

# **2014-2015 LEAP Program Annual Report**

**Office of Undergraduate Studies**

**The University of Utah**



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## **Executive Summary**

LEAP had another good year in 2014-15, continuing with strong student enrollments and solid faculty performances. We saw some faculty turnover from 2013-14, expanded the number of course offerings and designed curriculum for new LEAP courses in 2015-16.

Dr. Jennifer Baumann left the program to pursue a Juris Doctor in International Law from Georgetown University. Dr. Erin Silva took over Fine Arts LEAP in her place. Dr. Jeff Webb left the program to pursue a career in the private sector. Dr. Rebecca Larsen and Dr. Carolan Ownby took over the College of Health courses Dr. Webb was teaching.

LEAP expanded course offerings to include two sections of a single semester LEAP course directed at Transfer students and satisfying a general education requirement in International Studies. Dr. Ownby and Dr. Seetha Veeraghanta taught these sections.

Beginning in 2015-16, Dr. Larsen will be teaching a LEAP course for students from the College and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Mike White will teaching a LEAP course for students exploring majors in the College of Humanities, and Dr. Nora Wood will be teaching the newly restored Education LEAP. Also beginning in 2015-16, Dr. Veeraghanta and Dr. Steve Maisch will be starting with the new four year program called Science and Community LEAP.

## **LEAP Program Description**

LEAP is a year-long learning community for entering University students. It consists of two three-credit-hour courses – one fall semester, one spring semester – taken with the same professor and classmates, allowing students to build community. LEAP's two classes typically fulfill the University's diversity requirement and two general education requirements (one in social science and one in the humanities, although Health LEAPs fulfill two humanities requirements and the diversity requirement) and are linked to optional classes in writing, library research, and major selection. Community Engagement Learning credit is offered in many sections of LEAP.

LEAP's mission is three-fold:

1. To promote and implement scholarship and service for first-year students through an integrated, interdisciplinary, and collaborative teaching and learning community;
2. To attract and retain a diverse student population; and
3. To engage students in an interactive exploration of diversity issues both in the classroom and through community outreach.

## A Program Overview for the Year

The following overview uses ex-post enrollment data from the Registrar's Office and represents the number of students enrolled through each semester. In the fall, the LEAP program enrolled a total of 826 students in 32 sections. Of these, 17 students were in the classes beyond the first year of the multi-year Pre-law LEAP program and 33 students were in the one-semester Transfer LEAP course. Additionally, 56 students were enrolled in years beyond the first in the Health Sciences LEAP Program, and 12 registered for the third and final semester of Pre-Nursing LEAP. In the spring, the LEAP program enrolled a total of 618 students in 35 sections. Of these, 5 students were in the classes beyond the first year of the multi-year Pre-law LEAP program, 37 students were in the one-semester Transfer LEAP course, 8 students were in the one-semester Reasoning and Rational Decision Making course, 27 students were in the one semester Introduction to Major Explorations course and 9 students were in the Peer Adviser seminar.

Fall-spring retention was again strong for the two semester long courses. Of the 776 students who registered for these courses in the fall, 537 students, or 69% were enrolled in the spring semester.

- Fall Semester 2014. LEAP offered 11 sections of 1101 for 203 students, 8 sections of 1100 for 213 students. Of these 1101 sections, 4 were Explorations LEAP (2 of these were for Living and Learning students), 2 were Service Learning LEAP, 3 were Business LEAP, one was Science LEAP and one was Urban Ecology LEAP. Among the LEAP 1100 sections, 3 were College of Health LEAP, 2 were Fine Arts LEAP, one Health Science LEAP, one Pre-law LEAP and one Pre-nursing LEAP. There were 8 sections of E-LEAP courses offered for 243 students. There were 2 sections of Transfer LEAP offered to 33 students, one section of Second Year Pre-law LEAP for 13 students and one section of Third Year Pre-law LEAP for 4 students. We also offered second, third, and fourth-year courses for Health Sciences LEAP students to a total of 56 students.
- Spring Semester 2015. LEAP offered 11 sections of 1100 for 136 students (sections 001, 006 and 009 were cancelled due to insufficient enrollment), 4 sections of 2004 (the second semester of College of Health and Health Sciences LEAP) for 86 students (section 003 was cancelled due to lack of enrollment), 2 sections of 1101 (the second semester of Fine Arts LEAP) for 27 students, 1 section of 1150 (the second semester of Pre-Law LEAP) for 15 students, and 8 sections of 1500 (the second semester of ELEAP) for 181 students. A total of 32 students took the third and fourth year Health Sciences LEAP classes in the spring.

