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

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Agenda

1. • Overview of the Limited Direct Assessment (LDA) Experiment

2. • Implementation of the Experiment

3. • Evaluation and Reporting

Responsibilities of Institutional Offices

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

FAILURE ← → SUCCESS

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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

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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

- 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

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Limited Direct Assessment

Waivers

Law/Regulation	Description
HEA section 481(b)(4) and 34 CFR 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

Waiver Not Included in Experiment

The regulatory waivers for the LDA experiment announced in the Federal Register on July 31, 2014 included an exemption from [34 CFR 668.10(a)(3)(iii)](#).

That waiver will not be part of the experiment and the PPA amendment states that this provision is not being waived and that participating schools continue to be bound by this provision.

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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

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Applying to Add LDA Programs

Where to Begin	
School must follow procedures outlined in the [DCL GEN 13-10](#)	DCL Pages 7-9

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LDA Programs With Less Than 50% DA

Process	Comment
Report to the Department, using the E-App, all of the LDA programs you intend to include in the experiment . Notation "-LDA" at the end of the title of each program.	Do not forget to add the dash when adding LDA to the E-App application
Provide documentation that your accrediting agency - • Includes each LDA program in the institution's grant of accreditation, and • Specifically recognizes each LDA program as a competency-based education program.	This information must be attached to the application when submitted to the Department

LDA Programs With Less Than 50% DA

Process	Comment
Provide documentation that your accrediting agency has approved your institution's <u>general approach</u> for determining credit or clock hour equivalency in your LDA programs.	This information must be attached to the application when submitted to the Department
Include a **short narrative explanation** of how your financial aid procedures would change as a result of the institution's implementation of its LDA program(s).	It is important to add the narrative description. See DCL GEN 13-10 for the primary areas to be addressed, but be sure to include the SAP and R2T4 implications.

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LDA Programs With 50% or More DA

Process	Action
Report to the Department, using the E-App, all of the LDA programs you intend to include in the experiment with the notation "-LDA" at the end of the title of each program.	Do not forget to add the dash when adding LDA to the E-App application

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LDA Programs With 50% or More DA

Process	Action
Provide documentation that the institution's accrediting agency - • Has specifically approved each LDA program, • Includes each LDA program in the institution's grant of accreditation, and • Specifically recognizes each LDA program as a competency-based education program	This information must be attached to the application when submitted to the Department

LDA Programs With 50% or More DA

Process	Comment
Provide documentation that your accrediting agency has approved your institution's specific approach for determining credit or clock hour equivalency in **each** LDA program.	This information must be attached to the application when submitted to the Department
Include a **comprehensive** description of the institution's financial aid procedures for each LDA program.	It is important to add the narrative description. See DCL GEN 13-10 for the primary areas to be addressed, but be sure to include the SAP and R2T4 implications.

Possible Follow-up Questions

- Do you have a LOA policy? An LOA policy is not required, but may be useful if your LDA program is a non-term program.

- Does a faculty member help the student create the Individual Learning Plan, or is it the Academic Success Coach who does this?

- How does your program ensure regular and substantive interaction between faculty and students? Is this reflected in your policies and procedures?

Where to Send Your Application

E-mail Detailed Program Description and Detailed Description of Financial Aid Administration to: CaseTeams@ed.gov

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

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Evaluation and Reporting

The Department's evaluation of the experiment will include:

Information Type	Possible Data Sources
Institution	▪ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) ▪ Institutional Experimental Site Survey and Narrative Descriptions ▪ Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) ▪ National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)
Program(s)	▪ Institutional Experimental Site Survey and Narrative Descriptions
Students	▪ Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) Data ▪ Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) ▪ National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) ▪ Institutional Experimental Site Survey and Narrative Descriptions

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Evaluation and Reporting

- Annually, institutions will:
  - Complete a survey to provide background information on your LDA programs
  - Report identifiers and other data for students enrolled in your LDA programs

- Later this year, we will provide you with the specific information that you must report.

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ESI Website

https//experimentalsites.ed.gov

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Questions and Answers

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