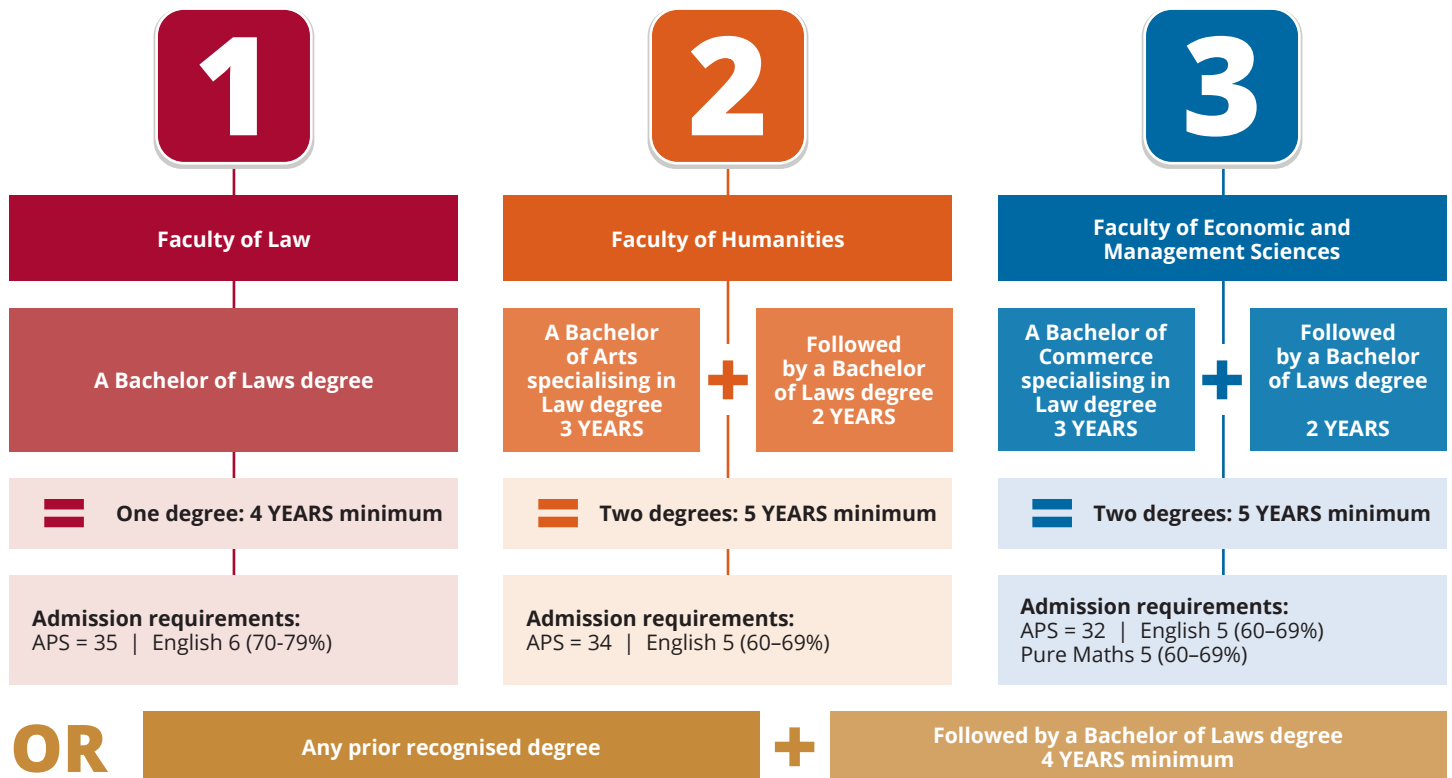




Make today matter



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).

