



COLLABORATION  
ACROSS HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
INSTITUTIONS IN  
MICHIGAN

A REPORT FROM MICHIGAN'S INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

March 2017

## ABOUT MICU

We are Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities (MICU), representing Michigan's non-profit independent colleges and universities. As the voice of independent, non-profit, higher education institutions in Michigan, we increase awareness of the impact MICU members have on higher education and the economy. With more than 114,000 students at our institutions, Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges and universities educate approximately 15 percent of all college students in the state.

## MICU'S MISSION

MICU promotes the contributions of independent, non-profit higher education institutions to the state of Michigan by enhancing awareness among policymakers, providing value to members, and expanding financial aid opportunities for Michigan's students. MICU serves its members through advocacy, government relations, public policy development and promotion, and member services.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

MICU collaborated with the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) and the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) to collect data on collaboration agreements among higher education institutions across Michigan. The data collected focuses on students either completing or enrolled in collaboration programs resulting in a bachelor's degree between Fall 2015 and Summer 2016. Never before has this data been collected and the results are compelling. Higher education in Michigan has never been more accessible, with thousands of students receiving degrees and enrolling in programs because institutions work together. Throughout this report, these metrics are coupled with data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

This report summarizes findings about Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges and universities. Detailed data can be found in the appendix.

## INTRODUCTION

Higher education institutions in Michigan have been collaborating for decades, both through independent agreements and the Michigan Transfer Agreement beginning in 1972, to increase access and flexibility in how students participate in higher education to ultimately receive a degree. Two of the most prevalent collaborations are articulation agreements and on-site baccalaureate programs.

An articulation agreement is a contractual arrangement between two educational institutions about how certain courses completed and credits earned in a program at one institution will transfer into a program at another institution. The most common example of this is when a student completes the first two years of higher education at a community college before transferring to a four-year institution.

An on-site baccalaureate program is a bachelor's degree completion program offered by a four-year institution at or near a community college. All courses required for graduation are typically available at or near the community college or online. Programs like these allow students with geographic and travel constraints to complete a baccalaureate program through a four-year institution closer to home or their place of work.

New programs are being developed each year to allow students across Michigan easier access to higher education. During FY 2015 alone, 9,054 undergraduate students transferred into Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges & universities. This represents 12.4 percent of all undergraduate enrollment at MICU member institutions.

114,000

students at MICU member institutions, approximately 15% of all students in the state

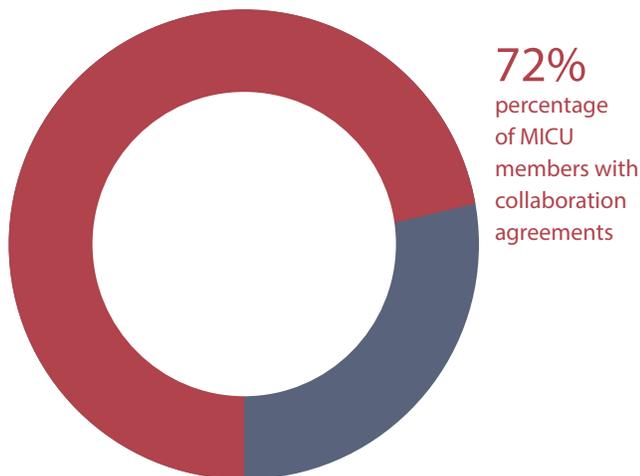
9,054

undergraduate students transferred into Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges & universities

# COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS

Eighteen out of 25 MICU institutions reported specific collaboration agreements with community colleges for transfer programs and on-community campus baccalaureate degrees.

