



How to choose between a BA (Law), BCom (Law) or straightforward four-year LLB degree?

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 an LLB 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:



Admission requirements: APS = 32 | English 5 (60–69%)



Admission requirements: APS = 30 | English 5 (60–69%)



Admission requirements: APS = 32 | English 5 (60–69%) | Pure Maths 5 (60–69%)



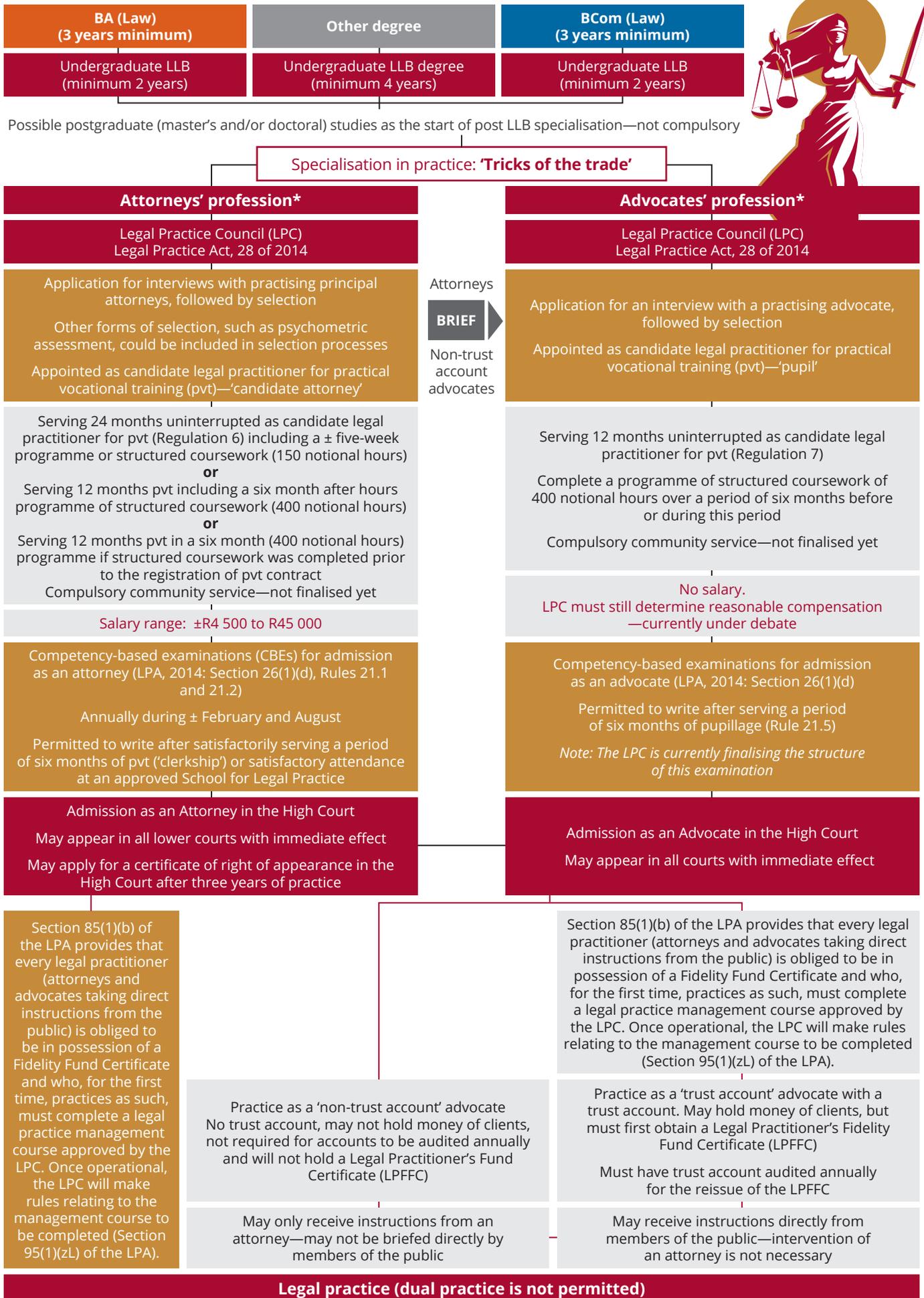
Hereafter, should you qualify, you could consider pursuing a **master's degree** in law (optional).

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.

If you are interested in a career in **patent law**, you should first pursue a science degree (Bachelor of Science (BSc) or Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)) degree, and/or followed by an honours degree in BSc or BEng, followed by an LLB 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).

