

Legal Studies 559 Drafting Project

Study Guide

Welcome!

Legal Studies 559: Drafting Project is the fifth and final course in the Post-baccalaureate Diploma in Legislative Drafting (PBDLD) at Athabasca University. This course has been designed for individualized study, in which you study at your own pace, with online support and assistance from a project supervisor(s) who is an expert in legislative drafting, and online submission of your project for credit. The course must be completed within six months, although extensions may be requested. It can be completed in less time if you have the time to devote to it.

What does the course consist of?

Legal Studies 559: Drafting Project comprises three components that together make up a major drafting project. They are:

- **Analysis of drafting instructions (worth 15% of the course mark)**
- **A legislative plan (25% of the course mark)**
- **An original Bill or other draft legislation (60% of the course mark)**

The project must be based on instructions drawn up by a third party such as a law reform agency, government department, or other acceptable source which should be identified or the instructions document attached to the project proposal.

Project proposal

When considering possible projects keep in mind that it must be of a size and degree of complexity such that it can be completed within the course period of six months; it may consist of new legislation or amending legislation with some substantive new provisions.

Here are the steps you must take regarding your project proposal:

- Research possible projects for which drafting instructions have been prepared. Such instructions may take the form of a law reform report with specific recommendations for legislation that has not yet been implemented. If you wish to pursue that possibility you may refer to our Law Reform References website at: <http://pbdld.athabascau.ca/resources/law-reform-references.php> to find one.

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- Alternatively you might present your drafting on a current project in the office in which you work. In that case you would need to provide official approval of your proposal in writing together with any conditions of confidentiality that may be required.
- Consult with the Program Directors (<http://pbdlld.athabascau.ca/faculty/>) about your ideas for a project and request an instructor from the PBDLD Program (<http://pbdlld.athabascau.ca/faculty/>) to be appointed as your Project Supervisor. The Program Directors will appoint a suitable and available instructor as Project Supervisor and may also appoint a Co-Supervisor when that is considered advisable.
- If the project involves the law of a jurisdiction that is not familiar to the Project Supervisor, the Project Supervisor may request the appointment of a Co-Supervisor from the relevant jurisdiction. You will then be asked to suggest the name of an appropriate person to fill the role of Co-Supervisor. The Co-Supervisor may be a more senior drafter in the office in which you work or another legislative drafting expert from within the relevant jurisdiction. The Program Directors will confer with the Project Supervisor, communicate with the suggested Co-Supervisor, and confirm the Co-Supervisor's appointment.
- You must then prepare a detailed project proposal in consultation with your Project Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any). For the proposal template please contact the [PBDLD Office](#).
- Your Project Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any) will review and approve your proposal with such modifications as they may require and then send the approved proposal to the Program Director(s).
- At that point you will be permitted to officially enroll in the course and your six month contract period will begin to run.
- It is suggested that you not begin your project until you have been officially enrolled in the course.

Project submission

Your project must be submitted through the course website in three parts: analysis, legislative plan and draft legislation. Do not submit them all at once; allow time between submissions to receive your Project Supervisor's and Co-Supervisor's (if any) feedback.

Project marking

All parts of the project submitted for marking must be the student's original work unless specifically acknowledged to be the work of others and appropriately referenced. Only the student's work will be assessed.

The weighting of the three parts of the project is:

- Analysis of Instructions **15%**

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We will also require a listing of 4-5 relevant **keywords** for cataloguing purposes; however, please do not include these in your paper. You may either post them in the "Keywords" field on the DTPR Release form, or send them in the body of an e-mail to the PBDLD Office.

To access the electronic DTPR Release Form you will require a username and password, which you may obtain from the [PBDLD Office](#).

Grades for the final project will be released once the final, revised copy of the project has been received by the PBDLD Office. A copy will also be placed in the student's record, and if permission has been granted, in the Athabasca University Library (in a PDF file).

For information on the overall DTPR e-submission process please visit the following [website](#).

If requested by the student, the University will give permission for use and publication of the project by a law reform agency or use by government drafters for the purpose of legislation.

Remember to visit the [Convocation](#) website for details on how to apply for graduation and associated deadlines.