Bachelor of Arts (Law and Politics)

SAQA ID 120745 NQF Level 7

Qualification duration

Contact
Full-Time (Campus)
- Minimum: 3 years
- Maximum: 5 years

Part-Time (Online)
- Minimum: 5 years
- Maximum: 7 years

Qualification description

Law is one of the streams offered within the Bachelor of Arts degree. The Bachelor of Arts (Law) degree equips students with a solid grounding in academic theory, underpinning the main concepts of public law such as constitutional law criminal law, and international human rights in addition to various fields from Humanities including Political Science and Communication Science. This qualification offers a flexible structure which is spread over a minimum of three years of full-time study.

Furthermore, the degree equips graduates with analytical, critical thinking, problem-solving and people management skills, as well as emotional intelligence and the ability to think across multiple disciplines. These skills will be at the core of every design option

Qualification accreditation

- Accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE).
- Registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

This qualification is offered at the following campuses:

- Bedfordview
- Bloemfontein
- Cape Town: Mowbray
- Cape Town: Tyger Valley
- Durban
- East London
- Mbombela
- Midrand
- Nelson Mandela Bay
- Potchefstroom
- Pretoria
- Vanderbijlpark

Entry requirements

- South African National Senior Certificate (NSC) with Bachelor's degree pass. *
- Or National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4 issued by the Council of General and Further Education and Training with a Bachelor's degree pass.
- Or letter or certificate confirming an exemption from Universities South Africa (USAf) for any other school-leaving results.
- Or completion of a Bachelor's degree.
- Or completion of the relevant Foundation Programme along with a letter or certificate of exemption from Universities South Africa (USAf).
- Or completion of a relevant Higher Certificate.
- Or completion of the relevant Eduvos Access Programme.

AND
- * 25 Eduvos points or more.
- 50% or above for Grade 12 English or equivalent.

Possible career options

This qualification is multidisciplinary in nature and will enable you to function in different sectors such as law, politics, business, psychology and communication. It prepares you for many different career options, including:
- Administrative Assistance
- Business
- Communications
- Copywriting
- Customer Service Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Journalist
- Law and Policy Formulation
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Assistant/Paralegal
- Legal Research
- Lobbyist
- Non-Profit Programme Management
- Policy Analyst
- Social Science or Human Resources
- Political Consultant

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Qualification structure

Year 1

- Business English
- Computer Skills
- Communication Science 1A & 1B
- Critical Reasoning
- Family Law
- Introduction to Law 1A
- Introduction to Legal Research
- Law of Persons
- Philosophy 1
- Political Science 1A & 1B

Year 2

- African Customary Law
- Applied Ethics
- Criminal Law
- Constitutional Law
- Cultural Studies
- Introduction to Research
- Political Science 2A & 2B
- Philosophy 2
- Electives: Choose 1
    ◦ Communication Science 2A & 2B
    ◦ Introduction to Data Analysis & Introduction to
      Coding for Humanities

Year 3

- BA Law (WIL)
- International Human Rights Law
- Jurisprudence
- Law for Psychology Students
- Media Law
- Political Science 3A & 3B
- Public International Law
- Research Project

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Module descriptors

Year 1

Business English
The aim of this module is to provide students with an understanding and practical knowledge of the business communication skills essential to any business venture.

Computer Skills
The aim of this module is to provide practical use of computer applications to create, manage and format data by developing word-processing, spreadsheet and presentation skills in a Windows Operating System (OS) environment.

Communication Science 1A
The aim of this module is to introduce you to the foundations of communication studies, the contexts of communication and the career opportunities for students of social sciences, creative arts, communications and humanities in general.

Communication Science 1B
The aim of this module is to introduce you to the foundations of communication studies, the contexts of communication, and the career opportunities for students of social sciences, creative arts, communications, and the humanities in general.

Critical Reasoning
The aim of this module is to facilitate the acquisition of the capabilities needed to think critically. These include identifying and analysing arguments, logical fallacies and the language used. In addition, the module also aims to apply these skills to specific disciplines.

