

# Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe Lefapha la Disaense tša Ekonomi le Taolo

### **BCom (Accounting Sciences)**



Make today matter

#### What does the programme entail?

The BCom (Accounting Sciences) degree is a three-year programme that is followed by the one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences (PGDAS), which is required in order for graduates to comply with the education requirements for the Chartered Accountant qualification, CA(SA). Successful completion of these two study programmes will provide access to the Initial Test of Competence (ITC), which is the first of two professional exams set by the South African Institute of Chartered Accounting (SAICA).

Thereafter, a three-year traineeship needs to be completed, during which time the applicable professional qualifying examinations must be passed to qualify a candidate to register as a CA(SA).

#### Structure of the programme

#### Core modules (compulsory)

**Note:** All first-year students take the compulsory fundamental modules on academic information management and academic literacy for EMS, and all second-year students take the module Professional ethics.

| 1st year  | 2nd year  | Final year  |
|---|---|---|
| <ul> <li>Business acumen</li> <li>Financial decision-making</li> <li>Responsible reporting</li> <li>Economics</li> <li>Informatics</li> <li>Informatics (accounting software)</li> <li>Business management</li> <li>Statistics</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Business acumen</li> <li>Financial decision-making</li> <li>Responsible reporting</li> <li>Governance and assurance</li> <li>Human resource management</li> <li>Informatics</li> <li>Commercial law</li> <li>Taxation</li> <li>Applications in data science</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Business acumen</li> <li>Financial decision<br/>making</li> <li>Responsible<br/>reporting</li> <li>Informatics</li> <li>Design thinking<br/>and business<br/>innovation</li> <li>Taxation</li> </ul> |

**Note:** The specialisation modules for the first to the final year of study for a BCom (Accounting Sciences) degree may be taken only by students who have been selected for this degree.

#### Who are the ideal candidates?

Students who excel in this programme are typically:

- Ethical
- Critical thinkers
- Detail oriented
- Interested in business
- Self-motivated

#### What makes this programme unique?

The BCom (Accounting Sciences) degree and the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences are accredited by SAICA and form part of the requirements for training as a CA(SA), which is the highest professional designation in accounting in South Africa and enjoys international recognition.

The undergraduate degree is also accredited by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

Over and above the prestigious CA(SA) qualification, the three-year BCom (Accounting Sciences) degree also provides access to the following BCom Honours degrees (subject to selection):

- BComHons (Financial Management)
- BComHons (Internal Auditing)
- BComHons (Taxation)

#### **Career opportunities**

Qualified CAs(SA) are able to fulfil business and finance roles in a variety of industries. They tend to specialise in auditing and assurance, tax, financial management, information technology, management accounting, forensic accounting and insolvency.

Employment opportunities also exist in academia, the public or private sector and non-governmental organisations, to name but a few.

Those who have a CA(SA) qualification also succeed in CEO, CFO, vice-president, chairperson and finance manager roles, or can become entrepreneurs.

Students of the University of Pretoria consistently achieve excellent pass rates in the challenging first national Chartered Accountants' examination (ITC) as can be seen from these figures:

99.4%

2022

99.4%

2021

97%

97.1%

99.5%

2020

2019

2018

UP's average first-time January ITC pass rate over the past 15 years is an exceptional 94.6%



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### How do you become a Chartered Accountant in South Africa?



(continues)



'Choosing to pursue a BCom in Accounting Sciences was an easy choice for me. I have always been interested in commerce and this degree has given me a vast understanding of the world of finance because it is designed specifically for students wanting to become chartered accountants (CA(SA)). I chose to study at the University of Pretoria as UP students have an outstanding track record in the Initial Test of Competence, which is one of two professional exams set by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

Despite this being a challenging degree, the lecturers were always willing to provide additional support through consultations and tutorials. We also had academic trainees, who were graduates who had successfully completed their studies in Accounting Sciences at UP. They provided immense support and played a critical role in the success of most students.

After completing my undergraduate degree, I enrolled for, and successfully completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences at UP, which I believe has not only provided me with the best quality education, but has also equipped me with the necessary tools to succeed in my chosen career.'

Toni Pirs - BCom (Accounting Sciences) and Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences

#### Minimum admission requirements

|  | Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2024                           |             |     |  |
|--|---|-------------|-----|--|
|  | Achieven  | nent level  |     |  |
| Programme  | English Home<br>Language<br>or English First<br>Additional Language | Mathematics | APS |  |
| BCom (Accounting Sciences) [3 years]   | 5   | 6           | 34  |  |
| Careers: First step towards qualifying as chartered accountants, external auditors, taxation professionals and advisors, and financial directors or managers |   |             |     |  |

Note: Accounting at school is not a subject requirement for any of the BCom and BAdmin programmes.

Contact information | Email pgd-acc-ems@up.ac.za | UP website www.up.ac.za/ca-more-info | SAICA website www.saica.co.za