

Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care

The Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care program allows youth in foster care, as they become legal adults, to voluntarily remain under state care until age 21 -- if they are in school (high school, GED, vocational, or college), in job training, employed 80 hours per month, or are deemed incapable of participating in employment/education activities due to a documented medical condition.

The Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care program allows for a variety of benefits to be extended to youth in transition, including:

- Extension of foster care payments
- Continued oversight by a caseworker and counseling
- Continued health care coverage
- More time to finish high school and/or pursue vocational or higher education

Young adults who qualify under the program have options in choosing living arrangements, including staying with their current foster parent, renting a home/apartment, even staying in a college dorm.

For more information ask for the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Liaison at your local DHHS office, or visit:

www.michigan.gov/FosterCare1821.

About Fostering Success Michigan

Through generous support from the Kresge Foundation, the Havirmill Foundation, Western Michigan University, and others, Fostering Success Michigan is building a statewide network through a collective-impact strategy that strives to prepare young people in foster care between the ages of 12 to 25 across the state of Michigan for success in higher education and beyond. Fostering Success Michigan will increase awareness, access, and success in higher education and post-college careers for students with experience in foster care.

We offer networking opportunities and valuable resources. Find out more at

www.fosteringuccessmichigan.com



Getting to know....Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care



Who should use this guide:

This guide can be used by anyone who is interested in learning more about support programs, scholarships, or other resources available to students from foster care at Michigan colleges and universities. This includes students from foster care, DHHS case managers and education planners, Local College Access Network coordinators, foster parents and caregivers, High School counselors, and college advisors.

How to use this guide:

This guide highlights the diversity of postsecondary programs and support offered to students from foster care in Michigan and we will continue to add to it as more programs develop at schools across the state. Please contact each institution directly for more information on individual programs and scholarship opportunities. We know there is a TON of information in this guide. You can do it!!



“Education is the movement from darkness to light” ~ Allan Bloom

Does your campus have a program that isn't listed here? We would love to hear from you! Please contact Fostering Success Michigan at fostering-info@wmich.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Aquinas College

Fostering Success Scholarship Initiative

<https://www.aquinas.edu/undergraduate-admissions/aquinas-college-fostering-success-scholarship-initiative>

Aquinas awards up to 2 scholarships per year to incoming Freshman students who meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarship covers tuition, room and board, book costs, and activity fees for the academic year, for up to five years as a full-time student. The scholarship will also help with the cost of attending one of the semester-long International Programs if the student chooses to participate in one. Students are monitored by a faculty advisor as well as the Academic Services office.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Be accepted for admission to Aquinas College.
- Students must be in Michigan foster care at the time they turn 18 or upon high school graduation.
- Be an incoming freshman student.
- They must have achieved a minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale at time of admission.
- Have an ACT Composite of 22 or above [or SAT (Critical Reading and Mathematics) score of 1020 or higher].



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Aquinas College is a Catholic, liberal arts institution that offers over 60 majors from which to choose. Top programs include education, many areas of business, and the sciences, most notably pre-med. Aquinas is one of four colleges in the world (the only in the US) to offer a POHI (Physical or Other Health Impairment) education program using the conductive education method; graduates of this program are certified as conductors and work with children with special needs at conductive learning centers, but are also certified to teach at the elementary level or in special education.

Program Contact:

Josh Thiel Phone: 616-632-1122 Email: jdt002@aquinas.edu

Michigan Designated Campus Champions (continued)



Lake Superior State University
www.lssu.edu

Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Lake Superior State University is a personal, small-town school that provides a superior blend of liberal and technical studies in the natural setting of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. LSSU offers undergraduate degrees in 45 areas of study that attract students from every county in Michigan, more than a dozen states and provinces, and nine nations.

LSSU Campus Champion

Shelly Wooley
Program Director
906-635-2664
swooley@lssu.edu



Northern Michigan University
www.nmu.edu

Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Northern Michigan University, located in Marquette, Michigan, is a dynamic four-year, public, comprehensive university that has grown its reputation based on its award-winning leadership programs, cutting-edge technology initiatives and nationally recognized academic programs.

