

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB) AWARDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (GOVERNMENT & LAWS) (BSOCSC [GOVT&LAWS] )**

*These regulations apply to graduates of the 3-year curriculum BSocSc(Govt&Laws) who were admitted in the academic year 2012-13 and commenced the two-year LLB curriculum in the academic year 2015-16 and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)*

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**Admission to the degree of Bachelor of Laws**

1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Bachelor of Laws under these regulations, candidates shall
    - (a) hold the degree of BSocSc(Govt & Laws) from the University of Hong Kong;
    - (b) apply for admission to the LLB curriculum within five academic years after obtaining the degree of BSocSc(Govt&Laws), unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law;
    - (c) comply with the General Regulations; and
    - (d) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.
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**Period of study**

2. The curriculum shall normally require four semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than two academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years, except with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.
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**Completion of the curriculum**

3. To complete the curriculum a candidate shall
    - (a) comply with the General Regulations;
    - (b) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
    - (c) satisfy the examiners in 12 credits of courses selected from the Department of Politics and Public Administration;
    - (d) satisfy the compulsory mooted requirement, unless otherwise exempted by the Head of the Department of Law; and
    - (e) satisfy the examiners in at least 114 credits of courses selected from the law courses offered in the syllabus of the 4-year LLB curriculum or the syllabus below (excluding those which the candidate has already taken and passed in his or her studies for the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree).
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### **Advanced standing**

4. The Board of the Faculty of Law may grant advanced standing to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully in an approved institution of higher education elsewhere in accordance with UG2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; provided that no candidate shall be eligible for such exemption without having earned at least 201 credits by passing courses in the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree at this University. Advanced standing credits granted will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate but shall not be included in the calculation of semester, year, or cumulative GPA nor be taken into consideration for the honours classification of the degree to be awarded.

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### **Selection of courses**

5. Candidates shall select their courses totaling 126 credits in the two years of study in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabus before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made during an add/drop period designated for each semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.

6. Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons and with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law. Withdrawal without permission will result in a fail grade in the relevant course(s).

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### **Specialisation**

7. Candidates who have obtained at least 48 credits of law electives listed under one of the specialisations in the syllabus of the 4-year LLB curriculum will be duly recognised by having that specialisation stated in the official academic transcript.

8. Candidates shall declare their choice of specialisation, if any, at the beginning of the first academic year of the 2-year LLB degree curriculum. Declaration made beyond the first semester of the second academic year of the 2-year LLB degree curriculum will not be considered.

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### **Progression in curriculum**

9. (a) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law, or except in the last semester of study when candidates may be required to take fewer than 24 credits to satisfy the outstanding curriculum requirements.

(b) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty of Law, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the

total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 144 credits for the normative period of study specified in paragraph 2, save as provided for in paragraph 9(c).

- (c) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 216 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in paragraph 2.

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### **Grades**

10. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Any course for which a candidate is given an F grade shall be taken into account in the calculation of the semester GPA (SGPA) and shall be recorded on the official academic transcript, and shall also be counted towards the cumulative GPA (CGPA) and the degree. A pass in the Mooting course shall be recorded on the transcript but shall not be counted towards the cumulative GPA (CGPA).

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### **Passing a course**

11. Candidates shall pass a course if the Board of Examiners is satisfied by the candidate's performance in the assessment.

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### **Assessment**

- 12. (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/ or any other assessable activities. Only satisfactorily completed courses will earn credits.
- (b) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner as prescribed in the curriculum regulations:
  - (i) undergoing re-assessment/ re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
  - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
  - (iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessment; or
  - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

- (c) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination/ assessment in an alternative course under (b) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, the year GPA and the cumulative GPA.
  - (d) A candidate shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which he or she has received a pass grade for the purpose of upgrading.
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### **Absence from an examination**

13. Candidates who are unable through illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

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### **Overall pass**

14. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4, a candidate who has passed courses totalling 126 credits in value shall be awarded the degree of LLB.

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### **Discontinuation of study**

15. Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they fail to satisfy the examiners in the examinations in accordance with UG4(e) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula as follows:

- (a) fail to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
  - (b) fail to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters; or
  - (c) exceed the maximum period of registration specified in paragraph 2.
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### **Award of the Degree**

16. (a) The degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) shall be awarded in five divisions in accordance with UG9 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula:

First Class Honours  
Second Class Honours Division One  
Second Class Honours Division Two

Third Class Honours  
Pass

- (b) The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Cumulative GPA scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying equal weighting:

<u>Class of honours</u>	<u>CGPA range</u>
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
<i>Division One</i>	3.00 – 3.59
<i>Division Two</i>	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

- (c) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Cumulative GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Cumulative GPA falls below the range stipulated in (b) above of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
- (d) A pass list of successful candidates shall be posted on Faculty notice boards and the student homepage.

**SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB) AWARDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (GOVERNMENT & LAWS) (BSOCSC [GOVT&LAWS])**

*These syllabus applies to graduates of the 3-year curriculum BSocSc(Govt&Laws) who are admitted to the 2-year LLB curriculum in the academic year 2015-16 and thereafter.*

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(The full 5-year curriculum is set out below for easy reference. Please consult the full regulations and syllabus of the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) curriculum for details. For the LLB degree, please also refer to the syllabus of the 4-year LLB for the full list and description of law courses available)

Unless otherwise determined by the Head of the Department of Law and/or the Head of the Department of Politics and Public Administration (as the case may be), the syllabuses of the 5-year double degrees of BSocSc(Govt&Laws) and LLB are as follows:

***First year (66 credits)***

***Faculty of Social Sciences (18 credits)***

Faculty of Social Sciences introductory electives (6 credits)  
POLI1003 Making sense of politics (6 credits)  
POLI1002 Fundamentals of Public Administration (6 credits)

***Faculty of Law (30 credits)***

LLAW1001 Law of Contract I (6 credits)  
LLAW1002 Law of Contract II (6 credits)  
LLAW1013 Legal research and writing I (6 credits)  
LLAW1008 The legal system (6 credits)  
LLAW1009 Law and Society (6 credits)

***Other courses (18 credits)***

CAES1901 Academic English for Social Sciences students (3 credits)  
CSSC1001 Practical Chinese language course for social sciences students<sup>1</sup> (3 credits)  
Two Common Core Courses<sup>2</sup> (12 credits)

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<sup>1</sup> To satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students should take the 3-credit CSSC1001 for social sciences students, except for

- (a) Putonghua-speaking students who should take CUND0002 Practical Chinese Language & Hong Kong (In *Putonghua*) or CUND0003 Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students; or
- (b) Students who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education/ who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take CSSC1001 can apply
  - (i) to take credit-bearing Cantonese or Putonghua language courses offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students; OR
  - (ii) to be exempted from the Chinese language requirement. If exempted, these students should take an elective course in lieu.

***Second year (75 credits)***

***Faculty of Social Sciences (36 credits)***

POLI0062 Political analysis (6 credits)  
Politics and Public Administration electives (18credits)  
Faculty experiential learning courses<sup>3</sup> (12 credits)

***Faculty of Law (36 credits)***

LLAW3093 Administrative law (6 credits)  
LLAW2001 Constitutional law (6 credits)  
LLAW1005 Law of tort I (6 credits)  
LLAW1006 Law of tort II (6 credits)

Law elective (6 credits)  
LLAW2017 Legal research and writing II (6 credits)

***Other course (3 credits)***

CAES1602 Writing solutions to legal problems (3 credits)

***Third year (60 credits)***

***Faculty of Social Sciences (30 credits)***

Politics and Public Administration electives (30 credits)

***Faculty of Law (30 credits)***

LLAW2003 Criminal law I (6 credits)  
LLAW2004 Criminal law II (6 credits)  
Law electives (18 credits)

***Fourth year (first year of LLB) (66 credits)***

***Faculty of Social Sciences (6 credits)***

Politics and Public Administration electives (6 credits)

***Faculty of Law (60 credits)***

LLAW2012 Commercial law (6 credits)  
LLAW2009 Introduction to Chinese law (6 credits)

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<sup>2</sup> The Common core courses should be chosen from two different Areas of Inquiry.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the Syllabus for the degree of BSocSc(Govt&Laws) para 2(B)(a) for the details of the requirements.

LLAW3001 Introduction to legal theory (6 credits)  
LLAW3187 Mooting and dispute resolution<sup>4</sup> (6 credits)  
LLAW2013 Land law I (6 credits)  
LLAW2014 Land law II (6 credits)  
LLAW3102 Evidence (6 credits)  
LLAW3097 Civil procedure (6 credits)  
LLAW3099 Criminal procedure (6 credits)  
Law electives (6 credits)

***Fifth year (second year of LLB) (60 credits)***

***Faculty of Social Sciences (6 credits)***

Politics and Public Administration electives (6 credits)

***Faculty of Law (54 credits)***

LLAW3094 Equity and trust I (6 credits)  
LLAW3095 Equity and trust II (6 credits)  
LLAW3105 Land law III (6 credits)  
LLAW3010 Business associations (6 credits)  
Law electives (30 credits)

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<sup>4</sup> This may be substituted by participation in Jessup mooting or any other international moot competition approved by the Head of the Department of Law. The Mooting course, which fulfils the requirement of paragraph 3(d), shall be graded with pass/fail and shall not be counted in the calculation of the CGPA.