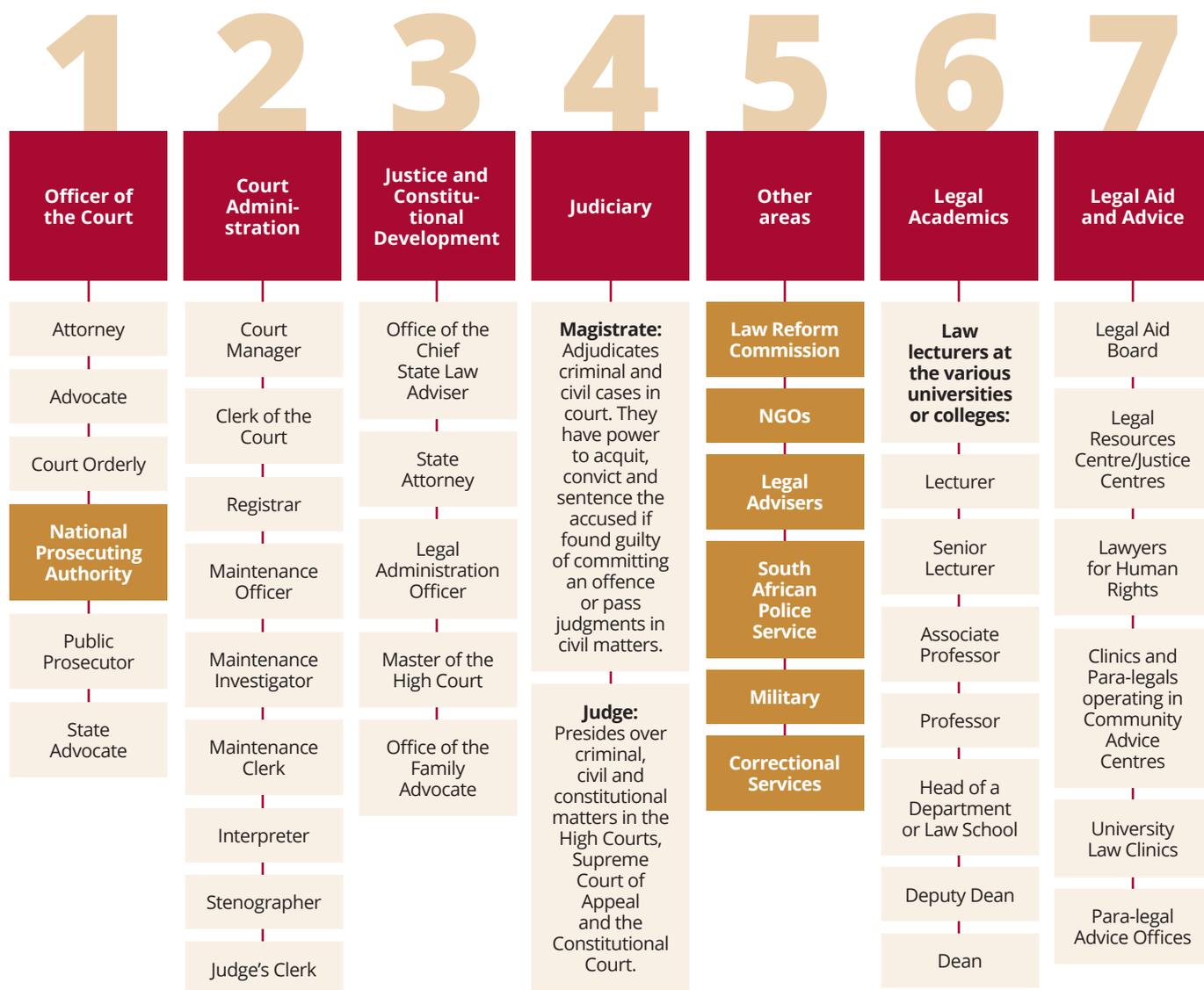


Note: Postgraduate specialisation (master's and/or doctoral studies) may be pursued at any time after completion of an LLB degree, subject to admission requirements, namely before commencement of practical vocational training (pvt), during pvt, after pvt, and in fact, shortly or many years after graduation 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.



Career opportunities in the **LEGAL profession** with at least an **LLB degree**:

Admission as an attorney or advocate is highly recommended before pursuing careers outside the organised profession!



Checklist: Do you have what it takes to become a successful law student and lawyer?

Dear prospective law student

If you are reading this, you are probably considering studying towards a career in law and justice. Are you fueled by a desire to help others, solve their (legal) problems, and ready to make an impact on society? Complete the aptitude test below to see how you fare.

(Tick the appropriate box)

1 Motivation

I am:

- Committed to a successful, honourable career in law and justice.
- Passionate about law, and my decision to pursue a career in law and justice is based on something concrete such as spending time in a law firm or court and taking a real interest in societal interests linked to law and justice, instead of being misled by spurious TV series.

2 Good listening and interpersonal skills, proficiency in languages, writing ability and literacy

I have the ability to:

- Persuade people to follow advice or convince them to negotiate a resolution.
- Read people and figure out the best approach.
- Adapt appropriate communication style.
- Communicate clearly and effectively in court, in writing, face-to-face or over the telephone.

3 Logical reasoning, persuasiveness and sound judgment

I have the ability to:

- Analyse and think critically, to follow a chain of logic to identify potential trouble areas in arguments and to spot weaknesses in the reasoning of others.
- Exercise sound judgment in deciding the best course of action to pursue.

4 Value honesty and integrity

I am aware that:

- Lawyers are subject to the highest degree of honesty, integrity and ethical conduct.
- I should possess intrinsic values such as work ethic, ethical conduct and integrity.
- I should always maintain the highest standard of honesty, integrity and fairness towards clients, courts, colleagues and all those with whom I shall come into professional contact with.