In addition, LEAP offered the following courses:

- LEAP 1050: Major Selection, a course taught in the spring by University College Advisors, for 27 students in 6 sections.
- LEAP 2002: Peer Advisor Seminar elected for credit by 9 Peer Advisors.
- LEAP 1060-001: library research add-on for 114 students.
- LEAP 2700: second year of Pre-law LEAP (fall semester) for 13 students.
- In the second semester of their second year, Pre-Law students take a logic class from the Philosophy Department (1250, which enrolled 8 LEAP students this year).
- LEAP 3700: third year of Pre-law LEAP (fall semester) for 4 students.
- LEAP 3701: third year of Pre-law LEAP (spring semester) for 5 students.
- UUHSC 2500 for second-year Health Sciences LEAP students (fall semester) for 24 students.
- UUHSC 3000 and 3001 (fall and spring semesters) for third-year Health Sciences LEAP students for 18 students.
- UUHSC 4000 and 4001 (fall and spring semesters) for fourth-year Health Sciences LEAP students for 14 students.
- Nursing 2400 for second-year Pre-Nursing LEAP students for 12 students.

For 2015-2016, we plan to add additional LEAP courses:

- Social and Behavioral Science LEAP for students considering a major in the College of Social and Behavioral Science, to be taught by Dr. Becky Larsen.
- Humanities LEAP for students exploring majors in the College of Humanities, to be taught by Dr. Mike White.
- Education LEAP, which is being restored after a year's suspension and will be taught by Dr. Nora Wood.
- Science and Community LEAP, which will be a four-year pipeline for students interested in any future career based in science and will include shadowing, research, and service in years beyond the first. The target population is underrepresented students, but the first two sections to be offered, taught by Dr. Seetha Veeraghanta and Dr. Steve Maisch, will be open to anyone.

## **Changes and Developments in LEAP during 2014-15**

### **1. New Teaching and Administrative Assignments**

- Dr. Jennifer Baumann left the program to pursue a Juris Doctor degree in International Law from Georgetown University. The Fine Arts LEAP classes she taught were taken over by Dr. Erin Silva.
- Dr. Rebecca Larson will teach the new LEAP focus class for students from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

- Dr. Seetha Veeraghanta and Dr. Steve Maisch will teach the two sections of Science and Culture LEAP.
- Dr. Mike White will teach two sections of the new Humanities LEAP.
- Dr. Seetha Veeraghanta will be named an Assistant Director of LEAP for her work designing and presiding over Science and Culture LEAP, with special responsibilities for all the multi-year pre-professional programs.
- Dr. Steve Maisch was named as an Assistant Director for his involvement in the LEAP program assessment.
- Dr. Carolan Ownby was named Associate Director of LEAP for her work with the Peer Adviser Program.
- Dr. Nora Wood achieved the rank of Associate Professor (Lecturer) in the LEAP Program.
- Dr. Steve Maisch achieved the rank of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) in the LEAP Program.

## 2. New Programs and Partnerships

LEAP maintained or added partnerships with the Horizonte ESL Program, Guuleysi, Highland High ESL Program, West High School, Crossroads Urban Center, University Neighborhood Partners, Jackson, Riley and Mountain View Elementary Schools, Washington Elementary, Hser Ner Moo Center, International Rescue Committee, Bryant Middle School, the Patient Experience Project at the University Hospital, and the AMES School, as well as various departments and entities across campus.

A partnership with the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences was added, to support a two-semester first-year experience for students interested in the social and behavioral sciences beginning in 2015-16. A partnership with the College of Humanities was also initiated, as was a closer partnership with the College of Science.

Writing 1060, the one-credit class that allows LEAP students to earn credit for the work they do in the library, became LEAP 1060. As of its offering in spring 2015, all SCH for this course will go to UGS. In the spring of 2015, it enrolled 114 students.

During the fall semester, there were 8 Writing courses offered to LEAP students:

- Five sections of Writing 2011 were offered, limited to LEAP students, but fulfilling the same requirements as does Writing 2010.
- Three sections of Writing 1011 were offered, limited to LEAP students, but fulfilling the same requirements as does Writing 1010.

During the spring semester of 2015, LEAP students were offered:

- Three sections of Writing 2011 (down from 5 in spring 2014). This is done so that students who took Writing 1011 in the fall can complete their lower division writing requirement in a LEAP-only class.

### **3. Program Assessment**

#### **The EBI Report**

For the past five years, LEAP has been administering a survey to spring semester students designed by Educational Benchmarking Incorporated (EBI). This survey organizes 100+ questions into 23 “factors” (summarizing clusters of related questions). The 2015 survey results are not yet ready for analysis. Thus, LEAP’s EBI report this year focused on the most recent available survey, from 2014.

#### **LEAP Student Demographics**

We can use the EBI survey to get a snapshot of the student demographics of the LEAP program. The survey was responded to by 346 students, 181 (52.5%) were male and 164 (47.5%) were female. Of these 346 students, 34.6% were 18 years old or younger, 54.9% were age 19-21, 7.6% were age 22-24 and 2.9% were age 25 or older. The students are asked to self-report on their race/ethnicity; the largest group (61.0%) report as White, the second largest group (17.1%) report as Hispanic, followed by Asian (13.6%), Black or African American (2.6%), American Indian/Alaska Native/First Nation (0.6%) and finally 4.3% report two or more races and 0.3% did not report.

