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FINANCIALLY ORIENTATED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

**Faculty of Economic and
Management Sciences**

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*Renew and Reimagine
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UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS
ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



A background image showing a group of diverse students. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair is smiling broadly, looking towards the left. Behind her, another student is partially visible. In the lower right, a student is sitting on the ground, holding a black folder or book with the UFS logo and the text 'UFS UV I AM A TOP LEARNER' on it. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red and blue gradient.

The University of the Free State (UFS) creates opportunities and growth through innovative **learning and teaching, focused research, and impactful engagement with society.** We offer **world-class benefits** to all individuals.

What makes us special is that our **students are holistically supported to achieve some of the highest success rates in the country and they are highly employable.** What's more, we produce research that has **industry and social impact and real-world application.**

Our **culture** promotes equity, ubuntu, and accountability. We address challenges and issues as they emerge, and we deal with them openly in a way that promotes **social justice and human rights.**

Situated in the heart of South Africa, our **character of caring and diversity translates into an outstanding university experience.**



Prospective Student:



***The Faculty of Economic
and Management Sciences:***



Check out our Virtual Expo:



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THE FACULTY OF
**ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT
SCIENCES**



The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of the Free State offers financially and management-orientated programmes on the Bloemfontein and QwaQwa campuses of the UFS. We offer programmes in Public Sector Management, Private Sector Management, and Accountancy.

Want to stand out from a very noisy crowd? Then a degree from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences will give you the edge to lead with expert knowledge and confidence in the fields of accountancy, economics, marketing, human resource management, business, and finance. The faculty is a trailblazer and intentionally re-engineers the content of its programmes to align with the constant changes and demands of our world.

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences has a variety of study options for you to choose from. These qualifications are developed with the future world of work in mind and will equip you with the tools and skills required by employers. To help you choose the right programme, this publication provides you with information on the financially orientated programmes.



*Only the **BRIGHTEST** young minds can face the economics of **CHANGE**.
In the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, we bring theory
and practice together to equip you for the **FUTURE**, today.*



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A CAREER IN FINANCE?

At the University of the Free State, we use science to discover new knowledge, improve education, understand our natural environment, develop infrastructure, stimulate innovation, and enhance the economic prosperity of our communities.

A career in finance mainly combines three elements: **technology, analytics, and people**. It is therefore a STEAM career that requires a good understanding of Mathematics. Qualifications in the field of finance use data and technology to predict the behaviour of people who ultimately translate all this information into good decisions for businesses, government, and individuals. After all, what is the value of data and information if you cannot use it to improve the lives and prosperity of our communities?

Management skills, combined with technology and analytics, are important to make sense of all the information around us, and to help others to make sense of it as well. A financial degree that incorporates business, accountancy, and management principles will be an extremely important leap towards the development of solutions to modern-day problems.

But, with AI and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, would a career in Finance be viable?

Artificial intelligence and the Fourth Industrial Revolution are rapidly changing the future world of work. A financial qualification that incorporates business, accountancy, and management allow you to keep up with the changes!

If there is one lesson that we learned during the COVID pandemic, it is that everything can change in an instant. The use of technology and the need for innovation have increased greatly internationally.

According to a study published by CareerJunction in April 2021, the top ten employment sectors (based on hiring activity) in South Africa show that about 30% of all employment activity occurred in the finance, business, and management sectors – even during lockdown.

THE FUTURE WORLD OF WORK

The future world of work will be characterised by many opportunities and increasing complexities. How will you navigate these future complexities? You firstly require specific technical, or subject knowledge about your qualification. This expertise relates to your choice of study and career.

In addition, you will also require a suite of other attributes such as emotional intelligence, diversity intelligence, adaptability, empathy, networking, and social skills, as well as a caring attitude towards others. These skills are referred to as soft skills, and they will become more important as we progress into the era of artificial intelligence (AI), automation, virtual reality (VR), and augmented realities (AR).

Most people are familiar with the STEAM careers. These are: science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Since there are skills shortages in these fields, there are also many career and entrepreneurial opportunities within STEAM.

STEAM careers require analytical and creative skills to solve problems. In the future, people will have to think ‘outside the box’ more than ever before. Tomorrow is changing by the hour.

Luckily, we can prepare.