NMU Campus Champion

William Richards
Assistant Dean of Students
906-227-1700
dso@nmu.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Michigan Designated Campus Champions

A Designated Campus Champion (DCC) is a staff or faculty on a postsecondary institution campus who is willing to be identified as a resource partner for any students from foster care attending that institution. Designated Campus Champions are willing and able to connect students who have experienced foster care to resources within their network that will help them to succeed. Please check out the FSM website often for updates to our DCC and Financial Aid Champions list!



Central Michigan University

www.cmich.edu/Pages/default.aspx

Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

From its roots as a teachers' college, Central Michigan University has grown to offer nationally acclaimed programs in areas ranging from the health professions and engineering to business and communications. CMU offers more than 200 academic programs at the undergraduate, master's, specialist, and doctoral levels.

CMU Campus Champions

Carolyn Dunn
Associate Vice President
Office for Institutional Diversity
(989)774-3700
dunn2cm@cmich.edu

Mary Henley
Director, MI GEAR UP
(989) 774-1585
Mary.Henley@cmich.edu

Traci Guinn
Executive Director
Center for Inclusion
and Diversity
guinn1tl@cmich.edu



Grand Valley State University

www.gvsu.edu

Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Grand Valley features a rich academic environment focusing on excellent faculty, outstanding students, hands-on research opportunities and nationally ranked graduate programs. GVSU offers over 200 areas of study, including 86 undergraduate majors and 36 graduate programs.

GVSU Campus Champion

Marnie Parris-Bingle
Program Advisor, Educational Support Program TRiO
(616) 331-3401
parrism@gvsu.edu/esp

Baker College

Living Independently Networking Knowledge (LINK)

www.baker.edu

Baker College's LINK program advises and supports youth in all areas of life skills. The program's staff assist youth in moving toward self-sufficiency in both campus and community environments by helping them to develop working relationships with appropriate and relevant campus departments and community partners. The program also assists youth to secure basic needs such as housing, utility costs, food and clothing, as well as provides eligible youth crisis counseling and intervention. Additionally, eligible youth benefit from their relationship with a trained mentor.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Under age 20 and were eligible for Youth in Transition funding when their foster care case was open and
- Have been in an eligible foster care or non-secure delinquency placement supervised by the Department of Human Services at age 14 or older.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Baker College offers Certificates, Associate, and Bachelor programs in the following areas: Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Technology, Health Sciences and Automotive.

Program Contact:

Maria Herstein MSW, Life Skills Coach

Phone: (810) 766-4365

Email: mherst01@baker.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Eastern Michigan University Mentorship Access Guidance in College (MAGIC)

www.emich.edu/magic

Mentorship Access Guidance In College exists to increase the graduation rates among foster care alumni, encourage a successful transition into adulthood, and promote workforce readiness. The MAGIC Program does this by providing life skills training, mentorship, housing stability, social enrichment, and financial literacy. MAGIC is a federally-funded support program on campus that is designed to provide Eastern Michigan University students who were formerly in foster care with the necessary independent living skills to encourage a successful transition into adulthood, completion of a college degree, and career entry.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Eligible students must be attending EMU or interested in attending EMU and will work with the MAGIC program in applying for and accessing financial aid and ETV funds.
- Students must have been in foster care on or after their 14th birthday and under the age of 20. Adoption while in care will not affect a student's eligibility with MAGIC as long as it took place after the 14th birthday.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities: The University currently serves 23,000 students who are pursuing undergraduate, graduate, specialist, doctoral and certificate degrees in the arts, sciences and professions. In all, more than 200 majors, minors and concentrations are delivered through the University's Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Health and Human Services, Technology, and its graduate school.