LEAP students are split fairly evenly in their employment levels, 48.5% report working more than 11 hours a week with 17.1% working less than 10 hours and 34.5% report not working. LEAP students are fairly evenly distributed on campus or off with 43.5% living on campus and 56.5% off campus. In terms of financial aid, 33% report receiving no aid, 21% receive student loans, 36% receive scholarships or grants.

#### **Overall Program Effectiveness**

A primary function of the EBI survey is to assess “Program Effectiveness”. To this end the LEAP program fairs quite well relative other institutions<sup>1</sup> (See Figure 1).

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<sup>1</sup> The “Carnegie Class” is a group of very high research activity Universities. These are the University of Alabama Birmingham, University of South Carolina and the University of Utah. The “Select 6” are Missouri State, Northern Illinois University, University of Alabama Birmingham, University of Arkansas Little Rock, Temple University and the University of South Carolina. “All Institutions” totals 39 Universities. These are available on request.

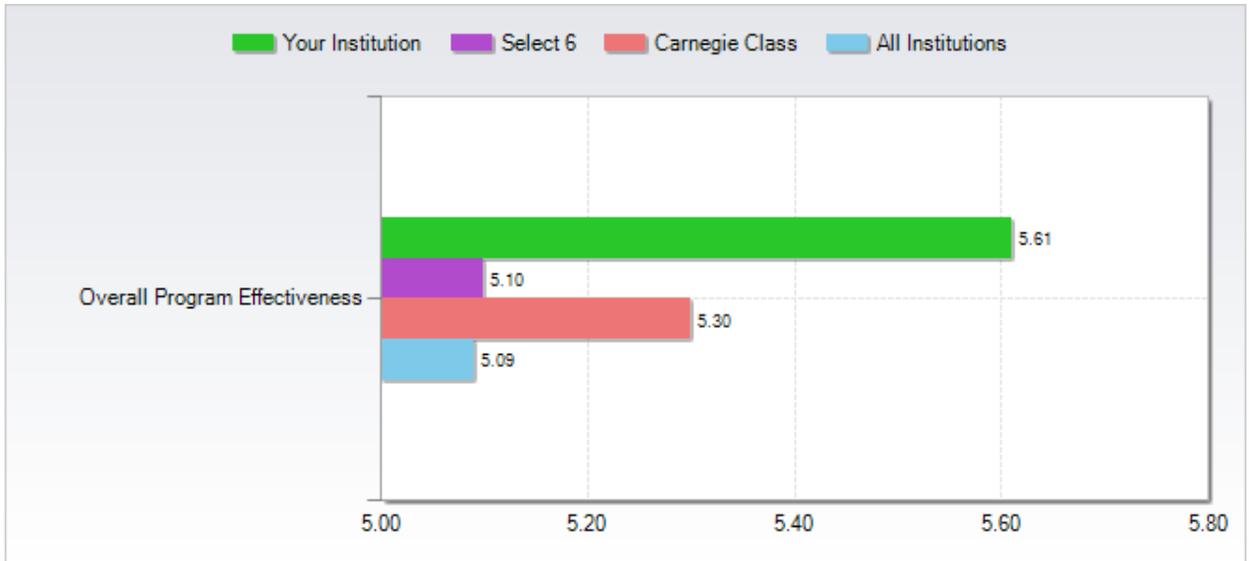
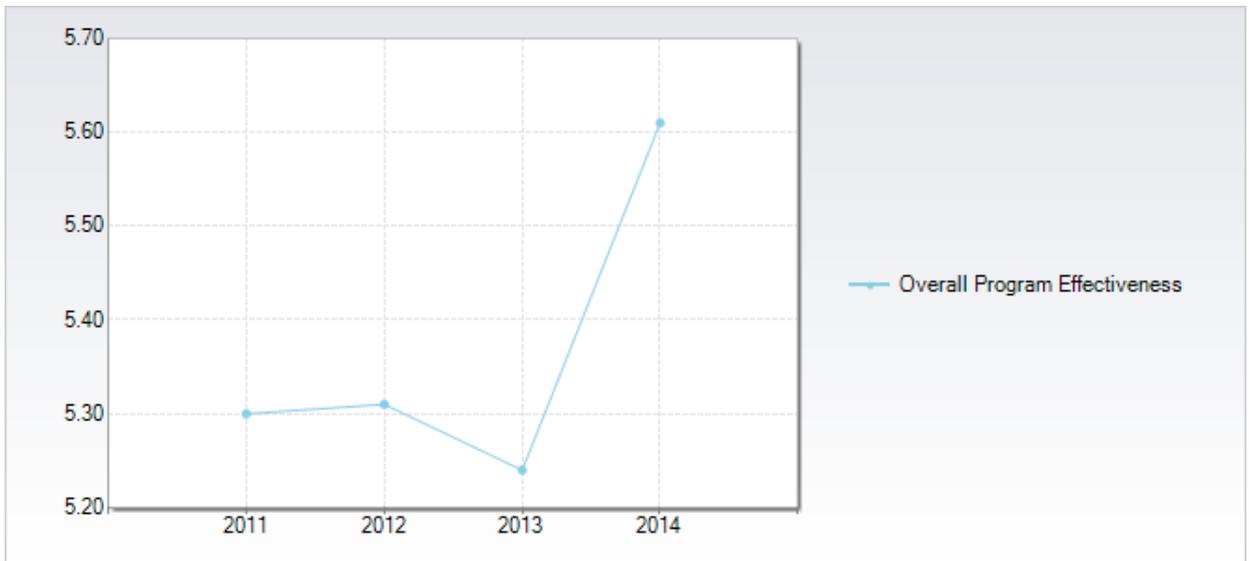


Figure 1: Overall Program Effectiveness.