Let us look at the financially orientated programmes offered in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences that require Mathematics. Why is this, you might ask? Mathematics equips you with a critical skill set, such as problem solving, pattern recognition, critical analysis, and complex thinking. These skills form the bedrock of our teaching and learning in programmes that require Mathematics.

1. ACCOUNTANCY

1. Do NUMBERS talk to you?
2. Do you have an interest in BUSINESS?
3. Are you RESULTS driven?

If so, ACCOUNTANCY is just the career for you!

Accountancy is an excellent career choice for the enthusiastic and hard-working individual who has a passion for numbers, and who wants to add value to their organisation using their unique knowledge and skills.

The accountant of today ...

The accountant is no longer isolated in the back office, crunching the numbers.

Today, the accountant is a key member of the management team and plays a significant role in interpreting, analysing, and evaluating financial and non-financial information that will take the business forward into the future. It is all about growth, profit, and the bottom line – also taking into account environmental considerations and society at large.

What do accountants do?

The accountant is a strategic partner in all organisations, companies, and firms, regardless of their size. Where any kind of transaction is involved, the services of an accountant are an integral part of the environment.

So, what do accountants actually do?

When working in commerce and industry or the public (government) sector:

- **Chief financial officer / financial manager / chief accountant** – in this capacity the qualified accountant is responsible for duties such as
 - ensuring that the organisation achieves long-term financial goals, e.g., earning an acceptable return on investment and keeping the cost of capital low;

- ensuring that the organisation achieves short-term financial goals, e.g., good profitability, liquidity, solvency, and a positive cash flow;
- making investment and financial decisions;
- producing credible financial information;
- contributing to decision-making through internal and external reports, e.g., annual financial statements and monthly management reports;
- overseeing financial governance structures and internal control systems, and complying with tax laws; and
- managing special assignments, e.g., performing business valuations and due diligence investigations.

■ **Management accountant:**

- Captures, evaluates, and reports on the activities that drive business value to aid managerial planning and commercial decision-making.
- Reduces the operational and production costs by identifying and implementing more efficient strategies.
- Ever wondered who determines the price of goods and services we buy? The management accountant plays a key role in the pricing of products, the optimal product mix, and the desirability of pursuing new products and services. So, a good measure of creativity is an essential skill to assist the marketing and sales team with new product development.

■ **Internal auditor:**

- The qualified accountant will, among others, evaluate the effectiveness of an organisation's risk management processes.
- Conduct special investigations on behalf of the organisation's governance structures, e.g., board of directors, on a wide range of matters of interest to management.

QUICK FACTS

When working for a professional service firm:

- External auditor – where she/he expresses an opinion on the fair presentation of a client's financial statements – to enhance the credibility of the financial statements from the perspective of external finance providers.
- Tax consultant – where clients are advised on their tax affairs (including how to minimise their tax liabilities legally).
- Management consultant – where clients may be advised on a wide range of matters to improve the operation of their businesses (e.g., advice on strategies to improve their cash flow or profit; mergers and acquisitions; and risk management processes).
- Company secretarial services – where clients are assisted with maintaining their statutory records and otherwise complying with the statutory requirements.
- Accounting officer – where the accountant in practice is responsible for preparing an organisation's accounting records and/or financial statements.

Chartered accountants (SA) or CAs (SA) are



leaders of industry: one in four chief executive officers (CEOs) of the companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) are CAs (SA);



decision-makers: CAs (SA) are the chief financial officers (CFOs) of 76% of the JSE's top companies;



top earners: CAs (SA) are among the top ten highest earners in the country;



industry game changers: you will find that CAs (SA) are key role players in a wide range of industries, including media, government, retail and food, banks and auditing firms, IT and more.

If you want to sit around the management table, studying BAcc or BComAcc and hard work will get you there! The University of the Free State is accredited by all leading professional accountancy bodies operating in South Africa. A graduate from the University of the Free State is equipped to work anywhere in the world!

A brief overview of the **key role** that the accountant plays in an organisation:



Learn more about becoming a **CA (SA)**:



A longer, more detailed discussion of accountancy **career opportunities**:



A **day in the life** of an accountant:



Where do accountants work?

For any kind of transaction, no matter how big or small, an accountant is involved. As should be evident from the nature of the accountant's work, they are required in all organisations, whether in the private sector, the public sector (government), or the non-profit sector (charitable organisations).

Many of those who pursued accountancy studies have subsequently secured successful employment in the banking and asset management sectors.

