

Icebreaker

An icebreaker activity can be a great way to help everyone get to know each other. Here are our suggestions for activities that can be adjusted as you see fit. You can also search for many other options on Google if you'd like something different.

#1 – Introductions

This will work for any size group and is a simple exercise that allows everyone to introduce themselves.

Help set the festive mood at the start! Let each student stand and celebrate by letting everyone know which U-M school or college they are admitted to. You may also prompt students to share other basic info like their name, hometown or high school, and intended major. It can be helpful for alums to also share who they now work for or what they do for a living so students with similar interests can network with them.

Beyond basics, we also recommend a less serious question to break the ice. It can be helpful to pick two questions and allow students to choose the one they'd prefer to answer. Here are some suggestions below:

- If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
- If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
- If you had a time machine, what point in the past or future would you visit?

#2 – Interviews

This activity is best for a small- to mid-sized group (~6-20 students).

Have the students pair off into groups of two, preferably with a student they do not already know. The students will "interview" each other and prepare three facts about the other student to present to the room. The interview length can vary based on availability of time.

After the interview time is finished, students should regather and share the three facts they have just learned. This can be repeated with new pairs if time allows. We would encourage you to also join in on this activity to get to know the prospective students. Parents/family members can also pair off on their own to learn more about each other or hang out more casually.

#3 – Categories

This activity will work best for larger groups (~20+).

After introducing all of the students, ask everyone to stand up. As you yell out categories, students will split up onto different corners of the room based on their response. An alum will announce a category and the students will then organize themselves in groups based on their answers.

Once in their respective areas of the room, have the students discuss their answer to that specific question and, if you want to extend the game, they can also answer another question related to themselves or Michigan, similar to the questions listed above in activity #1. This can then be repeated with a new question to have the students get organized into new groups and hopefully meet new students each time.

Some possible questions are below with the four categories:

- **Color of your eyes:** blue, green, hazel, brown
- **The school or college you were admitted to:** Architecture, Art and Design, or Business; Education, Engineering, or Kinesiology; LSA or SMTD; Nursing or Pharmacy
- **Favorite season:** winter, spring, summer, fall
- **Favorite high school extracurricular involvement:** volunteering, sports, fine arts (music/theatre), academics
- **Favorite movie genre:** comedy, action, drama, documentary