



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Legal Research Skills For Practical Problem Solving Training

Law, Military Science and Security / Justice in Society

Unit Standard 116090 · NQF Level 7 · 14 Credits · 11 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips legal professionals and para-legals with practical legal research skills to solve real-world problems efficiently. Learners will master techniques for locating, evaluating, and applying legal sources, including statutes, case law, and regulations, within the South African legal context. The focus is on developing a systematic approach to legal problem-solving that enhances accuracy and saves time.

Category	Law, Military Science and Security
Subfield	Justice in Society
Unit Standard	116090
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 7 · 14 Credits
Duration	11 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply systematic legal research methods to identify relevant legal principles for a given problem.
- Analyze legal sources, including legislation, case law, and textbooks, to extract applicable rules and precedents.
- Evaluate the authority and relevance of legal sources to support sound legal reasoning.
- Design a structured legal argument or opinion based on researched findings.
- Implement ethical and efficient research practices, including proper citation and referencing.
- Demonstrate the ability to solve a practical legal problem by synthesizing research outcomes.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Legal Research and Problem Solving

- Overview of the South African legal system
- Sources of law: Constitution, legislation, common law, case law
- Introduction to legal research methodology
- Legal problem-solving models: IRAC, FIRAC
- Ethical considerations in legal research
- Practical exercise: Identifying legal issues in a scenario

Day 2: Primary Sources of Law – Legislation and Regulations

- Structure of legislation: long title, preamble, sections, schedules
- How to find legislation: Government Gazette, official websites
- Interpretation of statutes: literal, purposive, and contextual approaches
- Delegated legislation: regulations, proclamations, notices
- Practical exercise: Finding and analysing a relevant Act

Day 3: Primary Sources of Law – Case Law and Precedent

- Structure of a judgment: headnote, facts, issue, reasoning, order
- Law reports: SA Law Reports, All SA, specialised reports
- Citation formats: year, volume, series, page
- Distinguishing ratio from obiter
- Practical exercise: Reading and summarising a case

Day 4: Secondary Sources – Textbooks, Journals, and Encyclopedias

- Types of secondary sources: textbooks, journal articles, loose-leaf services
- Legal encyclopedias: LAWSA, Halsbury's Laws of SA
- Law journals: SALJ, THRHR, De Jure
- Finding articles via databases and indexes
- Practical exercise: Using secondary sources to clarify a legal concept

Day 5: Legal Research Tools and Databases

- Overview of databases: Sabinet, LexisNexis, Juta, Google Scholar
- Search strategies: natural language vs. Boolean
- Using citators to check case validity
- Reference management tools: Zotero, Mendeley
- Practical exercise: Conducting a targeted database search

Day 6: Legal Research for Statutory Interpretation

- Intrinsic aids: definitions, headings, schedules
- Extrinsic aids: Hansard, Law Commission reports
- Constitutional interpretation: Section 39 of the Constitution
- Canons of construction: *eiusdem generis*, *expressio unius*
- Practical exercise: Interpreting a complex statutory provision

Day 7: Legal Research for Case Analysis and Argument

- Techniques for comparing and contrasting cases
- Handling conflicting precedents: overruling, distinguishing
- Using case law to support both sides of an argument

- Structuring a legal argument with authority
- Practical exercise: Building an argument from a set of cases

Day 8: Legal Problem Solving – Applying Research to Scenarios

- Step-by-step problem-solving process
- From facts to legal issues: issue spotting
- Formulating research questions
- Integrating legislation and case law
- Practical exercise: Solving a mock client problem

Day 9: Advanced Research – Constitutional and Human Rights Law

- Constitutional research: Section 39(1) and international law
- Finding Constitutional Court judgments
- Bill of Rights: structure and interpretation
- Limitation analysis: Section 36
- Practical exercise: Researching a constitutional question

Day 10: Practical Integration – Research Project

- Project brief: a practical legal problem
- Research plan and time management
- Drafting a legal memorandum: structure, style, citations
- Peer review and feedback session
- Revision and finalisation of the research product

Day 11: Ethical Research, Citation, and Professional Practice

- Ethics in legal research: confidentiality, impartiality
- Citation styles: footnotes, bibliography, referencing
- Plagiarism: definition, consequences, prevention
- Keeping up to date: alerts, journals, CPD
- Course wrap-up and evaluation

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **14 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 7**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 44,200.00	R 44,200.00
1	In-House	R 57,400.00	R 57,400.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 66,200.00	R 66,200.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
11 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
11 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
12 Aug 2026	26 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
13 Aug 2026	27 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
14 Aug 2026	28 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
17 Aug 2026	31 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
18 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 116090) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call **+27 12 004 8389** or WhatsApp **+27 65 077 6310** and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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