

**Michigan State University
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute of Agricultural Technology
and
Southwestern Michigan College**

**CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT
Updated 4/9/24**

Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources ("MSU CANR") and Southwestern Michigan College, pursuant to this Consortium Agreement (the "Agreement"), agree to provide inter-institutional instructional programs in Agriculture Operations and Associate in Applied Science in Agricultural Technology or Agricultural Business (each a "Program" and collectively, the "Programs"). The specific courses and requirements for the Programs are outlined in Appendices A and B. The inter-institutional understanding includes the following major points:

A. Both Parties Desire to Enhance Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Post-Secondary Education in Michigan and Increase Student Access to Such Educational Opportunities; therefore, MSU CANR and Southwestern Michigan College shall use reasonable efforts to:

1. Engage in an inclusive planning process to enhance post-secondary educational opportunities and student recruitment in the agriculture, food, and natural resources disciplines.
2. Identify and recruit potential partners and sponsors of agriculture, food, and natural resources programs.
3. Identify resource needs related to future programming.
4. Foster connections and partnerships with stakeholders that enhance post-secondary agriculture, food, and natural resources education.

B. Certificate Program

MSU CANR, with instructional coordination provided by its Institute of Agricultural Technology ("IAT"), will offer coursework that, combined with credits from Southwestern Michigan College, will allow students to complete a certificate program in Southwestern Michigan College.

1. MSU will provide students with a schedule of MSU courses needed to complete a certificate in the respective Programs (see Appendix A for MSU courses).
2. Southwestern Michigan College will provide the coursework that students must complete in addition to the MSU courses required to earn a certificate in the respective Programs, including developmental and prerequisite coursework, and student tutoring as necessary (see Appendix B for Southwestern Michigan College courses). Students must earn a minimum grade of 2.0 in all Southwestern Michigan College courses that are to be transferred to MSU for completion of a certificate program.

C. Associate Degree

1. Southwestern Michigan College will offer an Associate in Applied Science for those students who wish to add an associate degree to an MSU certificate. Southwestern Michigan College agrees to accept all MSU Certificate coursework in transfer toward the associate degree where the grade is a 2.0 or better. To be awarded an associate degree at Southwestern Michigan College, students must complete all required coursework, with at least 15 credits of coursework at Southwestern Michigan College, and any other program requirements for the associate degree.
2. MSU CANR will keep its course equivalencies up to date in Transfer MSU (<http://transfer.msu.edu/>) and will provide Southwestern Michigan College with curriculum guidelines, as needed, beyond those found in the MSU Academic Programs catalog (<https://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Default.aspx>).
3. MSU CANR will also keep its transfer course equivalencies with Southwestern Michigan College up to date on the Michigan Transfer Network (MTN) website (<https://www.mitransfer.org/>).

D. Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Coordinator

1. MSU CANR agrees to designate a coordinator for the Institute of Agricultural Technology (the "MSU Coordinator") for the purpose of student recruitment, curriculum coordination, workplace internship placements, certificate coursework review, academic advising assistance, support to students participating in the Program and work with the Southwestern Michigan College-MSU Southwestern Michigan College stakeholder groups.
2. Southwestern Michigan College shall reimburse MSU CANR 50% of the MSU Coordinator's annual salary and fringe benefits costs. Southwestern Michigan College shall make the reimbursement payment to MSU CANR within 30 days of receiving an invoice detailing such payments. Southwestern Michigan College agrees that its reimbursement of the MSU Coordinator's annual salary and fringe benefits shall remain in effect for all periods covered by this Agreement.
3. MSU CANR shall be responsible for supervising and evaluating the MSU Coordinator. A representative of Southwestern Michigan College shall participate in the selection and annual evaluations of the MSU Coordinator; however, MSU CANR shall have final decision-making responsibility.
4. The MSU Coordinator will serve as the academic advisor, for both Southwestern Michigan College and IAT, to work directly with students in the program and industry partners to establish workplace internships.

E. Community College Program Representative

1. Southwestern Michigan College agrees to designate a representative (the "Southwestern Michigan College Representative") to serve as a single point of contact for the MSU Coordinator and for prospective students in the Programs. The Southwestern Michigan College Representative, working together with the MSU Coordinator, will coordinate inter-institutional communication and information regarding admissions, enrollment status, course scheduling, and advising.