Program Contacts:

Joi Rencher, LMSW, Head Independent Living Skills Coach and MAGIC Coordinator

Elise Buggs, MBA, Director of Academic Success Partnership

Phone: (734) 487-0899 Email: emu_magic@emich.edu

Junior Year in High School (continued)

☐ Research Colleges

You can research colleges that interest you through websites, your public library, or your high school counseling office. Some questions to consider:

- Does the college have a campus support program for students from foster care?
- Does the college have financial scholarships for students from foster care?
- Do you want to be near a big city? Midsize? Small? Rural? Urban?

☐ Meet With Your Guidance Counselor

As early as you can in your Junior year, make an appointment to meet with your High School guidance counselor. Tell them you want to go to college or community college. Ask for their help in researching schools, applying for financial aid, taking tests (ACTs, PSATs, SATs) and completing applications. A few ideas:

- Ask about college fairs. These are events you can attend where many colleges provide presentations at once. A great way to learn about many schools at once.
- Attend a campus tour
- Ask about application fee and/or test waivers.

Senior Year in High School

This is the year to make it happen! Complete your applications, apply for financial aid, and pay attention to due dates and deadlines!

☐ • Choose the School's You're Going to Apply To

- Double check the due date deadlines and make sure you mail in your application before that date.

☐ • Complete Applications

- Ask about application fee waivers
- Start your essay early, get letters of recommendation

☐ • Apply for Financial Aid: FAFSA, ETV, TIP, FYIT, and Scholarships

- See FSM's Getting to Know...Financial Aid in Higher Education For Youth and Alumni of Foster Care

☐ • Get Ready for Transition

- If you are turning 18, sign up for Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care to continue your benefits.
- Secure summer housing and save for items you may need

☐ • Check for Orientation Dates

☐ • Get a Copy of Diploma and High School Transcripts

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Applying to College Checklist

There are many steps involved in preparing for and applying to college. Many of these “to-do” things need to be done a long time before you actually start college. Use this checklist to help you keep track of deadlines to consider, and things to do before you begin your college career!

Sophomore Year in High School

This year you will be making decisions about your classes and activities that will prepare you for college while building your resume and application.



Explore Your Interests and Potential Careers.

- Talk to your High School Counselor about Career services, and find out if there are ways to explore different careers at your school.
- When you’ve found a couple of careers you’re interested in, try to find some professionals you can talk to! Try calling a business or organization to ask for an informational interview, and ask:
 - How did you become interested in your field?
 - What did you major in or what credentials do you have?
 - Do you have any advice for me?



Talk With Supportive Adults About Their College/School Experience

- Examples of supportive adults include your case worker, foster family, biological family, teachers, guidance counselor, neighbors, and group leaders.

Take AP Classes in High School and Other Advanced Level Courses



- AP (Advanced Placement) and advanced level courses show colleges that you like to learn and you are willing to work hard. Classes like these can help your chances of being admitted.

Participate In Extra-Curricular Activities



- Colleges like to see that you participate in your school and community, so now is the time to become involved in Leadership activities, sports, and volunteering. A great resource to explore is your local MYOI (Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative):

<http://fosteringuccessmichigan.com/library/myoi>

Junior Year in High School

This year you will be educating yourself about colleges and preparing to apply! You will explore colleges and careers, begin taking exams, and talking to the supportive adults around you about how best to prepare for college!

Ferris State University Ferris Youth Initiative (FYI)

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/fofyi/homepage.htm>

The Ferris Youth Initiative was developed to increase higher education opportunities for young people who are low-income orphaned or who have aged out of the foster care system. A major objective of the program is to provide support that promotes success and general well-being of our participants throughout their undergraduate experience while attending Ferris. Pairing program participants with a faculty or staff mentor is one way of accomplishing this objective. Recipients of the FYI Scholarship will receive up to \$4,000 per year, to be applied to any direct cost at Ferris State (tuition/fees, room/board, and/or books/supplies). The FYI program is limited to 20 students.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Be accepted for admission to Ferris State University.
- Be 24 years old or younger by January 1 of the year they will enroll for classes.
- Provide documentation to verify their orphaned status (orphans only).
- Qualify for the Educational Training Voucher (ETV).
- Submit FAFSA
- Demonstrate unmet need, as determined by the FAFSA.
- Be enrolled and attending classes on the Big Rapids campus.
- Reside in University Housing for the first 2 years in the FYI program.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities: With a student-to-teacher ratio of 16:1, Ferris offers student-centered professional and technical educations with a solid base of general education. More than 89 percent of degrees awarded at Ferris since 2006 have been for majors that align with in-demand occupations. With more than 180 degrees from associate to Ph.D., Ferris collaborates with industry partners to assure your education is relevant, preparing you for a rewarding professional life.

