



## Graduate Certification in Community Engagement

Developing the skills and competencies needed for exemplary university-community engagement

## Graduate Certification in Community Engagement

Michigan State University's Graduate Certification in Community Engagement prepares graduate and professional students for careers that integrate scholarship with community engagement. The program is designed to help students develop systemic, respectful, and scholarly approaches to their community engaged work.

With approval from their Guidance Committee chairperson and University Outreach and Engagement, students tailor their program of study to strengthen their scholarly and practical skills in community-engaged research and creative activities, community-engaged teaching and learning, community-engaged service and practice, and/or community-engaged commercialization activities.

### Who should apply?

Graduate and professional students from any program whose scholarly and career interests include the following types of activities:

- Employing community-based research methods and techniques to address society's problems
- Providing expertise and assistance to community-based, nonprofit organizations and agencies
- Involving students in community-based service-learning or civic engagement
- Developing activities or curricula to engage general public audiences in learning
- Creating learning experiences and continuing education programs for working professionals
- Translating health and scientific research findings for general public audiences
- Involving members of the community in the creative arts, humanities, design, or performance

### Why apply?

Past students say the program has given them an opportunity to:

- Prepare for a career as an engaged scholar or practitioner
- Learn about scholarly approaches to community engagement
- Gain skills for collaborating effectively and respectfully with community partners
- Share disciplinary knowledge and experiences with other graduate students, faculty, and staff
- Network with other engaged scholars and practitioners—on campus and nationally

## What are the requirements?

To earn the Certification, students must complete three requirements:

1. A series of core competency seminars organized by University Outreach and Engagement (or alternatives approved by the program coordinator in advance).
2. A mentored community engagement experience (60 hours minimum). For the majority of students, this experience is associated with their graduate program and may be a practicum, internship, thesis or dissertation research, graduate assistantship, or teaching responsibility, as long as it meets the definition of community engaged scholarship.
3. A written engagement portfolio and presentation.

**Students who successfully complete the requirements receive an official notation from the Office of the Registrar on their academic transcripts.**

## How to apply

To apply for the MSU Graduate Certification in Community Engagement:

- Students must complete an online application form.
- An online nomination form must be completed by the student's major professor, faculty adviser, graduate adviser, or other departmental/school person familiar with the student's professional goals and academic standing.

Applications are due late September each year. For more information about the application process, application form, and nomination form, visit the program's website: [gradcert.engage.msu.edu/application](https://gradcert.engage.msu.edu/application)

## More Information

University Outreach and Engagement is committed to providing prospective students and faculty advisors with as much information and individual guidance as needed. If you would like to discuss the program's requirements or application process, please contact:

### Diane Doberneck

*Assistant Director*

*National Collaborative for the Study of University Engagement*

E-mail: [connordm@msu.edu](mailto:connordm@msu.edu)



## Important Dates

For the dates of **September's Fall Information Session** and application deadline visit:

[gradcert.engage.msu.edu](https://gradcert.engage.msu.edu)

visit the site

*MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.*

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The Graduate School

The Graduate Certification in Community Engagement is an initiative of the Michigan State University Graduate School and the Office of University Outreach and Engagement (UOE). UOE is a campus-wide resource dedicated to helping faculty and academic units construct more extensive and effective engagement with the communities of our state, nation, and world.

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