

## **SUBMISSION: CHE LLB Curriculum Project**

### **Main purpose of the LLB programme**

The LLB programme provides basic learning in law, foundational to various law-related professions.

### **Knowledge, skills and abilities that LLB graduates should have (and how important each is)**

An LLB graduate should have:

- knowledge of the key disciplines of South African law as a distinct field of learning, including the essentials of the history, sources and practical operation of the law;
- skills associated with the effective articulation and communication of legal solutions to problems governed by law. These include advanced language skills (oral and written), analytical skills and an understanding of the prevailing social and legal culture, and
- the ability to keep abreast of new developments in law, to research the sources of law effectively and to develop new and specialized expertise in one or more discipline of the law independently.

### **To what extent the 4-year LLB programme permits acquisition of the required knowledge, skills and abilities**

Due to the constraints of time, the widespread under-preparedness of university entrants and poor lecturer/student ratios in most institutions, it is possible for only a limited number of students to acquire sufficient levels of knowledge, skills and abilities within the 4-year programme. Law educators find it increasingly difficult to achieve the desired outcomes.

### **Challenges and difficulties facing the universities in adequately preparing LLB graduates for the different professional career paths**

The universities do not prepare their students for any specific career path. Students who do however acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities, can and do cope with the demands of the various post-graduate vocational and professional training programmes.

An additional challenge is to assert this viewpoint among all stakeholders.

### **Challenges and difficulties facing students enrolled in the LLB programme which might impede their development of the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities**

Skills and abilities required for entrance into the study of law are in many cases not sufficiently developed in the secondary education phase. On most campuses the opportunities to develop those skills and abilities during their university years are limited because of time constraints, large peer groups with concomitant limited individual access to teachers and full teaching/learning and assessment schedules.

**Recommendation for addressing the issues raised above**

Increased funding of legal education inter alia to improve the capacity of universities to obtain and retain sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified teaching and support staff.

**Further issues and recommendations**

There is a significant (though not unanimous) school of thought among the members of SALDA that the LLB should be an entirely postgraduate qualification.

Another approach advocated by some, is the introduction of not only an extra year of law studies, but for a general first year of humanities, social sciences or commerce subjects as a prelude to legal studies.

**About SALDA**

SALDA is an association of incumbent deans of South African faculties of law and heads of law schools. The members do not officially represent their institutions, but the Association is representative of the views and experiences of those responsible for the management of legal education in the country.

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