

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2017

Faculty of Law

Faculty regulations and information

The rules for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended prior to the commencement of the academic year.

The General Regulations (G Regulations) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of each student to familiarise himself or herself well with these regulations. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.

Also consult General Rules and Information on the Yearbook website for additional information.

1. Exemption/credits for modules passed at other institutions

Students must apply on the prescribed form that is only available at the Student Administration office. The complete syllabus of the module concerned must accompany the application.

Students transferring from another university must complete at least half (50%) of the modules needed for the LLB degree at this University and must be a registered student of this University for at least two years.

2. Examination policy

2.1 General

The examinations in first-semester modules take place in May/June, while examinations in second-semester modules take place in October/November. Each student has the responsibility to ascertain when modules will be written according to the official examination timetable.

The use of correction fluid such as Tipp-Ex in tests, examinations and assignments is prohibited.

No cell phones or any other electronic means of communication are allowed in test or examination venues.

2.2 Examination admission and pass requirements

A semester mark of at least 40% is required in order to be admitted to the examination in any module, with the exception of first-semester modules at 100 level for which the minimum requirement is 30%.

A final mark of at least 50% is required to pass. The final mark is the average mark of the semester and the examination mark but a subminimum of 40% is required in the examination in each module. Should the student fail to achieve the required subminimum, the lecturer could grant a supplementary examination, provided that the final mark is at least 40%.

The pass mark for essays, seminars, etc is at least 50%.

2.3 Ancillary examinations

After completion of an examination and before the examination results are released, the examiners may summon a student for an ancillary examination on particular aspects of the work of that module.

2.4 Re-marking of examination papers (also consult General Regulation G.14)

After an examination, departments provide feedback to students about the framework that was used by the examiners during the examination. The way in which feedback is given, is determined by the head of

the department. Students may apply for re-marking of an examination paper after perusal of such paper within 14 calendar days after commencement of lectures in the next semester. The prescribed fee has to be paid. The paper will then be re-marked by an examiner appointed by the head of the department concerned. If the supplementary examination in the relevant module has already been written by the time that the result of the re-mark becomes available, a student will not be granted a supplementary examination based on the results of the re-mark.

2.5 Supplementary examinations

- (i) Supplementary examinations in first-semester modules take place after the May/June examinations, while those in second-semester modules take place after the October/November examinations.
- (ii) To pass a supplementary examination, a student must obtain a minimum of 50% in the supplementary examination – the semester mark does not count.
- (iii) The highest final mark a student can obtain in a supplementary examination is 50%.

All students with a final mark of 40%-49% will qualify to write the supplementary examination. If a student does not write the supplementary examination on the scheduled day, there will **not be** any later opportunity for a rewrite.

2.6 Aegrotat/extraordinary examinations

Students who do not write their examinations on the scheduled day, may apply for an aegrotat/extraordinary examination at the Student Administration office. Each request is referred to the Dean in consultation with the Student Affairs Committee for a decision. Lecturers are not allowed to grant any permission for this category of examination. It is the responsibility of the student to ascertain whether his/her request has been successful. If permission has been granted, the student must write the aegrotat/extraordinary examination during the supplementary examination. Such a student will not qualify for a further supplementary examination.

Application for the above examination must be handed in at the Student Administration office together with a valid medical certificate not later than three working days after the module should have been written. The worn excuses of having overslept or read the timetable incorrectly will not be accepted.

A student who has been granted permission to write an aegrotat/extraordinary examination and who then fails to write the examination will not qualify to submit any such application at a later stage.

A medical certificate will not be accepted where it states that a student appeared ill or declared him-/herself unfit to write the examination.

A medical certificate will not be accepted if it does not contain the physical address and telephone number of the doctor/medical practice.

Where in the course of his/her studies at the University of Pretoria a student applies for an extraordinary examination in a law module for the fifth (or further) time, that student may be requested to appear before the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty to substantiate why he/she should be allowed to write another extraordinary examination.

