

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LLB DEGREE

SUBMITTED BY THE STAKE HOLDER: LEGAL PROFESSION.

STATEMENT BY THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (LSSA)

AS PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR THE ATTORNEYS' PROFESSION.

1. In order for the profession to provide efficient and effective post-graduate professional training to an LLB graduate upon his / her entry to the profession, the LSSA needs the graduate to have acquired a reasonable level of proficiency with regard to:

1.1 Legal Knowledge in the learning fields

(Emphasis on content and standards, not names)

Category A: Core

- Civil procedure
- Constitutional and administrative law
- Criminal law and procedure
- Persons (including family)
- Interpretation of Statutes
- Language (practical and preferably English)
- Contracts
- Delict
- Evidence
- Property and things
- Succession
- Ethics
- Labour law
- Mercantile law
- Forms of business enterprise

Category B: Core electives (strongly recommended)

- Customary law
- Insolvency
- Business literacy
- Negotiable instruments
- Public International law

The above areas are generic. Needs should be specifically defined through a process of consultation on appropriate learning outcomes.

1.2 Core Generic Skills

- Literacy: oral and written
 - Numeracy
 - Research
 - Use of computers
 - Problem solving
2. The LSSA is of the view that if its needs are met, the current knowledge and skills shortcomings that are observed during training, in assessment and in the practice environment should be eradicated.
3. The foregoing is not intended as criticism but as a basis for negotiating an LLB that is acceptable to all stake holders, in 2008.


D GUSH AND M MSIMANG
Co -chairpersons of the LSSA

21/2/08

DATE



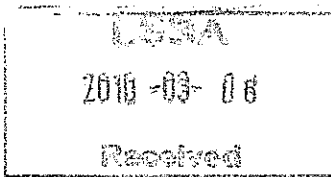
COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION



1 Quintin Brand Street
Persequor Technopark
Brummeria
Pretoria

PO Box 94
Persequorpark
0020

Tel: +27 12 349 3881
Fax: +2712 349 3932
E-mail: pickett.g@che.ac.za



March 2, 2010

The Law Society of South Africa
304 Brooks Street
P.O. Box 36626
Menlo Park 0102

BY FAX TO (012) 362-0969
Original follows by Post

Dear Sir / Madame:

Request for Submissions LLB Curriculum Project

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is undertaking research into the effectiveness of the LLB degree curriculum in South Africa. Legal education in South Africa underwent a major change in 1998, with the introduction of the four-year LLB degree. The change was intended to introduce improvements in curricula and to facilitate greater access to the legal profession. Some employers and academics have since expressed concern about the knowledge and skills of law graduates, but we don't know if these are isolated views or if the problem is widespread. In addition, law graduates follow a vast range of career paths that require different sets of knowledge and skills, and it seems there is only limited agreement on what the universities should be teaching. This study will provide an opportunity to reflect on the changes and the impact they have had, and to investigate what law graduates learn during their studies and the extent to which they are prepared for their different careers.

The Project includes a review of international research into legal education, an in-depth review of the LLB curricula offered at South African universities, interviews with key stakeholders and a large-scale electronic survey of legal professionals (attorneys, advocates, judicial officers, prosecutors, academics, etc) across the country. The results are expected to be published in the second half of 2010.

Many of your members will be contacted in the next few weeks, and invited to complete the survey. Individuals who have an interest in legal education can register with the Project on the CHE web site at <http://www.che.ac.za>.

We are now inviting legal organizations with an interest in these issues to make submissions, to assist and inform our work.

Submissions should address the issues outlined in Appendix A, and should reach the Council no later than April 9, 2010.

For further information, or to discuss the Project, please contact our Senior Researcher, Ms. Georgina Pickett, pickett.g@che.ac.za, tel: 012 349 3881, or myself.

Sincerely,



Dr. Judy Backhouse
Director, Advice and Monitoring
backhouse.j@che.ac.za
012 349 3890 (T)
012 349-3932 (F)

What Should Submissions Contain?

1. In preparing your Submission, you may wish to consider some or all of the following:
 - ❖ What is the main purpose of the LLB programme?
 - ❖ What knowledge, skills and abilities should LLB graduates have, and how important is each?
 - ❖ To what extent does the 4-year undergraduate LLB programme permit acquisition of the required knowledge, skills and abilities?
 - ❖ What are the challenges and difficulties facing the universities in adequately preparing LLB graduates for the different professional career paths?
 - ❖ What are the challenges and difficulties facing students enrolled in the LLB programme, which might impede their development of the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities?
 - ❖ What, if any, recommendations would your organization make to address the issues raised above?
2. Submissions should include anything else your organization deems relevant, including reference to other information which would be of assistance to the Project.
3. Brief information on the organization making the Submission should be included, along with the name of the person submitting the material, and his or her contact details.

Format

Submissions may be made in either hard-copy or electronic format. However, it would be appreciated if they could be submitted electronically, using either Microsoft Word or .pdf format, as that will greatly facilitate processing.

Publication

The CHE anticipates publishing the submissions, to inform and stimulate the debate. If your organisation desires to keep some or all of its Submission confidential, that must be clearly specified when the material is submitted. All requests for confidentiality will be respected.



Address for Submissions

Hardcopy submissions should be addressed to the Council on Higher Education, LLB Curriculum Project, P.O. Box 94, Persequorpark, Pretoria 0020, Attn: Georgina Pickett. Electronic submissions may be made via email, to pickett.g@che.ac.za.

Deadline

Submissions must be received no later than close of business on **Friday April 9, 2010**.

For Further Information

For further information, please contact Georgina Pickett, Senior Researcher, CHE, 012-349-3881 (T); 012-349-3932 (F); pickett.g@che.ac.za.