

PARALEGAL DIPLOMA COURSE OUTLINE

© MARITIME BUSINESS COLLEGE

LAW SUBJECTS	210 HRS
Introduction to Canadian Business Law	
Forms of Business Organization	
Real Estate Law	
Tort Law	
Family Law	
Wills and Estates	
Civil Procedures	
Legal Research and Writing	
BUSINESS SUBJECTS	
Accounting Fundamentals	125 hrs
Business English	100 hrs
Human Relations	30 hrs
Occupational Health & Safety	20 hrs
Office Procedures	40 hrs
Records Management	20 hrs
COMPUTER SUBJECTS	
Keyboarding/MS Word	180 hrs
Windows	25 hrs
MS Access	50 hrs
MS Excel	50 hrs
MS Outlook	10 hrs
MS PowerPoint	25 hrs
Simply Accounting	50 hrs
Corel WordPerfect	50 hrs
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	985 hrs

(42 Weeks - Start Date: 7 September 2010 End Date: 24 June 2011)

**DIPLOMA AWARDED UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION
EVALUATION BY TESTING (WRITTEN & PRACTICAL) AND ASSIGNMENTS
PASS 70% IN ALL SUBJECT AREAS**

METHOD OF EVALUATION

*Students are tested regularly throughout the program in all subject areas. Pass for all tests and assignments is 70%. **Final marks:** cumulative average X 90% + 10% attendance. Minimum 80% overall attendance (cumulative average of attendance for all subjects) required for graduation with a diploma.*

*Students who fail a particular subject may write a supplemental exam during the final month of study. The supplemental exam is based on material covered over the entire course. These exams are graded pass or fail and the highest achievable mark is 70%. **Supplemental exams cannot be written in law.***

PARALEGAL PROCEDURES

Course Hours: 210

Course Description:

This course is designed and taught by practising lawyers and features course material selected by them. The program is intended to offer the students the necessary theoretical knowledge and practical skills to carry out and implement the necessary documentation to successfully conclude transactions associated with a legal firm. The focus of the curriculum is designed to provide the students with the confidence and ability to undertake, with the least amount of direction, the necessary steps to successfully conclude a client's retainer, whether it be in the areas of business law, estate matters, real estate, family law, or civil litigation. The course is a study of Canadian Business Law. The student is introduced to the Canadian legal system, its institutions and principles including sources of our law, the Canadian constitutional structure, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the courts. Emphasis is given to the following:

WILLS & ESTATE PLANNING: Topical areas include the devolution of property by will and intestacy, the function of a will, the consequences of dying without a will, property affected by a will and intestacy, the formal validity of wills required under the Wills Act, testamentary capacity, drafting wills, taking instructions, ascertaining the assets, choosing the beneficiary, executors and trustees, guardians, memoranda and will precedents, execution of the will, office procedures, claims that can be made against an estate, living wills and probate, and administration of the estate.

REAL ESTATE LAW: The course will undertake an in-depth study of the *Land Registration Act* including its purposes and objectives of providing certainty and simplicity in the proof of ownership interests in land, nature and extent of ownership guarantee by the Nova Scotia government, change from a names-based system to a parcel-based system, identification of land by Parcel Identification Number (PID), advantages of voluntary parcel conversion, mandatory parcel triggers for conversion (sale & non-family subdivisions), mortgage and security interests, exemptions from conversion (gifts, family sub-divisions, spousal transfers, confirmatory deeds), Registered Interests (fee simple, life estate and remainder interests and her Majesty the Queen), Benefits and Burdens, the Parcel Description Certification Application (PDCA) process and procedures, including its purpose, system steps, checklists, title search, preparation of Property Online Form 2, request for PID, amendments and corrections of PDCA, Application for Registration (AFR) for conversion of parcels to the Land Registration system, including AFR process and procedures, including its purpose, system steps, guidelines and bundle checklists, preparation of Property Online Form 6, AFR categories and Interest Holder Types, Abstract Summary Sheets, Revision Procedures, Municipal Deed Transfer Tax Rates, Affidavits of Value, Judgments, Judgment requirements and registration and recording process, Powers of Attorney and registration and recording process, Easements and Prescriptive Rights, Condominium process, Probate, Claims and Compensation. Students will be introduced to online resources of Property Online, including land ownership, property maps, assessment account information, Grantor Grantee Index (GGI) information, user site links and Property Online orientation, PID, property map, PDCA and AFR tutorials and sample forms.

CORPORATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS: The forms of business organization, including sole proprietorship, partnership, and limited companies, review of all steps and preparation of documents utilized in the

incorporation process under the *Nova Scotia Companies Act*, and management and operation of the company.

FAMILY LAW: Topical areas include the review of the steps and documents used in proceedings respecting the *Divorce Act*, interim proceedings, matrimonial property, custody in access, child support, maintenance, and separation agreements.

TORT LAW: Topical areas include the development of the law of tort, the basis of liability, the elements of a tort action, intentional torts, negligence and professional liability, the assessment of damages, heads of damages, general non-pecuniary, loss of future income, cost of future care, special damages, interest, costs, and settlement documents.

CONTRACT LAW: Topical areas include the general principles of the law of contract, specialty form contracts, including principal and agent, employment and insurance, and guaranty.

CIVIL PROCEDURES: Topical areas include the steps and documents in the commencement, conduct, prosecution or defence of civil litigation including the Originating Notice & Statement of Claim, Defence, Counterclaim, Cross Claim, Third Party Claim, service of documents, exchange of documents, discovery examination and interrogatories, and conduct of the trial.

LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING: Topical areas include review of legal terminology, types and sources of research materials, computer assisted research, and preparation of legal memoranda.

Course Goal:

To provide the student with a practical working background in paralegal procedures.

To prepare the student to be able to perform a wide variety of legal duties.

ACCOUNTING FUNDAMENTALS

Course Hours: 125

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the basic principles of accounting and how they apply to business. Emphasis is placed on the accounting cycle, which includes transaction analysis, journalizing, posting, adjusting entries, trial balance, statement preparation, and closing entries. Additional topics include merchandising activities, special journals (sales, purchases, etc.) and subledgers, petty cash and banking activities, receivables, and payroll. Extensive hands-on accounting exercises throughout the course help students to acquire the problem-solving skills needed to apply accounting principles to real-world applications.

Course Goals:

To provide students with a solid understanding of accounting principles, which can be applied to a variety of business settings.

To provide students with the accounting knowledge required to learn and use various computerized accounting software packages.

BUSINESS ENGLISH

Course Hours: 100

Course Description:

This course provides comprehensive up-to-date and relevant instruction in the correct use of English Grammar. It will help the student develop proficiency in punctuation, capitalization, and number-style skills.

Course Goal:

To learn how to communicate effectively, for how we communicate with our friends differs from how we communicate with our bosses and clients--or, at least, it should if we hope to be regarded as professionals in the workplace.

HUMAN RELATIONS

Course Hours: 30

Course Description:

This course focuses on building skills to improve and maintain both horizontal and vertical relationships through effective communication in four areas: verbal, non-verbal, listening, and writing. We examine how to receive and convey clear, meaningful and unemotional messages, along with the role of perception in communication.

Course Goal:

To develop an appreciation for diversity (personal, professional, cultural), conflict management, dealing with difficult people, business ethics and etiquette, recognizing and coping with stress, how to be an effective team-player, problem-solving and decision-making, as well as maintaining a balance in and between one's personal life and professional life.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Course Hours: *20 (Includes 8 hrs for EFA/CPR)

Course Description:

Students are introduced to the *Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act*, their rights and responsibilities under the Act, along with potential hazards encountered by office personnel and precautions to ensure safety. Ergonomic procedures for sitting, lifting, and equipment handling are discussed, and students also learn strategies for dealing with anger in the workplace. **In keeping with the Maritime Business College OHS Policy, all full-time students who do not hold a valid Emergency First Aid CPRA Certificate will receive an Emergency First Aid course with CPR training.*

Course Goal:

To provide students with the information necessary to ensure their safety and minimize risks while employed.

To insure every student is certified in Emergency First Aid and CPR.