Program Contact:

Janette Ward, FYI Coordinator of Independent Living

Phone: (231) 591-5962

Email: wardj35@ferris.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Support Program

www.kvcc.edu

The Kalamazoo Valley Campus Support Program is a three-session, spring semester, career and personal exploration workshop series and a summer bridging program. The program is also partnering with the Seita Scholars program at Western Michigan University to provide mentoring and peer to peer guidance. The program is connected to key campus champions in a variety of offices across campus that are committed to supporting students from foster care by providing opportunities and resources.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Applying by January is encouraged, but not mandatory.
- All students must be registered prior to the first week of classes.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is a two-year community college in Southwest Michigan that offers degrees and certificates in scores of academic programs, occupations and trades. Popular transfer programs include Business Administration, Social Work, Engineering, Education, Pharmacy and Physical Therapy. Notable go to work programs include Art and New Media, Wind Turbine Technician Academy, Nursing, and Dental Hygiene. There are many off-campus housing options nearby.

Program Contact:

Coty Dunten, Life Resources Coordinator

Phone: (269) 488-4825

Email: cdunten@kvcc.edu

Western Michigan University Seita Scholars Program

<http://wmich.edu/fosteringSUCCESS/seita>

The Seita Scholars Program is a tuition scholarship and campus support program for Western Michigan University students who have lived some or all of their teenage years in foster care. The scholarship pays for tuition of undergraduate courses at WMU. Books, fees, housing, food and other living expenses are not included in the scholarship; however, most or all of these costs may be covered by financial aid and available state support, thereby making it possible for a Seita Scholar to earn an undergraduate degree with few or no student loans. All Seita Scholars are provided with a campus coach for academic and personal support, career mentors, support with basic living needs, and emergency support as needed.

The Seita Scholarship requires that students participate in the Seita Scholars Program and is only offered to fall semester admits to WMU.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Qualify for the Educational Training Voucher (ETV)
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Be admitted to Western Michigan University as a first-time freshman or transfer student.
- Apply for the Seita Scholars Program.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Western Michigan University has a wide array of majors that students may be interested in including Health Careers, Business, Social Work and Criminal Justice. In addition, WMU has over 300 student organizations for students to become involved in, and the Kalamazoo county Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI) board is based out of the Seita Scholars office.

Program Contact:

Chris Harris, Director, Seita Scholars Program

Phone: (269) 387-8362

Email: seita-scholars@wmich.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Wayne State University Transition to Independence Program (TIP)

www.tipwaynestate.org

TIP Wayne State works to increase college access and improve graduation rates of foster care youth in Southeast Michigan through research, advocacy, financial and academic support, all while helping students to create lasting personal and professional connections. TIP partners with several departments across campus including Financial Aid, Counseling, Admissions, Student Disability Services and Housing departments to name a few. All units house designated champions that have participated in a series of trainings to become more sensitive to the unique needs and challenges of foster care youth. There are no age restrictions put on foster care youth in accessing services offered by campus champions. TIP also works with a plethora of off-campus partners who provides students with access to a number of free services ranging from assistance with legal issues to ETV enrollment. Students also have opportunities to engage in various leadership programs across Detroit and Southeast Michigan.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria for the TIP scholarship program:

- Youth must have been in foster care on or after their 14th birthdays OR
- Were adopted on or after their 16th birthdays.
- Students are eligible to re-apply every year for up to six years.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Wayne State University has a variety of majors offered at the undergraduate, masters, and PhD levels, the most popular majors include: Psychology, General; Biology/Biological Sciences, General; Organizational Behavior Studies; Criminal Justice/Safety Studies; Social Work, Medicine, Engineering and Accounting. Located in the heart of Detroit, WSU is surrounded by a plethora of cultural and athletic opportunities such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Historical Museum, Charles H. Wright Museum. WSU is near the NBA's Detroit Pistons, the NFL's Detroit Lions, NHL's Redwings, and the Detroit Tigers. Partnerships with the community provide opportunities for WSU students with experience in foster care to participate in many of these cultural and athletic entertainment venues at no cost.

Program Contact:

Dr. Angelique Day, Program Director

Phone: (313) 577-4407 Email: waynestatetip@gmail.com

Program Office: (313) 577-0063

Lansing Community College Fostering Stars Program

<http://www.lcc.edu/supportservices/fosteringstars>

The Fostering Stars Program provides a wonderful opportunity and a supportive network for students currently engaged in or aging out of the foster care system. Some of the services provided in this program include: advising, academic support, counseling, community outreach, transportation assistance, specific emergency assistance, care-packages, one-on-one mentoring, group membership and networking opportunities. Additionally, students involved in this program will be able to connect with an independent life skills coach who is trained in providing guidance, empowerment, and improvement in all areas of life. A life skills coach seeks to empower others by helping them make, meet, and exceed goals. Coaches work to improve outcomes for students by tapping into their full potential and shedding new light on difficult life situations.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Students must be over 14 and under 21 years of age
- Students must have been eligible for Youth in Transition funding when foster care case was open (case may still be open)
- Students must have been in an eligible foster care or non-secure delinquency placement supervised by DHHS at 14 years of age or older



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Lansing Community College (LCC) is one of the most comprehensive colleges focused upon offering learning opportunities in four areas: career and workforces development, general education, developmental education, and personal enrichment. LCC is recognized as a local, state, national, and international leader in forging educational partnerships with business, industry, and government to better meet the needs of an ever changing worldwide marketplace.

Program Contact:

Carrie Gregg, Program Coordinator

Phone: (517) 483-1028 Email: copelanc@star.lcc.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Michigan State University Fostering Academics Mentoring Excellence (FAME) Program

http://socialwork.msu.edu/outreach/foster_youth_alumni_svcs.php

The MSU FAME Program is a resource center for MSU students who have been in the foster care system or other out of home placements. FAME exists to provide a supportive network for foster care alumni on campus and connect them to supportive services to ensure their success as college students and support them toward graduation. Key components of the FAME program include: Individual Coaching, Mentoring Program, Care Package Delivery during final exams, Interactive website for service linkages, Campus Champions in various departments throughout the University, Financial Assistance Fund, Student Activity Board, which provides leadership and advocacy experience and individualized life skills training and development. FAME also offers a college and adult life preparatory summer camp for current high school students in foster care which is held annually in August.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Have been in foster care, guardianship, kinship care or relative placement.
- Have experienced homelessness.
- Considered independent due to extenuating circumstances.
- Students can become involved in FAME at any time during their college career and can choose to be involved in a variety of capacities. Minimum one year commitment for coaching and mentoring programs.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

One of the top research universities in the country, Michigan State University offers top-ranked programs in Education, Packaging, Business, Medicine, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Dietetics, and Communication. Students are encouraged to pursue the Spartan Advantage Grant at <http://finaid.msu.edu/spad.asp>

Program Contact:

Andrea Martineau, FAME Program Coordinator/Life Skills Coach

Phone: (517) 353-5537 Email: mart1525@msu.edu

<https://www.facebook.com/MSUFAME>

<https://twitter.com/MSUFAME>

Washtenaw Community College Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Program