In cases where a reason other than sickness is relied upon, the student must submit an affidavit that reflects the reason for his/her absence from the examination. Further evidentiary documents or supporting affidavits from persons who may be able to give evidence regarding the situation must also be submitted. In the event of a funeral, a copy of the death certificate of the deceased or other substantiating evidence is required together with an explanation of the relationship between the student and the deceased.

The general rule is that a student does not qualify for an aegrotat/extraordinary examination if the student elected to write the scheduled examination while ill. In exceptional circumstances the Student Affairs

Committee may rule otherwise, taking into account factors such as the nature of the illness, the student's academic record and the student's performance in the scheduled examination.

2.7 Special examinations

A final-year student who has complied with all the requirements for the LLB degree, with the exception of a maximum of four modules, may be admitted to a special examination in January of the following year. The applicable fee must be paid before sitting for the examination. Should the student fail the module(s), the particular module(s) must be repeated in full. For all four (or fewer) modules the student must have obtained at least examination entrance in the final year of registration. However, if a student has a single module outstanding to complete the LLB degree, she/he will be allowed to write the January special examination if she/he had at any time during her/his studies obtained at least examination entrance for that outstanding module.

2.8 Class attendance

Class attendance in all law modules and for the full duration of the LLB programme is compulsory for all students. The course coordinator of a particular law module must publish the attendance requirements of that module in the study guide and must set out how class attendance will be monitored.

A student may be refused admission to the examination in a particular law module if he/she failed to fulfil the published attendance requirements in that module.

3. Test policy

3.1 Semester tests

There will be at least two evaluation opportunities per semester or year module in the first three years of the LLB programme and at least one evaluation opportunity per semester for the final-year semester or year modules.

Exceptions:

- Modules in which the Faculty has given permission in advance that the semester mark may be calculated in another manner.
- Where a student is only taking an aegrotat or an extraordinary test as described hereunder.

The dates of official semester tests may only be changed with the permission of all members of a class group present during a scheduled lecture. If such a change of schedule occurs, the onus is on each student to find out about it. Absence from the class in which such arrangements were made will not serve as an excuse.

Students are entitled to perusal of test scripts and assignments but not to a re-mark by either the lecturer or an external examiner. However, in exceptional circumstances the head of the relevant department may, in consultation with the Dean, make a ruling regarding the re-marking of a test script or assignment. In general an application for a re-mark must be brought within two weeks after the test script or assignment has been made available to the student.

3.2 Aegrotat/extraordinary tests

There is only one aegrotat or an extraordinary test opportunity and this takes place at the end of the semester. Students must obtain the details from the lecturer. The test will cover all the work completed up to the date of the test, unless the lecturer concerned, in consultation with the Head of Department, indicates otherwise. There are no special provisions to supplement marks where an evaluation opportunity takes the form of an assignment or a series of class tests.

A student who is unable to write an official semester test on the scheduled date or at the scheduled time, must apply in writing for an aegrotat or extraordinary test.

Application must be made in writing before the date of the test to the lecturer responsible for the administration of the module concerned or at the departmental secretary. Where this is not possible, the application must be made within three working days after the date of the test.

In the case of a student being required to write two semester tests that are scheduled to take place on the same day and time, the student must write the scheduled semester test in the module that he/she is repeating, and the extraordinary test in the module that he/she is not repeating.

In the case of illness, a doctor who treated the student must certify on a medical certificate that the particular student was, in the doctor's opinion, not in a fit state to prepare for or to sit for the test as a result of ill health. A medical certificate indicating that the student was, according to his/her own opinion, unfit to prepare for or to sit for the test is unacceptable.

A medical certificate will not be accepted if it does not contain the physical address, telephone number and the practice number of the doctor/medical practice.

