

MLP Unit 2 Course Outline (Municipal Torts)

Last Updated
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Course Description

MLP Unit 2 examines tort law in the context of municipal liability. In particular, it addresses issues related to liability in enforcement activities, public works activities, and recreational activities. The unit also examines liability in matters dealing directly with municipal politicians for things like negligence, unlawful interference with economic interests, libel and slander, breach of trust, abuse of office, and the like. The discussion also includes various remedies under tort law, with an emphasis on the classification, measure, and awarding of damages. Other topics in the unit include limitation periods in law and insurance, including its acquisition and the process of making of claims.

The MLP certificate of completion will be issued upon completion of four units within three years:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Municipal Law
- Unit 2: Municipal Torts
- Unit 3: Municipal Contracts
- Unit 4: Municipal Land-related Law

MLP can be taken on its own or as part of AMCTO's [Diploma in Municipal Administration \(DMA\)](#).

Course Delivery Formats

AMCTO offers MLP in two formats: correspondence format and Zoom format.

- If you are taking the course in **correspondence format**, you will complete the assigned readings and submit assessments according to a given schedule. There are no classes to attend. Your work is graded by a marker.

- If you are taking the course in **Zoom format**, you will attend interactive online classes led by an instructor in addition to completing readings and assessments. Attendance and participation in discussions are important in the Zoom format.

All course materials and assessments are provided through AMCTO's online learning platform, AMCTO Connect.

A syllabus with assessment due dates is provided when the course opens each term.

Grading Scheme (Correspondence Format)

Assessment	Weight
Assignment 1	17.5%
Assignment 2	17.5%
Assignment 3	17.5%
Assignment 4	17.5%
Final Assignment	30%

Grading Scheme (Zoom Format)

Assessment	Weight
Assignment 1	17.5%
Assignment 2	17.5%
Assignment 3	17.5%
Participation	17.5%
Final Assignment	30%

Course Grade Policy

To successfully complete the unit, students must earn a minimum grade of 51% on the final assignment and an overall average grade of 60% or higher for the entire unit.

Students who do not achieve 51% but score at least 35% on the final assignment will be given the opportunity for a re-write. This re-write must take place on the date(s) chosen by AMCTO.

Students who score less than 35% on the initial final assignment or under 51% on the re-write will be required to re-register to take the course in its entirety.

Assignment Expectations

All assignments are written assignments. They require you to analyze laws and hypothetical cases or problems related to the course topics to demonstrate your understanding of the legal provisions, concepts, and principles discussed in the textbook.

Time Commitment

The amount of time required to read the course materials and complete the assessments varies widely between individuals because they bring different levels of prior knowledge, reading/research/writing skills, and professional experience. This makes it difficult to provide a precise amount of time that will be required to complete the course work. However, we recommend preparing to spend a minimum of 35 to 40 hours over the course of the term for each MLP unit.

Due Dates

There will be a schedule of assessment deadlines in the course. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the deadlines and understand the penalties for late submissions under Section 3 of the Education Programs Policy. The policy will be provided in the course syllabus.

Academic Integrity

Students in AMCTO's education programs are expected to abide by the association's policy on academic integrity (section 4 of the Education Programs Policy). Academic misconduct discovered in an assessment submission will result in a zero on the entire assessment. Severe and/or repeated instances of misconduct will result in more significant penalties such as failure, suspension, and expulsion.

Sources used in assessments must be properly cited according to the instructions and policies in the course. Using artificial intelligence (AI)- or large language model (LLM)-based tools or other automated tools to rewrite, paraphrase, or generate

content (including but not limited to text, images, audio, and video) and representing it as one's own work is not permitted.

It is the student's responsibility to be informed about the definitions and consequences of academic misconduct. The full policy will be provided in the course syllabus.

MLP Unit 2 Topic Outline

Lesson 1: What is a Tort?

- The meaning of the legal term *tort*
- The law of tort and its social functions
- Municipal liability for torts

Lesson 2: Municipal Liability and Enforcement Activities

- Various legislation that impose enforcement obligations and duties for municipalities
- How municipalities and municipal officials may become liable for their actions in the course of engaging in enforcement
- Legislative interpretation related to enforcement and enforcement obligations
- Mandatory versus discretionary (permissive) municipal actions
- Risks in enforcement actions and their nature, sources, and consequences

Lesson 3: Municipal Liability and Public Works Activities

- Legislation relevant to public works liabilities of municipalities
- What is mandatory and permissive respecting the creation and maintenance of public works
- Risks associated with obligations and the nature of those risks

Lesson 4: Municipal Liability and Recreational Activities

- Relevant legislation concerning recreational matters
- Mandatory and discretionary powers related to recreational matters
- Risks in respect to recreational projects, programs, and activities by municipal government

Lesson 5: Municipal Liability and Municipal Politicians

- Legislation relevant to the liability of municipal politicians
- Municipal responsibility when municipal politicians engage in untoward behaviour
- Mandatory versus discretionary municipal regulation respecting councillor behaviour
- Risks for municipalities where municipal politicians may be liable for their behaviour

Lesson 6: Remedies

- Types of remedies sought in tort proceedings
- Classes of damages
- Types of injunctions

Lesson 7: Limitation Periods

- Key legislation pertaining to limitations
- The importance of limitation periods

Lesson 8: Insurance

- Relevant legislation and basic principles of insurance
- Types of insurance
- Methods of purchasing insurance
- Insurance claims

The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario

5090 Explorer Drive, Suite 510, Mississauga, ON L4W 4T9

905-602-4294 | [Email Us](#)