REGULATIONS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

These regulations apply to students admitted to the PCLL curriculum in the academic year 2016/17 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

PCLL1. Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL), a candidate

(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and

(b) shall either

   (i) hold a degree with at least a second class honours degree or equivalent in law¹ from a university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or

   (ii) pass the Common Professional Examination of Hong Kong or of England and Wales and satisfy this University as to the candidate's competence in the required law subjects¹ provided that the candidate has also obtained a degree with at least a second class honours or equivalent in a discipline; and

(c) if applying on the basis of a degree in law of a university or comparable institution other than this University, the City University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong under (b)(i) above, shall produce evidence of sufficient academic attainment and may be required to pass a qualifying examination; and

(d) shall, notwithstanding General Regulation G2(b), achieve a band score in International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

   (i) within a specified period before application for admission²; and

   (ii) at the level that may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of the Faculty of Law.

¹ A candidate's degree must be in common law and will normally be from a Hong Kong or Commonwealth institution. A candidate must also demonstrate competence in the following required law subjects or subject areas (or subjects recognised as their equivalent): Constitutional law, Contract, Criminal law, Land law, Tort, Equity and Trusts, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Business Associations, Commercial Law, Hong Kong Constitutional Law, Hong Kong Legal System and Hong Kong Land Law.

² An IELTS band score is valid for three years.
PCLL2. Period of study

(a) The curriculum for the PCLL shall normally require (i) two semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than one academic year, or (ii) four semesters of part-time study, extending over not fewer than two academic years, and, in both cases, shall include any assessment to be held during each semester.

(b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of (i) two academic years of full-time study or (ii) three academic years of part-time study, except with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.

PCLL3. Curriculum requirements

(a) To complete the curriculum a candidate shall

   (i) follow instructions and attend classes as required;

   (ii) satisfactorily complete all coursework requirements including participating in such practical exercises and visits as may be organized as part of the curriculum; and

   (iii) pass in courses totalling 72 credits in the manner specified as follows:

      1. 45 credits of Compulsory Core Practice Areas;

      2. 27 credits of Electives as selected by the candidate and approved by the Department of Professional Legal Education; and

(b) Full-time candidates must satisfactorily complete the curriculum within two consecutive semesters that they have registered, whereas part-time candidates shall satisfactorily complete the curriculum specified for the first year before being permitted to commence the curriculum for the second year.

PCLL4. Assessment

(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. In each course, the examiners may take into account a candidate's performance in all aspects mentioned in PCLL3(a) above. Only passed courses will earn credits

(b) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
(c) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

**PCLL5. Re-assessment, repeat and discontinuation**

(a) A candidate who has failed to pass in any course(s) for which he / she has registered at first attempt shall be permitted to attend a re-assessment / re-examination in the failed course(s).

(b) Subject to the provisions of PCLL5(c) and (d),

(i) a full-time candidate who has failed to pass in any course and has attended a re-assessment / re-examination under PCLL5(a) without passing, the Board of Examiners shall recommend repeat of the curriculum and such candidate shall not be eligible for any mark of distinction.

(ii) a part-time candidate in his/her first or second year who has failed to pass in any course and has attended a re-assessment / re-examination under PCLL5(a) without passing, the Board of Examiners shall recommend repeat of the year and such candidate shall not be eligible for any mark of distinction.

(c) (i) A full-time candidate who, after repeating the curriculum pursuant to PCLL5(b)(i) has failed to pass in any course may be permitted to attend a re-assessment / re-examination.

(ii) A part-time candidate who, after repeating the relevant year of study pursuant to PCLL5(b)(ii), has failed to pass in any course of that year may be permitted to attend a re-assessment / re-examination.

(d) A candidate who has

(i) attended the re-assessment / re-examination pursuant to PCLL5(c) without passing; or

(ii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in PCLL3(b),

shall be recommended discontinuation of studies unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law to repeat pursuant to PCLL5(b).

**PCLL6. Absence from examination**

Candidates who are unable through illness to be present at any assessment pursuant to PCLL4(a) 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 as first attempt, and the
provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt pursuant to PCLL4 and PCLL5 shall apply accordingly.

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**PCLL7. Requirements for graduation**

To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, candidates shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, and complete the curriculum within the maximum period of registration as specified in these regulations and the syllabus of the curriculum.

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**PCLL8. Distinction**

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction for the whole examination as determined by the Board of Examiners, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's certificate.
SYLLABUS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS

STRUCTURE

Candidates are required to complete eight 9-credit courses, totalling 72 credits, including (i) 45 credits of compulsory core practice areas and (ii) 27 credits of electives in accordance with the regulations for this postgraduate certificate programme:

Compulsory Core Practice Areas

- PCLL8010 Civil Litigation (9 credits)
- PCLL8050 Criminal Litigation (9 credits)
- PCLL8020 Corporate and Commercial Transactions (9 credits)
- PCLL8030 Property Transactions I (9 credits)
- PCLL8040 Professional Practice and Management (9 credits)

Electives Practice Areas

(Candidates are required to choose three practice areas from the list below)
- PCLL8100 Trial Advocacy (9 credits)
- PCLL8101 Commercial Dispute Resolution (9 credits)
- PCLL8102 Personal Injury Litigation (9 credits)
- PCLL8103 Matrimonial Practice and Procedure (9 credits)
- PCLL8104 Property Litigation (9 credits)
- PCLL8105 Drafting Commercial Agreements (9 credits)
- PCLL8106 Property Transactions II (9 credits)
- PCLL8107 Listed Companies (9 credits)
- PCLL8108 China Practice (9 credits)
- PCLL8109 Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning (9 credits)
- PCLL8110 Use of Chinese in Legal Practice (9 credits)
- PCLL8112 Employment Law and practice (9 credits)

NOTE: Not all Elective Practice Areas may be offered in every academic year and a candidate may choose one only of areas which are taught on the same day. Places in each course are limited. In the event of over-subscription to a course, places will be awarded through ballot.