Looking at the LEAP program over time (See Figure 2) we see that in 2014 there was marked improvement in student opinion on the overall effectiveness of their LEAP class.

Figure 2: Overall Program Effectiveness (longitudinal).



### The EBI and AAC&U Essential Learning Objectives

In addition to “Overall Effectiveness”, the EBI survey can be used to assess the degree to which the LEAP Program addresses some of the AAC&U Liberal Education

and America's Promise Essential Learning Objectives, relative to other first year programs. The AAC&U lists the following essential learning objectives:

- Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Inquiry and Analysis
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Critical Thinking
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Creative Thinking
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Written Communication
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Oral Communication
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Information Literacy
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Teamwork
- Intellectual and Practical Skills: Problem Solving
- Personal and Social Responsibility Outcomes: Civic Knowledge and Engagement
- Personal and Social Responsibility Outcomes: Intercultural Knowledge and Competence
- Personal and Social Responsibility Outcomes: Ethical Reasoning and Action
- Personal and Social Responsibility Outcomes: Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning
- Integrative Learning: Including Synthesis and Advanced Accomplishment across General and Specialized Studies

Beginning with *Intellectual and Practical* skills LEAP outperforms other first year programs in Critical Thinking, improving Academic skills and Library, Research and Information Literacy skills (See Figure 3). In terms of Study Strategies, LEAP outperforms all but the Carnegie Class. A potential focus to improve LEAP courses could be more focus on time management. In this area LEAP underperforms the other first year programs.

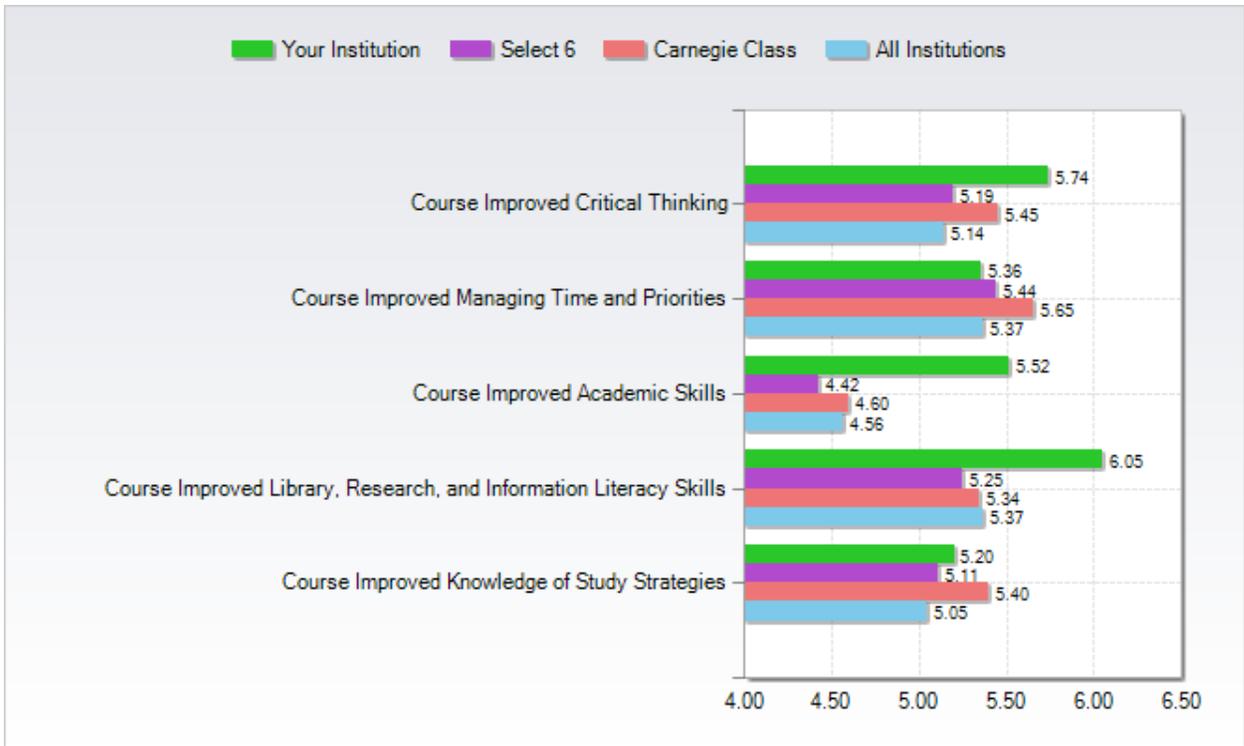


Figure 3: Intellectual and Practical Skills.

