

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY
PETTIT COLLEGE OF LAW
AND
BETHANY COLLEGE**

REGARDING 3+3 LEGAL EDUCATION ADMISSION PROGRAM (LEAP)

Introduction

1. Ohio Northern University and Bethany College 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. Ohio Northern University and Bethany College 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.

Ohio Northern University and Bethany College agree to the following specific terms of the 3+3 Legal Education Admissions Program ("LEAP").

I. Establishment of 3+3 Legal Education Admission Program

Bethany College and Ohio Northern University shall offer the opportunity for selected students to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Juris Doctor degree over the course of approximately 6 years of full-time study.

II. Bethany College Requirements for LEAP

- A. The 3+3 Legal Education Program shall be open only to those Bethany students who
 - Have completed all Bethany College Core requirements, as noted below;
 - Will have completed a minimum of 2 ½ years in residence and at least 90 credit hours at Bethany College prior to attending Ohio Northern University, Pettit College of Law; and
 - Have completed the required courses for their major(s) and have successfully passed their comprehensive examinations by May of their third year.
- B. Bethany College students interested in LEAP should consult with the Bethany Prelaw Advisor who shall serve as the LEAP contact and advisor for purposes of discussing and planning the LEAP application process. Normally, students interested in this program should identify themselves to the Prelaw Advisor no later than the fall semester of the sophomore year.
- C. During the fall semester of the academic year (normally of the junior year) that students plan to apply to LEAP, they should consult with the Prelaw Advisor to ensure that all College and conditions will be met by the end of their junior year. Students additionally should consult with their academic advisor in their major to ensure that all requirements and conditions of the major can be met by the end of their junior year and comprehensive exams may be taken in May of the junior year.

D. All students seeking admission to the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University under LEAP must have completed a minimum of 90 credits at Bethany College through residency, Advanced Placement, or transfer credits including:

1. All Bethany College Core Curriculum requirements with the exception of the senior project. Bethany College will count the successful completion of the 1L year to satisfy the senior project and Contemporary Society and Institutions requirements at Bethany College;
2. The specific courses that are required and specified for the major although elective courses in the major may be satisfied by appropriate courses completed at the Pettit College of Law;
3. The student must successfully pass comprehensive exams in their major no later than May of the junior year, and under no circumstances will a student proceed to ONU under this agreement before successful completion of the comprehensive exams.

III. Admission to the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University Under the 3+3 Legal Education Admission Program

- A. To be eligible for consideration for admission to the Pettit College of Law under LEAP, students must take the LSAT no later than November of the third year and must apply to the College of Law no later than January of their third year of undergraduate studies.
- B. Admission to the College of Law requires the following:
 1. A cumulative GPA at Bethany College of 3.25 or above;
 2. An LSAT score at or above the 50th percentile;
 3. Two academic letters of recommendation from members of the Bethany College faculty, with one of these letters written by the Bethany Prelaw 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 as determined by the faculty and dean of Ohio Northern University, Pettit College of Law.
 5. LEAP students who do not meet the conditions for admission listed in 1 and 2 above will, upon the recommendation of the Bethany's College Prelaw Advisor, be interviewed for admission to the College of Law. The Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University may consider such students solely for admission to its Summer Scholar Program.
- C. Following the receipt by the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University of all required admission materials, the College of Law will review and arrive at an admission decision. The admissions committee of the College of Law reserves the right to conduct an in-person interview of the LEAP applicant when arriving at the admission decision.

IV. Enrollment in the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University

- A. Bethany will accept as transfer credits applicable as electives counting for the 128 credit hours required for the Bachelor degree up to 30 semester credits of course work taken at

the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University in which the student received a grade of 2.0 or better. Bethany College shall not accept as transfer credits any credits of course work awarded by the Pettit College of Law in which the student received a grade of less than a 2.0. Up to 9 of the semester credits can be applied to satisfy elective credit in the LEAP students' Bethany major provided that those credits are related to the major field of study, but such elective credits must be specifically approved at the time of registration by the Chair of the appropriate academic department at Bethany College.

- B. A student's undergraduate GPA for degree-granting purposes at Bethany College will be the GPA at the end of the Bethany College phase of the undergraduate program; grades from the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University are not transferable to Bethany College.
- C. The Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University will not accept for transfer credit any course work taken at Bethany College. A student's GPA at Ohio Northern University will be determined only based on courses for which credit is awarded by the Pettit College of Law.
- D. If a student withdraws from the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University for any reason whatsoever before completing the first year of work, the student shall be required to complete the undergraduate degree at Bethany College, including the senior project, according to Bethany College's regular program requirements.
- E. Any such student returning to Bethany College to complete the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree shall be allowed to transfer all credits for course work completed at the Pettit College of Law with a grade of 2.0 or better as credits toward the 128 credits required for graduation from Bethany College. However, in such cases, a senior project must be completed for Bethany College in accordance with the rules in place in the student's major field.

V. Tuition and Financial Aid

- A. During the three years in residence at Bethany College, students will pay tuition to Bethany College at the rate specified in their financial aid letter from Bethany College. During the three years in residence at the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University, students will pay tuition to Ohio Northern University at rates established by Ohio Northern University.
- B. During the three years in residence at Bethany College and the three years in residence at Ohio Northern University, 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 Bethany College LEAP students will be eligible for scholarships and grants made generally available to all incoming students by the Pettit College of Law of Ohio Northern University.

VI. Amendment, Review, and Termination of This Agreement

- A. Bethany College and Ohio Northern University may periodically review the 3+3 Legal Education Program and this Agreement for possible amendment.
- B. This Agreement shall terminate on August 1, 2024 unless both parties indicate in writing their intention to continue this relationship. Those students who are currently enrolled in Bethany College or the Pettit College of Law at the time of this sunset date will be eligible to complete their studies in accord with the rules specified in this agreement.
- C. At any time prior to August 1, 2024, 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. Bethany College and Ohio Northern University agree that in the event of termination, students admitted and/or enrolled in the Pettit College of Law under LEAP prior to such termination shall be allowed to complete the full program of study at the College of Law.

Signed on this date: 8 October 2018

Ohio Northern University, Pettit College of
Law

By: 

Dean David Crago
Dean of the Pettit College of Law

Bethany College

By: 

Dr. Tamara Rodenberg
President
Bethany College

By: 

Dr. Joe Lane
Provost and Dean of the Faculty
Sarah B. Cochran Professor of Politics
Bethany College