



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Law

Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid
Lefapha la Molao

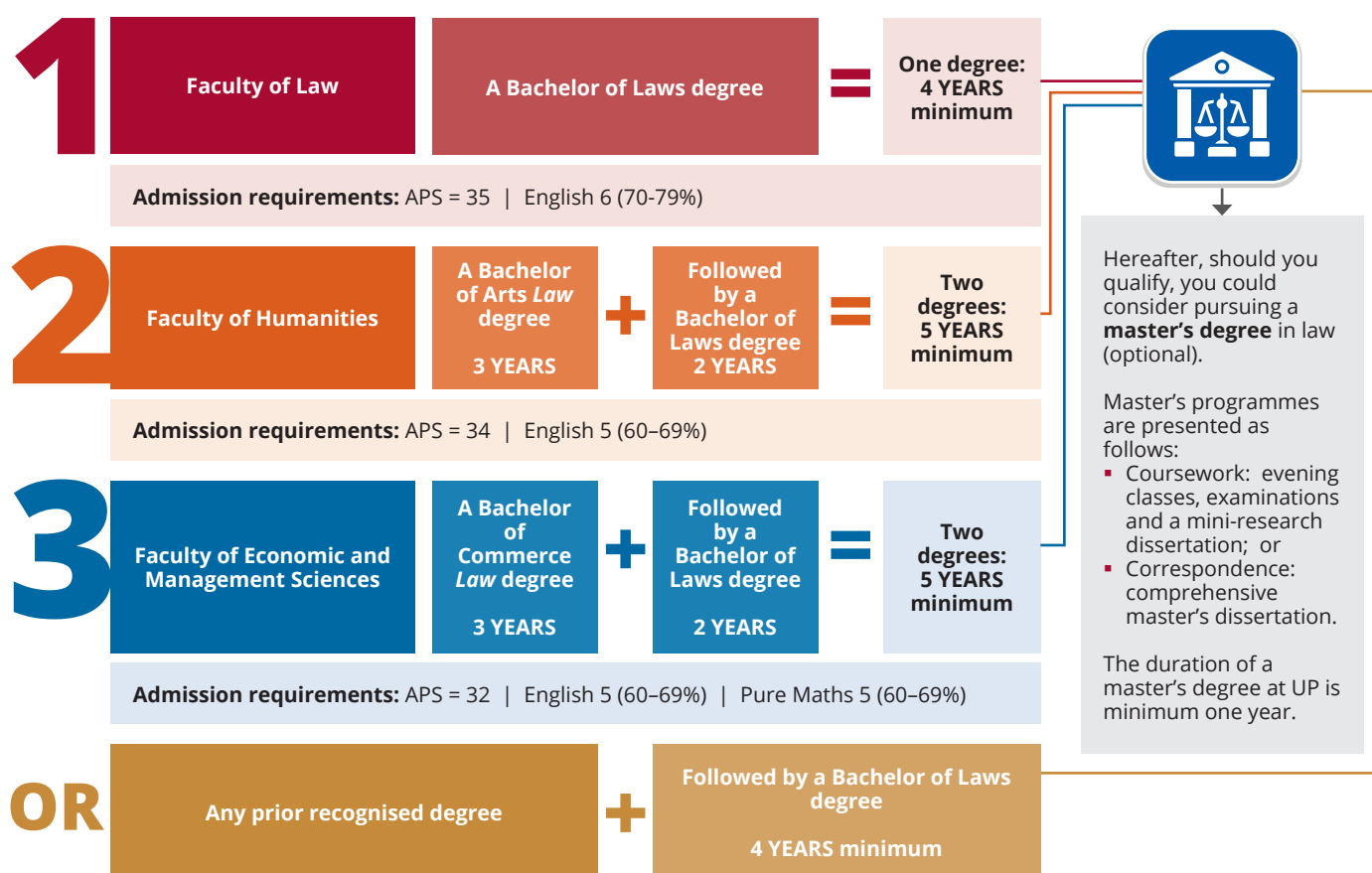
How to choose between a Bachelor of Arts *Law*, Bachelor of Commerce *Law* or straightforward four-year Bachelor of Laws [also referred to as LLB] degree?