5 Adaptability, stamina, energy and resilience

I am:

- Creative, determined, enthusiastic, energetic, and possess drive, emotional intelligence and perseverance.
- Able to manage and run a profitable practice.

6 Digest and convert loads of information, scientific data and paperwork generated by cases

I have the ability to:

- Prepare strategies that require absorbing and comprehending vast quantities of information and distilling that into something manageable, relevant, valid and useful.
- Employ logic to construct arguments and draft legal documents.

7 Mental agility and reasonable, logical analysis, assumptions and conclusions

I have the ability to:

- Draw reasonable, logical conclusions and assumptions from limited information and analyse complex facts, versions, stories, hearsay, information, testimonies, etc, to identify the most crucial issues.
- Think like a lawyer. 'It is a form of swift reasoning, cool logic, effortless problem-solving skills and precision analysis. The kind of calculated mental weaponry that shields you from unhelpful, inflammatory emotions while actively disarming your opponent with one slash of your sharp verbal or written blade.'¹

8 Problem Solver-in-Chief

I have the ability to:

- Not become overly emotional when facing problems and explore options.
- Approach and view problems as challenges or life experiences and proactively and objectively address them.
- Solve problems, using a combination of intuition and logic to create solutions and finding opportunities.

9 Time management

I have the ability to:

- Prioritise tasks and manage time effectively.
- Comprehend that the legal profession is based on procedures and limitations with accompanying prescriptions.

10 Attention to detail

I am

- An administrator of note and have an eye for detail. After all, I realise that lawyers do detail!

Look at our Faculty's checklist below and we are sure that you will agree that UP is the place to study law in South Africa. Criteria for an excellent faculty of law:

✓ Ranked best in Africa with leading academia

- Ranks best in Africa and 60th in the world with leading Departments of Jurisprudence; Mercantile Law; Private Law; Procedural Law; Public Law; and Centre for Human Rights.
- Publishes articles and textbooks covering a range of topics in the legal field.
- Active partnerships and collaborations with a number of international universities and organisations.
- The Faculty is currently in the unique position where three law professors serve as international experts on key United Nations (UN) bodies in Geneva, responsible for the development and application of international law and human rights.

✓ Specialised research centres and chairs

- **Centres and units for:** Intellectual Property Law; Child Law; Extractive Industries Law in Africa; Human Rights; International and Comparative Law; Law and Medicine; Sports and Entertainment Law; and Business Rescue and Insolvency Law.
- **Law Clinic**
- **Research:** Absa Africa Chair in Banking Law in Africa; SARChI Professorship in International Constitutional Law; SARChI Professorship of International Development Law and African Economic Relations; and UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa.

✓ Inquiry-led approach teaching and hybrid learning

- Values and aims to develop and improve the research skills of our students.
- Hybrid learning is a feature of the teaching model.
- One of a few faculties in South Africa who prescribes a research component for final-year LLB-students.

✓ Equips students with knowledge, skills and perspectives

- Produces highly sought-after graduates who display leadership and critical thinking abilities and are aware of their social and ethical responsibilities.

✓ Top mooters (simulated court hearings)

- Law students of the Faculty's Moot Society excel in local and international moot court competitions and our teams regularly achieve top honours at these events.
- Best mooters on the African continent.
- Students are trained by experienced past mooters resulting in peer teaching and skills transfer.

✓ Vibrant student life and active student bodies

- Law students serve the UP's student community through the Constitutional Tribunal and Student Disciplinary Advisory Panel. Also, they may serve on the management committees of students bodies in the Faculty of Law such as the Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter; Law House; Legal Shebeen; UP Moot Society; Pretoria Student Law Review; and Students for Law and Social Justice.
- As a UP Law student, you will be part of a vibrant faculty, university and community.

✓ Social consciousness and practical legal training

- Boasts a Law Clinic, established in 1980 by law students, that ranks among the best in the country, which provides basic legal services to indigent members of society.
- Provides superior clinical legal education to final-year law students as a final-year elective.

✓ Acclaimed accredited legal journals and publications

- Such as *De Jure*; *Journal for Contemporary Roman-Dutch Law (THRHR)*; *African Human Rights Law Journal*; and *African Human Rights Law Reports*.
- The *Pretoria Student Law Review*, which publishes articles by students, is funded and supported by the Faculty and managed by law students.
- Academic books and publications are also published in the Faculty by the Pretoria University Law Press (PULP).

✓ Modern and impressive facilities

- A Law Building, designed to reflect the transparency of the Constitution—a modern and impressive feature on the Hatfield Campus of the University of Pretoria.
- The Law Building accommodates the well-equipped, and “law student only”, Oliver R Tambo Law Library, which includes the unique Law of Africa Collection.
- To enhance learning, leisure and interaction, students have access to social learning spaces such as the UP Law Kiosk and two quads.

✓ Delivers top alumni and highly sought-after graduates

- Protecting legal rights, the Constitution and ensuring a just society for all.