

THE ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN ESTATE AND TRUST ADMINISTRATION

The School for Financial Planning Law at the University of the Free offers students the unique opportunity to attain the necessary academic qualification and skills to become fiduciary practitioners who will be able to provide advice on a multitude of platforms, including administration of trusts, estate planning, administration of deceased estates, drafting of wills and legislative issues surrounding the fiduciary services industry.

This qualification is the Advanced Diploma in Estate and Trust Administration, which is a minimum one-year course of study. The diploma is presented on a NQF level 7 and consists of 120 credits. The mode of education is via distance learning. Students are assisted in their studies via an online platform.

The minimum entry requirements for prospective students include possession of a qualification on NQF level 6 in any fields relating to or containing subject matter of Estate Administration, Trust Administration, Financial Planning or Estate Planning.

The diploma is the only programme currently endorsed by the Fiduciary Institute of Southern Africa as a relevant qualification to be awarded the FPSA® designation. If a student obtains this diploma, they will not be required to write the FPSA® examinations if they want to apply for FPSA® status and they will automatically qualify for the education and examination requirements to obtain their FPSA® status.

The diploma consists of four modules and students must complete all the modules to obtain the diploma. Students, however, do not have to register for all the modules simultaneously.

The different modules in the diploma are:

Regulatory Environment

Regulatory Environment will incorporate the regulatory environment and legislation that governs the fiduciary services industry. Students will be familiar with the most important legislation at the end of this module to ensure that they will not act illegally, unethically or negligently. They will be able to explain, identify and apply all the formalities with regards to deceased estates, wills and the administration of trusts.

Administration of Deceased Estates

Students will be able to apply the theoretical principles of the administration of deceased estates to practical examples for testate as well as intestate estates. They will be familiar with the most important legislation to ensure that they act in accordance with the laws that govern administration of deceased estates.

Trust Administration

Trust Administration focus on the legislation that governs the administration of trusts as well as the practical implementation thereof. Students will be able to explain the practical applications of a trust for various legal and commercial purposes. They will be able to advise clients on the use of trusts for different

estate planning purposes as well as the taxation of trusts.

Estate Planning and Drafting of Wills

Students will be able to apply all the legal formalities to the drafting of a will and to consult with clients to acquire the correct information to draft a valid will and use the knowledge they acquire to interpret clauses in a will and to rectify any problems. The student must be able to apply legal and tax solutions in all the areas of estate planning and be able to explain, understand and apply the objectives of estate planning and the estate planning process. Students will understand that estate planning is a holistic study with many varying but interlinking components and that all of these components must be considered and addressed to produce an effective and practical estate plan.

Visit: <http://law.ufs.ac.za/content.aspx?id=200>