

FACULTY OF **COMMERCE**

UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAMMES

Bachelor of Business Science
Bachelor of Commerce



2009



FACULTY OF COMMERCE

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES 2009

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

With much enthusiasm, I present to you the undergraduate programme offerings in the Faculty of Commerce at UCT. As you will see from the contents of this booklet, we offer a wide variety of programmes and streams designed to stimulate your thinking, unleash your potential and extend possibilities. While internationally competitive, our programmes retain local relevance and therefore equip you to contribute significantly to development challenges around us.



At this important point in South Africa's history, it is incumbent on universities to produce enterprising graduates who are not only creative but possess technical skills. These and other desirable people-skills enable them to be constructive in whatever sphere of human endeavour they find themselves. Our graduates are proudly everywhere in South Africa, within the rest of the region and indeed worldwide. This is an exciting time for all of us and I encourage you to seize the day!

Professor Melvin Ayogu

Dean of Commerce
University of Cape Town

WHY COMMERCE?

Our degree content

UCT's academic excellence is grounded in solid academic theory combined with a high level of business and professional contact to offer a degree at the cutting edge. Not only will you learn what to do, we will also teach you why, when, where and how to do it, both now and in the future. A real education that provides life-long learning, not a quick-fix training solution. We are not just about numbers. Our graduates understand there is way more to life and business than technical proficiency and money. That is why our programmes require students to continuously engage in tasks that improve their critical thinking and communication skills. This provides them with the key tools to integrate their learning in all the subjects studied in the current and previous years.

Student opportunities

Our students are the lifeblood of our faculty. We place great emphasis on innovative teaching methods, offer small group tutorials, high levels of consultation with the academic staff and an excellent administrative service. In addition, UCT offers a comprehensive range of student development services and personalised career planning throughout your degree. Students also have access to a wide variety of sporting, social, cultural, environmental and spiritual activities, and our graduates are members of a worldwide network of UCT alumni.

Flexibility

Our BCom and BBusSc degree programmes are tailored to meet international standards of excellence within an African context and are designed to give you maximum flexibility in your career. Offered as standard or extended programmes, both degrees provide our students with a solid foundation in business. If you meet our requirements for access to the extended BCom or BBusSc programmes, you will benefit from an extra year, giving you time to adapt to a different style of learning while still graduating with exactly the same renowned degree. Whether you want to work here or go abroad, change jobs or even careers, your Commerce degree will give you the education that will enable you to succeed in a

rapidly changing environment. Whilst in the early stages of your degree, you may also choose to move from one stream to another, and some students even change degrees.

Our reputation

UCT is proud of its international standing, and the Commerce Faculty is no different. The strong friendships we enjoy with many leading local and international firms are testament to our commitment to and longstanding tradition of providing a multitude of industries and professions with graduates who are able to contribute to the organisation's success as soon as they start work. Your UCT degree is highly regarded, and for good reason. Our contribution to research in various fields ensures that our staff members are internationally respected and enables many businesses to stay ahead of a constantly changing market, as can be witnessed by the many centres and institutes based at UCT that are supported by these organisations. This research is brought into the classroom to enhance learning and illustrate theory, further enriching your degree.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES OFFERED

- **Bachelor of Business Science (BBusSc)**
- **Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)**

Both degrees are divided into a variety of programmes to cater both for the interests of our students and the employment needs of the country. The first year in both degrees is more or less common, for two main reasons:

- All commerce graduates should have a solid academic foundation in a range of "core" subject areas: Accounting, Information Systems, Economics, Business Law, Mathematics, Statistics and Evidence-Based Management
- We do not expect students new to university to finalise their degree or programme choices before being exposed to the disciplines at a tertiary level, so the more similar the programmes, the more flexibility students have to move around as they discover where their strengths and interests lie.

All students are required to have a minimum level of computer competence at the start of their studies, or they will be required to complete a course in computer literacy.

The BBusSc focuses primarily on management, but also gives students the opportunity to specialise in an additional discipline that can be taken to the Honours level.

Both degrees are offered in the standard format or as Academic Development (AD) programmes to students who may have experienced gaps or disparities in their educational or life experience. The BBusSc is traditionally offered over four years, but is also available as the EDU Commerce AD BBusSc, over a four- or five-year period, depending on your Matric results. Similarly, the BCom is traditionally offered over three years, but is available as the AD BCom over a three- or four-year period, depending on your Matric results. Both AD degree programmes provide students with a range of additional support not offered in the standard programmes. It is important to note that, whether you spend three, four or five years doing your degree, your Commerce degree certificate will be the same, except to stipulate whether you have graduated with a BCom or BBusSc degree and the area of specialisation of the degree.

Contact details for the Commerce Education Development Unit (EDU) offices appear on page 60.

