University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BScHons in Financial Engineering (02240277)

Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Minimum duration of study	1 year
Total credits	135
NQF level	08

Admission requirements

1. Mathematics intensive bachelor's degree. (Examples: BSc with at least four mathematics, applied mathematics or mathematical statistics modules in the final-year; BEng degree.)
2. At least 60% weighted average in Biochemistry at final-year level
3. Minimum of 60% each in the following subjects/modules (or equivalent) at second-year level:
   a. Calculus
   b. Differential equations
   c. Linear algebra

Note: An admission examination may be required

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 135

Core credits: 91
Elective credits: 44

The Postgraduate Coordinator has to approve the final programme composition for this programme.

1. Students who have included Statistics, Mathematical Statistics or Industrial Engineering in their undergraduate degree programme, will not be allowed to take BAN 780. Additional modules from the list of electives should be included in the programme composition.
2. Lectures for BAN 780 and ISE 780 are scheduled in “blocks” – consult the relevant departments at the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology.
3. WTW 732 and WTW 762 will be presented weekly as well as some extra “block” lectures.

Core modules

Industrial analysis 780 (BAN 780)

Module credits	16.00
NQF Level	08
Service modules	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Prerequisites	Industrial Engineering students may not register for this module
Contact time	24 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Industrial and Systems Engineering
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Descriptive models are used to describe how systems or processes operate, and the outputs of these models are used as inputs for prescriptive and predictive models. Therefore, the first part of this module focuses on descriptive modelling and covers the basic approaches to data and statistical analysis.

In cases with numerous design or redesign options, mathematical programming is a powerful modelling tool that can be used to find the best design to implement. Therefore, the second part of this module covers the basics of mathematical programming and optimisation, and teaches students how to formulate, solve, and interpret results of Linear Programming (LP) and Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) models.

After the best design is identified, predictive models are used to predict whether a new design or improvement will have the desired effect, before its implementation. Therefore, the final theme of this module introduces students to discrete-event simulation modelling, a popular predictive modelling approach.

Mathematical models of financial engineering 732 (WTW 732)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.

Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Introduction to markets and instruments. Futures and options trading strategies, exotic options, arbitrage relationships, binomial option pricing method, mean variance hedging, volatility and the Greeks, volatility smiles, Black-Scholes PDE and solutions, derivative disasters.

Mathematical optimisation 750 (WTW 750)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	Multivariate Calculus on 2nd-year level; Linear Algebra on 2nd-year level
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Classical optimisation: Necessary and sufficient conditions for local minima. Equality constraints and Lagrange multipliers. Inequality constraints and the Kuhn-Tucker conditions. Application of saddle point theorems to the solutions of the dual problem. One-dimensional search techniques. Gradient methods for unconstrained optimisation. Quadratically terminating search algorithms. The conjugate gradient method. Fletcher-Reeves. Second order variable metric methods: DFP and BFCS. Boundary following and penalty function methods for constrained problems. Modern multiplier methods and sequential quadratic programming methods. Practical design optimisation project.

Mathematical models of financial engineering 762 (WTW 762)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	WTW 732 or WTW 364
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Exotic options, arbitrage relationships, Black-Scholes PDE and solutions, hedging and the Miller-Modigliani theory, static hedging, numerical methods, interest rate derivatives, BDT model, Vasicek and Hull-White models, complete markets, stochastic differential equations, equivalent Martingale measures.

Project 792 (WTW 792)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Consult Department.

Elective modules

Systems thinking and engineering 780 (ISE 780)

Module credits	16.00
NQF Level	08
Service modules	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	20 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Engineering and Technology Management
Period of presentation	Semester 1 and Semester 2

Module content

A company's ability to remain competitive in modern times hinges increasingly on its ability to perform systems engineering. The technology and complexity of a company's products appears to steadily increase and with it, the risks that need to be managed. This module provides specialised knowledge to apply systems engineering by understanding the tools, processes and management fundamentals.

Linear models 710 (LMO 710)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Service modules	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Prerequisites	Admission to either BScHons Mathematical Statistics or BComHons Mathematical Statistic

Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Statistics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Projection matrices and sums of squares of linear sets. Estimation and the Gauss-Markov theorem. Generalised t- and F- tests.

Linear models 720 (LMO 720)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Service modules	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Prerequisites	LMO 710
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Statistics
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

The singular normal distribution. Distributions of quadratic forms. The general linear model. Multiple comparisons. Analysis of covariance. Generalised linear models. Analysis of categorical data.

Multivariate analysis 710 (MVA 710)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Service modules	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Prerequisites	Admission to either BScHons Mathematical Statistics or BComHons Mathematical Statistics
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Statistics
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Matrix algebra. Some multivariate measures. Visualising multivariate data. Multivariate distributions. Samples from multivariate normal populations. The Wishart distribution. Hotelling's T^2 statistic. Inferences about mean vectors.

Multivariate analysis 720 (MVA 720)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Service modules	Faculty of Health Sciences Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Prerequisites	MVA 710
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Statistics
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Discriminant analysis and classification. Principal component analysis. The biplot. Multidimensional scaling. Factor analysis. Probabilistic clustering.

Modern portfolio theory 712 (WTW 712)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	Enrolment for WTW 732 required.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

An introduction to Markowitz portfolio theory and the capital asset pricing model. Analysis of the deficiencies in these methods. Sensitivity based risk management. Standard methods for Value-at-Risk calculations. RiskMetrics, delta-normal methods, Monte Carlo simulations, back and stress testing.

Special topics 727 (WTW 727)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	As required by specific topical content.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content
A selection of special topics will be presented that reflects the expertise of researchers in the Department. The presentation of a specific topic is contingent on student numbers. Consult the website of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics for more details.

Numerical analysis 733 (WTW 733)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

An analysis as well as an implementation (including computer programs) of methods are covered. Numerical linear algebra: Direct and iterative methods for linear systems and matrix eigenvalue problems: Iterative methods for nonlinear systems of equations. Finite difference method for partial differential equations: Linear elliptic, parabolic, hyperbolic and eigenvalue problems. Introduction to nonlinear problems. Numerical stability, error estimates and convergence are dealt with.

Main principles of analysis in application 735 (WTW 735)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	Calculus at 2nd-year level (eg WTW 218) and one 3rd-year level module on analysis or applications of analysis (eg WTW 310, WTW 382, WTW 383 or WTW 386)
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Study of main principles of analysis in the context of their applications to modelling, differential equations and numerical computation. Specific principles to be considered are those related to mathematical biology, continuum mechanics and mathematical physics as presented in the modules WTW 772, WTW 787 and WTW 776, respectively.

Finite element method 763 (WTW 763)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08

Prerequisites	WTW 733 is strongly recommended
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

An analysis as well as an implementation (including computer programs) of methods is covered. Introduction to the theory of Sobolev spaces. Variational and weak formulation of elliptic, parabolic, hyperbolic and eigenvalue problems. Finite element approximation of problems in variational form, interpolation theory in Sobolev spaces, convergence and error estimates.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The General Academic Regulations (G Regulations) and General Student Rules apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.