

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS COLLEGE OF LAW (MSU Law) AND
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (GVSU-PLS)
REGARDING 3+3 LEGAL EDUCATION ADMISSION PROGRAM**

Introduction

1. MSU Law and GVSU-PLS recognize that certain students have the capacity and readiness to complete their undergraduate education and their law degree training in less than the normally required seven years of study.
2. MSU Law and GVSU-PLS desire to encourage and educationally stimulate these students by providing an opportunity for them to accelerate their course of study by completing both their undergraduate degree and their Juris Doctor degree in approximately six years of full-time study.

MSU Law and GVSU-PLS agree to the following specific terms of the 3+3 Legal Education Admissions Program (LEAP).

I. Establishment of LEAP

GVSU-PLS and MSU Law shall offer the opportunity for selected GVSU-PLS students to earn a BA or BS in Political Science and a Juris Doctor degree over the course of approximately 6 years of full-time study.

II. GVSU-PLS Requirements for LEAP

- A. LEAP shall be open only to those students who matriculate as first-year students at GVSU-PLS.
- B. GVSU-PLS students interested in LEAP should consult with the appropriate contact person at GVSU-PLS during the student's freshman or sophomore year to discuss and plan for the LEAP application process.
- C. During the fall semester of the academic year that a student plans to apply to LEAP, the student should consult with the appropriate GVSU-PLS LEAP advisor to ensure that all GVSU-PLS requirements will be met by the end of the student's junior year.
- D. All students seeking admission to MSU Law under LEAP must complete a minimum of 91 credits that GVSU-PLS counts toward the baccalaureate degree including:
 1. All GVSU-PLS University-level requirements;
 2. All requirements of the BA or BS Political Science major, as determined by GVSU-PLS; and

3. Other requirements of the GVSU-PLS baccalaureate degrees determined by GVSU-PLS.

III. Admission to MSU Law Under LEAP

- A. To be eligible for consideration for admission to MSU Law under LEAP, a student must be enrolled and on track to complete three-fourths of the credits required for their degree, take the LSAT, and apply to MSU Law before February 1 of the law school matriculation year. Admission to the Law College requires the following:
 1. A cumulative GPA at GVSU-PLS of 3.00 or above;
 2. An LSAT score of 150 or above;
 3. Two letters of recommendation from members of the GVSU-PLS faculty, with one of these letters written by the GVSU-PLS Pre-law or LEAP advisor; and
 4. A character and fitness record that suggests that the applicant has the requisite maturity and character needed for success in law school.
- B. Following the receipt by MSU Law of all required admission materials (due prior to February 1), MSU Law will review and arrive at an admission decision.

IV. Enrollment in MSU Law

- A. GVSU-PLS will accept as transfer credits applicable to the baccalaureate degree up to 29 semester credits of course work taken at MSU Law in which the student received a grade of 2.0 or better. GVSU-PLS shall not accept as transfer credits any credits of course work taken at MSU Law in which the student received a grade of less than a 2.0. A student's undergraduate GPA for degree-granting purposes at GVSU-PLS will be the GPA at the end of the GVSU-PLS phase of the undergraduate program; grades from MSU Law are not transferable to GVSU-PLS.
- B. MSU Law will not accept for transfer credit any course work taken at GVSU-PLS. A student's GPA at MSU Law will be determined only based on courses taken at MSU Law.
- C. In the event that a student withdraws from MSU Law for any reason whatsoever prior to completion of the first year of work, in order to obtain the baccalaureate degree from GVSU-PLS, the student shall be required to complete the undergraduate degree at GVSU-PLS according to its regular program requirements. Any such student returning to GVSU-PLS to complete the Political Science BA or BS degree shall be allowed to transfer up to 10 credits of course work earned at MSU Law with a grade of 2.0 or better.

IV. Tuition and Financial Aid

- A. During the three years in residence at GVSU-PLS, students will pay tuition to GVSU-PLS at the GVSU-PLS rate. During the three years in residence at MSU Law, students will pay tuition to MSU Law at the MSU Law rate.
- B. During the three years in residence at GVSU-PLS, financial aid will be calculated in accordance with GVSU-PLS 's then-current student eligibility policies and will be provided through GVSU-PLS. During the three years in residence at MSU Law, financial aid will be provided at the graduate level in accordance with MSU Law's then-current student eligibility policies and will be provided through MSU Law.
- C. All GVSU-PLS LEAP students will be fully eligible for scholarships and grants provided to incoming students at MSU Law.

V. Amendment, Review and Termination of This Agreement

- A. GVSU-PLS and MSU Law may periodically review LEAP and this Agreement for amendment.
- B. The initial term of this agreement shall be through June 30, 2028. After June 20, 2028, the agreement will automatically renew for one-year terms without further notice to either party unless otherwise terminated as set forth in Section V.C.
- C. At any time prior to June 30, 2028, and each June 30 thereafter, this agreement may be terminated by either party on 12 months prior written notice to the other party. However, students accepted into LEAP shall be provided the opportunity to continue and matriculate to MSU Law provided all other conditions of the agreement are met by the student. Further, students enrolled in MSU Law under LEAP prior to such termination shall be allowed to complete the full program of study at MSU Law.
- D. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, and all prior discussions, agreements, and understandings, whether verbal or in writing, are hereby merged into this agreement.
- E. No amendment or modification to this Agreement, including any amendment or modification of this paragraph, shall be effective unless in writing and signed by both parties.

Michigan State University College of Law

By: _____
Thomas Jeitschko, Interim Provost

Dated: _____

By: _____
Michael Sant' Ambrogio, Interim Dean
Michigan State University College of Law

Dated: _____

**GRAND VALLEY STATE
UNIVERSITY**

By: _____
Fatma Mili, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Dated: _____

By: _____
Jennifer Drake, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences

Dated: _____