In terms of *Diversity* the LEAP program performs exceptionally well relative to other programs (See Figure 4). Though the EBI does not directly address *Civic Knowledge and/or Civic Engagement* the survey does assess connection with peers and social integration. In these areas LEAP could use some work (See Figure 5).

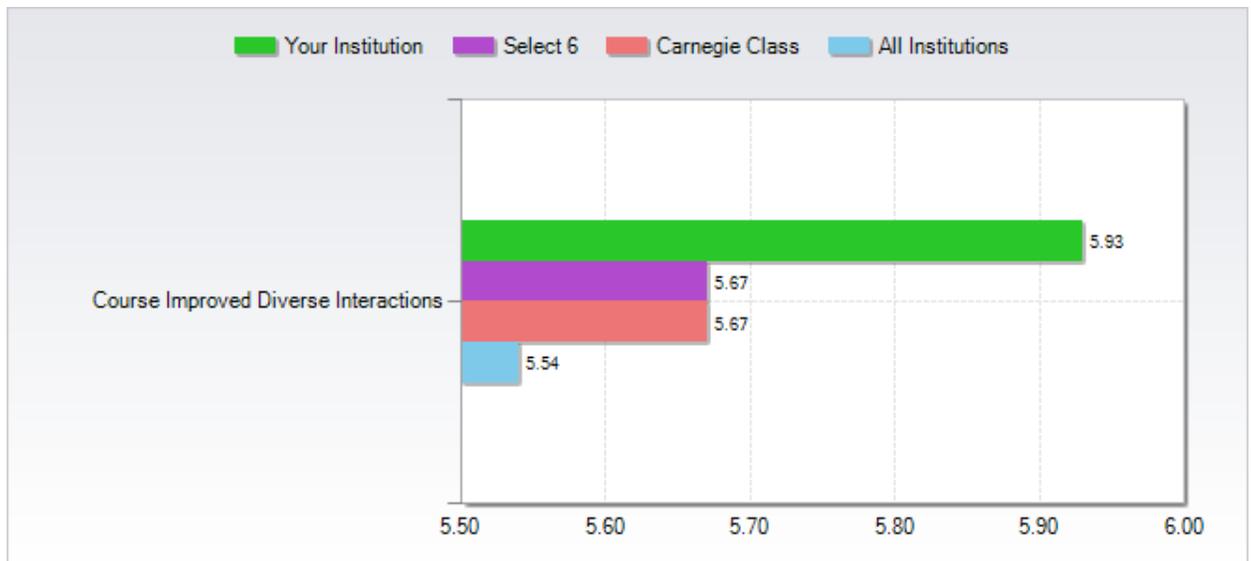
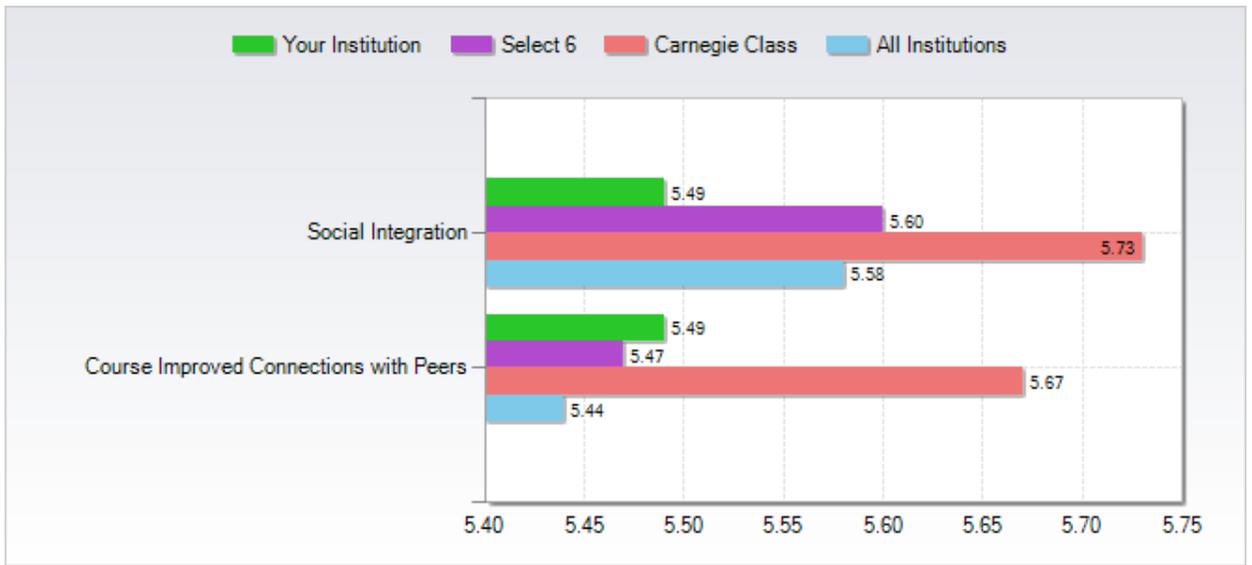


Figure 4: Diversity.