In cases where a reason other than sickness is relied upon, the student must submit an affidavit that reflects the reason for his/her absence from the test. Further evidentiary documents or supporting affidavits from persons who may be able to give evidence regarding the situation must also be submitted. In the event of a funeral, a copy of the death certificate of the deceased or other substantiating evidence is required together with an explanation of the relationship between the student and the deceased.

The worn excuses of having overslept or read the timetable incorrectly will not be accepted.

Students must confirm with the lecturer that an aegrotat or an extraordinary test has been granted. A student, who cannot get hold of the lecturer in person, must preferably hand the documentation to the relevant departmental secretary.

A record is kept of every application for an aegrotat or an extraordinary test. This information may later be disclosed to prospective employers who seek letters of reference from the Faculty.

A student who has been granted permission to write an aegrotat or an extraordinary test and who then fails to write the test, will not qualify for any such test at a later stage.

Where a student wishes write two or more aegrotat/extraordinary tests that are scheduled to take place on the same day and time, the student must apply in writing to the Student Affairs Committee to be allowed to write aegrotat/extraordinary tests in all relevant modules. The Student Affairs Committee must consider the application and may grant or deny the application to write one or more aerostats/extraordinary tests. If the application to write all relevant aegrotat/extraordinary tests is granted, the Committee must rule on how the clash is to be resolved.

The general rule is that a student does not qualify for an aegrotat test if the student elected to write the scheduled test while ill. In exceptional circumstances the Student Affairs Committee may rule otherwise, taking into account factors such as the nature of the illness, the student's academic record and the student's performance in the scheduled examination.

4. Releasing of test and examination marks

Lecturers will advise students where test scripts will be made available. The lecturer will give the students feedback on semester tests, either by way of a written memorandum or a class discussion. Each department will also make known to students the process by which changes to marks, etc will be handled in that department.

Lecturers will advise students in advance of the date on which perusal of examination papers will take

place. At such a perusal session there will be a written memorandum or the lecturer must otherwise, by a method that he/she shall determine, give the students feedback on the paper. Students who are unable to attend the official perusal session may apply to the lecturer, in the same manner as for aegrotat and extraordinary tests, for an opportunity to see the examination script. No lecturer is under any obligation to grant any student such a perusal opportunity more than two weeks after the commencement of the following semester.

Final marks will be available on the student portal.

Lecturers are entitled to destroy examination scripts one year after the completion of the relevant examination session.

5. Handling of problems and consulting hours of the Dean and lecturers

Students who have a problem must first determine whether the problem relates to their registration with the University or to the module. In both instances the Student Administration should be consulted first.

A problem regarding the content of a particular module must first be taken up with the specific lecturer responsible for the module. If the student cannot be assisted with his/her problem at this level, he/she must consult with the relevant head of department and afterwards with the Dean, if necessary.

Lecturers in a specific department work under the guidance of a head of department. Lecturers or the head of the department can be consulted during their consulting hours or otherwise, by appointment. If a lecturer must be consulted by appointment, the appointment must be arranged with the relevant lecturer or the departmental secretary.

Students may consult the Dean by making an appointment, in advance, with the Dean's secretary.

6. Testimonials required for good conduct

Students guilty of dishonest conduct are charged with misconduct. If the student is found guilty, disciplinary steps are taken, of which suspension from the university is one possibility. Dishonest conduct includes: copying of work during tests or examinations; copying of assignments/plagiarism; the illegal use of notes during tests and examinations; the submission of forged medical certificates or false affidavits.

Prospective law students must note that the governing bodies of the legal profession require every prospective candidate who applies for admission to the profession to submit a testimonial from the Faculty of Law to satisfy the governing body that he/she is fit and proper to do so. The testimonial should disclose any previous criminal convictions or disciplinary steps taken against the applicant. In such instances a decision will be taken by the governing body and it is possible that the application can be refused. Please note that it may take up to 10 working days for the Faculty of Law administrative staff to have such a testimonial prepared.

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