Do you recognise these trailblazers? Raymond Ackerman, Brian Joffe, Sol Kerzner, and Nonkululeko Gobodo ... yes, they are all accountants! These leading South African entrepreneurs have qualified as accountants and used their skills and expertise to start and grow their own businesses into some of the largest companies in South Africa.

Mmoloki Mogotsi, financial director of a giant retailer in Botswana, has the following to say:

“

Looking back, Mmoloki says the CA(SA) qualification has opened numerous doors. 'Education is the key to success. How you use it is up to you. I became a director of a Fortune 500 company at the age of 35. I sit in board meetings to make decisions that benefit thousands of employees and community members. The qualification speaks volumes when looking for new opportunities in South Africa, the region and abroad. With my previous employer, I was promoted four times in the space of four-and-a-half years. Being a CA(SA) prepared me to be a leader, to be strategic in my approach and to navigate various business challenges.'

www.accountancysa.org.za

”

Technology and accountants... a match made in heaven...

Fake news on social media claims without clear evidence that robots will replace accountants. Well, to put it bluntly, those numbers do not add up!

However, technological advances will no doubt change the nature of accounting careers. Accountants will be elevated to even more strategic roles and functions and will spend less time on mundane tasks such as data entry.

This role change has been deliberately integrated into the UFS' accountancy modules – to ensure alignment between theory and industry requirements. Our graduates not only have the technical competence, but also the professional skills and attributes to be successful in a world transformed by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In the United States of America, extensive research on the future demand for accountants has recently been undertaken. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics **projects 6% growth** in the demand for accountants and auditors from 2021 to 2031 [<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/accountants-and-auditors.htm>].

The growth is partially due to the complexity of the job, which includes many responsibilities that artificial intelligence or technology is unable to do – such as making strategic business decisions and understanding the complex regulatory environment. In South Africa, accountancy positions are constantly featuring on the government's 'scarce skills' lists.

To summarise: with the advances in technology, the accountant will not become redundant, but the role of the accountant will evolve to where they become business advisers and strategists who help drive long-term business / organisational strategy – making sense of complex financial environments in a VUCA world, interpreting and navigating complex and complicated legislation, especially tax laws.

Which accountancy programmes are offered by the University of the Free State (UFS)?

At the undergraduate level, the UFS offers two accountancy programmes, namely the Bachelor of Accounting (BAcc) and the Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting (BCom (Accounting)).

Authorised qualification name	Abbreviation	Programme code	Degree code	Academic plan code
Bachelor of Accounting	BAcc	B6360	63601	BC636060
Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting	BCom (Accounting)	B6350	63501	BC635050

These are highly sought-after professional programmes that are accredited as fully / partly meeting the requirements of the following leading professional bodies within the accountancy profession, namely:

- South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) www.saica.org.za
- South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) www.saipa.co.za
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) www.aicpa-cima.com/home
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) www.accaglobal.com

While the first two professional bodies are based in South Africa, they enjoy international stature. The latter two are leading international professional bodies with members located around the world. Therefore, it is easy to understand why a degree in Accountancy from the UFS is very much in demand. Our programmes have been carefully evaluated by the leading professional accounting bodies – and found to be relevant and of a high standard.

The BAcc degree programme is specifically designed for students who want to qualify as chartered accountants (SA). This is a sought-after designation for both the corporate and public sectors. The BAcc degree is fully accredited by SAICA – in fact, it received the best possible rating. Without additional postgraduate study, a BAcc graduate may obtain full registration with SAIPA and meet the educational requirements of the Associate General Accountant (AGA (SA)) designation of SAICA. This programme also serves as partial accreditation for CIMA and ACCA.

The BCom (Accounting) degree programme focuses on the academic requirements of the Professional Accountant (SA) designation of SAIPA and the Associate General Accountant (SA) designation of SAICA. The BCom (Accounting) degree also offers partial accreditation for a programme with CIMA as well as ACCA.

What do you need to study Accountancy at the UFS?

