



East Lansing and Surrounding Areas

Michigan State University is located in East Lansing, Michigan, just 90 miles west of Detroit and 200 miles east of Chicago. The area's hub is Lansing, the state capital. The city has a population of 125,000, and is home to the Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball team, Oldsmobile Park, Riverfront Plaza, Potter Park Zoo, Impressions 5 Science Museum and the R.E. Olds Museum.

The second largest city in the region with a population of 46,000, East Lansing is a wonderful place to live, work and pursue graduate study. It is a strong community of close-knit neighborhoods, excellent public schools and extensive neighborhood parks. MSU students often use the city's many recreation facilities, including the outdoor family aquatic center, biking and hiking trails, and soccer and softball fields.

Because of the many amenities in East Lansing and surrounding areas, quality of life in the region is high. The economy is anchored by state government, MSU and General Motors. The region is also emerging as a center for the insurance industry. Employment is typically stable, and the region draws labor from throughout mid-Michigan thanks to a mature network of interstate roadways connecting the area with virtually all of the other population centers of the state. Getting around is easy as well, with a typical drive between home and work of about 20 minutes. Public transportation is also readily available through a bus system that serves the campus and surrounding areas.

The region was awarded the "Five Star Quality of Life Quotient" rating by *Expansion Management* magazine, and is the only community in Michigan that has received this top rating. The economic stability, affordable housing, qualified workforce, advanced education systems and low cost of living contributed to Lansing's selection.



Whether it's the cultural attractions, outstanding schools, performing arts, or shopping, the region is a terrific place to pursue a graduate education.

For more information, visit these websites:

- **Abrams Planetarium**
www.pa.msu.edu/abrams
- **W.J. Beal Botanical Garden**
www.cpa.msu.edu/beal
- **Jack Breslin Student Events Center**
www.breslincenter.com
- **Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)**
www.cata.org
- **East Lansing, Michigan**
www.cityofeastlansing.com
- **Erickson Hall**
www.msu.edu/dig/msumap/erickson.html
- **Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau**
www.lansing.org
- **Impression 5 Science Museum**
www.impression5.org
- **IM Sports Circle**
www.imsports.msu.edu
- **Kresge Art Museum**
www.artmuseum.msu.edu
- **Lansing Lugnuts**
www.lansinglugnuts.com
- **Lansing Area Real Estate**
www.lansing-homes.com
- **MSU Historical Museum**
www.museum.msu.edu
- **MSU Libraries**
www.lib.msu.edu
- **Potter Park Zoo**
www.potterparkzoo.org
- **R.E. Olds Museum**
www.reoldsmuseum.org
- **Wharton Center for Performing Arts**
www.whartoncenter.com

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Cultural amenities in the area include two community theaters, one equity theater, and the famed Wharton Center for Performing Arts, which annually schedules touring productions of Broadway shows and other acts from throughout world. Many top recording artists and groups also perform at the Breslin Center on campus, and festivals and celebrations are nearly nonstop in the community.

Mid-Michigan boasts a strong educational infrastructure, with MSU at its core. Many of the state's 17 public universities are also represented in the Lansing area offering graduate programs. Cooley Law School, the nation's third largest law school, is based in downtown Lansing, as is Davenport University and Lansing Community College.

One strength of the area for prospective doctoral students with families is the quality of public schools in the region. The area boasts some of the best schools in the state, and the region also has an extensive system of parochial schools.

Diversity is another of the region's strengths. Nearly 19 percent of Lansing's population is African American, and another seven percent is made up of minority groups that include Hispanics and Asians. East Lansing's minority population is about 15 percent.

Affordable housing prompts some doctoral students to purchase a home rather than rent during their years of graduate study. The median price of a home in Lansing is \$51,000; \$97,000 in East Lansing. Rentals are also affordable and available near MSU.

The region has an average temperature of 84 degrees in July; 30 degrees in January. The average annual rainfall is 31 inches and the average annual snowfall is 48 inches. Centrally located, Lansing is only a few hours from many resorts and beaches along Michigan's coastline. In the winter, Michigan offers many opportunities for skiing and other activities, and in the summer it is a haven for water sports and tourism.

The area is easily accessible by major national airlines, Amtrak railroad and bus lines. In addition to Lansing's Capital City Airport, airports in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Flint are within an hour-and-a-half drive.



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