

GNLU ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

GNLU ASP HAND BOOK



GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,
GANDHINAGAR

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Introduction to GNLU ASP

GNLU Academic Support Program (ASP) is a new academic initiative started by the Gujarat National Law University in July 2010 by the students of the university. The Program mainly focuses on helping students who want enjoyment of more academic session other than regular teaching hours. It also helps students who considers themselves as weak in understanding few subjects and hence are in need of special academic attention.

Acknowledging the fact that students who join the University are not on a level playing field and that each and every student has a different capacity, ability, interest in their level of commitment, our GNLU ASP aims to address these important issues. In turn ASP promotes collective-performance, as a whole among the student-community. In simple understanding, many students find it hard and difficult to grasp certain basic things because of a wide variety of problems such as language and communication barriers as a result of social and economic inequality in the society. Thereby sometimes some students may fail to perform well academically and enjoy the learning process in their wonderful life at the GNLU.

The ASP addresses this core issue, which is its prime and noble function and gives students an opportunity to learn and improve themselves in a different teaching environment. The ASP provides a regular platform for interested students to teach, who are called **Teaching Assistants** to discuss and help student-fraternity in academics in the form of

teaching. When students meet and interact with their peer-groups certain psychological blocks can be easily removed which is what the function, purpose and goal of ASP.

The ASP bridges the gap between a performer and non-performer and builds a culture where students as a whole community can express easily without apparent psychological inhibitions. This exercise in turn aims to develop among students *a sense of equality, fraternity and oneness of GNLU as a whole* by allowing students to help each other by cultivating this habit of sharing. It also promotes social values of mutual cooperation, sharing of knowledge and ignites the flame of academic passion and thirst for knowledge.

The ASP provides an excellent opportunity for students to come forward and become *Teaching Assistants* for holding regular sessions for students. This also helps students to learn skills such as teaching, communication, presentation and analytical powers which form an integral part of; *a professional lawyer, social engineer, corporate attorney and a fine academician* which are GNLU's noble aims in its academic mission.

The ASP also provides opportunity for students who come as **Student Volunteers** to learn the qualities of leadership and management by allowing them to organize, coordinate and arrange regular ASP sessions. As a whole, ASP helps to promote knowledge, teaching and leadership skills by harnessing the potential in each and every student of GNLU.

Charter of ASP

The Charter-constitution of GNLU Academic Support Programme is as follows:

1. Aims and Objectives
2. Functions and Methods

Aims and Objectives:

- To make Gujarat National Law University excel in academics and lead GNLU to the league of best law schools in the country as well as a role model world class law university.
- To produce collective results in student's performance and to give maximum benefit of academics to students who are weak and in need of special attention in academics.
- To help students understand subjects in a better way and in a friendly environment.
- To remove language and other barriers if any and thereby remove certain hardships for some of the students.
- To help the students overcome psychological pressures such as inferiority-complex and depressing attitude as a result of poor performance in academics.
- To provide a regular platform for interested students (meritorious/skillful) to teach, discuss and help students who have difficulty in learning and coping up with academics.

- To bridge the gap between a performing and non-performing student.
- To build a strong academic-culture where the students as a whole community can express themselves, their concerns and issues without any inhibitions relating to academics.
- To develop among students a sense of equality, fraternity and oneness of GNLU as a whole, by allowing them to help each other in cultivating this habit of service and sharing to rejoice mutual cooperation, understanding and academic growth.
- To provide an excellent opportunity for students to come forward to take up leadership and organizing skills by conducting and coordinating regular classes.

Functions and Methods

Functions

- The primary function of the Academic Support Programme is to give academic support to the weaker students and to those who need an additional teaching assistance apart from the class room teachings on the six subjects of a particular semester.
- ASP is completely an independent body. It is independent in its way i.e. the Classroom teaching and the teaching assistance at ASP are completely independent of each other.

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- ASP doesn't guarantee any result of any particular student attending the teaching sessions of the Academic Support Program.
- The other main function of ASP is to increase the confidence level among students and boost their performances in the Semester Examinations thereby enabling them to excel in their academic pursuits at the University.
- ASP shall also be involved in dissemination of knowledge on various legal subjects and creating legal awareness among the student fraternity of not only Gujarat National Law University but other law schools.
- ASP shall create an amiable environment for the learning process and shall help students facing language and other socio economic problems.

Methods

- ASP shall conduct special teaching sessions (classes) around thrice a week for students of all Semesters.
- Each day one/two classes shall be organized for all semesters covering one/two subjects in a day.
- Each class shall be of 45 minutes each taught by a particular Teaching Assistant from the student fraternity who has a strong knowledge on that particular subject.
- Special Modules and Repository Notes shall be given to the students if necessary by the teaching

assistants of ASP in order to make teaching knowledge of the subject easier.

- Teaching Sessions might comprise of Power Point Presentations by the teaching sessions. The Teaching Assistants should try to make the teaching session as interesting as possible and it should not be monotonous.

In short, in its functions and methods, ASP plans to *take law out of the books*. Thus teaching sessions might also comprise of various Quiz sessions on the subjects taught. The Teaching Assistants should try to incorporate Multiple Choice Q & A System during their teaching sessions which might make the subject easier for the students. This system will also help to prepare those who are interested in Civil Services Examination and Judiciary Examinations in near future. In a way as mentioned above ASP helps in the development of ***a professional lawyer, social engineer, corporate attorney and a fine academician*** which are GNLU's noble aims in its academic mission.

GNLU ASP up till now

When the ASP was started in July 2010, eleven students from 1st year to 4th year were selected by the Faculty Coordinators as Student Members of the Academic Support Program. These Student Members are to liaison with their batch mates and ensure that regular extra-tutorial sessions happen outside the classroom during the non-academic hours. These Student Members also help in coordinating with meritorious/senior students of the University who voluntarily wish to teach their batch mates/junior students.

The ASP completed its first one academic year, conducted 50 sessions with 27 Teaching Assistants from across all the batches volunteered to teach and conduct the sessions. The students, especially the first and the second year students responded well to these sessions and this reflected in their results. Most of the students who attended the sessions gave positive reviews and requested for more and more sessions to be conducted every week.

Even though the ASP has made a mark in the first few months of its existence, there are a few areas that need to be worked upon. The ASP needs to advertise and popularize itself on the online media so that maximum number of students can benefit. Further, the ASP needs to devise a method of attracting the senior batches (3rd and 4th year students) to attend and conduct the sessions. Also, fifth year

students who have already been allotted job offers through campus placement need to be roped in large numbers to take the sessions as they would act as role models to the junior batches.

ASP also has its own blogs maintained and developed by students besides its appearance in Facebook, Orkut, Twitter and other net works.

Forms

Since the beginning, the ASP has been maintaining a record of information about all the sessions which helps us to review ourselves at the end of the semester. The ASP Record Sheet helps us to record the name of the Teaching Assistants, Student Volunteers, and the Students who attended the ASP sessions.

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