

What's the difference?

How to choose between a BA(Law), BCom(Law) and LLB

Many learners who want to study law are unsure about which degree option to pursue. Well, wonder no more! Here you'll find a comprehensive explanation of the three degrees and possibly see which one will suit you best!

LLB (Faculty of Law)

The LLB degree is the shortest and most focused route and specifically geared towards qualifying for entry into the organised legal profession. This degree emphasises both the theoretical and practical application of the law and prepares students for the challenges of the legal profession. Apart from gaining entry to the organised legal profession, an LLB degree also allows for professional opportunities and the conscious application of the law outside the legal domain, as it provides a solid foundation for careers in business, management, consulting, academia, politics and the non-profit sector.

To specialise in certain fields of the law, LLB graduates may pursue an LLM and subsequently an LLD degree in the Faculty of Law.

Choices choices choices!

So which law degree do you choose? It all depends on your aptitude and personal circumstances. If you have a strong interest in languages and social sciences or commercial and economic disciplines and you would like to eventually practise law in one of these fields, it's a good idea to enrol for the BA(Law) or BCom(Law). On the downside, these programmes are more expensive and take longer to complete than a stand-alone LLB.

Remember, the different degrees have different selection criteria. You have to go

The University of Pretoria offers three possible routes to a career in the legal field: BA(Law), BCom(Law) and the LLB. You have to have at least an LLB degree – which will take four years – to become an attorney or advocate in South Africa. If you choose the BA(Law) LLB or BCom(Law) LLB, you can obtain two degrees in five years. Remember that your career options will be limited if you don't proceed with the LLB after completing your BA or BCom degree.

BA(Law) (Faculty of Humanities)

This three-year degree is ideally suited to students who have an avid interest in languages or social sciences. It serves as an alternative route to the eventual attainment of an LLB degree, which can be obtained within two years after completion of the BA(Law) degree.

The BA(Law) degree complements the LLB, as it provides a solid foundation for a broader perspective on disciplines related to law, such as Political Science, Philosophy and Criminology. BA(Law) graduates may also choose to specialise in a field in the social sciences or languages instead of law, and would then register for an honours degree in the Faculty of Humanities.

through a selection process, based on your Grade 11 marks for the BCom(Law) and LLB degrees, while the BA(Law) follows a first-come-first-served approach.

If you would like more information – such as minimum requirements and career opportunities – do visit the various faculties' websites:

* EMS: Economic and Management Sciences

BCom(Law) (Faculty of EMS*)

This three-year degree focuses on the core subjects of economic and management sciences and some core LLB modules. The ultimate aim of BCom graduates should be to attain an LLB degree, should they desire to pursue a career in the organised legal profession.

A BCom(Law) degree complements the LLB, as it provides a broader perspective on issues such as taxation and commercial law. This degree allows a graduate to acquire an LLB within two years after completion of the BCom(Law) degree. Graduates may also specialise in a field within economic and management sciences instead of law, and would then register for an honours degree in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.

Faculty of Law:

www.up.ac.za/law

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences:

www.up.ac.za/ems

Faculty of Humanities:

www.up.ac.za/hum

Career options: attorneys, advocates, prosecutors, magistrates, legal advisors and academics.