

Proposal for General Education Course Access Restrictions in LEADS Format Programs

Summary

This proposal requests approval to implement enrollment restrictions on selected General Education courses within the LEADS format accelerated modality programs. These restrictions will ensure enough course availability for students enrolled in six-week, asynchronous online degree and certificate programs while maintaining seamless progress through their accelerated completion pathway. The following programs are offered in this format:

- Integrative Studies (B.A, B.S)
- Professional Innovations (B.A.S)
- Leadership and Business Fundamentals (B.A.S)
- Leadership (certificate)
- Business Fundamentals (certificate)
- Intercultural Communications (Certificate)
- Applied Data Analytics (Certificate)
- Project Management (Certificate)

Background

GVSU currently offers degree and certificate programs in the LEADS format which is a six-week, asynchronous accelerated format designed specifically for adult learners. These programs offer courses that accommodate the unique needs of non-traditional students, including students aged 25 and older, veterans transitioning to civilian careers, parents balancing family responsibilities with education, full-time working professionals, and part-time students managing significant personal obligations

All LEADS format accelerated programs are delivered entirely online in an asynchronous format, requiring students to complete their full curriculum, including General Education requirements, within this modality.

We have offered General Education classes in this format, restricted to students in these programs, for these programs for the past 5 years.

Challenge Without Permits

Without enrollment controls on General Education courses within the accelerated format, we would face capacity management issues that can prevent students in these online accelerated programs from accessing required courses in their intended timeline. This threatens program completion rates and student success outcomes for our target demographic.

Expected Outcomes

If we can continue implementing attribute permits on General Education courses offered in the LEADS accelerated format. These permits will provide

1. **Primary Access:** Reserve enrollment for students officially enrolled in accelerated degree and certificate programs
2. **Controlled Access:** Require advisor, program director, or administrative approval for students from other programs
3. **Exception Process:** Maintain flexibility for justified cases, including:
 - Students requiring specific sections for timely graduation
 - International students needing particular sections to maintain visa compliance
 - Other documented academic necessity cases
4. **Student Success:** Improved on-time completion rates for accelerated degree and certificate programs
5. **Resource Planning:** Better alignment of course capacity with student population needs

Conclusion

This proposal supports our institutional commitment to serving adult learners while helping our operational process. The permit system provides necessary enrollment controls while preserving administrative discretion for exceptional circumstances.

We request approval to continue these General Education course restrictions for LEADS modality programs.