Make today matter



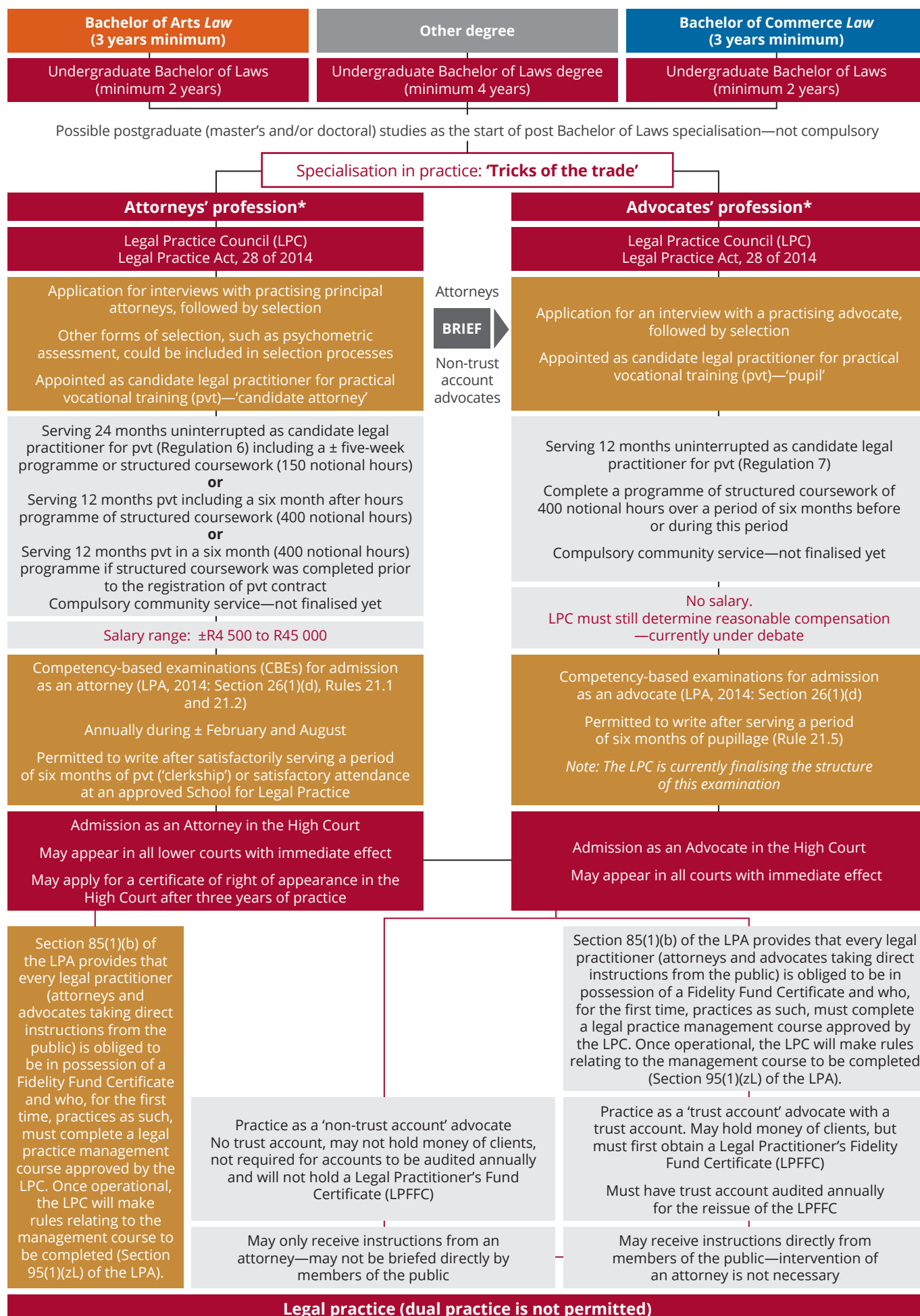
As explained here, there are **three direct routes** to a recognised legal qualification and eventual admission as an attorney or advocate in South Africa with a Bachelor of Laws degree behind your name, given the *status quo* in South Africa in 2019 and excluding forthcoming amendments to the Legal Practice Act, 28 of 2014:



If you are interested in a career in **patent law**, you should first pursue a science degree (Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Engineering) degree, and/or followed by an honours degree in Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Engineering, followed by a Bachelor of Laws degree, or vice versa. Here you are looking at a minimum period of seven years of studying. However, this will prepare you for the Patent Examination Board, as required in Section 21 of the Patents Act, 57 of 1978, as amended, for a career as a patent attorney. However, it is important to note that admission as a patent advocate or attorney is subject to passing the Bar Examination for pupils or the Competency-based Examination for Admission as an Attorney too. Should you be interested in this field of law, you may find more relevant information on the websites of patent attorneys, the South African Institute of Intellectual Property Law (SAIPL) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

If you would like more information such as the minimum requirements and career opportunities, do visit the various faculties' websites:
www.up.ac.za/law | <https://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-humanities> | www.up.ac.za/ems

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Note: Postgraduate specialisation (master's and/or doctoral studies) may be pursued at any time after completion of a Bachelor of Laws degree, subject to admission requirements, namely before commencement of practical vocational training (pvt), during pvt, after pvt, and in fact, shortly or many years after graduation and in practice. As always, continuing education, professional development and lifelong learning are key components for success and thus highly recommended for all legal practitioners.