

HELPING STUDENTS CROSS THE FINISH LINE

Students at Wayne State University work hard inside and outside of the classroom to achieve their professional and academic goals. Unfortunately, many face unexpected challenges like financial burdens and personal hardships that delay or prevent graduation.

The College of Education supports students who have stopped out due to financial need or hardship through dedicated degree-completion funding. This support helps students focus on their futures as educators, coaches and counselors rather than their finances.

Your philanthropic support of the Finish Line Scholarship or Student Emergency Fund at the College of Education directly and immediately impacts students by removing the barriers that block them from completing their degrees and helping them continue their success beyond college.



Finish Line Scholarship

Education students receiving financial assistance to complete their graduate coursework are often held back from graduating by less than \$3,000, or the equivalent of one three-credit course at Wayne State.

In the Finish Line Scholarship's pilot year, the College of Education provided eight master's students a total of \$21,649 to complete their final courses needed for graduation. The average award per student was \$2,700, and all eight students completed their degrees.



"I was very humbled and grateful that strangers would provide the funding for me to complete the last class of my master of arts in teaching. Their generosity relieved a huge financial burden for me, allowing me to focus more on taking care of my kids."

Kathleen Lawson

M.A. '22, Teaching alumna

With donor support, the college will offer this completion scholarship to a second cohort of graduate students in the summer and fall of 2023. For graduate students to be considered for the Finish Line Scholarship, they must be in good academic standing at the university (3.0 grade point average), be within the designated six-year time frame to complete their master's degree, and be enrolled in the final year of coursework in their program.



Student Emergency Fund

The Student Emergency Fund is intended to support students who face unexpected hardships that have an immediate impact on their personal or academic well-being, such as job loss or unstable housing. The fund is designated to offset short-term financial need without replacing or affecting other financial aid, and it does not require repayment. Students may be awarded up to \$1,500 depending on their need and the availability of funding. Once a student has been selected to receive an award from the fund, the award is automatically applied to the student's tuition account balance.

Since its inception, the emergency fund has had a transformational impact on the lives of several education students. For example, one student purchased a new laptop to replace one that was damaged in a house fire, and another student was able to stay enrolled while battling health complications and the accompanying medical bills.

For students in the college to qualify for emergency funds, they must be in good academic standing, not have received emergency funding in the past, and provide a written request for support that details their hardship.

How to give

An **annual scholarship** is available for students as soon as the next academic year begins and will continue until the funds are exhausted. The number of students awarded an annual scholarship depends on the amount of each award, which is determined by the financial needs of students. For example, a gift of \$25,000 could provide:

5 scholarships of \$5,000 each OR **10 scholarships of \$2,500 each**

An **endowed scholarship** is permanently available to support students because the original gift is invested, and the scholarship is funded through investment earnings. The amount available for scholarship awards each year will depend on the size of the initial gift and the endowment distribution rate. For example:

Original Gift	Projected Scholarship Award	Annual Impact
\$350,000	\$14,000	Funds full tuition for one year for an in-state graduate education student
\$175,000	\$7,000	Funds a semester of tuition for an in-state graduate education student
\$75,000	\$3,000	Covers unmet financial need for an in-state graduate education student
\$25,000	\$1,000	Helps cover books and fees

With a gift of at least \$5,000 a year for five years, you can establish your own named Finish Line Scholarship endowed fund that will provide needed financial support to future generations of education students and solidify your lasting impact on the college and university.

Investing in the future of education

The College of Education prepares students to be the educational leaders of the future. Investing in completion scholarships and emergency funds ensures that hardworking students have the opportunity to serve our community with eased financial hardship for themselves and their families. However you choose to give, your support helps students realize their dreams and continues Wayne State's tradition of opportunity and excellence.



"I had the choice to attend either Oakland University or Wayne State, and given the scholarship I was offered to complete my graduate degree after pausing during the pandemic, I can confidently say Wayne State has been the better choice. I am forever grateful for the donors who give their own money to students like myself and allow us to finish our education."

Lauren Davis

M.A. '21, Sports administration alumna



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