Family Law
This module aims to provide you with a basic understanding of the workings of Family Law, a subfield of Private Law. Family Law regulates the legal relationships between members of a family unit and matters incidental thereto.

Introduction to Law 1A
The aim of this module is to provide you with the basis for your legal studies by introducing you to the background of our legal system, with an understanding of how legislation is created and introduced as law, the importance of our constitution as well as exposure to the foundations of the law. Within this module, we will discuss the different sources of our legal system and the operation of the law within society.

Introduction to Legal Research
Welcome to the introduction to legal research module. This module aims to introduce you to the theories and principles legal research within the context of South African legal system. The student should be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of different fields of South African law, define and distinguish between legal concepts, and provide a written or oral account of the work covered in various written and practical assignments.

As a result of learning about South African law and working with it, the student will demonstrate distinct competencies. In addition to written and print media, electronic technology will also be used, such as computers, tablets, and smartphones. The student will also be able to use electronic media for research purposes when looking at lecture content. This is in addition to content that the lecturer may prescribe outside of the students' general frame of legal reference. This is to broaden the students' awareness and knowledge of the law. To handle a legal task with authority, you must have faith in the process that will lead you to that result. Legal research is essential to legal practice. This is true regardless of practice, jurisdiction, or level of legal expertise. Legal research is critical because the right facts and knowledge can help prove or disprove a client's position on a particular issue. The use of these skills will not only improve your effectiveness in university assessment but will also prove valuable in your future career. Those who study law will continue to use legal research skills as soon as they graduate and are in practice.

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Module descriptors

Year 1

Law of Persons
The aim of this module is to introduce you to a subsection of Private Law that regulates the relationships between legal subjects. In this module, you will be introduced to the basic principles of the law of persons, legal personality, the different types of capacities and when does legal personality come to an end.

Philosophy 1
The aim of this module is to introduce you to the fundamental concepts and theories in the study of philosophy.

Political Science 1A
The aim of this module is to introduce you to the fundamental concepts and theories in the study of political science.

Political Science 1B
The aim of this module is to introduce you to the fundamental concepts and theories in the study of political science in regards to the branches of the government.

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Module descriptors

Year 2

African Customary Law
In this module, students will learn about the history of customary law's recognition and application in the South African legal system. The primary objective of this module contribution is to outline the historical context of African customary law in South Africa and to offer solutions for how it can be developed in accordance with the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. This contribution will consider how legal pluralism can coexist in building social cohesion through the application of both African customary law and common law, rather than having one legal system used to affirm or validate the other, as was the case during the colonial period. Because the Constitution is the supreme law in the new democratic South Africa, both African customary law and common law are on equal footing, it can be deduced that African customary law has a role to play in the twenty-first century in South Africa and beyond.

Applied Ethics
Applied ethics is a branch of ethics devoted to the treatment of moral problems, practices and policies in personal life, professions, technology and government. In contrast to traditional ethical theory (which is concerned with purely theoretical problems such as, for example, the development of a general criterion of rightness), applied ethics takes its point of departure in practical normative challenges.

Communication Science 2A
The aim of this module is to develop your awareness and understanding of communication within organisations. The extent to which communication methods and communication networks affect organisations will be probed, as well as how to deal with conflict within the organisational environment.

Communication Science 2B
The aim of this module is to develop your awareness and understanding of communication within organisations.

Constitutional Law
The aim of this module is to provide you with an introduction to South African Constitutional law with emphasis on the supremacy of the constitution, the bill of rights, the branches and levels of government and how they operate.

Criminal Law
The aim of this module is to provide students with the theoretical foundations of the general principles of Criminal Law. It furthermore addresses the pivotal role to communicate effectively both in class and through written work. At the end of the course, the student Students will acquire detailed knowledge and understanding of the general principles of criminal law, defences, forms and degrees of participation in criminal activity as well as a thorough knowledge and understanding of selected specific offences. Students will also be to undertake problem solving in the contexts of Criminal Law.

Cultural Studies
The aim of this module is to provide you with an informed understanding of the central perspectives related to the field of cultural studies, with particular focus placed on how power and influence is achieved and exerted in society.