OFFICE PROCEDURES

Course Hours: 40

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the modern business world and focuses on managing office systems and procedures including: document processing, management of work, time, and resources, incoming/outgoing mail, front-line reception, travel arrangements, meetings and conferences, and employment strategies. Students are prepared for entering the business world and will develop and learn to use skills to adapt to the ever-changing office environment and to solve business problems. ***Machine Transcription*** techniques are also taught

Machine Transcription: The transformation of dictated words into document form is both a skill and an art. The transcriptionist must coordinate eyes, ears, hands and feet to produce professional looking letters, memos, and reports in proper format. Throughout this course, the student is provided with the knowledge, tips, and tricks for accomplishing this goal. Students will learn to operate a transcription machine and will have plenty of opportunity to transcribe actual dictation, applying the knowledge learned.

Course Goal:

To provide the student with an understanding of the interrelationship between people, equipment (technology), and procedures.

To equip the student with the skills necessary to become a competent and successful office employee.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Course Hours: 20

Course Description:

This course teaches critical skills for the efficient storage and retrieval of paper documents. The course begins with the standardized filing rules and procedures consistent with recommendations of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators, Inc. (ARMA). The rules and procedures are then applied through the completion of both text and hands-on exercises divided into five major segments: alphabetic, numeric, geographic, subject, and alphanumeric filing

Course Goal:

To learn to apply standardized filing rules and procedures in an office environment.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Students must have a working knowledge of computers and computer software to successfully operate a small business or be employable in today's job market. The following software applications are essential in almost any business environment.

KEYBOARDING & DOCUMENT PROCESSING WITH MICROSOFT WORD

Course Hours: 180

Course Description:

Keyboarding techniques, methods, and drills along with formatting business documents in Microsoft Word.

Course Goal:

To develop keyboarding skills and minimum typing speed of 55 wpm.
To learn word processing with MS Word and become familiar with the program's features.
To learn how to format business correspondence and reports.

WINDOWS

Course Hours: 25

Course Description:

Hands-on computer training with step-by-step instruction to learn the functions and techniques of the Windows operating system. Students begin with basic terminology and work through a series of labs and review exercises to master the system.

Course Goal:

To learn the commands and understand the concepts of the Windows operating system.

MICROSOFT ACCESS

Course Hours: 50

Course Description:

Hands-on computer training with step-by-step instruction in Microsoft Access, a relational database management system. Students learn how to plan and create databases, enter data, edit data, design forms, carry out data analysis, design reports, preview, and print.

Course Goal:

To learn how to design, create, and manage a computerized database using Access and appreciate the many advantages this software brings to the office environment.

MICROSOFT EXCEL

Course Hours: 50

Course Description:

Hands-on computer training with step-by-step instruction in Microsoft Excel, electronic spreadsheet. Students learn how to create and print well-designed spreadsheets, and how to edit and format data, perform calculations, and create charts.

Course Goal:

To learn to design, create, edit, and enhance spreadsheets with Excel.

MICROSOFT POWERPOINT

Course Hours: 25

Course Description:

Wherever the meeting--boardroom, classroom, courtroom--this is the modern way to captivate an audience and effectively make your point. Students receive hands-on computer training, with step by step instruction, to learn the features of Microsoft PowerPoint graphics presentation software.

Course Goal:

To learn to design, create, edit, and enhance graphics presentations on the computer.

MICROSOFT OUTLOOK

Course Hours: 10

Course Description:

To familiarize students with the many features of Outlook such as setting up a calendar to plan meetings and appointments, using the contact feature to store names, addresses, and other data, and accessing notes where you can formulate ideas and save reminders.

Course Goal:

To show the students how to use a personal information management system to organize their schedules and keep track of contacts.

SIMPLY ACCOUNTING

Course Hours: 50

Course Description:

Hands-on computer training in the most widely used small business accounting software. Features include General Ledger, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable (with Purchase Order tracking), Payroll, Inventory, and Project Costing.

Course Goal:

To be able to apply the fundamental accounting skills learned with Simply Accounting Software to manage the accounting needs of an office or small business.

COREL WORDPERFECT

Course Hours: 50

Course Description:

Hands-on computer training in the theories and practical applications of one of the most popular word processing programs. Step-by-step instruction and exercises ensure students have a thorough knowledge and skill in document preparation and formatting. In addition to learning the technical features of WordPerfect, students are required to compose so that they not only learn to produce but also write and edit.

Course Goal:

To have mastered and be able to apply most of the features and commands of Corel WordPerfect.
To become adept in word processing techniques.

