grants disbursed