

COMPULSORY Practical vocational training for candidate legal practitioners - 2026



WHY CHOOSE LEAD?

With 30 years of experience, the legal education division of the LSSA understands the needs of a modern-day law practice.

LEAD offers a wide range of top-quality courses, seminars and certificate programmes designed to give legal practitioners the knowledge and skills to manage their practices successfully.

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Lifelong learning towards a just society

Compulsory Practical Vocational Training

Introduction

Before admission as a legal practitioner an LLB graduate must serve as a candidate legal practitioner with a practising legal practitioner for 24 months and attend a short, structured course approved by the Legal Practice Council (LPC). The course is currently as per reg 6 in terms of s 109(1)(a) of the Legal Practice Act 28 of 2014 (LPA). This compulsory course for candidate legal practitioners has been approved to prepare candidates for the admission examinations. The course consists of two modules:

- **Module I** is designed to assist students to prepare for the first paper in the Admission Examination.
- **Module II** is designed to assist students prepare for the second, third and fourth papers in the Admission Examination.

The course is presented on a full-time; part-time; and evening basis.

The entire compulsory course for candidate legal practitioners has to be completed within 36 months of the registration of the practical vocational training (PVT) contract in terms of r 6(a)(ii) or the participant will be required to repeat the programme.

Who may attend?

Registered candidate legal practitioners, during their terms of service under their PVT contracts or after completion of their PVT contracts. Preference is given to candidate legal practitioners in their final year of their PVT contracts.

Competency-Based Admission Examinations which is in terms of r 21.11

Candidate legal practitioners may complete the four papers of the examination in any sequence. The LPC prescribes examination rules.

Examination dates

The dates are prescribed by the LPC and candidates must confirm the dates on the LPC website or with the regional LPC office. Presently the competency-based admission examinations are usually in March and August of a year.

First paper:

High Court procedure; magistrate's court procedure; personal injury claims and criminal court procedure.

Second paper:

Administration of deceased estates, drafting of wills, succession.

Third paper:

General practice, including duties, ethics and functions of a legal practitioner.

Fourth paper:

Attorneys bookkeeping.

Full time course structure

The full-time programme comprises 23 days, presented in two sessions over the course of the year. Module I and Module II have been combined since 2022. A structured break is incorporated between the two modules to assist candidate legal practitioners in preparing for all papers of the Admission Examination. This break also provides candidates with sufficient time to complete all required online assessments before progressing to the next module.

Please note that, effective from 2026, the UP 1 and UP 2 full-time programmes will be delivered entirely in a virtual format via Microsoft Teams. This transition to a fully online delivery model aims to enhance accessibility and support flexible learning for candidates across different regions.

Part-time course (Modules I and II)

The part-time course will, as far as possible, be presented on one full day per week over a period of approximately five months.

Attendance of the part-time course assists candidate legal practitioners to prepare for all the papers of the Admission Examination session held during the third quarter of 2024. (An exception is the Cape Town (II) (part-time), which prepares candidates for the first quarter 2025 session of the Admission Examination). The advantage of the part-time course is that candidate legal practitioners are not absent from the office for extended, continuous periods. They also have time between sessions to apply the skills they have learnt, as well as to prepare for the next session. Below are the days of the week that the part-time course is presented, unless otherwise arranged.

- Pretoria – University of South Africa: Wednesdays
- Durban – University of KwaZulu-Natal: Thursdays
- Cape Town (I) – (part-time): Fridays
- Cape Town (II) – (part-time): Fridays
- Walter Sisulu University (evening programme)

Evening course in Johannesburg, Walter Sisulu University and Potchefstroom

The course is presented on five evenings per week over a period of three months. All the evening programmes will be presented every evening from Monday to Friday. All evening programmes will assist candidate legal practitioners with their preparation for the entire Admission Examination.

Each group for evening programmes will accommodate 100 candidate legal practitioners at a time. When each group reaches the targeted number, candidates will automatically be registered for the next evening programme.

NB: EVEN IF THE CANDIDATE HAS REGISTERED BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE, REGISTRATION WILL BE CAPTURED FOR THE NEXT GROUP.

Times

Full-time and part-time course: Training takes place from approximately 08:00 to 16:00.
Johannesburg evening course: Training takes place from approximately 17:00 to 20:30.

Material

Students receive the following from LEAD some three weeks after the registration closing date –

- confirmation of registration, daily programme and details of the venue;
 - instructions with regard to preparation; and
 - documentation in support of the lectures, practical exercises, notes, forms, etcetera.
- Should the student register late, the material will be available at the course centre.

Subjects

Module I

Practice and procedure

- Constitutional Practice;
- High Court Practice;
- Magistrate's Court Practice;
- Criminal Court Practice;
- Personal Injury Claims (blended learning); and
- Professional Legal Ethics.

Module II

Practice and procedure

- Wills and Estates;
- Drafting of Contracts;
- Matrimonial Law (blended learning);
- Labour Dispute Resolution;
- Alternative Dispute Resolution;
- Information and communications technology for practice, and associated aspects of cyber law (online); and
- Insolvency Practice (blended learning).