<http://sites.wccnet.edu/srwc/>

The REACH campus support program at WCC is based in the Student Resource Center. The REACH Program goal is to assist the college in providing students with a positive learning experience while attending WCC. REACH provides a case management model advocating on behalf of all students to help them overcome barriers that impede their success, and to promote an educational environment that values diversity, inclusiveness, and quality. REACH offers academic and career advising; education plans; grants for tuition, books, on and off campus childcare; bus tokens; a career mentoring program; and an emergency food pantry. An on-site Life Skills Coach will assist students as needed.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria: Must be enrolled in credit classes at WCC

- Must maintain satisfactory academic progress and taking classes that match the chosen major.
- Must complete the program intake process and meet each semester with SRWC Life Skills coach.
- Must have been in an eligible foster care placement supervised by the Department of Health and Human Services at age 14 or older.
- Must have submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current academic year in which enrolled.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

Excellent academics with strong occupational programs including advanced manufacturing, automotive, construction, digital media, health and information technology. Small class sizes and dedicated instructors all combine to give WCC students a high-quality education at an exceptional value. WCC has more than 100 programs providing a wealth of educational opportunities to pursue a degree, update job skills, or take a class for continuing education.

Program Contacts:

Kathy Stewart, LMSW, Life Skills Coach

Phone: (734) 973-3572 Email: kstewar3@wccnet.edu

Liz Orbits, LPC, NCC; MA Ed. Psyche.

Phone: (734) 677-5105 Email: eorbits@wccnet.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

University of Michigan, Flint Mpowering My Success

<https://www.umflint.edu/finaid/mpowering-my-success>

Mpowering My Success has the following on-campus support through the Division of Student Affairs: Housing, Counseling, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Life; Academic Advising and Career Center (including tutoring); Admissions; Health and Wellness Center; Womens' Educational Center; Writing Center; Student Concerns Committee. Mpowering My Success has the following off-campus support: DHHS, MYOI, Education planners, Ennis Center for Children, Genesee Intermediate School District, Resource Genesee: One Stop Housing, REMIX, Motts Children's Health Center, Genesee County Community Mental Health, GCARD Head/Early Start, Area Shelters: Carriage Town Ministries, Shelter of Flint, Nina's Place, YWCA, Traverse Place, Fostering Hope, My Brother's Keeper.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Michigan youth who are active in the foster care system, placed out of their home based on abuse and neglect, starting at age 14 and up to age 21.
- Michigan youth, ages 18-21, that have been in foster care on or after their 14th birthday but are no longer under DHS/Tribal supervision
- A youth who has or had an open juvenile justice case and is placed in an eligible placement under the supervision of DHS.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

U-M Flint faculty from 120 areas of study with expertise and creativity into the development of research and service-learning projects that match course curriculum with today's most-pressing issues. Such projects bring learning to life, address community needs, and fulfill students' desires to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

Action-oriented academics is at the heart of the University of Michigan-Flint experience -- and this is why graduates are so highly sought by employers looking for leaders who know how to get things done.

Program Contact:

Lisa J Feinics, PhD

Phone: (810)762-3219 Email: financial_aid@list.umflint.edu

Northwestern Michigan College YourNMC Program

www.nmc.edu/your-nmc

The YourNMC program at Northwestern Michigan College is designed to help current and former foster youth who are transitioning into college life and adulthood. This program will provide students with hands on support as they get connected with NMC's campus. Supports include: mentoring, financial assistance, academic and personal support, and ongoing activities to get connected to campus life. Through the YourNMC program, students are assisted in navigating through the college system from admissions until graduation. Counselors, faculty, students and staff work together with the student to achieve academic and personal success. Connections to local resources are also available, including a Department of Human Services education planner and Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative resources.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Currently in foster care or alumni of foster care
- Be accepted for admission to Northwestern Michigan College
- Under the age of 24



Northwestern
Michigan
College

Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

At Northwestern Michigan College your classroom can be the Grand Traverse Bay, the sky, the woods...or a more traditional classroom and laboratory. It might be around the block, or halfway around the world. Wherever it is, it will feature state-of-the-art equipment and world-class instruction. Still, some things at NMC have stayed the same: you're going to get a great education, you're going to experience an average classroom size of 20 students, you're going to get personal attention from outstanding faculty who care about your success, and you're going to be able to afford it. NMC offers Associate and Bachelor Degrees, and certifications in more than 50 programs (complete list available at nmc.edu/programs). The NMC University Center in Traverse City also offers bachelor's completion and advanced degrees. NMC has committed to a statewide agreement that helps students transfer credits earned at NMC to participating four-year colleges and universities.