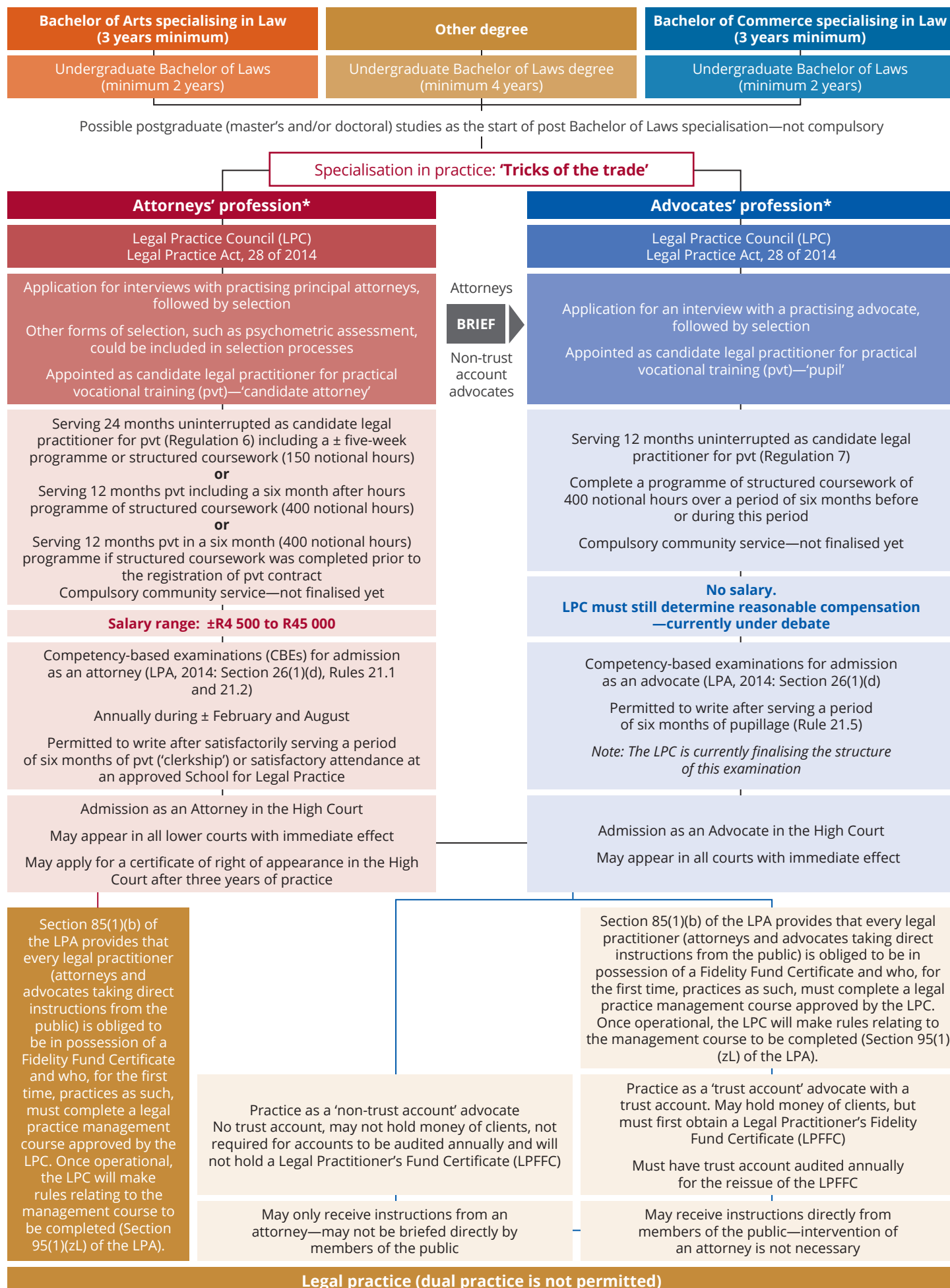


Hereafter, should you qualify, you could consider pursuing a **master's degree** in law (optional).

Master's programmes are presented as follows:

- Coursework: evening classes, examinations and a mini-research dissertation; or
- Correspondence: comprehensive master's dissertation.

The duration of a master's degree at UP is minimum one year.



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.



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Law
Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid
Lefapha la Molao

Minimum admission requirements



Make today matter



Minimum admission requirements for applicants with a National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Independent Examinations Board (IEB) Certificate

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

Programmes	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2026	
	Achievement level	APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
Bachelor of Laws [Also referred to as LLB] [4 years]	6	35
Bachelor of Arts specialising in Law [Also referred to as BA (Law)] [3 years]		
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Law [Also referred to as BCom (Law)] [3 years]		

Minimum requirements for applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi (South Africa)

Refer to the International undergraduate prospectus at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission Information or [click here](#) for more information.

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

FACULTY OF LAW Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2026									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	GCSE #		HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS Level	A Level	IB		KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
		The qualifications in the two columns below will be considered only for conditional admission. If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, these two columns will not apply. It can also not be used for final admission and/ or registration.			GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL		
		CIE	UK							
IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE EGCSE O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC WASSCE ZGCE		England Wales Northern Ireland Pearson Edexcel GCSE								
Bachelor of Laws [Also referred to as LLB]	English	B	5	2	B	D	5	4	70-79%	B+

English must be on the A and/or AS Level for final admission before registration.