



Graduate Program in Law
post-baccalaureate diploma in

Legislative Drafting

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Post-baccalaureate diploma in legislative drafting (PBDLD)

Athabasca University is focused on the future of learning. Our open learning model has made us the nation's leading online distance education university. We're proud to serve more than 40,000 students across Canada and in 95 foreign countries worldwide.

We offer more than 850 courses in more than 55 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificate programs in a range of arts, science and professional disciplines.

The flexibility of our online distance learning programs allows you to achieve a quality university education on your own terms. It's the perfect way to experience all the advantages of a traditional university in a non-traditional setting. No matter where you find yourself in the world, AU is there with you.

Graduate Program in Law

→ Post-baccalaureate diploma in legislative drafting (PBDLD)

The Post-baccalaureate diploma in legislative drafting is an innovative online program offering an in-depth analysis of the principles of legislative drafting in common law jurisdictions. The program will provide you with thorough instruction in sound drafting practice, permitting you to gain or enhance your knowledge and skills in this highly specialized area and to undertake diverse and challenging drafting responsibilities with proficiency and confidence.

The program will be of interest if you are a resident of any Commonwealth country or the United States and your present or future work involves writing laws, bylaws, policies or similar documents; for example, if you are or a lawyer or other professional involved in such work and interested in obtaining a specialized qualification in the field.

→ The Program

The Post-baccalaureate diploma in legislative drafting program was pioneered by the Commonwealth of Learning, a leading international educational organization, and provides a qualification recognized worldwide. It is designed to serve your needs, whether you are

- hoping to enter a career in drafting
- early in a drafting career
- a seasoned professional wishing to enhance or refresh your skills

The program consists of five courses, each designed to be completed within six months. If you take one course at a time and complete each in six months (without obtaining any extensions), you can complete the program in two-and-a-half years.

However, because the courses are offered through individualized study, you can work at your own pace and complete the program faster if you are able to devote more time to the work.

The final course in the program (LGST 559) is an integrated project that will

challenge you to bring your newly acquired skills and knowledge to bear on an original legislative drafting project. Completing this project allows you to demonstrate that you have consolidated and integrated the knowledge that you brought to and gained during your course of studies.

Post-baccalaureate diploma in legislative drafting

Course Descriptions

LGST551 - Introduction to Legislative Drafting

This course will introduce students to legislative drafting. Students will develop drafting skills and familiarity with approaches to legislative drafting typical in common law jurisdictions. This course will focus upon the nature of legislation and the steps in the preparation of legislation in common law jurisdictions; legislative punctuation and grammar; and drafting legislative sentences.

LGST553 - Instructions and Compliance

Students will continue to develop their drafting skills and familiarity with approaches to legislative drafting typical in common law jurisdictions. This course will focus upon reviewing instructions for proposed legislation; examining the stages in the preparation of legislation; working with rules of interpretation and interpretation acts; and developing effective legislative styles.

LGST555 - Structuring Legislation I

Students will apply their developing drafting skills in more complex tasks. This course will focus upon working within the limits of constitutional and human rights; structuring legislation and developing legislative plans; preliminary provisions including titles, preambles, commencement and duration clauses; interpretation provisions, purpose clauses and application provisions.

LGST557 - Structuring Legislation II

Students will rely upon the foundation of drafting skills they have developed in previous courses and will pursue more complex studies linking various elements of legislative drafting into a more holistic legislative framework. This course will focus upon the drafting of final provisions; delegating powers; repeal and amendment; saving and transitional provisions; drafting schedules; and particular cases including compliance provisions and subsidiary legislation.

LGST559 - Drafting Project

Students will pursue an autonomous drafting project relying upon the foundation of drafting skills they have developed in all previous courses. This course will focus upon independent research and legislative drafting. In consultation with the instructor the student will review instructions for a new piece of legislation; prepare an effective legislative plan; and prepare and defend an original piece of legislation, bylaw or similar drafting related project.

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→ Individualized Study

You will complete the Post-baccalaureate diploma in legislative drafting online in an independent and self-directed learning environment, using online resources and other electronic material. Senior expert drafters will guide and assist you through one-on-one interaction. You will communicate with your instructors through internal course mail and submit assignments over the Internet. You will need a basic Internet connection to access course material and for communication.

Individualized study courses are offered throughout the year, beginning on the first of each month. Please note that you must register for your courses at least one month in advance of your intended start date.

The flexibility of individualized study through online and distance education allows you to continue your post-secondary education and professional development while maintaining your employment and remaining in your home community.

Admission Requirements

- To enter the Post-baccalaureate diploma in legislative drafting (PBDLD) program, you must meet one of the following qualifications:
 - hold a recognized law degree, equivalent to an LLB or JD, taught in English, that entitles you to practice law in the jurisdiction in which the degree was granted
 - obtain the consent of the program co-ordinator, based on an assessment of other approved or recognized university or college degree and a minimum of three years related work experience in drafting laws, policies, bylaws, regulations, collective agreements or comparable drafting duties
- If you wish to start a course before you receive confirmation of your admission, you may apply as a non-program student. You may take up to two courses as a non-program student and transfer them into the program upon admission.
- If you do not require the diploma qualification but wish simply to enhance your professional skills, you may take up to two courses as refreshers.

Contact Information

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Toll free: 1-800-788-9041 ext. 6792 (Canada and the US)
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Athabasca University, Canada's leading online and distance education university, serves more than 40,000 students in 95 countries worldwide. Our flexible program delivery methods allow you to obtain a quality post-secondary education without sacrificing professional, community or family commitments. Study anywhere and at any time. Receive all of the benefits of a traditional university education on your own terms.



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