Program Contacts:

Paul Kolak, Counselor

Phone: (231) 995-1042 Email: jpkolak@nmc.edu

Lisa Thomas, Associate Dean of Student Life

Phone: (231) 995-1118 Email: lthomas@nmc.edu

Higher Education Resources For Students From Foster Care

Saginaw Valley State University

The Fostering an Academic Successful Transition (F.A.S.T.) Program

<https://www.facebook.com/FASTatSVSU?ref=ts&fref=ts>

The F.A.S.T. Program is designed to aid current and former foster youth who are transitioning into college life and adulthood. This program will provide them with personal and academic counseling, life skills training, and pair them with a peer mentor who can also provide support. Each individual has varying needs and the F.A.S.T. Program is able to look at these specifically and provide services. Navigating the university system can be difficult, and the F.A.S.T. Program can guide eligible students through this system with the aid of a trained Life Skills Coach and peers who know how to help.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Students of Saginaw Valley State University.
- Currently in foster care or alumni of foster care.
- Under the age of 21.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

With 90 programs of study, Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) offers opportunities of self discovery, leadership, growth and international experiences (guest students and speakers and studying abroad). SVSU provides affordable tuition for more than 10,000 students on an attractive, suburban campus in Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region. SVSU is committed to quality teaching in the classroom, field-based learning experiences, NCAA Division II athletics and a broad range of academic and extracurricular opportunities to help students excel.

Program Contacts:

Jim McEvilly, MSW, Life Skills Coach

Phone: (989) 964-2655 **Email:** pjmcevil@svsu.edu

Vanessa Brooks Herd, Ed.D., LMSW, F.A.S.T. Program Manager

Phone: (989) 964-7254 **Email:** vbherd@svsu.edu

University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Blavin Scholars Program

<https://deanofstudents.umich.edu/article/blavin-scholars-program-1>

The Blavin Scholarship is a need based award that provides \$2,000 to \$5,000 per student, per year. The Blavin Scholars Program works closely with the Financial Aid Office and scholars to determine need, and revisits this regularly. Support services include: Guidance through the admission and transition process, one-on-one support, access to support staff 24/7, 365 days a year, liaisons in important campus offices who are familiar with the program and the specific needs that may arise for scholars, group gatherings aimed at improving scholars' life skills and social supports, and emergency financial assistance. Each Blavin scholar is matched with a mentor selected from U of M's faculty and staff. Program mentors have similar interests to scholars and are often academically relevant, though emotional and social support is also provided.

Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:

- Preference goes to students who were in foster care after age 13
- There is no age limit for eligibility. Students are eligible regardless of status (reunification, adoption, Young adult Voluntary Foster care, Independent Living, etc)
- Must be a Michigan resident and eligible for enrollment at University of Michigan.
- Must maintain full time student status and satisfactory academic progress.
- Must meet regularly with program staff.



Highlights of majors, programs, departments, and activities:

A university ranked among the best in the world. A city ranked among America's best college towns. A diverse, dynamic, and friendly community to call your own. 220 degree programs. Caring faculty members who include Pulitzer Prize and Guggenheim winners, National Academy of Science members, MacArthur Fellows, and even a few Emmy winners. Almost 500,000 alumni who continue to transform communities across the globe. 1,200 student clubs, 25 NCAA Division 1 teams, and unlimited passion for all things Wolverine. One purpose: to offer you an education of uncommon value, depth, and breadth.

Program Contact:

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