Academic programme	Minimum Admission Point (AP) and National Senior Certificate performance levels
BAcc	AP = 34 Mathematics = Achievement level 5 (60%) English = Achievement level 4 (50%)
BCom (Accounting)	AP = 28 Mathematics = Achievement level 4 (50%) English = Achievement level 4 (50%)

If you do not meet the above admission requirements, you can still study towards a BCom Accounting degree at the UFS if you meet the following admission requirements for the BCom in Accounting (Extended) (which is a four-year undergraduate degree with additional developmental modules to equip you for university study):

Academic programme	Minimum Admission Point (AP) and National Senior Certificate performance levels
BCom Accounting Extended Curriculum Programme	AP = 24 to 27 Mathematics = Achievement level 3 (40%) English = Achievement level 4 (50%)

What are the 'major subjects' in these undergraduate degrees?

Financial Accounting

Financial Accounting focuses on the recording of information into the financial records of an organisation and preparing the financial reports, mainly for users external to the organisation. In-depth coverage is given to the 'International Financial Reporting Standards', which governs the preparation of financial statements for many organisations (in South Africa and internationally).

Management Accounting

This area deals with the measurement and reporting of financial and other information, which assists management with decision-making and meeting the goals of the organisation.

Financial Management

This subject area emphasises the creation and maintenance of value by an organisation and the fundamental importance of cash flow in ensuring the sustainability of an organisation.

Auditing and Corporate Governance

Auditing deals with the process followed by the external auditor in gathering evidence about and reporting on the fair presentation of an organisation's annual financial statements, in accordance with the 'International Standards on Auditing'. Credible financial statements resulting from the audit are vital to any organisation's ability to raise finance. Corporate Governance focuses on the structures that ensure that the organisation is managed effectively.

Taxation

Taxation deals with the determination of the taxes payable by an individual, close corporation, or company in terms of the relevant legislation. Attention is also given to methods of arranging an individual's or company's affairs in the most tax-efficient manner.

In view of the fact that these degree programmes are designed in accordance with the requirements of the various professional bodies, there are no/limited electives. The prescribed modules are included in the curricula for the degree programmes taken over a three-year period. Economics and Business Management form a key part of the curricula. Strategic Management, Organisational Ethics and Citizenship, Digital Acumen, Quantitative Methods, and Commercial Law also play an important role in rounding off these degree programmes.

“

The January 2023 ITC results confirm the ‘quality’ / ‘excellence’ of the Chartered Accountancy academic programme offered by the UFS,” said Prof Frans Prinsloo, Director: School of Accountancy. He added that, “the results attest to the effectiveness of the learning and teaching approaches adopted by the School of Accountancy, and the commitment of the School’s staff to their students’ success. The results are consistent with the very favourable report issued by the SAICA monitoring team following their full visit in 2020.

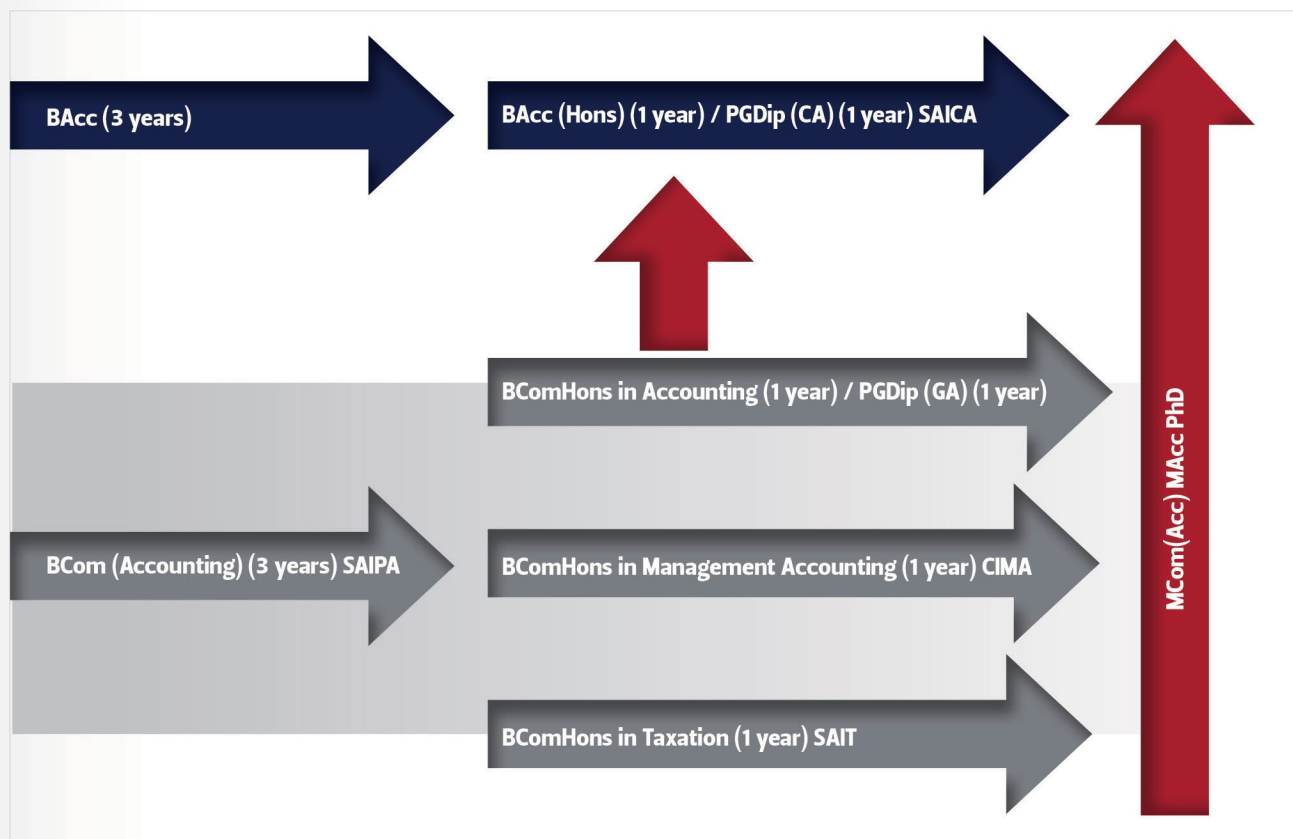
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Why study Accountancy at the UFS?

