

2026 TGA Courses & Electives



January Winter Academy – Jan. 13-14, 2026

Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

- **B-101 Board Roles & Relationships** (4 credits)
A morning class held Jan. 13 reviewing individual roles (like watchdog, supporter and communicator) and the impact they have on the board and within your community.
- **B-102 How Boards Make Decisions** (4 credits)
An afternoon class on Jan. 13 offering techniques that maximize the effectiveness of group decisions and guide your board to make informed choices with improved outcomes (and fewer headaches)!
- **F-101 At Your Service – Meeting Township Needs** (6 credits)
A full-day class on Jan. 14 exploring authority, funding, legal requirements and the risk management that comes with providing services to the residents in your community.

Capital Conference (“Cap Con”) – March 17, 2026

Lansing Center, Downtown Lansing

- 3 Elective Credits

Annual Conference & Expo – April 20-23, 2026

Grand Traverse Resort, Acme Township

- 8 Elective Credits
- **F-102 Defining Your Township’s Land Use Future** (6 credits)
Pre-conference course on April 20 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Learn about issues that must be confronted if your township’s planning efforts are to be successful, review the role of the board and community, and discover strategies for making effective land use decisions.

Summer Academy – July 2026

(date & location TBD)

- **B-103 Creating a Vision for Your Township** (4 credits)
Identifying core community values and expectations is a critical component in serving your community. Learn strategies for evaluating township programs and services and explore the need for innovation and change.
- **B-104 Strategic Planning for Townships** (4 credits)
Strategic planning is critical to achieving real results in your township. Yet creating (and maintaining) a strategic plan may be a delicate matter in a politically charged environment. Review what strategic exploration entails, as well as the voices that must be heard to develop a solid plan that aligns the township’s resources and creates favorable outcomes.
- **B-106 Linking with the Community** (4 credits)
Enhancing credibility in the public eye begins with your board. Examine ways of being more transparent to your community—a great exercise to increase trust at the local level. Explore ways of determining what your constituents want and how to keep them informed about your township’s activities.

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Regional Summits – Fall 2026

(dates & locations TBD)

- 3 Elective Credits

December Winter Academy 2026

(dates & location TBD)

- **F-103 Township Finances** (6 credits)

Explore in depth how township boards can achieve a greater degree of control over the township's financial position and assure that resources are directed to address the township's highest and greatest needs.

- **F-105 Fundamentals of Assessment & Taxation** (4 credits)

Property taxation and assessment administration are two cornerstones of township operations. From assessment and board of review meetings, all the way to tax collection—it's essential that board members have an understanding of how the process works.

Prefer Online Learning?

The entire TGA curriculum is available online! Visit MTA's Online Learning Center at <https://learn.michigantownships.org> and scroll down to click the TGA button.

NOTE: One key graduation requirement is to **complete at least two of the 11 courses in person**. Why? Graduates report that one of the most valuable parts of the program is the connection they develop with their peers in the classroom, something that simply cannot be replicated online.

Required Foundations courses*

F-101: At Your Service: Meeting Township Needs (6 credits)

F-102: Land Use: Defining Your Township's Future (6 credits)

F-103: Township Finances (6 credits)

F-104: Managing Human Resources & Volunteers in the Township (6 credits)

F-105: Fundamentals of Assessment and Taxation (4 credits)

Required Boardsmanship courses*

B-101: Board Roles & Relations (4 credits)

B-102: How Boards Make Decisions (4 credits)

B-103: Creating a Vision for Your Township (4 credits)

B-104: Strategic Planning to Achieve Results (4 credits)

B-105: Making Meetings Work More Effectively (4 credits)

B-106: Linking with the Community (B-106; 4 credits)

18 Elective Credits are also required, which can be earned in a variety of ways, both in person and online. Visit <https://michigantownships.org/learning/tga-elective/> for details.

*Don't forget to **turn in the required PAC forms within 1 week** of completing an online course:
<https://michigantownships.org/wp-content/uploads/Fillable-Online-PAC-Form.pdf>