

# Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP) 2019 Pilot

A law degree is only the first step towards becoming a professional lawyer who is ready to be called to the bar. The Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED) Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP) will help you gain practical legal knowledge and gain competencies in lawyer skills, practice management, professional ethics, as well as the personal attributes needed to successfully practice law in Canada.

Today's lawyers need to do more than understand the law. In order to thrive in a professional legal environment, they must build strong relationships, demonstrate empathy and compassion, communicate effectively, manage their time and their practice, make ethical value-based decisions, and build trust.

Built on best practices from around the world, PREP delivers these practical skills and competencies in a consistent, integrated approach that combines interactive, transactional learning and simulation within four distinct phases:

## Foundation Modules

Twelve online modules that combine self-directed study and interactive assessments with multimedia learning to provide a foundation in all the CPLED competencies:

- Lawyer Skills – what a lawyer does
- Practice Management – how a lawyer practices
- Professional Ethics and Character – how a lawyer behaves and who a lawyer is

Through these modules you will have an opportunity to develop and assess your skills, building a strong foundation from which to tackle increasing complexity as you progress through the program. More information on the modules are available in the ***Foundation Module Fact Sheet***.

## Foundation Workshops

Here you will come together and interact with each other and your facilitators through face-to-face workshops that include role-playing in the areas of interviewing, negotiating, and advocacy. You will also participate in simulations and practice management.

Here the focus is on integrating knowledge and skills development in social environments, obtaining feedback from peers and experienced lawyers, and applying the learnings from the Foundation Modules. The workshops will prepare you to effectively and independently manage a matter during the next phase of the program.

### **Virtual Law Firm**

Returning to the online environment, you will put your foundational training to the test, working as lawyers in a virtual law firm, managing the full lifecycle of cases in business law, criminal law, family law, and real estate.

These transactions include interviewing simulated clients within a learning management system to allow assessors with practice area expertise, and practice managers to assess your skills, knowledge, and progress as you complete each task. You will also receive coaching and mentoring from a practice manager for the duration of the practice rotations.

### **Capstone**

In this final assessment, you will demonstrate your skills and competencies in one final simulated transaction. You will complete tasks that span the full life-cycle of a case and demonstrate your competence in decision-making, provide your client with ethical and professional representation and use the appropriate case management and technical tools to guide your work. Finally, you will submit a final reflection on the entire program.

The program builds on each prior stage, building in complexity and requiring you to develop competencies through tasks that assess not just your knowledge, but how you apply your lawyer and practice management skills and demonstrate professionalism, ethics, and values.

PREP takes you from just reading about legal activities to carrying them out yourself within the simulations, playing out real-life scenarios and learning from your mistakes and successes.

Combined with articling, and your legal education, PREP prepares you to meet the highest standards of lawyer skills, practice management, professional ethics, and good character.

**Canadian Centre for  
Professional Legal  
Education**

Suite 500, 919 11 Ave SW  
Calgary, AB T2R 1P3

587.393.2189  
www.cpled.ca