- The UFS Chartered Accountancy programme has the **best accreditation rating** from SAICA (reaffirmed in 2020).
- Graduates in the University of the Free State School of Accountancy achieve exceptional results in the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Initial Test of Competence (ITC). The UFS achieved an **97% pass rate in the January 2023** ITC exam for first-time writers from the BAcc Honours and PGDip (Chartered Accountancy) programmes. The ITC examination is the first of two qualifying professional examinations required to qualify as a chartered accountant (CA(SA)) in South Africa and is written by graduates shortly after completion of their formal university studies.
- UFS Accountancy **programmes are accredited** by all the leading professional accountancy bodies operating in South Africa.
- The School of Accountancy in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences has highly qualified, experienced, and dedicated **academic staff** – who are committed to the success of their students.
- We follow a **‘student-centred’ teaching** approach, offering
 - extensive academic support from staff and tutors; and
 - excellent course material.
- The UFS campuses in Bloemfontein offer a **safe and friendly environment**.
- The school and its academic staff **maintain strong links** with employers / the profession – thereby ensuring the continued relevance of our qualifications and the employability of our graduates.
- **Our student body is diverse, and tuition is in English** – equipping our graduates to function effectively in the diverse work environment where English is the language of communication.
- The school proactively seeks **funding** opportunities for students (including NSFAS, Thuthuka Bursary scheme (see later in brochure), FASSET).
- Our **class sizes are smaller**, enabling our students to achieve success through focused academic support, engagement, and individual attention.
- The facilities and buildings are not scattered across town. All academic and social activities are confined to **one campus space**, contributing to a vibrant and relaxed student-centred experience.

What can I do once I complete the undergraduate accounting degrees at the UFS? ¹

The qualification pathway for the programmes offered by the School of Accountancy can be depicted as follows – and our qualifications are closely aligned to the educational requirements of the professional bodies with which the School of Accountancy is affiliated:



To become a Chartered Accountant (SA) or CA (SA)

After obtaining the BAcc degree, one of our postgraduate qualifications [either the BAcc (Honours) or the PGDip (CA)] must be completed. Thereafter, a further three-year practical training period as a trainee accountant must be undertaken, and SAICA's professional examinations must be passed before candidates may register as a South African Chartered Accountant ('CA (SA)') at SAICA. Given the rigorous education and training requirements associated with the CA (SA), it is therefore not surprising that this is one of SA's premier accountancy designations.

To become an Associate General Accountant (SA) or AGA (SA)

After obtaining the BAcc or BCom (Accounting) degrees, and after completing a three-year practical training period as a trainee accountant, graduates may register with SAICA as an Associate General Accountant or 'AGA (SA)'.

