



EDUCATION MODULE STRATEGY

Modules are an effective way to approach science education. Teaching modules are defined as being “**conceptualized self-contained “units” of content or technique** (Dr. Mary Corbin Sies). A module can cover just one class or more.

For this aquatic ecology curricular program, each lesson will be considered a “**module**” that can be plugged into existing curriculum. Although preferable, the total curriculum does not need to be implemented to enrich current curriculum. To ensure the full value of the experience implementing all modules is encouraged.

Module Strategies

Although critical safety and instructional guidelines are enclosed within the curriculum guide and on the website, here we offer **strategies relevant to modular implementation**:

- Modules should fit into existing curriculum. This would be best determined with a cursory overview by the cooperating classroom teacher in advance.
- Modules should assist in reaching *state standards*. Inclusion of state standards ensures validity of the modules.
- The modules should be designed to *enrich* the existing curriculum. The majority of the **LEEP** curriculum is “hands-on” with emphasis on methodology and not rote memorization, which is in line with current science education reform efforts.
- The modules should be grade level appropriate. The **LEEP** curriculum is designed for seventh graders, but would be appropriate for 6th-8th graders and could be made more sophisticated for high grade levels or simplified for younger students.
- Modules should be delivered in a relaxed educational environment and students are encouraged to work together in teams.
- Our modules address a variety of learning styles to ensure student comprehension and success.
- Modules are not necessarily discipline-specific – all subject areas can benefit from the interdisciplinary approach.

Wisconsin lakes, rivers and wetlands are unique and precious areas that can be explored through the modular system and taught by citizen instructors (lake associations) in collaboration with local schools.