Internship
A professional internship is required to complete the certificate program. The internship places students in a professional learning environment that challenges them to apply knowledge with hands-on mastery of skills along with interpersonal and professional skills. Credit will be earned toward the certificate during this supervised on-the-job training.

Internships are individualized and are as diverse as our students who are encouraged to seek new or expanded work opportunities rather than return to familiar employers.

Career Opportunities
Employment in the applied plant science area is expected to grow 14% to 20% over the next five years. Southwest Michigan’s agricultural diversity lends itself especially well to employment and career growth for students who have training and educational preparation in applied plant science.

Students in the applied Plant Science Program work in occupations such as commercial fruit and vineyard producers, landscape contractors, retail garden center managers, turf managers, agricultural consultants, and agriculture suppliers and business owners.

Admission Requirements
Enrollment is open to those with a high school diploma or equivalent with a minimum GPA of 2.0. The program welcomes recent graduates, workers seeking to retrain and retool, and those seeking a career change or exploring new options. ACT or SAT test scores are used as needed in the admission process.

Students must apply for admission to both the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology and Lake Michigan College to enroll in the Applied Plant Science Program.
Program Description

In response to industry need for skilled professionals with regional plant knowledge, Michigan State University is partnering with Lake Michigan College to offer a combined program that will enable students to complete a certificate in Applied Plant Science from MSU’s Institute of Agricultural Technology and an associate’s degree from LMC, right in their local area.

Bringing together the world-acclaimed expertise of MSU’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the close-to-home convenience of an outstanding community college like Lake Michigan College, the Applied Plant Science Program prepares graduates for a wide range of employment and career choices.

Students enrolled in the Applied Plant Science Program have a choice of three different concentration areas that are chosen based on interests and background. The concentrations are Landscape Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture Operations, and Commercial Turfgrass Operations. The program coordinator can advise students on the best one for them.

Academics

Students enrolled in the Applied Plant Science Program will take general courses in plant pathology, soil and landscape science, entomology, landscape maintenance, irrigation, plant biology, business, math, and English composition. Depending on concentration area, students will also take courses in plant diseases, Entomology, horticulture plants, soils, turfgrass management, irrigation, and landscape business management.

The program uses multiple course delivery methods to meet student and program needs. All courses will take place on the Lake Michigan College campus. Many classes are taught on-site by MSU faculty and highly-qualified industry leaders. Other courses will be taught by community college faculty or are offered through distance education, an interactive multi-media system that connects students to the best instructors possible.

All students enrolled in the Applied Plant Science program will have access to MSU campus resources including e-mail, internet, and library.