



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

Expert Witness Testimony In South African Courts Training

Law, Military Science and Security / Safety in Society

Unit Standard 117435 · NQF Level 7 · 15 Credits · 12 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips professionals with the knowledge and skills to serve as expert witnesses in South African courts. Participants will learn the legal framework, ethical obligations, and communication techniques required to provide credible and effective testimony.

Category	Law, Military Science and Security
Subfield	Safety in Society
Unit Standard	117435
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 7 · 15 Credits
Duration	12 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply the rules of evidence and procedure for expert witnesses in South African courts.
- Analyze the ethical and professional responsibilities of an expert witness.
- Evaluate the admissibility and weight of expert evidence.
- Design a clear and concise expert report that meets court requirements.
- Implement effective communication strategies during examination-in-chief and cross-examination.
- Demonstrate the ability to present complex technical information in a manner understandable to the court.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is designed for professionals who may be called upon to give expert evidence, including engineers, accountants, medical practitioners, forensic specialists, and other subject matter experts.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to the South African Legal System and Expert Witness Role

- Overview of South African courts: Magistrates, High, Supreme Court of Appeal, Constitutional Court.
- The adversarial system and its implications for expert witnesses.
- Definition of an expert witness vs. ordinary witness.
- Legal basis: Section 3 of the Law of Evidence Amendment Act 45 of 1988.
- Ethical obligations and code of conduct for expert witnesses.
- Importance of impartiality and independence.

Day 2: Legal Principles of Admissibility and Relevance

- The test for admissibility: relevance, necessity, and reliability.
- The role of the court as gatekeeper.
- Comparison with US standards: Frye vs. Daubert.
- Key South African cases: S v Mthembu, S v Shabalala.
- Pre-trial disclosure requirements.
- Consequences of inadmissible evidence.

Day 3: Preparing the Expert Report

- Required elements: qualifications, methodology, findings, conclusions.
- Formatting according to Uniform Rules of Court (Rule 36(9)).
- Language and tone: avoiding jargon and bias.
- Referencing and appendices.
- Confidentiality and privilege considerations.
- Reviewing and revising the report.

Day 4: Evidence Gathering and Methodology

- Scientific method and expert opinion.
- Data collection techniques relevant to the field.
- Chain of custody and evidence integrity.
- Documentation and record-keeping.
- Peer review and validation.
- Ethical considerations in evidence gathering.

Day 5: Communication Skills for Expert Witnesses

- Principles of clear communication.
- Structuring oral evidence: introduction, explanation, conclusion.
- Handling questioning: direct examination vs. cross-examination.
- Use of demonstrative exhibits and technology.
- Non-verbal communication and courtroom demeanor.
- Dealing with hostile or confusing questions.

Day 6: Direct Examination and Examination-in-Chief

- Role of the legal representative in direct examination.
- Techniques for presenting expert testimony.
- Structuring answers: the 'tell-show-tell' method.
- Handling objections during testimony.
- Examples of effective direct examination.

- Practice session: mock direct examination.

Day 7: Cross-Examination Skills and Strategies

- Purpose of cross-examination: testing credibility and evidence.
- Common tactics: attacking qualifications, methodology, bias.
- Staying calm and focused.
- Answering techniques: concise, honest, non-defensive.
- Admitting limitations without undermining credibility.
- Mock cross-examination exercises.

Day 8: Ethics and Professional Conduct

- Code of conduct for expert witnesses in SA.
- Duties: overriding duty to the court, impartiality.
- Conflicts of interest: disclosure and recusal.
- Confidentiality vs. disclosure.
- Sanctions for misconduct: contempt, perjury, professional discipline.
- Case studies on ethical dilemmas.

Day 9: Specialised Evidence: Forensic, Medical, and Technical

- Forensic evidence: DNA, fingerprints, ballistics.
- Medical evidence: causation, damages, disability assessments.
- Technical evidence: engineering, accounting, IT.
- Presenting statistical and probabilistic evidence.
- Challenges: explaining complex concepts to laypersons.
- Field-specific case law examples.

Day 10: Practical Courtroom Simulation

- Pre-trial preparation: review of report and evidence.
- Direct examination simulation.
- Cross-examination simulation.
- Judge's evaluation and feedback.
- Debriefing session: strengths and areas for improvement.
- Repeat simulation with different scenarios.

Day 11: Advanced Topics: Novel Evidence and Emerging Trends

- Novel scientific evidence: new methodologies and reliability.
- Digital evidence: cyber forensics, electronic documents.
- Social media evidence: authentication and relevance.
- Artificial intelligence and expert testimony.
- Virtual courtrooms and remote testimony.
- International trends and comparative law.

Day 12: Integration, Review, and Assessment

- Review of key concepts from Days 1-11.
- Final assessment: written test and practical demonstration.
- Feedback and individual coaching.
- Developing a personal expert witness toolkit.
- Continuing professional development (CPD) requirements.
- Resources: professional associations, further reading.

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 **15 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 7**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 47,100.00	R 47,100.00
1	In-House	R 61,300.00	R 61,300.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 70,700.00	R 70,700.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

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

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 117435) 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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