



## Master Citizen Planner Credential: “Tell me more!”

### Why would I want to be a Master Citizen Planner (MCP)?

- **Standard of Excellence:** The MCP credential is an achievement recognized as the standard of excellence among planning officials and community leaders in Michigan.
- **Discounts:** MCPs often receive training discounts (about 10%) and have exclusive access to MSU Extension MCP programming.
- **Increased Satisfaction:** Michigan State University evaluated the impact of the MCP program from 2005-2015 and found that MCPs report **increased satisfaction, improved land use decisions**, increased length of time served on boards, **enhanced understanding of ethics and conflict of interest**, and **improved working relationships** compared to basic graduates of Citizen Planner (*Source: MSU Extension Bulletin, E-3312, May 2016*).
- **Continued Learning:** A key component of maintaining MCP is **6 hours of continuing education** every year. MCPs stay on top of new laws, topics, and planning strategies to address current issues. The learning never stops for MCPs because the world is always changing. Keeping up to date helps to make MCPs invaluable assets to their boards and community.

### What do I have to do to be a MCP?

**STEP 1: Fully complete the Citizen Planner classroom series or online course.** Only Citizen Planner graduates can receive Master Citizen Planner status. You must complete all episodes/sessions to apply.

**STEP 2: Submit the MCP Application** within **60 days** of completion of the Citizen Planner Program.

**STEP 3: Complete the MCP Exam**, with a score of 70% or higher **within one year** after completion of the program. The 40-question exam is based in MSU’s leaning management system – Desire to Learn (D2L).

**STEP 4: Complete a 20 minute (minimum) capstone presentation on a topic you learned about in Citizen Planner.** Within **one year** of completing the program, present to a local legislative board, ZBA, or planning commission. The topic should be relevant to Citizen Planner and the audience. After the presentation, submit a brief description of the presentation and who to contact for verification. Capstones might be the trickiest or most fun part of becoming a MCP.

**To learn more about the Citizen Planner Program and the Master Citizen Planner credential, email: [cplanner@msu.edu](mailto:cplanner@msu.edu) or visit: <https://www.citizenplanner.msu.edu>**