Figure 5: Civic Knowledge and/or Civic Engagement.



#### 4. Peer Advisor Program



## 2014-2015 Peer Advisers

See the Annual Report for AY 2005-2006 for a description of the Peer Advisor Program. ([http://www.leap.utah.edu/media/leap\\_05-06\\_report.pdf](http://www.leap.utah.edu/media/leap_05-06_report.pdf))

The Peer Advisor program had another very successful year under Dr. Carolan Ownby's leadership. This year's cohort of Peer Advisors numbered 32: one per LEAP section including two Senior Peer Advisors. They met twice a month as a group. Because there were so many this year, Dr. Ownby split them into two groups, each led by one of the two Senior Peer Advisors and meeting on a staggered schedule. While the PA's met every other week, Dr. Ownby thus met with one group every week. Membership in the two groups was scrambled at the semester.

As mentioned above, due to low student enrollment, 4 LEAP sections were cancelled. The Peer Advisers responsible for these classes were re-assigned. One joined another PA in a class while the other 3 were re-assigned to run Community Engagement Day where they headed a program in which students put together personal hygiene kits for distribution at a homeless shelter.

## 5. Program Activities

LEAP sponsored the following activities in 2014-15:

- *LEAP Convocation*, September 4, 2014; Speaker: Dr. Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski, Assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Studies, on the Plan to Finish program.
- LEAP Faculty Retreat, Aug. 21, 2014.
- *Peer Advisor Workshop* to prepare the 2014-15 Peer Advisors, August 21 and 22, 2015.
- *Opening Picnic*, Sept. 19, 2014.
- *Glenn Bailey's poverty workshops*, September 10 and 11, 2014.
- In 2014-15 LEAP Peer Advisors had two service activities, a 'U' log beanie sale and a two week Penny War, to benefit Crossroads Urban Center. This project raised \$3,583.14 (\$1530 in the fall for the beanie sale and \$2053.14 in the spring for the Penny War).
- *See You at the U* for students from Northwest Middle School was held on November 21, 2014.
- *Pre-Law LEAP luncheon*, April 1, 2015.
- *Closing reception for Health Sciences LEAP students*, March 31, 2015.
- *Peer Advisor Luncheon* on April 14, 2015. This occasion involves campus-wide and community partners in honoring our Peer Advisors and celebrating their accomplishments. The Frost Award for Outstanding Peer Advisor of the Year and Peer Advisor Scholarships are presented.

## 6. Community Engaged Learning

Formal community engaged learning opportunities in the LEAP program for which first-year students get academic credit include Dr. Carolan Ownby's Community Engagement LEAP, Dr. Ann Engar's third year Pre-Law Leap (LEAP 3700), and both semesters of Dr. Bliss's fourth year Health Sciences class (UUHSC 4000 and 4001).

Dr. Carolan Ownby's students continued to work with West High ("LEAP to the U"), the Horizonte ESL Program, and Northwest Middle School ("See you at the U"), among other organizations.

Ann Engar's Pre-Law LEAP Community Engagement class continued a partnership with the S. J. Quinney Family Law Clinic. Two students served there this year. Two other students volunteered with Salt Lake Peer Court. At least 60 hours of service were completed.

Dr. Bliss worked on four projects: Reach for your Dreams which brings college awareness to Mt. View Elementary School third graders; Bryant and Beyond, which mentors former Bryant students of color through high school to keep them eligible for \$5000 prospective college scholarships funded by the U of U Emeritus Alumni Board; Jim Agutter's Patient Experience Project, which this year looked into putting out information on Coats Disease for parents of affected children; and an LGBT Project which runs a conference every year and is researching and proposing a curriculum on LGBT issues for U of U medical students.

## 7. Advising

LEAP continued an effective partnership with University College advising this year, with the aim of helping students investigate and choose majors.

- University College advisors visited LEAP classes in October to advise students preparing to register for spring semester. Advising has become mandatory at four points throughout a student's career; the advisor visit to LEAP classes satisfied the first point for LEAP students. This visit also guaranteed students early registration for spring semester classes. UC Advisors also met with the Peer Advisors prior to visiting with the classes, so that PA's would be better equipped to answer students' questions.
- A one-credit hour class, LEAP 1050, taught by University College Advisors on the process of major selection, was offered again this spring for LEAP students.
- Advisors from the Medical School visited College of Health and Health Science LEAP sections this year to advise students on admissions requirements for various professional schools in Health Sciences.
- Other pre-Professional LEAPs, such as Engineering, Business, and Education, also incorporate visits by college advisors.

## **8. LEAP's Library Partnership**

Since 1995, LEAP has partnered with instructional librarians to introduce students to library research strategies and techniques. This partnership continued in 2014-15, with each LEAP section visiting the library for ten instructional sessions over the course of the two semesters. Librarians worked with each LEAP instructor to tailor library sessions to the particular needs of the class. Students who successfully completed eight of the ten exercises assigned at these meetings could earn an extra hour of credit for a course in library research.