To become a Tax Adviser

After obtaining the BCom (Accounting) degree or the BAcc degree, graduates can register for the BCom Honours degree in Taxation, which is aligned with the curriculum of SAIT, the South African Institute of Taxation. SAIT is one of the controlling bodies with which you can register as a tax practitioner in terms of the Tax Administration Act so as to be able to provide tax services to clients. Students successfully completing this Honours degree will also receive advanced credits towards the tax articles offered by SAIT. Successful completion of SAIT's tax articles leads to the Tax Adviser professional membership with SAIT.

¹ Note that admission to the postgraduate programmes is not automatic. A certain academic performance level, as prescribed in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences' Rule Book, should be obtained before admission will be granted.

To become a Professional Accountant (SA)

After obtaining the BCom (Accounting) degree or the BAcc degree, graduates can – without further postgraduate study – meet the educational requirements to become Professional Accountants (SA). A three-year training period, as prescribed by SAIPA, must, however, be completed and an entrance examination must be passed before a candidate may register as a member of SAIPA and call themselves a 'Professional Accountant (SA)'.

To become a Chartered Global Management Accountant or CGMA

After obtaining the BCom (Accounting) degree or the BAcc degree, graduates can register for the BCom Honours degree in Management Accounting, which is aligned with the Advanced Diploma in Management Accounting of CIMA. With the further successful completion of CIMA's 'Strategic Level', and the prescribed practical training, graduates will be eligible to register as Chartered Global Management Accountants (or CGMAs).

To become a Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA / FCCA)

After obtaining the BCom (Accounting) or the BAcc degrees, graduates may apply for exemption from some of the prescribed examinations in the ACCA programme – thereby shortening the education pathway towards ACCA membership. Further prescribed training must be completed before graduates can call themselves an 'Associate of the Chartered Certified Accountants'.

An important feature of the requirements of all of these professional bodies is the completion of a prescribed training period – thereby ensuring that the graduate also obtains structured on-the-job work experience before becoming a professional accountant. This feature therefore fully equips the newly qualified professional accountant to be successful in the working world.

Of course, accountancy graduates are also welcome to complete the postgraduate diplomas or honours degrees, as well as our master's and PhD degrees offered by the UFS School of Accountancy, to advance their own knowledge and skills – even if they are not planning to become members of the aforementioned professional bodies. There can be no doubt that obtaining a postgraduate qualification in accountancy from the UFS will be extremely valuable in securing employment or enhancing one's promotion prospects.



WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT

if you have queries about your Accountancy studies at the UFS?



E: info.soa@ufs.ac.za
T: +27 51 401 2333

to summarise

ACCOUNTANCY GIVES YOU THE EDGE



The CA(SA), ACCA, and/or CIMA (CGMA) designations are recognised **worldwide**.



Competitive salaries ensure that your earning potential will always remain high.



As a professional accountant, you will enjoy excellent **flexibility** – enabling you to choose your own work-life balance, based on what you want to get out of your career.



Whether you are after creating wealth, gaining status, or having time to spend with loved ones ... having a professional accountancy designation behind your name makes it **even more possible**.

Thuthuka Bursary Programme

The Thuthuka Bursary Fund scheme is a transformation initiative established by the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), aimed at encouraging previously disadvantaged African and Coloured school learners to pursue a career in the South African Chartered Accountancy [CA (SA)] profession. 'Thuthuka' is a Zulu word meaning 'to develop' – the Thuthuka bursary programme encompasses this meaning: it aims to develop students for the purpose of transforming South Africa's business leadership demographically.

The support offered to Thuthuka bursary programme recipients includes the following financial support:



full **tuition fees** (for each consecutive year successfully completed)



accommodation



books and stationery



meals



living and **travel** allowances



other support.

In addition to the financial support, the Thuthuka bursary programme recipients also receive invaluable non-financial 'wrap-around' support in the form of



academic support – this includes various 'value-added' interventions, such as additional tutorials (study sessions), study skills workshops, and individual consultation sessions;



social and emotional support;



work-readiness and **life skills** training;



mentoring and counselling;



assistance with '**administrative matters**', such as registration and accommodation; and



exposure to experienced chartered accountants and business leaders.