Legal practice

- Numeracy Skills (offered online);
- Introduction to Practice Management (offered online);
- Legal Costs;
- Legal Practitioners' Accounts Management; and
- Value-Added Tax.

Note: Legal Practitioners' Accounts Management is presented over one full week. LEAD arranges the subject in this manner as the subject should be concluded before the Admission Examination.

Introduction to practice management, forms of business enterprise, numeracy skills, customary law, information and communication technology for practice, and associated aspects of cyber law, financial consciousness, and e-commerce will be conducted online via the e-learning platform (e-Leader) for candidates to work through on their own. Material will be online and no hard-copies will be provided. Students must submit assignments to LEAD via e-Leader.

Catch-up classes

Catch-up classes can be arranged at a cost of R 250 per subject and the catch up form will be uploaded on the e-Leader platform.

For attendance of certain subjects only, Candidates and other interested parties may enroll for certain subjects. Contact the course coordinator for more details.

How to register

Register for this course online at www.LSSALEAD.org.za.

All participants must register for the course individually. See page 3 for banking details.

STEP 1: CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.

STEP 2: Payment should be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) only. Remember to upload your proof of payment in PDF format in step 2 on the online registration form.

STEP 3: Once you have successfully registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Tuition fees payable on registration.

Times indicated may be changed to accommodate local centre requirements.

Registration fees

Register for this course online at www.LSSALEAD.org.za.

All participants must register for the course individually.

Course modules/ subjects	Fees candidate legal practitioner	Fees non-registered candidate legal practitioner
All Programmes – Full-time, Part-time and Evening – Include Module I and Module II	R 6 500	R 7 950
Payment Arrangements for Course Enrollment		

In case you need to make payment arrangements, please contact the Course Coordinator at the centre where you wish to enroll. They will provide you with a Debt Acknowledgement Form.

Please note the following payment requirements:

- The completed form and a 50% deposit must be submitted before the closing date.
- The remaining balance must be paid in full before the start of Module 2.
- Should you need any assistance or further clarification, feel free to reach out to the relevant coordinator.

Language medium of course

Medium of instruction is English at all the centres. Please note that the language medium of the course is independent of the language medium at the relevant university. LEAD retains the right to change the language medium.

Course coordinators

Contact the following LEAD coordinators for all your course queries:

Nomsa Sethosa: Manager – Courses and Distance Education

Tel: +27 (0)12 441 4616

Course Centre:

- Special program (Module I and II)
- University of Pretoria (Eng 1 and 2 - programmes are offered virtually during the day)
- Johannesburg – School for Legal Practice (full-time)
- Port Elizabeth – Nelson Mandela University (full-time)

Milton Mogashane: Training Coordinator

Tel: +27 (0)12 441 4623

E-mail: Milton@LSSA.org.za

Course centres:

- University of Witwatersrand
- Evening 1
- Evening 2
- Evening 3
- Evening 4

Dodo Dubazane: Training Coordinator

Tel: +27 (0)12 441 4647

E-mail: Dodo@LSSALEAD.org.za

Course centre:

- Pretoria – University of South Africa (part-time)
- Walter Sisulu University (evening)
- Potchefstroom – University of North West (evening)

Jackson Ndhlovu: Training Coordinator

Tel: +27 (0)12 441 4628

E-mail: Jackson@LSSALEAD.org.za

Course centres:

- Bloemfontein – University of the Free State (full-time 1 and 2)
- Pietermaritzburg – University of KwaZulu-Natal
- Durban – University of KwaZulu-Natal (part-time)

Tamara Sihlangu: Course Coordinator

Tel: +27 (0)12 441 4673

E-mail: Tamara@LSSALEAD.org.za

Course centres:

- Cape Town (I) and (II) – Waalburg (part-time)
- Cape Town (full-time)
- Durban – University of KwaZulu-Natal (full-time)

Banking details

The registration fee must be paid in full on registration.

Bank details: First National Bank (FNB)

Branch: Pretoria

Branch Code: 251445

Account Holder: Law Society of South Africa

Account Number: 62009641079

Reference: (Surname and initials)

- Payment should be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) only. Remember to upload your proof of payment in PDF format in step 2 on the online registration form.
- Registration will be confirmed only if proof of payment for the full amount, has been received by LEAD.
- Invoice: If you require an invoice before registering, kindly contact the Registration Department at Annelie@LSSALEAD.org.za

Course directors

- **Bloemfontein** – University of the Free State: Mr EC Muller
- **Cape Town** – Waalburg: Dr MA Sulaiman
- **Durban (full-time)** – University of KwaZulu-Natal: Ms F Kader
- **Durban (part-time)** – University of KwaZulu-Natal: Ms M Govender
- **Johannesburg (full-time)** – University of the Witwatersrand: Mr D Dass
- **Johannesburg (part-time)** – School for Legal Practice: Ms C Singh
- **Johannesburg (Evening 2)** – University of the Witwatersrand: Mr D Dass
- **Pietermaritzburg** – University of KwaZulu-Natal: Ms C Badul
- **Port Elizabeth** – Nelson Mandela University: Ms D David
- **Potchefstroom** – North-West University: Ms M van Wyk
- **Pretoria** – University of Pretoria: Prof A Kok
- **Pretoria** – University of South Africa: Advocate NC Malatsi
- **Walter Sisulu University** – Ms N Ludidi