Share of Michigan's Independent, Non-profit Colleges & Universities with Collaboration Agreements, FY 2016



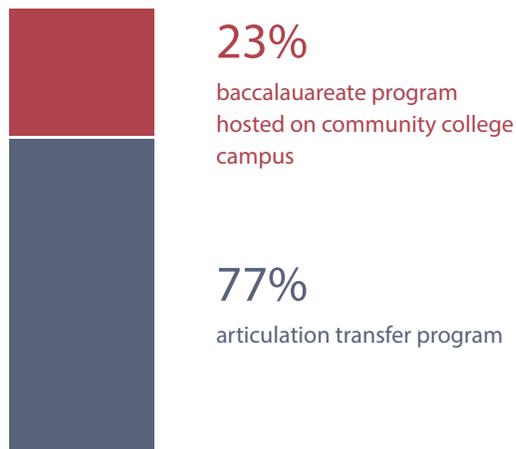
Current programs are available through:

- Adrian College
- Alma College
- Aquinas College
- Baker College
- Calvin College
- College for Creative Studies
- Concordia University-Ann Arbor
- Cornerstone University
- Davenport University
- Finlandia University
- Kettering University
- Lawrence Technological University
- Madonna University
- Marygrove College
- Siena Heights University
- Spring Arbor University
- University of Detroit Mercy
- Walsh College

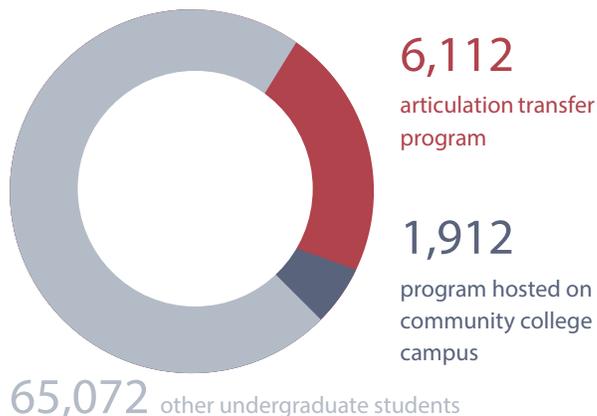
# ENROLLMENT

Currently, 8,024 students are enrolled in programs at Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges and universities because of collaboration agreements between higher education institutions in Michigan. This represents 11 percent of all undergraduate enrollment at Michigan's private, non-profit higher education institutions.

Share of Undergraduate Enrollment in Michigan's Independent, Non-profit College & University Collaboration Programs, FY 2016



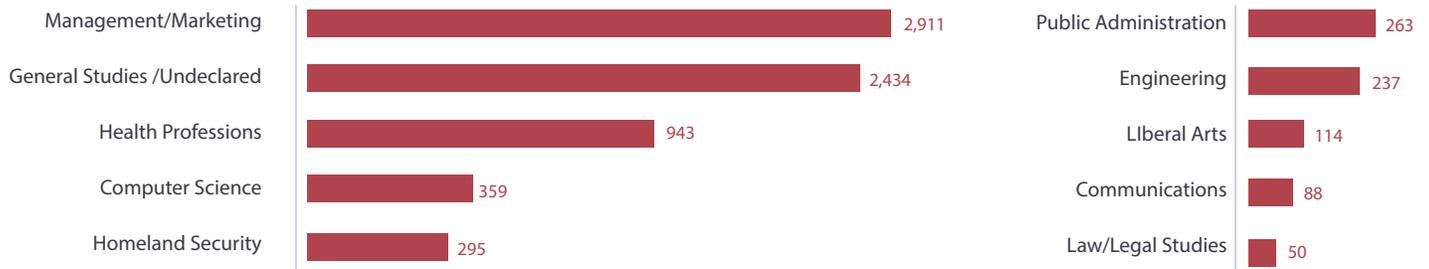
Enrollment in Michigan's Independent, Non-profit College & University Collaboration Programs, FY 2016



# AREAS OF STUDY - ENROLLMENT

Students have access to 33 academic areas of study through collaboration programs. Of the 8,024 students enrolled through Michigan independent, non-profit colleges and universities, 5,590 were reported to be in a specific area of study.