The success of the Thuthuka bursary programme offered by the University of the Free State is evident from the high throughput rates of bursary recipients, as well as the accomplishments of graduates in the programme. These results can be attributed to, among others, our Thuthuka bursary recipients being part of a 'Thuthuka family' where they are individually developed and cared for, the quality of the academic programme offered, as well as the effectiveness of the 'wrap-around' support that is on offer.

For more information on the UFS Thuthuka bursary programme, contact:

Thuthuka bursary programme manager:

Mr James Veitch

T: +27 51 401 2569

E: VeitchJB@ufs.ac.za

Need an answer...
fast?

**Chat to us with
KovsieCHAT at
087 240 6370**



WHAT STUDY OPTIONS DO I HAVE TO ENTER THE FINANCE, BUSINESS, AND MANAGEMENT SECTORS?

2. ECONOMICS

Economists study how society distributes resources such as land, labour, raw materials, and machinery to produce goods and services. They conduct research, collect and analyse data, monitor economic trends, and develop forecasts on a wide variety of issues to solve complex problems and improve the living conditions of people. These include energy costs, inflation, interest rates, exchange rates, business cycles, taxes, and employment levels, among others. Economists are developing methods for obtaining the data they need.

Where do economists work?

Corporate institutions, educational institutions, and also in government – to name a few. Career opportunities are available in a variety of settings, including the public and private sectors in both urban and rural settings. Skills can be applied in global, national, and local settings in a wide variety of sectors, for example, government, health, education, agriculture, and banking.

What are the minimum admission requirements to study BCom with specialisation in Economics?

- AP = 28
- NSC Mathematics = Achievement level 4
- NSC English = Achievement level 4
- An interest in using data, thinking critically, and applying logic to understand how resources and money influence our world, in order to solve complex problems related to this.

At the University of the Free State we
inspire excellence
and transform lives.



To get an idea of a **day in the life** of an economist, watch these videos:



3. FINANCE

Are you interested in the buzz of financial markets? If you want to assist others in maximising returns on their savings, you enjoy analysing risk, or you are interested in how banks function, consider a career that specialises in finance. This field focuses on making investment decisions and asset allocation, and involves creating investment strategies and directing funds into properties, equities, or debt securities. You are also exposed to how banks comply to international standards when assessing risk by not only managing it, but measuring it using complex analytical techniques. This degree programme is internationally accredited by the prestigious CFA Institute in the USA – one of only six universities in South Africa to have this accreditation.

Where do investment managers and bankers work?

Typical employers of investment fund managers are investment banks, investment and asset management companies, stockbrokers, insurance and life assurance companies, and banks.

What are the minimum admission requirements to study BCom with specialisation in Finance?

- AP = 28
- NSC Mathematics = Achievement level 4
- NSC English = Achievement level 4
- An interest in helping clients (such as individuals, businesses, and government) to manage their money and helping with corporate finance needs.
- The CFA accreditation is globally recognised as the gold standard in the investment field. This accreditation reflects the rigour and value of our programme.

4. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL ANALYTICS

Do the two options above sound appealing, but you want more data and computer programming skills that are applied to the disciplines of Economics and Finance? Then the BCom with specialisation in Business and Financial Analytics is for you! This flagship degree was designed for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, as it integrates quantitative analysis, computer science, statistics, and business. This qualification will equip graduates to become high-functioning executives in the modern global business world.

A business or financial analyst is responsible for a wide range of activities, including gathering data, organising information, analysing historical results, making forecasts and projections, making recommendations, and generating models, presentations, and reports. A good financial analyst is not only good with numbers (and thus data), but actually generates insights and recommendations on how to improve the operations of a business at a micro level, and even economic policy at a macro level. Examples of helpful insights include opportunities to grow revenue, operational efficiencies, market trends, economic indicator developments, and much more. This is what truly separates a world-class financial analyst from the rest. **These recommendations will be presented to both senior executives within companies, and high-ranking macroeconomic policymakers.**

Where do business and financial analysts work?

Business and financial analysts can work in all industries, both private and public. Some examples include investment banks, asset management firms, corporates, government, and business consulting firms.

What are the minimum admission requirements to study BCom with specialisation in Business and Financial Analytics?

- AP = 34
- NSC Mathematics = Achievement level 5
- NSC English = Achievement level 4
- An interest in solving problems, working with numbers and crunching data, and effective communication.

