



UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CERTIFICATION IN COLLEGE TEACHING

The University Graduate Certification in College Teaching, an initiative of the Michigan State University Graduate School, in partnership with MSU colleges, helps graduate students and postdocs organize, develop, and document their teaching experiences. Through a series of professional development activities – workshops or seminars, coursework in disciplinary teaching methods, a mentored teaching project – participants will build and consolidate their preparation for college and university teaching. The program culminates in an e-portfolio that will help students prepare for academic job interviews and plan for their professional development as early career faculty.

What are the goals and benefits of this program?

Most new faculty will have had advanced training in their discipline and some teaching experience, but few will have participated in programs that prepare them for a career in higher education. As competition for faculty positions increases, graduate students who are well prepared as researchers will also need to demonstrate careful preparation as teachers and colleagues. The Certification in College Teaching is the only formal program in the State of Michigan, and one of only a handful in the United States, that provides graduate students a comprehensive preparation for teaching at the college level.

The Certification program is designed to:

- improve teaching skills for those who are teaching now or will be teaching in the future
- highlight the opportunities and challenges of teaching a diverse group of learners in a university or college setting
- enhance graduate student professional development by preparing them for the transition to faculty positions
- develop an active dialogue about teaching and learning and the culture of higher education both within and outside individual disciplines
- provide structured support for students' reflections about teaching.

What are the competencies and components of the program?

The program is built around experiences in and demonstration of learning in five competency areas: disciplinary teaching strategies, creating effective learning environments, incorporating technology in teaching, understanding the university context, and assessing student learning. Each college has its own requirements for how participants develop and demonstrate these competencies. However, at minimum, all participants will: complete coursework related to teaching in the discipline and/or higher education pedagogy; develop and complete a mentored-teaching project; develop an electronic teaching portfolio, including a teaching philosophy; and participate in workshops, seminars or other approved professional development experiences on topics related to the program competencies.

How do I get started? Go to the web page for your college's Certification in College Teaching program to review requirements. Contact your college's Certification in College Teaching Coordinator to get started. Web sites and College Coordinator names can be found in a document in the "General Information" tab in this binder or at <https://grad.msu.edu/certification-college-teaching-program-college-coordinators>

How do I complete, and what will I have at the end?

The final teaching portfolio, documenting participation in required activities and reflection on the core competency areas, will be submitted to the college Graduate Associate Dean and to the Graduate School for approval. Completion of the program will be recognized by a Certification notation on the MSU transcript.

For more information and forms found in this binder, go to <https://grad.msu.edu/certification-college-teaching-institute>.