The UCT Application Form will require you to select:

- A degree: either the BCom or BBusSc
- An area of specialisation within the degree

This should be an informed decision, so please make use of all resources available to you in order for you to make the best choice for you. Read this brochure and the Undergraduate Prospectus carefully, visit our website (www.commerce.uct.ac.za), contact the Faculty Office and talk to the staff there, or make an appointment to chat to a Student Advisor in one of the Academic Departments in the Faculty. There will also be academic and administrative staff available during registration and orientation to assist you if you still need assistance or reassurance then, and remember that the flexibility built in to the degrees offers you scope to change your mind.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE

Bachelor of Business Science Degree (4 or 5 years)

Specialisation: Actuarial science

Options: Actuarial Science
Quantitative Finance

Specialisation: Management studies

Options: Finance
Finance CA option
Computer Science
Information Systems
Economics
Law
Marketing
Organisational Psychology
Quantitative Management

Bachelor of Commerce Degree (3 or 4 years)

Specialisation: Accounting

Options: General Accountant
Chartered Accountant
Accounting & Law

Specialisation: Economics

Options: Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE)
Economics & Finance
Economics & Statistics
Economics & Law

Specialisation: Information Systems

NB: Any academically strong and motivated student who chooses a programme requiring STA1001 (the foundation course in Mathematics) may substitute this with Mathematics 1000/1002 provided he/she meets the Mathematics entrance requirements (currently at least 60 %). This will allow more flexibility in changing between programmes and degrees in subsequent years. Please note that Maths Literacy is not accepted for entrance into the Commerce Faculty (refer to pages 56–59 for full admissions information).

Primary differences between a BCom and a BBusSc degree:

Degree	BCom	BBusSc
Length	3 or 4 years	4 or 5 years
Mandatory Maths course	At least 6 months Offered by the Statistics Dept as STA1001H. If one has a natural aptitude for and enjoys Maths, one can replace it with MAM1002W NB: Certain mathematically-based BCom programmes require MAM1002W/MAM1000W	1 year Offered by the Maths Dept as MAM1002W or MAM1000W for students who require 2nd year Maths for their programme
Breadth of coverage	Nothing to stop above average students picking up additional courses	As it takes longer, it covers a broader range of business-related subjects including Marketing and People Management
Areas of specialisation	Normally 1 The student could spend a fourth year doing an area of specialisation at the Honours level	2 Business Strategy and one other area taken at the Honours level

POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN COMMERCE

The Faculty offers a variety of postgraduate options designed for students with a vocational/professional focus, or for those wishing to pursue the academic discipline of their undergraduate commerce degree.

Professionally/vocationally directed postgraduate diplomas:

Students with undergraduate degrees from Commerce may apply for Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Diplomas in Management. The Postgraduate Diplomas in Management currently offered are ideal for students wishing to pursue a career in Accounting, Information Systems, Actuarial Science or a variety of Management areas including Marketing, Tourism, Entrepreneurship and Sport Management.

Honours/Masters/Doctoral degrees

The Faculty offers a range of degrees for students wishing to study further in a particular commerce discipline. Some of the degrees are offered on a part-time basis whilst others require full time study. Certain Masters degrees require coursework and/or internships in addition to the dissertation.

For further information on our postgraduate courses please contact the Commerce Faculty Office or visit the UCT Commerce website at www.commerce.uct.ac.za

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

The following is a brief introduction to the various areas of study offered within the BCom and/or BBusSc degrees. Note that some subjects are offered in one or other of the degrees, and others are offered in both degrees. This is indicated in the subject heading. Please note that a number of the disciplines may be studied in other faculties as well as the Commerce Faculty, as follows:

	COMMERCE	HUMANITIES	LAW	SCIENCE
ACCOUNTING	X			X
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE	X			X
COMPUTER SCIENCE	X			X
ECONOMICS	X	X		X
FINANCE	X			
INFORMATION SYSTEMS	X			
LAW	X	X	X	
MARKETING	X			
ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	X	X		
STATISTICAL SCIENCES	X	X		X

Information on the various areas of study offered in the BCom and BBusSc degrees

ACCOUNTING (BCom and BBusSc)

Accounting is the language used to record business transactions. Financial Reports are used by Investors, Management, Entrepreneurs, Lenders, Financial analysts and Government bodies. Accountants record transactions and use summarised information to communicate financial information to stakeholders.

It is not necessary to have done Accounting at school if you wish to do Accounting at UCT. University accounting differs from school accounting in that it focuses on the decisions involved in the preparation of accounts as opposed to the mechanics of recording. Successful accountants can think logically, communicate effectively and enjoy working with people, they behave ethically and have a willingness to develop sound judgement.

An Accounting programme is useful for anyone who wishes to prepare for a career in business or in the accounting profession. With this qualification you will be able to work in any size or type of organisation and in any employment sector in any country. Successful professional accountants must be able to think logically, laterally and strategically. They must be able to make sound decisions based on a broad business perspective and their expertise in the following disciplines, (any one of which can become an area of further specialisation):

- **Financial Reporting**

Financial reporting is the preparation and communication of the information relating to financial activities of the organisation to stakeholders.