Introduction to Data Analysis
The aim of this module is to help you gain proficiency in data analysis and to encourage you to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to assess data analyses presented in academic journals and the popular media.

Introduction to Coding for Humanities
The aim of this module is to help you understand how to design and write computational solutions for given problems.

Introduction to Research
The aim of this module is to introduce you to research methods for mass media. This module focuses on the key theoretical and practical elements of conducting research in the field of media studies focusing on mass media.

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⬢ Module descriptors

Year 2

Philosophy 2
The aim of this module is to introduce you to African philosophy, with a focus on the contributions made of renowned African philosophers and the philosophy of Ubuntu.

Political Science 2A
This module aims to provide you with the understanding and skills relevant to the fundamental theory of political science, with a specific focus on the international political economy (IPE).

Political Science 2B
This module aims to provide you with an understanding of, and the skills relative to, the fundamental theory of political science, with a specific focus on the international political economy (IPE).

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Module descriptors

Year 3

BA Law (WIL)
The aim is to ensure that students develop the ability to integrate their learning through a combination of academic and work-related activities.

NB: Each student will secure her / his own place to do WIL programme within the students' area of specialisation.

International Human Rights Law
The module introduces students to basic principles relating to human rights with a specific focus on the international human rights law. This module enables the students to obtain sufficient understanding, expertise, assertiveness and proficiencies to analyse and critically evaluate international human rights instruments directly pertaining to International Human Rights Law, to express legal arguments and to apply their knowledge to practical problems that may arise from the application of human rights, their enforcement mechanisms and remedies which are available.

Jurisprudence
The principal aim of this module is to nurture an appreciation of the core areas of jurisprudence and their significance and application to the South African social context. To that end, this course will scrutinize questions such as judicial decision-making as well as other issues that are not explored by 'traditional jurisprudence' such as the relationship between race and power and how these impact on the functioning of legal institutions. The ability to critically debate as well as communicate contemporary South African legal problems from a jurisprudential perspective will be addressed.

Law for Psychology Students
The aim of this module is to provide a broad perspective of the intersection of psychology and South African law. This overview will be achieved by studying the practical and theoretical intersections of the two fields.

In this course, you will be introduced to how psychological principles can be applied to legal issues in the 'real world'. A range of topics will be covered, including crime policing, psychological assessment for the courts, custody of children, evidence given by expert witnesses and the functioning of the South African legal system and its intersection with psychology.

Media Law
This module seeks to introduce you to the body of common law and statutory law regulating the print and electronic media in South Africa. It also takes a critical approach to the extent to which constitutional rights and values limit the way in which the media functions. There will be a focus on core concepts in the media industry such as freedom of expression, journalistic privilege, media liability, defamation and other related concepts. Furthermore, the module will review the limits on content that stem from defamation, privacy law, hate speech, statutory restrictions and national security restrictions. Finally, the module will evaluate various media-regulated practices like protection of sources, scandalising the court, sub judice, access to court documents and other related concepts.

Political Science 3A
The aim of this module is to provide you with the understanding, insight and skills relevant to the study of international relations. The module provides insight into the relations among states within the international system and issues dominating international politics.

Political Science 3B
The aim of this module is to provide you with the understanding, insight and skills related to the study of international relations. The module provides insight into the relations among states within the international system and issues dominating international politics.

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Year 3

Public International Law
The aim of this module is to empower you to apply the principles of public international law. It provides a comprehensive examination of public international law, with useful references throughout to current events, classic and contemporary cases and scholarship. This module will significantly depend on judgments and advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). This module will teach you what public international law is, the role it plays in the world today, how it can be used. You will also gain knowledge to help you better discern legal arguments within the flow of international news and reports.

Research Project
The overarching aim of this module is to guide you, as final-year students enrolled across various disciplines, through the process of producing an independently generated research project. By implementing a dual programme of teaching and supervision, this module seeks to equip you with the requisite knowledge and skills that will enable you to successfully conceptualise, formulate, design and implement research for the purpose of generating new knowledge.