

# WHAT IS A COGS REPRESENTATIVE?



## THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

COGS is the authorized student government for all Michigan State University graduate and professional students. We follow a parliamentary system with Full Council meetings taking place monthly from September through April during the academic year. Full Council is made up of one graduate/professional student representative from each University department, as well as a limited number of Graduate Student Organizations that promote broad cultural, affinity or cross-disciplinary constituencies – such as the International Student Association, Black Graduate Student Association and MANNRS, to name a few that have been approved for representation. The Executive Board is elected by the Full Council. COGS seeks to promote a culture of anti-discrimination, diversity, equity and inclusion for graduate and professional students, while amplifying the voice of the graduate & professional student community across the University.



[COGS.MSU.EDU](https://cogs.msu.edu)

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

COGS Representatives are responsible for attending monthly Full Council meetings. At the meetings, representatives learn about resources and important issues happening at the university level, discuss current business and vote on legislation. Representatives communicate important information back to their constituents, and advocate for their concerns when needed. Meeting dates, minutes & other information can be found on the website here: <https://cogs.msu.edu/governance/>

Representatives also must actively serve on a committee – either a COGS committee or one of the many University boards or committees representing a vast array of interests. This is how we ensure the graduate/professional perspective is considered at every level across campus. Some committees meet infrequently or as needed and others more often. Representatives are able to choose based on their time constraints and interests. COGS also hosts engaging workshops, social events, wellness resources, and the annual Graduate Academic Conference. There are ample opportunities for representatives to participate and help promote an active and fulfilling graduate student experience!

Overall, the time commitment is flexible, and the Executive Board and COGS Office is always available to help. COGS can be a great way to network with peers and administrators beyond the department and to help affect changes you want to see in the MSU Graduate School community, as well as build lasting connections!

## HOW TO SERVE:

Each Academic Department chooses their rep and confirms them to the COGS Office via email. Each department does things a little differently – some have elections, some have their department GSOs choose, and some take volunteers. Even if your department already has an active COGS rep, you can still attend the council meetings, request to act as a proxy when your representative is unavailable for a meeting or serve on a committee (any graduate/professional student can request to serve on a committee). GSOs that are not tied to a particular department but serve broad constituencies not already represented can apply for representation here: <https://cogs.msu.edu/representatives/>

## QUESTIONS?

Contact us: [office@cogs.msu.edu](mailto:office@cogs.msu.edu)

Phone: (517) 353-9189

Michigan State University

Chittenden Hall, Room 120

466 W. Circle Drive

East Lansing, MI 48824