F. Southwestern Michigan College and MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Institute of Agricultural Technology Admissions, Dual Enrollment, Student Reporting and Financial Aid

1. Institute of Agricultural Technology students shall apply simultaneously for admission to both Southwestern Michigan College and the IAT Program offered by MSU, permitting them to enroll in the required coursework offered by both institutions. Fundamental to the effective and efficient administration of the Programs is the need to regularly share information, including student records, between Southwestern Michigan College and MSU. To that end, MSU and Southwestern Michigan College agree to share academic and other information concerning dually enrolled students for the purpose of administering the Programs. Each institution agrees to comply with applicable law and regulations promulgated under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g et seq. regarding the use and redisclosure of any such records. All dually enrolled students will be notified that Southwestern Michigan College and MSU will disclose their student records to the other institution.
2. Southwestern Michigan College will assume the responsibility of processing, awarding, and disbursing financial aid for those students who qualify for aid. Accordingly, Southwestern Michigan College will be responsible for monitoring student eligibility, monitoring satisfactory academic progress, refund/repay calculations, record retention and reporting including the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). Both schools shall be responsible for reporting data on the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP).

The guiding operational principle is that Southwestern Michigan College will act as the home institution and MSU as the host institution for the purposes of delivering financial aid. Aid eligibility will be determined based on the combined enrollment at both institutions.

Under this Agreement, the responsibility for administering outside scholarships awarded to the student will be a shared arrangement. Generally, outside scholarship funds will be sent to and processed by Southwestern Michigan College. In most cases, the administration of local promise zones will be processed by Southwestern Michigan College. Southwestern Michigan College will be notified of any scholarship that is not processed by Southwestern Michigan College.

The MSU Coordinator at Southwestern Michigan College will provide a list of enrolled students for both MSU and Southwestern Michigan College to both financial aid offices to ensure that

there is no duplication of aid. Any institutional aid awarded by MSU will be reported to Southwestern Michigan College as well.

3. The student will be charged tuition and fees by Southwestern Michigan College for only the Southwestern Michigan College courses and the student will separately owe tuition and fees charges to MSU at MSU rates for courses taken through MSU. It is the student's responsibility to pay each school respectively. Financial aid refunds received by students through Southwestern Michigan College must be used to help cover the costs of tuition, fees, room and board, and other educational related expenses for coursework at MSU.

G. Use of Classroom Facilities on the Southwestern Michigan College Campus (es) for Michigan State University Coursework in the Programs

1. MSU and Southwestern Michigan College agree to cooperate in the use of classroom space and facilities. When MSU courses are offered on the campus(es) of Southwestern Michigan College, classroom usage fees and equipment (such as those used for Interactive Television or other distance learning technology) may be waived. If there is a need for a classroom facilitator to operate equipment, MSU will be responsible for those charges. MSU courses will be offered during normal operating hours of Southwestern Michigan College.
2. In the event of campus delays or closure, MSU courses will follow Southwestern Michigan College operational decisions.
3. The Southwestern Michigan College Disability Support Services office is available for collaboration on student accommodations, but if there is a need for student accommodations within an MSU course, MSU will be responsible for any charges associated with the accommodations. Southwestern Michigan College will be responsible for any accommodations and charges associated with accommodations as a part of any Southwestern Michigan College course.
4. Southwestern Michigan College will provide access to current technology systems that they use at their college. Systems provided by MSU are MS 365, ZOOM, and D2L. If another system is required for compatibility, an agreement must be developed between MSU and Southwestern Michigan College prior to implementation.
5. Southwestern Michigan College will proctor MSU online course exams as needed in the Testing Center at no charge for students that are dually enrolled. Proctoring online courses must occur during Testing Center operational hours.
6. The MSU Coordinator at Southwestern Michigan College will be provided a computer by MSU. However, the MSU Coordinator will be provided access to the Southwestern Michigan College authenticated network.

H. Additional Certificate Programs

1. This Agreement serves as the operating agreement for any additional IAT certificate programs as agreed to by both parties. Additional programs will be jointly agreed upon and an additional agreement, or written amendment to this Agreement, will need to be signed before additional programs can be implemented.

I. Program Review & Termination

1. The Programs will be reviewed annually by representatives from both institutions using assessment criteria to be developed by both institutions during the one-year period after the date this Agreement is signed.
2. Either Michigan State University or Southwestern Michigan College may terminate the Agreement at any time by notifying the other party in writing 90 days in advance. Should either party terminate the Agreement, any Southwestern Michigan College student who has become dually enrolled in one of the Programs prior to termination will be allowed to complete such Program within two (2) years from the date of enrollment, subject to the payment of applicable course fees and compliance with applicable academic regulations.
3. This Agreement is valid for three (3) years from the last dated signature below. Prior to the expiration of this Agreement, the parties may modify, extend, or amend the Agreement in writing signed by authorized signatories of both parties.

