ADVICE ON ADMISSION INTO THE FACULTY OF LAW

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Dean of Law
• The following information is for the general assistance of persons seeking entry into the Cave Hill Faculty of Law.

• To the extent that there is any inconsistency between the information provided in this document, on the one hand, and the Faculty’s Regulations or the University’s Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations, on the other hand, the latter shall apply.
REGULAR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

• The normal entrance qualification for the Faculty of Law is the basic Matriculation standard of FIVE subjects, at least TWO of which must be at ‘A’ level or equivalent level (i.e., CAPE I and II in the same subject area would equate to one ‘A’ level subject), the remainder at CXC general.

• There are no special subject requirements in addition to those necessary for Matriculation.

• Note that the competition for places in the Faculty is such that very high “A” level grades/Cape I and II or very high averages in undergraduate degrees are required for an applicant to stand a reasonable chance of gaining admission.
SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

• The Faculty is prepared to consider applications from persons who do not strictly satisfy Matriculation standards but who have equivalent academic qualifications.

• In particular, mature applicants over 21 who have shown evidence of academic and professional achievement can be considered. (Reference should be made to the Regulations Governing Matriculation in the University Regulations). This may provide an opportunity to read for a Law degree for those who have already been associated with the practice of law in some way - e.g. clerks of the courts, legal assistants, civil servants, police officers and so on.

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WHAT IF I AM NOT ADMITTED?

• Every year the Faculty receives queries from students who applied to be admitted into the Faculty of Law but who were unsuccessful in the first instance. These queries tend to be about how to obtain future admission into the Faculty.

• There are three potential routes for such entry (see following slides).

• However please note that in all cases admissions for the LLB programme are determined annually, with deferrals not ordinarily being possible. Places are allocated on a competitive basis to top applicants each year, up to our maximum number of available spaces.
THREE ROUTES TO ADMISSION

• Three potential routes to get into the Faculty of Law (for previously unsuccessful applicants) are as follows:
  1. By transferring from another UWI Faculty after successfully completing their first year (with a good GPA), or
  2. After successfully completing a good quality Associate Degree, or
  3. After successfully completing a good quality BA or BSc degree in another Faculty.

• For more details please see the following slides.
ROUTE 1

• **ROUTE 1** – after completing Level I in another Faculty of UWI – students may apply for a transfer from another Faculty of UWI, either at Cave Hill or another Campus, at the end of their first year of study.

  • To be eligible for transfer such students must have (1) completed ten (10) courses and (2) obtain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

  • Note that students who have completed less than ten courses, or whose GPA is less than 3.0, will not normally be eligible for transfer.
ROUTE 1

• **ROUTE 1 – after completing Level I in another Faculty of UWI** (continued)
  • **Subject areas** – students may take any 10 courses. There is no preference for Law courses. In fact students are encouraged to take courses that they enjoy or in which they think they will do well.
  • Such courses must, however, be compatible with the non-Law degree programme in which a student is registered. Please consult the Dean or Deputy Dean of the Faculty in which you are registered (not Law) if you have any questions about suitable courses for your programme.
ROUTE 1

• ROUTE 1 – after completing Level I in another Faculty of UWI (continued)
  • Note that a student who takes more than ten (10) courses will not generally be eligible for transfer. That student would be considered a Level II student.
  • As a result he or she would have to apply to Law after completing his or her entire degree in another Faculty (see Route 3, below)
• **ROUTE 2** – after upgrading qualifications with an **Associate Degree** – students who have completed an Associate Degree at a reputable institution (usually a 2 year degree), in any field, and who have achieved a degree GPA of 3.0 or above, are eligible to apply for admission into the Faculty of Law.

• **ROUTE 3** – after completing a full UWI degree in any Faculty (i.e., a BA or BSc) with a degree GPA of 3.0 or above a student may apply for admission into the Faculty of Law.
FINAL ADVICE

• Note that because the admissions process is highly competitive, satisfaction of the requirements for any of the three admission routes outlined previously will not guarantee admission. Instead, satisfaction simply ensures minimum eligibility for admission.

• With respect to students who are not admitted on their first try, the Faculty is willing to consider admission if those students can demonstrate subsequent high level academic performance. This is the common theme for routes 1-3, above, but equally could be demonstrated by other forms of academic performance, such as a Master’s degree (in any field).
Finally, for students taking Law courses in another UWI degree, please note that you are bound by Regulation 22 following admission. This provides:

- “Subject to the University Regulations regarding the time limits for maintenance of credits a candidate who has completed any course of study in another Faculty of the University of the West Indies and has passed the examinations in any of the courses (other than in non-law courses) in any part of the LLB programme, when not registered as a candidate in the Faculty of Law (Cave Hill), shall be entitled to full exemption and credit for any course or courses he or she has successfully completed, and shall be required to take, in addition to all Part I and Part II courses not yet completed, such number of Part III courses as would be required in order to complete a minimum of two year’s work of 60 credits before being awarded the LLB Degree.”
• Regulation 22 sets out the requirement that a student admitted into the Faculty of Law must complete 60 credits of **new Law courses** after entering the LLB programme.

• These 60 credits will be made up of any Level I and II courses not already passed, with the remainder being Level III courses.

• Thus no matter how many Law courses were completed in a previous UWI degree by a student, he or she must complete **60 additional LLB programme credits** after entering the Faculty of Law programme.