

1. Why is Seneca College making changes to the Part-time Paralegal Diploma Program?

The Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) has implemented changes to the current standards for Paralegal Education in Ontario. These changes will impact the way Seneca College's Continuing Education Faculty will offer the Paralegal Program.

2. We are hearing the word "cohort" as one of these new guidelines. What exactly does that mean to us as students?

The LSUC has indicated that institutions may only offer the program with two intakes per year and that students will need to work through the program within a cohort model (students start the program together and finish the program together), taking a substantial number of courses each semester. Looking at the guidelines and the part-time student profiles it has been determined that at a minimum, 3 courses per semester would need to be adhered to.

3. Will the new curriculum look the same at all colleges?

The LSUC has accredited many educational institutions to offer paralegal programs where students may obtain various credentials. For example, College Certificates, Graduate Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees. The curriculum for these credentials may differ but all programs must deliver the core competency courses as set out by the LSUC.

4. What are these core competencies?

- Introduction to the Legal System
- Legal Computer Applications
- Communication Writing
- Legal Research and Writing
- Torts & Contracts
- Criminal/Summary Conviction Procedure
- Provincial Offences/Motor Vehicle Offences
- Administrative Law
- Employment Law
- Residential Landlord and Tenant Law
- Small Claims Court
- Tribunal Practice and Procedure
- Legal Accounting
- ADR – Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Advocacy
- Evidence and the Litigation Process
- Practice Management/Owning and Operating a Small Business

5. I am almost finished the program but need a Module 1 course. What can I do?

Students who find themselves in a position to complete the current program by the end of August 2015 but who are missing a Module 1 course are asked to contact pleinquiries@senecacollege.ca to have their names added to a list. Please indicate your name, student number and course that you require. We will then look at offering these courses again to existing students so that they may complete this requirement in time to graduate by the end of August, 2015.

6. I am looking to complete my program by August 2015, could I possibly take courses in the day time program?

The full-time day program has accepted a number of part time students into their winter courses and if you wish to explore this option for summer please contact the day program area

<http://www.senecacollege.ca/fulltime/PLE.html>

7. Can I take field placement while enrolled in my last module?

The procedure for field placement has always been that students would be required to complete Advocacy and Ethics before registering for field placement and not have more than 2 substantive courses outstanding at that time. This requirement is in place in order to ensure that students have the necessary skills, knowledge and education to be able to perform in-scope activities at any field placement providing the student with the necessary experience of a licensed Paralegal as mandated by the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC).

In recent conversations with the LSUC regarding the newly-published guidelines for educational programs they informed us that students would be able to take their field placement any time in their program and how this is accomplished is up to the individual institution. In order to assist students who reasonably may expect to graduate from the program prior to the September 1, 2015 date we are prepared to relax our procedures to allow students to apply for field placement this semester and the upcoming summer semester. Decision on granting this allowance will be made by the Field Placement Coordinator on a case-by-case basis. Students who have a large number of unfulfilled substantial core courses may be asked to procure their own placement.