

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS COLLEGE OF LAW (MSU Law)
AND
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY (NMU)
REGARDING
3+3 LEGAL EDUCATION ADMISSION PROGRAM**

Introduction

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

I. Establishment of LEAP

NMU and MSU Law shall offer the opportunity for selected NMU 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. NMU Requirements for LEAP

- A. LEAP shall be open only to those students who matriculate as first-year students at NMU.
- B. NMU students interested in LEAP should consult with the appropriate contact person at NMU 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 NMU LEAP advisor to ensure that all NMU requirements will be met prior to 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 NMU counts toward the baccalaureate degree including:
 1. All NMU University-level requirements;
 2. All requirements of the Pre-law major, as determined by NMU; and
 3. Other requirements of the NMU baccalaureate degrees determined by NMU.

III. Admission to MSU Law Under LEAP

- 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 NMU of 3.60 or above;
 2. An LSAT score of 153 or above;
 3. Two letters of recommendation from members of the NMU faculty, with one of these letters written by the NMU Pre-law/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), MSU Law 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. NMU 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. NMU 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 NMU will be the GPA at the end of the NMU phase of the undergraduate program; grades from MSU Law are not transferable to NMU.
- B. MSU Law will not accept for transfer credit any course work taken at NMU. 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 NMU, the student shall be required to complete the undergraduate degree at NMU according to its regular program requirements. Any such student returning to NMU 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.

IV. Tuition and Financial Aid

- A. During the three years in residence at NMU, students will pay tuition to NMU at the NMU 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 NMU, financial aid will be calculated in accordance with NMU's then-current student eligibility policies and will be provided through NMU. 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 NMU 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. NMU and MSU Law may periodically review LEAP and this Agreement for possible 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: _____
Linda Sheryl Greene, Dean
Michigan State University College of Law

Dated: _____

By: _____
Thomas Jeitschko, Interim Provost

Dated: _____

Northern Michigan University

By: _____
Dale Kapla, Interim Provost & Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Dated: _____

By: _____
Brock F. Tessman, President

Dated: _____