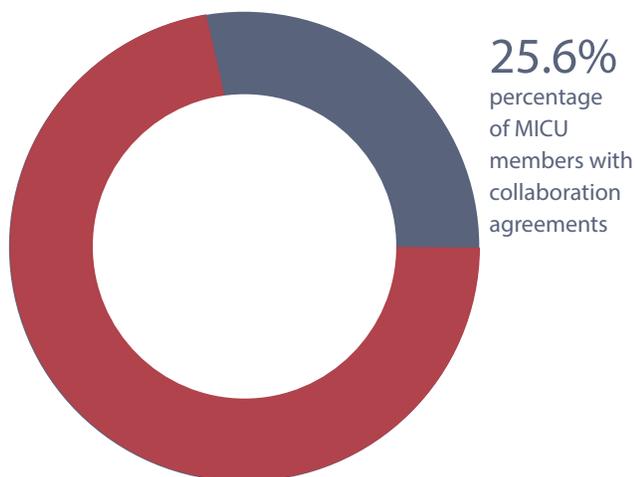
Enrollment by Top Ten Area of Study for Collaboration Programs  
Michigan Independent, Non-profit Colleges & Universities, FY 2016



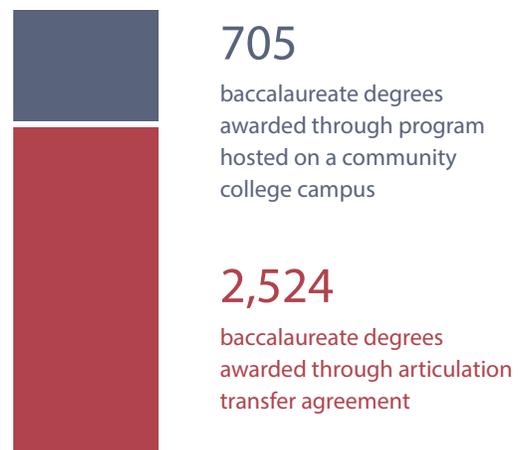
# COMPLETIONS

At least 3,229 students completed baccalaureate degrees at Michigan’s independent, non-profit colleges and universities through different collaboration agreements. These represent more than a quarter of the total baccalaureate degrees awarded by MICU member institutions during FY 2016. The majority of these were through articulation agreements. Public universities in Michigan awarded 2,740 degrees to students through collaboration agreements in FY 2016.

Share of Total Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded by Michigan’s Independent, Non-profit Colleges & Universities through Collaboration Agreements, FY 2016



Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded by Michigan’s Independent, Non-profit Colleges & Universities through Collaboration Programs, FY 2016



<h2>33</h2> <p>academic areas of study available through collaboration programs</p>	<h2>8,024</h2> <p>students enrolled through collaboration programs, FY 2016</p>	<h2>12.4%</h2> <p>transfer student share of MICU member undergraduate enrollment, FY 2016</p>
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# 25.6%

share of degrees awarded through collaboration agreements, FY 2016

# 81%

percentage of undergraduates at MICU member institutions who received grants or scholarships, FY 2016

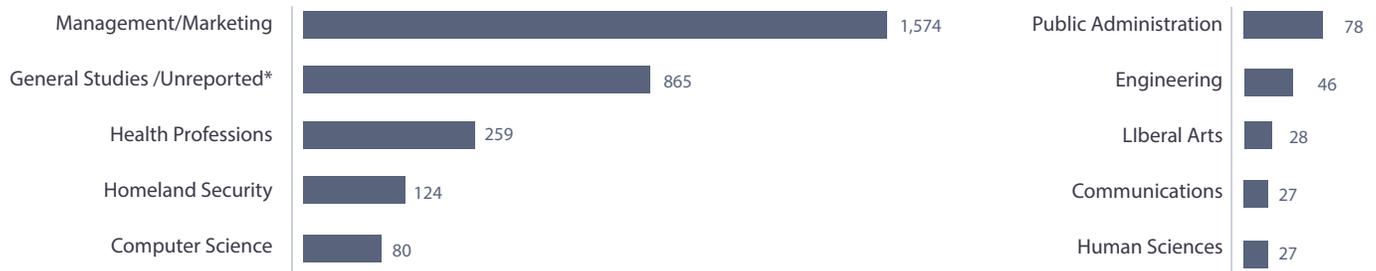
# 3,229

baccalaureate degrees awarded through collaboration in FY 2016

## AREAS OF STUDY - DEGREES AWARDED

Of the 3,229 students completing baccalaureate degrees in FY 2016 through Michigan independent, non-profit colleges and universities 2,364 were reported by specific area of study.