## **9. Partnership with the Writing Program**

In addition to the 11 LEAP-specific writing courses offered by the Writing program in 2014-15, Nancy Jensen, the Writing Program Liaison to LEAP and one of the LEAP writing course teachers, offered a series of writing workshops in both fall and spring semesters to augment the Writing 2011 curriculum and to offer practical advice on LEAP-related topics to students who weren't yet taking 2011.

## **10. LEAP Advisory Boards**

The LEAP Policy Board met twice this academic year on October 20, 2014, and on March 2, 2015. See Appendix for minutes from this year's meetings.

## **11. Student Recruitment and Program Outreach**

The following is a list of initiatives undertaken this year to improve LEAP enrollment and the awareness of the LEAP Program among students before they come to orientation:

- LEAP participated in every recruitment or outreach effort the University mounted for the year.
- LEAP was also represented at every UAAC meeting, to keep advisors apprised of changes in LEAP.
- Dr. Bliss met with University College Advisors to explain changes in LEAP.
- Dr. Bliss met with the University offices involved in student recruitment.
- Dr. Bliss met with the Office of Orientation regarding changes in the way LEAP would be presented at this year's orientations.
- Dr. Bliss and Liz Taylor, assisted by current, future, and former Peer Advisors, were present to advise students at every orientation: during the information fairs, when LEAP and Block U were presented, and when students registered.
- LEAP offered two sections each semester of a new version of the program, the single-semester Transfer LEAP, with scholarships attached both semesters to the first twenty registrants.
- LEAP was also represented at all orientations for Transfer students.

- LEAP and BlockU collaborated on a “viewbook” describing both programs’ offerings, which was mailed to every admitted first-year student well before they arrived for orientation.
- LEAP entered into the planning for the Access U partnership with Salt Lake Community College. The first LEAP class in this program will be offered in the spring of 2017.

## Milestones and Awards

### 1. Notable Student Achievements

Laramie Riggs, a former Peer Advisor and Senior Peer Advisor, received the outstanding Senior Award by the College of Humanities.

Michael Moskun, a Science LEAP student, received the Best Paper in Lower Division Award by the Department of Writing and Rhetoric.

### 2. LEAP Scholarship and Award Recipients 2014-15

Approximately \$60,500 was given out in scholarships and awards to:

#### **Peer Advisor Scholarships (\$2000)**

Madison Hayes  
 Ezzy Khaosanga  
 Ezno Krensky-Hart  
 Minerva Martinez-Lopez  
 Aaron Sebright

#### **Frost Award for Outstanding Peer Advisor (\$500)**

Ezno Krensky-Hart

#### **Scholars of Promise for LEAP students in or joining the Honors Program (\$2000 awarded by the Honors Program)**

Stefan Kapetanovic  
 Morgan Victorine

#### **Asha Davenport Memorial Scholarship (\$2000)**

Sydney Chan  
 Naveen Rathi

#### **Diversity-Service (\$2000)**

Enoabasi Etokidem

Alejandra Hernandez  
Valeria Jimenez  
Lilly Kanishka  
Tyler Larson  
Amanda Lopez Tibbs  
Flora Martinez  
Claudia Morales  
Samantha Nyborg  
Carlos Garcia

**Need Based Scholarship (\$2000)**

Jackson Barrett  
Victoria Correa  
Anna Galura  
Morgan Guymon  
Angelica Juarez  
Stefan Kapetanovic  
Candice Lee  
Sydney Magana  
Samantha Mold  
Kennedy Stoner

**3. Faculty Activities and Achievements**

Ann Engar was named as an Outstanding Professor by the Hinckley Institute of Politics. Dr. Engar was also interviewed by the Daily Utah Chronicle on her views of the changing demographics of the University of Utah.

Steve Maisch was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) in the LEAP Program.

Mike White was interviewed by *Geosi Reads* for his Washington Prize winning book “How to Make a Bird with Two Hands”.

Nora Wood was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (Lecturer) in the LEAP Program.

Seetha Veeraghanta received the General Education Excellence in Teaching Award for 2014 from General Education Curriculum Council.

#### **4. Program Awards**

LEAP received a Parents Fund grant of \$2000 to fund a scholarship, as well as grants from a number of agencies, foundations, and private donors to reach our scholarship total of \$60,500.

#### **5. Conference attendance and presentations**

Dr. Bliss and Dr. Veeraghanta had a paper accepted for the Chicago Science and Society conference in the fall of 2015.

In June 2014, Dr. Engar and Dr. Veeraghanta attended the national Reacting to the Past Conference in New York.

In September 2014, Dr. Engar did an Honors Intellectual Traditions lecture on Boethius at the Utah museum of Fine Arts.

Dr. Larsen advised students and attended the Model European Union conference.

In the summer of 2014, Dr. Silva lectured on ecological architecture and ecological urban design at the *School of Architecture and Environmental Studies, Sichuan University*.

Dr. Bliss gave a paper at the 2015 conference of the American Association of Australian Literary studies and continued as chair of the Editorial Board of the journal *Antipodes*.

