

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW (MSU Law)
AND
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (GVSU-LS)
REGARDING
3+3 LEGAL EDUCATION ADMISSION PROGRAM (LEAP)**

Introduction

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

I. Establishment of 3+3 Legal Education Admission Program

GVSU-LS and MSU Law shall offer the opportunity for selected GVSU-LS students to earn a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree and a Juris Doctor degree over the course of approximately 6 years of full-time study.

II. GVSU-LS Requirements for LEAP

- A. The 3+3 Legal Education Program shall be open only to those students who matriculate as first-year students at Grand Valley State University.
- B. GVSU-LS students interested in LEAP should consult with the appropriate contact person at GVSU 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, s/he should consult with the appropriate GVSU-LS LEAP advisor to ensure that all GVSU-LS requirements will be met prior to the end of the applicant's junior year.
- D. All students seeking admission to MSU Law under LEAP must complete a minimum of 91 credits at GVSU-LS including:
 1. All GVSU-LS University-level requirements;
 2. All requirements of the LS major, as determined by GVSU-LS; and
 3. All requirements of GVSU-LS that are in addition to the prior two categories, as determined by GVSU-LS.

III. Admission to MSU Law Under 3+3 Legal Education Admission Program

- A. To be eligible for consideration for admission to MSU Law under LEAP, a student must take the LSAT no later than December of their junior year and must apply to MSU Law in January of their junior year of undergraduate studies. Admission to the Law College requires the following:
1. A cumulative GPA at GVSU of 3.60 or above;
 2. An LSAT score of 156 or above;
 3. Two letters of recommendation from members of the GVSU faculty, with one of these letters written by the GVSU-LS LEAP advisor; and,
 4. A character and fitness record that suggests that the applicant has the requisite maturity and character needed for the practice of law.
- B. Following the receipt by MSU Law of all required admission materials (due prior to February 1), the Law College will review and arrive at an admission decision. The MSU Law Admissions Committee reserves the right to conduct an in-person interview of the LEAP applicant when arriving at the admission decision.

IV. Enrollment in MSU Law

- A. GVSU-LS will accept as transfer credits applicable to the Bachelor 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-LS 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-LS will be the GPA at the end of the GVSU-LS phase of the undergraduate program; grades from MSU Law are not transferable to GVSU-LS.
- B. MSU Law will not accept for transfer credit any course work taken at GVSU-LS. 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 Bachelor degree from GVSU-LS, the student shall be required to complete the undergraduate degree at GVSU-LS according to its regular program requirements. Any such student returning to GVSU-LS to complete the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts 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.

V. Tuition and Financial Aid

- A. During the three years in residence at Grand Valley State University, students will pay tuition to Grand Valley State University at the GVSU 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 Grand Valley State University and the three years in residence at Michigan State University College of Law, financial aid will be calculated in accordance with the host school's then-current student eligibility policies and will be provided by the host institution.
- C. All GVSU-LS LEAP students will be fully eligible for scholarships and grants provided to incoming students at the Law College.

VI. Amendment, Review and Termination of This Agreement

- A. GVSU-LS and MSU Law may periodically review the 3+3 Legal Education Program and this Agreement for possible amendment.
- B. This Agreement shall terminate on June 30, 2017.
- C. At any time prior to June 30, 2017, this Agreement may be terminated by either party on 12 months prior written notice to the other party.
- D. This Agreement may be renewed by joint consent of the parties.
- E. GVSU-LS and MSU Law agree that in the event of termination, students admitted and/or enrolled in MSU Law under LEAP prior to such termination shall be allowed to complete the full program of study at MSU Law.

Signed on this date: _____

Michigan State University College of Law

By: John Howarth - 5/1/12
John Howarth, Dean

Charles W. Roboski: 5/4/12
Charles Roboski, Assistant Dean for
Admissions and Financial Aid

By: June Youatt 4/9/13
June Youatt, Acting Provost

Grand Valley State University

By: Gayle Davis
Gayle Davis, Provost

George Grant
George Grant, Dean

Terry Fisk
Terry Fisk, SCI/LS Director