

**The Department of Education's**  
***Experimental Sites Initiative***  
**Limited Direct Assessment**  
**February 2015**

# Agenda

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- The Limited Direct Assessment (LDA) Experiment

2

- Reporting Requirements

3

- The Process to Get Started

# Responsibilities of Institutional Offices



**Administrative Capability**  
**668.16(b)(1) and (4)**

# Limited Direct Assessment

## Objective

- Examine innovative approaches to:
  - Combining direct assessment and traditional credit hours in educational programs, and
  - Providing remedial coursework using direct assessment

# Limited Direct Assessment

## What is Direct Assessment?

- Method of measuring student learning in lieu of credit or clock hours
- Direct assessments measure what a student knows and can do regarding the content of the academic program
- See Dear Colleague Letters GEN 13-10 and GEN 14-23 for more information

# Limited Direct Assessment

## Requirements to Participate

- Must offer an approved direct assessment program including at least one course or competency that also uses credit or clock hours  
AND/OR
- Must offer at least one remedial course or competency using direct assessment

# Limited Direct Assessment

## Current Rules

- Must use direct assessment for the entire direct assessment program, not a combination of direct assessment and traditional credit hours or clock hours (a “hybrid” program)
- May not provide remedial coursework offered using direct assessment

## Experiment

- Programs offering a combination of direct assessment and credit/clock hours are allowed
- Can include remedial coursework offered in credit hours or using direct assessment in a student’s enrollment status

# Limited Direct Assessment

## Waivers

Law/Regulation	Description
HEA section 481(b)(4) and 34 668.10 (a)(1)	Direct Assessment Program must use direct assessment for the entire program
34 CFR 668.10(g)(2)	Prohibits the payment of Title IV aid for remedial coursework offered using direct assessment



# Reporting

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Examples of reporting requirements include:

- Number of students
- Enrollment status
- Types and amounts of grant and loan assistance received
- Grade Point Average (GPA) and other reflections of academic performance
- Narrative description and evaluation of the implementation of the experiment

# Invitation to Participate

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We accepted ED's Invitation



How do we get started?



Who can answer our questions?

# Invitation to Participate

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We are pleased to inform you that your institution has been selected to participate in one or more of the upcoming academic program experiments under the Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI). We ask that, no later than **March 1, 2015**, you indicate whether your institution accepts this invitation to participate in the experiments. You do this by printing a copy of this two-page memo and placing an 'X' next to the experiment(s) in which your institution wishes to participate. You may choose to participate in an experiment even if your original letter of interest did not include that experiment. If you no longer wish to participate in any of the experiments, simply place an 'X' next to the "None" line.

Experiments:

\_\_\_\_\_ Prior Learning Assessment      \_\_\_\_\_ Competency-Based Education

\_\_\_\_\_ Limited Direct Assessment      \_\_\_\_\_ None. We do not wish to participate

# Invitation to Participate

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Please provide the following information and signatures for the financial aid administrator and an academic official.

Institution's Name and OPEID:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ OPEID \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid Administrator:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Official:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Program Participation Agreement



FSA sends the school the  
Amendment to the PPA  
School signs and returns via  
courier service



FSA sends the school a  
countersigned amendment to  
the PPA

- School keeps copy

# Program Approval Process



All programs offered under the Limited Direct Assessment experiment must receive separate approval from the Department

# Program Approval Process



Step 1: Program must be approved by accrediting and state agencies

- Must document either specific approval or inclusion in the institution's overall accreditation and licensure

# Program Approval Process



Step 2: Clock/credit equivalencies of Program must be approved by accrediting agency

- Must document separately from overall program approval



# Program Approval Process

## Step 3: Update E-App with LDA Programs



- Add Limited Direct Assessment program(s) by name. Program name must include “ Direct Assessment”

# Program Approval Process



Step 4: E-mail Detailed Program Description and Detailed Description of Financial Aid Administration to: [CaseTeams@ed.gov](mailto:CaseTeams@ed.gov)

- Reference DCL GEN 13-10 (pages 7-9) for instructions: <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1310.pdf>

# ESI Website

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<https://experimentalsites.ed.gov>



# Contact Information

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Holly Langer-Evans

[Holly.Langer-Evans@ed.gov](mailto:Holly.Langer-Evans@ed.gov)

617289 0136

or

[ExperimentalSites@ed.gov](mailto:ExperimentalSites@ed.gov)



# Questions and Answers