Degrees Awarded by Top Ten Area of Study for Collaboration Programs Michigan Independent, Non-profit Colleges & Universities, FY 2016



\*Note: Not every MICU member reported data on degrees awarded and enrollment in collaboration programs within a specific area of study.

## COST SAVINGS

When students complete a degree through an articulation agreement, most take two years of courses at a community college before transferring to a four-year public or independent college or university to complete their baccalaureate training. The cost savings of attending two years of community college prior to transferring into an independent, non-profit, four-year institution can be estimated comparing the average net price of attendance for community college relative to the average net price of attending an independent institution. Data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) includes the specific metrics: "average net price of in-state/in-district students receiving grant or scholarship aid" for community colleges and "average net price of attendance for students receiving grant or scholarship aid" at independent, non-profit institutions.

By taking two years of coursework at a community college through an articulation collaboration agreement, students who completed baccalaureate degrees through Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges and universities can save an average of \$28,611 in attendance costs over the course of their undergraduate education.

In 2016, 2,524 students completed baccalaureate degrees at Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges and universities through articulation agreement collaboration programs. The students completing degrees in FY 2016 saved a combined \$72,213,291 over the course of their education because of collaboration agreements.

# \$72,213,291

estimated total savings of obtaining a baccalaureate degree for all students completing collaboration programs, FY 2016

# \$28,611

average cost savings per student completing a baccalaureate degree through a collaboration program, FY 2016

## Appendix: Summary Data MICU Member Institution FY 2016 Collaboration Program Enrollment and Completions

\*Data collected by MICU from member institutions between December 2016 and January 2017

Program Type and Area of Study	Number of Students Enrolled in the Program (Fall 2015 through Summer 2016)	Number of Degrees Awarded (Fall 2015 through Summer 2016)
<b>Articulation Agreement</b>		
All Areas of Study	6,112	2,524
01-Agriculture	0	0
03-Nat. Resources	0	0
04-Architecture	5	1
09-Communications	2	1
10-Comms Tech	1	1
11-Computer Science	330	72
13-Education	22	8
14-Engineering	237	46
19-Human Sciences	35	24
22-Law/Legal Studies	23	8
23-English	9	3
24-Liberal Arts	4	2
26-Biology	3	0
27-Math/Stats	1	1
31-Rec/Fitness	0	0
38-Philosophy/Religion	4	2
40-Physical Science	2	0
42-Psychology	9	4
43-Homeland Security	119	54
44-Public Admin	95	28
45-Social Sciences	18	9
50-Arts	13	5
51-Health Professions	669	171
52-Management/Marketing Services	2,074	1,219
54-History	3	0
All programs	0	0
Unknown Area of Study	2,434	865
<b>On-Site Baccalaureate Programs</b>		
All Areas of Study	1,912	705
01-Agriculture	1	1
04-Architecture	35	7
05-Ethnic/Gender Studies	14	7
09-Communications	86	26
10-Comms Tech	3	0
11-Computer Science	29	8
12-Culinary/Personal Services	21	4
13-Education	13	2
15-Engin. Tech	46	25
16-Languages	18	11
19-Human Sciences	9	3
22-Law/Legal Studies	27	9
24-Liberal Arts	110	26
39-Theology	6	2
41-Comms Tech	3	1
42-Psychology	15	6
43-Homeland Security	176	70
44-Public Admin	168	50
45-Social Sciences	3	1
47-Mechanic/repair tech	10	1
49-Transport/Moving	8	2
51-Health Professions	274	88
52-Management/Marketing Services	837	355
<b>Grand Total - All Program Types and Areas of Study</b>	<b>8,024</b>	<b>3,229</b>

## MICU MEMBERS

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Adrian College

Albion College

Alma College

Andrews University

Aquinas College

Baker College

Calvin College

Cleary University

College for Creative  
Studies

Concordia University -  
Ann Arbor

Cornerstone University

Davenport University

Finlandia University

Hope College

Kalamazoo College

Kettering University

Lawrence Technological  
University

Madonna University

Marygrove College

Northwood University

Olivet College

Siena Heights University

Spring Arbor University

University of Detroit  
Mercy

Walsh College



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