Here are videos about a *day in the life* of a financial analyst:



5. WHAT OTHER PROGRAMMES ARE OFFERED BY THE FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES?

BCom	B6300	63001	BC630000
BCom with specialisation in Business Management	B6300	63001	BC630012
BCom with specialisation in Human Resource Management	B6300	63001	BC630030
BCom (Law)	B6370	63701	BC637070
BCom with specialisation in Marketing	B6300	63001	BC630010
Bachelor of Administration degree	BC6340	63401	BC634040

For more information on these programmes, contact the faculty manager at EMSadvice@ufs.ac.za



Apply here

6. WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE?

For degree studies at the University of the Free State, we expect that

- you have an NSC or NCV with an endorsement that allows entrance to degree studies (Bachelor's degree) or an equivalent qualification;
- you meet **all** the minimum admission requirements for the programme you intend to study. Meeting the minimum admission requirements for your chosen/intended programme of study does not guarantee admission, as limited spaces are available in each programme;
- you have a minimum level of 4 (50%) in English Home Language or English First Additional Language; and
- you must pass certain school subjects with a minimum level of achievement in order to take a certain university module. For example, you must get a mark of 60% for Mathematics in Grade 12 if you plan to study BCom with specialisation in Business and Financial Analytics.

7. HOW DO YOU APPLY?

APPLICATION TO STUDY AT THE UFS IS FREE

Visit <https://apply.ufs.ac.za>. Keep your mobile phone and an active email address ready, as you require both to access and complete the online application form.

Proceed through all the steps and submit your electronic application. Make sure that you complete the application form properly, e.g. if you need on-campus residence accommodation or financial aid, indicate this in the relevant section.

Upload copies of the following in PDF or JPEG format when you apply for undergraduate studies:

- Your ID if you are a South African citizen
- Your passport if you are an international student
- Your parent's ID or passport if you are younger than 18
- Your final Grade 11 results with the school's stamp
- Grade 12 June results with the school's stamp as soon as it becomes available.
- National Senior Certificate (NSC) if you have already matriculated
- Your academic record, only if you are/were a student at another institution of higher learning
- USAf accreditation from the examination board for South African universities. Apply to mb.usaf.ac.za for conditional exemption, foreign conditional exemption, or mature age conditional exemption.

***The online application is quick and easy – no hassle, no fuss!
It has an easy and modern design and is mobile- and tablet-
friendly. You can apply using any device. You can expect a
quicker response time if you apply online.***

8. CALCULATION OF YOUR ADMISSION POINT (AP) SCORE

It is important that you thoroughly study the admission requirements of the programmes you are interested in. The UFS calculates your AP score based on the NSC achievement scale. An AP score consisting of seven levels is used. Points will be awarded for six academic subjects (note: no points will be awarded for achievement levels lower than 30%). One point is awarded for Life Orientation from achievement Level 5 (60%) or higher when calculating your AP score for admission purposes.

NSC Level	UFS AP
7 (90%–100%)	8
7 (80%–89%)	7
6 (70%–79%)	6
5 (60%–69%)	5
4 (50%–59%)	4
3 (40%–49%)	3
2 (30%–39%)	2
1 (0%–29%)	-

9. ADMISSION TO STUDY AT THE UFS



Academic excellence is what the UFS is about – the higher your AP score, the better your chances of being chosen and finally admitted to study. **Meeting the minimum admission requirements for your chosen/intended programme of study does not guarantee selection and admission, as all programmes have a limited number of spaces available.** Applicants with the highest AP scores are chosen first, and the admission continues until all spaces have been filled. If you do not meet the minimum admission requirements for your intended/chosen programme of study, **you will not be selected.**

10. STUDENT SERVICE CENTRE

Our friendly agents are ready to assist you with the application, admission, and registration processes. Contact the agents if you require

- information on the admission requirements for any study programme;
- assistance to complete your application form; and
- assistance with tracking the status of your application.

Contact: T: +27 51 401 9111 | E: studentadmin@ufs.ac.za
or send a WhatsApp message to KovieCHAT on 087 240 6370.

For more information, view the UFS Prospectus 2025 at www.ufs.ac.za/prospective or visit the Virtual Expo at <https://www.ufs.ac.za/prospective/VirtualExperience> for a taste of varsity life and all that the University of the Free State has to offer you.