#### **6. University Service by LEAP Faculty**

LEAP was represented on many campus committees, among them: Undergraduate Council, the Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation Committee, UAAC, and University-wide task forces on Career Line and Adjunct Faculty, Orientation, and Transfer Students. LEAP faculty were named to three of the UGS Portfolio Teams and also served on several additional search committees during the year and on the committee approving courses for community engagement learning credit. LEAP is currently represented on the planning committee for Access U.

Dr. Magaret Harper continues to serve as the University's advisor for Phi Eta Sigma, a Freshman Honor Society.

## **7. Financial support for LEAP**

Scholarship funds for LEAP in 2014-15 totaled \$60,500. This represents a mix of grant support and private donations.

## **List of Appendices**

1. LEAP Policy Board minutes, fall 2014.....19
2. LEAP Policy Board minutes, spring 2015.....20

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the LEAP Policy Board**  
**October 20, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chairperson Martha Bradley-Evans who welcomed those in attendance and noted that as the University expands its learning community offerings, it looks to LEAP as the Gold Standard. She mentioned that LEAP was the model for the program proposed in the First in the World grant application submitted this summer by the University of Utah.

Several new members of the Board were introduced, or announced and acknowledged. Carolyn Bliss, LEAP Program Director, then delivered a short report on LEAP program developments. Highlights are:

- LEAP offered 30 sections for fall semester 2014, in 15 different versions of the program.
- Despite the somewhat unexpected loss of two LEAP faculty members in mid-summer, existing faculty were able to be reassigned in ways that precluded the necessity of last-minute hires.
- Starting this fall, two sections each semester of a one-semester version of the program for Transfer Students began to be offered. This class (LEAP 3050) fulfills the IR requirement, retains other features of the LEAP model, including library research and peer mentoring, and has a component easing the transition to the U for these students, who comprise roughly half the U's student body. Scholarships were available for the first 20 students to register for these classes in the fall and will be offered again to the first 20 to register for Transfer LEAP for spring semester.
- Another new LEAP offering for 2014-15 is Architecture LEAP, a two-semester experience team-taught in both semesters to include both a classroom and a workshop component. It is aimed at women and other students underrepresented in the College of Architecture and fulfills beginning requirements for Architecture majors. It is possible to take both this version of LEAP and Urban Ecology LEAP simultaneously, since they fulfill different requirements and have different course numbers.
- Next year, we will debut a new four-year version of LEAP, roughly modeled on Health Sciences LEAP, which will be called "Science and Society LEAP" and will target students underrepresented in the STEM fields and planning to go into scientific research, teaching at any level, or practice in a variety of fields.

Most of the meeting was devoted to consideration of the appointment of Dr. Nora Wood as an Associate Professor (Lecturer) on the Career-Line track. Comments were solicited both from Policy Board members and from an ad hoc committee of LEAP faculty who were present in a non-voting capacity. These deliberations and their results are detailed in the LEAP Policy Board Report on Nora Wood attached to these minutes.

The next meeting will be held in March of 2015.

Participants were thanked for their attendance and their service. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Bliss, LEAP Program Director, October 27, 2014

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the LEAP Policy Board**  
**March 2, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by LEAP Program Director Carolyn Bliss, standing in for Chairperson Martha Bradley-Evans who was detained at another meeting and arrived a bit later.

Board members introduced themselves and the departments, colleges, or entities they represented.

Roughly half the meeting was devoted to consideration of the appointment of Dr. Steve Maisch as an Assistant Professor (Lecturer) on the Career-Line track. Comments were solicited both from Policy Board members and from an ad hoc committee of LEAP faculty who were present in a non-voting capacity. These deliberations and their results are detailed in the LEAP Policy Board report attached to these minutes.

Following the vote on Dr. Maisch, Carolyn Bliss delivered a report on LEAP program developments over the past year and planned for the future. Highlights are:

- LEAP offered two new versions this past year, both successful: Architecture LEAP, which combines classroom lecture content with a workshop, is team-taught, and stretches over two semesters; and Transfer LEAP, which is only one semester long and fulfills the IR requirement;
- A number of new versions of LEAP are planned for next year and were briefly described by the LEAP faculty who will teach them:
  - Social and Behavioral Science LEAP for students considering a major in the College of Social and Behavioral Science, to be taught by Becky Larsen;
  - Humanities LEAP for students exploring majors in the College of Humanities, to be taught by Mike White;
  - Education LEAP, which is being restored after a year's suspension and will be taught by Nora Wood;
  - Science and Culture LEAP, which will be a four-year pipeline for students interested in any future career based in science and will include shadowing, research, and service in years beyond the first. The target population is underrepresented students, but the first two sections to be offered, taught by Seetha Veeraghanta and Steve Maisch, will be open to anyone.

- Carolyn also announced the suspension of Urban Ecology LEAP for the foreseeable future, due to student confusion over this class versus Architecture LEAP.
- There have been some major changes in the summer Orientation schedule that should make LEAP and BlockU more visible and more easily distinguishable, and these were discussed as well.

The next meeting will be held in September of 2015.

Participants were thanked for their attendance and their service. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Bliss, LEAP Program Director, March 3, 2015