

LAUREN GRANT, PhD

Technical Program Manager

Detroit, MI

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PMP | CSM | AWS Solutions Architect (In Progress) | PhD

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Technical Program Manager with 3+ years leading complex, high-risk technical programs and 7+ years managing cross-functional initiatives across defense, healthcare, and applied research environments. Owned end-to-end delivery of 4 production ML/analytics platforms from 0→1 in 2 years (\$4M combined budget), reducing development cycle time 30% and establishing reusable architecture across organizations. Known for operating in ambiguity, recovering failed initiatives, and aligning engineering, research, and operations teams around measurable delivery gates in regulated, high-reliability systems. PMP and CSM certified with a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience.

CORE COMPETENCIES

0→1 Platform Delivery • End-to-End Program Ownership • ML/Analytics Platforms • Cross-Organizational Leadership • Technical Roadmapping • Dependency & Risk Management • Vendor & Contract Oversight • Budget Management (\$1M–\$4M) • Metrics-Driven Execution • Executive Communication • Agile/Scrum

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Technical Program Manager

DCS Corporation — Detroit, MI | Mar 2023 – Present

- Advanced to lead Technical Program Manager role (Feb 2024) after successfully launching a systems integration laboratory and establishing platform architecture; recognized with accelerated pay band progression and compensation increase based on delivery impact.
- Owned end-to-end delivery of 4 production ML/analytics platforms from 0→1 (\$4M combined budget), including roadmap definition, architecture alignment, delivery gating, and release readiness for real-time inference and simulation workflows. Platforms were mandated as reusable architecture standards across 3 organizations.
- Led cross-organizational alignment across engineering, research, and operations teams (10–14 engineers), resolving dependency conflicts and driving execution against shared milestones.
- Launched a systems integration laboratory after two prior failed attempts, establishing validation workflows and integration standards that unblocked downstream ML and simulation programs and expanded support from 1 to 3 government experiments.
- Reduced development cycle time 30% by introducing structured planning cadences, dependency tracking, and milestone-based delivery gates across platform teams.
- Served as single-threaded owner for a real-time analytics platform, building Kafka-based infrastructure (7 pipelines, 40 topics, millisecond-latency). Resolved a critical three-organization architectural conflict, unblocking deployment and enabling four evaluation events.
- Scaled an ML inference platform from failed prototype to production supporting 18 camera streams at 40 FPS (<70 ms latency). Drove Python→C++ migration, improving model accuracy 30%→75% and doubling throughput.
- Owned a voice AI assistant platform across transcription, command, and assistant phases; established <300 ms latency and 75%+ accuracy delivery gates validated with 21 users. Terminated a misaligned vendor following technical and delivery assessment to protect platform integrity.

- Recognized for sustained delivery impact through multiple performance-based awards and an equity incentive following primary technical authorship of advanced analytics and technology evaluation components for a winning \$70.7M Army simulation contract (GVSL).

Earlier Scope (Mar 2023 – Jan 2024): Systems Engineering (within DCS)

- Led laboratory development from concept to launch in 5 months, recovering from prior failures and reducing experiment cycle time 50% (6 months → 3 months). Authored a winning \$300K proposal securing additional funding.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Washington University in St. Louis — St. Louis, MO | Jul 2021 – Mar 2023

- Led a multi-site cognitive research program coordinating a 7-person cross-functional team across three hospital systems (\$1M budget).
- Built and operationalized statistical analysis pipelines for 100+ participant datasets using linear mixed-effects and Bayesian modeling.
- Secured NIH funding and pivoted the program to remote data collection during COVID-19 while maintaining delivery milestones.

Graduate Researcher & Program Lead

University of Michigan — Ann Arbor, MI | 2015 – 2021

- Led a multi-institutional medical device and software program coordinating hospitals, universities, and IT departments; delivered a cognitive assessment platform deployed nationwide for intraoperative brain mapping.
- Owned full product lifecycle from usability testing through 2-year longitudinal validation, aligning clinical, technical, and operational stakeholders.
- Executed emergency platform migration to cloud in a 3-week sprint during COVID-19, delivering full-stack web applications enabling continuity for critical patient testing and international research collaboration.
- Awarded a highly competitive NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP); independently authored the proposal and managed a multi-year research program, publishing peer-reviewed work and presenting findings at national conferences.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Technical: Python, C++, C#, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, MATLAB, R, SQL | Kafka, PostgreSQL, ETL | AWS, Cloud Architecture | Real-time & distributed systems

ML & Platforms: ML/analytics platforms, real-time inference, model integration, client-server architecture, performance tuning, data architecture, evaluation frameworks

Program Management: Agile/Scrum, roadmap ownership, dependency management, risk mitigation, vendor management, budget oversight, OKRs/KPIs, executive reporting

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

PhD, Cognitive Neuroscience — University of Michigan, 2021

Project Management Professional (PMP) — PMI, Jan 2026

Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) — Scrum Alliance, Nov 2025

AWS Solutions Architect — In Progress (Expected May 2026)