Therefore, in support of the Programs, Michigan State University and Southwestern Michigan College are signatories to this Agreement, which will take effect upon the last dated signature below:

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

Dr. Joe Odenwald, President

Dr. David Fleming, Vice President
of Instruction

Dr. Keith Howell, Dean
Arts and Sciences

Dr. Karen Reilly, Dean
Business and Advanced Technology

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Thomas D. Jeitschko, Interim Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Kelly Millenbah, Dean
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dr. Jenó Rivera, Director
Institute of Agricultural Technology

Anthony Krolak, Associate Director
Office of Financial Aid

Lynn Kriser, Associate General Counsel

Appendix A

Michigan State University IAT Agricultural Operations Certificate Requirements

The Agricultural Operations program provides students with a solid background in plant and soil science, precision agriculture, water management, entomology, plant pathology and business management. It exposes students to exciting opportunities available in the industry.			
Requirements for Agricultural Operations			
Students must complete 60 credits from the following:			
1. All of the following courses (28 credits):			
AFRE	130	Farm Management I	3
AE	131	Agricultural Water Resources Management	3
AE	143	Application of Precision Agriculture Technologies	3
AT	100	Career Development in Agricultural Technology	1
AT	202	Agricultural Regulation, Compliance and Safety	3
AT	293	Professional Internship in Agricultural Technology	3
CSS	101	Introduction to Crop Science	3
CSS	126	Introduction to Week Management	2
CSS	203	World of Soils	2
ENT	110	Applied Entomology of Economics Plants	3
PLP	105	Fundamentals of Applied Pathology	1
PLP	105L	Fundamentals of Applied Plant Pathology Lab	1
2. Complete a minimum of 6 elective credits in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as approved by the program coordinator in the Institute of Agricultural Technology.			
3. Complete 26 credits of additional course work through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a community college partner (Bay College, Delta College, Glen Oaks Community College, Kellogg Community College, Monroe County Community College, Montcalm Community College, Muskegon Community College, Northwestern Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, Wayne County Community College, and West Shore Community College) or an approved transferring institution. All Course work must be approved by the program coordinator in the Institute of Agricultural Technology. Students at Southwestern Michigan College are required to complete 30 to 31 additional credits of course work.			
A minimum of 50% of the credits must be completed through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.			

Appendix B

Southwestern Michigan College Associate in Applied Science Agricultural Technology

BIOL 118 Plant Biology – 4 Credits

BUSI 200 Small Business Management or ISYS 110 Introduction to Computer Technology – 3 Credits

CHEM 100 Fundamentals of Chemistry or CHEM 101 General Chemistry 1 – 4-5 Credits

ECON 201 Macroeconomics or ECON 202 Microeconomics – 3 Credits

EDUC 120 Educational Exploration and Planning – 1 Credit

ENGL 103 Freshman English or ENGL 103W Freshman English w/ Workshop – 3-4 Credits

ENGL 104 Freshman English 3 or SPEE 104 Human Communication – 3 Credits

HIST 101 Western Civilization 1 or another approved humanities course – 3-4 Credits

MATH 127 College Algebra – 4 Credits

POSC 201 American Government – 3 Credits

MSU Courses – 30 to 34 Credits

Southwestern Michigan College Associate in Applied Science Agricultural Business

ENGL 103 Freshman English or ENGL 103W Freshman English w/ Workshop – 3-4 Credits

ENGL 104 Freshman English 3 or SPEE 104 Human Communication – 3 Credits

MATH 150 Statistics – 4 Credits

BIOL 118 Plant Biology or CHEM 100 Fundamentals of Chemistry – 4 Credits

ECON 202 Microeconomics – 3 Credits

EDUC 120 Educational Exploration and Planning – 1 Credit

BUSI 200 Small Business Management – 3 Credits

ISYS 110 Introduction to Computer Technology – 3 Credits

ACCO 201 Principles of Accounting 1 – 4 Credits

BUSI 201 Principles of Management – 3 Credits

BUSI 207 Business Law 1 – 3 Credits

BUSI 220 Marketing – 3 Credits

MSU Courses – 30 to 34 Credits