



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Ekonomi le Taolo

Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences



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What does the programme entail?

The Bachelor of Commerce in 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 Assessment of Competence (IAC), which is the first of two professional exams set by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (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 style="list-style-type: none"> Business acumen Financial decision-making Financial reporting Economics Informatics Informatics (accounting software) Business management Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business acumen Financial decision-making Financial reporting Governance and assurance (auditing) Human resource management Informatics Commercial law Taxation Applications in data science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business acumen Financial decision-making Financial reporting Governance and assurance (auditing) Informatics Design thinking and business innovation Taxation

Note: The specialisation modules for the first to the final year of study for a Bachelor of Commerce in 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 Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences degree and the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences are endorsed 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. This programme also provides access to the SAICA Associate General Accountant [AGA(SA)] designation.

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

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

- Bachelor of Commerce Honours specialising in Financial Management Sciences
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours specialising in Internal Auditing
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours specialising in Taxation



Career opportunities

Qualified CAs(SA) are able to fulfil business and finance roles in a variety of industries. They tend to specialise in financial reporting, 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.

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



UP's average first-time January IAC pass rate over the past 20 years is 95%



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(continued)



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How do you become a Chartered Accountant in South Africa?

Academic component

Training component

Year 1 to 3

Year 4

Year 5 to 7

Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences

Postgraduate Diploma*

Training Contract

Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences

To be completed in public practice, commerce and industry, financial services or the public sector.

Professional examination 1
Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC)

Professional examination 2
Assessment of Professional Competence (APC)

* Offers access to Master's studies like an Honours degree would



'Choosing a degree to study was a real challenge for me. It felt like I was deciding what to do for the rest of my life, a daunting responsibility for 18-year-old me. I always knew I wanted a business career—not a career as a scientist or doctor—and pursuing a career in commerce felt right. I decided to aim for the CA(SA) designation because of the opportunities it offers in the business world.

I opted to study accounting sciences at UP, and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I've ever made! The workload was tough, but the learning experience was incredibly rewarding. The lecturing staff at UP were exceptional, guiding me through this challenging academic journey. The consistent success of UP students in the SAICA Initial Assessment of Competence is a testament to their dedication.

Looking back on my studies, I can confidently say that each year my understanding of business grew exponentially, and I developed personally, gaining emotional strength and essential soft skills. These tools will be crucial as I pursue my career as a CA(SA).

My time at UP was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed the vibrant student life in Pretoria, witnessing the jacarandas in bloom and the bustling atmosphere of Hatfield. I also became part of the TUKS Athletics team, where I forged lifelong friendships.'

Nicola Knoetze – Bachelor of Commerce and Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences

Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2026		
	Achievement level		APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	
Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences [3 years]	5	6	34

Careers: First step towards qualifying as chartered accountants, external auditors, taxation professionals and advisors, financial directors, managers or entrepreneurs.

Note: Accounting at school is not a subject requirement for any of the Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Administration 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



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Minimum requirements for applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi (South Africa)



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Refer to the International undergraduate prospectus at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission Information or [click here](#) for more information.

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2026									
	Compulsory subjects	GCSE #		HIGCSE NSSC HL	Achievement level				KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
		The qualifications in the two columns below will be considered only for conditional admission. If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, these two columns will not apply. It can also not be used for final admission and/or registration.			AS Level	A Level	IB			
		CIE	UK		GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UJACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL		
Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences	English Mathematics	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69% 70-79%	B
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Investment Management		B	6	2	B	D	5	4		B+
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Econometrics										
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Financial Management Sciences	English Mathematics									
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Economics										
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Law		C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Statistics and Data Science		C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Agribusiness Management										
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Information Systems										
Bachelor of Commerce [3-year programme]	English Mathematics									
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Business Management										
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Supply Chain Management		C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Marketing Management		D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Commerce specialising in Human Resource Management										
Bachelor of Administration specialising in Public Administration	English Mathematics	C E	4 2	3 4	C E	E E	4 2	3 2	60-69% 40-49%	B C
Bachelor of Commerce [4-year programme]	English Mathematics	D E	3 2	3 4	D E	E E	2 2	2 2	60-69% 40-49%	C+ C

Only English with at least a C symbol on this level can be used for final admission.