Jacobus Naudé was born at Frankfort and matriculated at the Wilge River High School. He studied at the universities of Massachusetts (Amherst), Stellenbosch and the Free State and obtained the following degrees from 1978-1996: B.A. (with distinction in Hebrew), B.A. Hons (cum laude), B.Th. (cum laude), M.A. (Semitic languages, cum laude), M.Th (cum laude), M.A. (Linguistics), D.Litt.

His fulltime academic career started in 1983 with an appointment as junior lecturer in the Department of Semitic Languages (nowadays Afroasiatic Studies, Sign Language and Language Practice). He was promoted from senior lecturer to professor during January 2002. He is manager of the Programme in Language Practice since 2004. From 2006 he serves as Chair of the Department. He teaches translation studies, theoretical linguistics (syntax), Dead Sea Scroll studies, Hebrew and Aramaic grammar. Under his supervision already 18 M.A. dissertations are completed.

He undertook research at the universities of California, Santa Cruz (1991), Oxford (1994) and Cornell (1997). He read 22 papers at international meetings and 36 papers at national meetings. He is co-author of A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar (Sheffield, 1999) and co-edited Contemporary Translation Studies and Bible Translation. A South African Perspective. He published 66 scientific articles, 34 review articles and 11 popular scientific articles. Research areas include contemporary translation studies and Bible translation, diachronic and comparative syntax of Afroasiatic, pronominal systems, lexicographical theory of Bible, and Qumran Hebrew and Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic linguistics

He is referee of 8 academic journals as well as of the NRF. He is member of 4 national and 4 international academic societies and serves on the management of the Linguistic Society of Southern Africa, the SGB on translation, interpreting and editing (SAQA) and the Church Advisory Committee on Bible Translation of the Bible Society of South Africa.