Code of conduct and satisfactory attendance

- 1 Candidate legal practitioners are expected to attend and participate actively in all training activities in a satisfactory manner. Mere physical presence does not constitute satisfactory attendance.
- 2 If a candidate legal practitioner is unable to attend a lecture for whatever reason, they will be marked as 'absent'. This includes sickness, family responsibility leave or duty at their firm. In exceptional cases, a 'catch-up' class can be arranged with the course coordinator at a fee.

Candidates should note the citation of *Ex parte Postma* 1999 (3) SA 762 (T) where Van Dijkhorst J commented on satisfactory attendance. 'The applicant was absent for four out of the 23 days of the course which was definitely not satisfactory attendance.'

- 3 LEAD suggests that candidate legal practitioners ensure that they have a 100% attendance in order to avoid complications with their application for admission as a legal practitioner.

- 4 Candidate legal practitioners should further note that late arrival and/or early departure is equal to non-attendance.
- 5 Candidate legal practitioners must –
 - prepare adequately for every training session;
 - conduct themselves in a courteous manner towards fellow attendees, instructors and course coordinators;
 - execute the prescribed evaluation procedure pertaining to the course; and
 - refrain from disrupting training activities in any way.
- 6 The LSSA regards any fraudulent actions regarding the attendance registers in a very serious light and severe action will be taken by the LSSA on proof of such misconduct by candidate legal practitioners. The LSSA reserves the right to terminate the attendance of an attendee who does not comply with the code of conduct. No attendance certificate will be issued under such circumstances.
- 7 Fraudulent entries in the attendance register is a serious breach of ethical conduct and will be reported to the LPC.
- 8 Attendance and preparation are key factors to successfully complete the programme.
- 9 Candidates are expected to be proficient in knowledge of the substantive law.
- 10 Due to severe time constraints, candidates are expected to do independent self-study prior to attending lectures.
- 11 Candidates must download the learner guide on e-Leader.

In terms of the LPC Rules, rights of appearance in Superior Courts by practitioners are subject to three years' post-admission, unless a trial advocacy certificate is obtained from a training provider accredited by the LPC.

NB: The new Admission Examinations curriculum has been fully incorporated into the 2026 study materials. The programme is designed to prepare candidates for both the four-paper and the five-paper examinations, ensuring alignment with the updated requirements of the Admission Examination framework.

Course Schedule 2026 (Closing dates for registration appear in red)

Town/city centre	Full time Module I & II	Part-time Module I & II	Evening Module I & II
Bloemfontein (I) University of the Free State	06/04/2026 – 29/05/2026 06/03/2026	–	–
Bloemfontein (II) University of the Free State	07/09/2026 – 30/10/2026 07/08/2026	–	–
Cape Town (I)	01/06/2026 – 05/08/2026 04/05/2026	06/02/2026 – 18/06/2026 16/01/2026	–
Cape Town (II)	–	14/08/2026 – 02/12/2026 17/07/2026	–
Durban University of KwaZulu-Natal	11/08/2026 – 13/10/2026 10/07/2026	12/02/2026 – 30/07/2026 16/01/2026	–
Johannesburg School for Legal Practice	01/06/2026 – 05/08/2026 01/05/2026	–	–
Evening 1 University of the Witwatersrand (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	–	–	09/02/2026 – 17/04/2026 16/01/2026
Evening 2 University of the Witwatersrand (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	–	–	20/04/2026 – 17/07/2026 20/03/2026
Evening 3 University of the Witwatersrand (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	–	–	03/08/2026 – 02/10/2026 03/07/2026
Evening 4 University of the Witwatersrand (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	–	–	05/10/2026 – 04/12/2026 04/09/2026
Pietermaritzburg University of KwaZulu-Natal	04/05/2026 – 03/07/2026 03/04/2026	–	–
Port Elizabeth Nelson Mandela University	04/05/2026 – 18/07/2026 03/04/2026	–	–
Potchefstroom North-West University (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	–	–	28/09/2026 – 27/11/2026 29/08/2026
Pretoria University of South Africa	–	04/03/2026 – 22/07/2026 27/02/2026	–
Pretoria University of Pretoria (English 1 - (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	01/06/2026 – 05/08/2026 01/05/2026	–	–
Pretoria University of Pretoria (English 2 - (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	07/09/2026 – 30/10/2026 07/08/2026	–	–
Walter Sisulu University (Evening programme) (programme offered virtually via MS Teams)	–	03/08/2026 – 02/10/2026 03/07/2026	22/06/2026 – 04/09/2026 22/05/2026