- **Taxation**

Taxation is the structuring and determination of all the company's taxes in a legal and efficient manner.

- **Management Accounting**

Managerial accounting provides the information required by managers for the decision making and control of the organisation.

- **Financial Management**

Financial management is about making financial and investment decisions in terms of the long term objectives for your organisation.

- **Auditing**

Auditing is the evaluation of the integrity of information and the effectiveness of controls over information and assets.

Students wishing to specialise in accounting can register for either the 3–4 year BCom or the 4–5 year BBusSc Finance. Both of these degrees offer a number of different combinations of subjects in addition to accounting.

The accounting specialisation is offered as:

- BCom (General Accountant)
- BCom (Chartered Accountant) commonly referred to as the CA stream
- BCom (Accounting and Law)
- BBusSc (Finance or Finance CA option)

The BCom CA and BBusSc Finance CA (Chartered Accountant) streams require students to complete final year courses that prepare and enable them to proceed to the CA(SA) qualification offered by SAICA (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants). The Finance and General Accountant streams require the completion of courses that are broader and have a more general focus.

BCom (General Accountant)

This degree is designed to give students a broad understanding of accounting and provides a more practical business focus than the BCom (C.A. stream) and the BCom (Accounting and Law). It serves as a basis for the opportunity to enter several highly respected international professional bodies such as ACCA and CIMA. It is designed to serve the needs of students who do not wish to proceed to the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (PgDA) and continue to qualify as Chartered Accounts [CA(SA)], but nonetheless appreciate the value of an accounting degree.

Graduates with this qualification could aim to become General Managers, Business Advisors, Accountants, Tax Officials, Accounting Officers, Company Secretaries, Internal Auditors, Tax Advisors.

BCom (CA) or BBusSc (Finance – CA option)

The CA stream is designed for the students who are interested in qualifying as Chartered Accountants. The students are prepared for the PgDA and the CA(SA) Qualifying Examinations. Students selecting these options should be aiming towards the Chartered Accountant qualification.

Persons with this qualification could aim to become key members of top management teams such as the Managing Director or the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tax Consultants, Financial Advisors, Financial Directors, Asset Managers, Information system auditors, Partners in an auditing practice, Forensic auditors.

BCom (Accounting and Law)

This combined accounting and law programme is designed for students who are interested in a legal career with a commercial background.

The first year courses for all three BCom options are identical so that students will not have made their final decision until they have experienced accounting at a tertiary level. BBusSc students do Accounting only in their second academic year of study.

Please note that any professional qualification requires a period of practical training in addition to the academic qualification.

Professional qualifications

Opportunities are available to students who choose Accounting as an area of specialisation to proceed, with further study and practical experience, to the attainment of a professional qualification through various accounting institutes. UCT does not at this stage provide tuition for completing professional examinations, other than for the SAICA qualification. Most professional institutes grant extensive exemptions for students with qualifications from UCT. The most notable of these institutes and their related qualifications are the following:

South African Institute of Professional Accountants: PA(SA)

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants: ACMA and FCMA

This is an Institute based in the UK which has an office in South Africa.

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants: FCA

This is an Institute based in the UK which has an office in South Africa.

South African Institute of Chartered Accountants: SAICA; CA(SA)

The Department of Accounting offers the one year full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (PgDA) to qualifying accounting graduates who wish to obtain the CA(SA).

Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting: Students who have graduated with the BCom Chartered Accountant Stream or BBusSc Finance CA Option Stream are eligible to register for the one year full-time PgDA, provided they meet the academic standards for entry, through obtaining the required marks in their previous year of study. On successful completion of the PgDA a student is eligible to write Part I of the SAICA Qualifying Examination. After successful completion of a specialisation in auditing or financial management, and successful completion of the second professional examination and a period of traineeship with an auditing firm (TIPP) or a registered commercial organisation (TOPP), the student will be eligible to apply for the designation CA(SA).

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE (BBusSc)

An actuary is trained to be a master of mathematics, probability, statistics and compound interest, particularly in relation to financial and demographic problems. A high degree of numeracy is required in order to manipulate figures efficiently and easily but this is not sufficient, for an actuary is required to extract and interpret the often hidden meaning behind figures.

There are at present about 700 qualified actuaries in South Africa, most of whom are employed in the life assurance industry or related areas, but there is a growing awareness that the skills and training of an actuary place him or her in a position to make a unique contribution to many other fields.

The profession is particularly suited to anyone who is willing to undertake several years of exacting study and has a well disciplined approach to problem solving.

Since the professional qualification is so demanding, the University will generally require an applicant to have obtained at least 80% Mathematics (higher grade for SC) and at least 60% for English (first language) in addition to the required number of points.

In order to practise as an actuary in South Africa, one needs to be a Fellow of either the Institute of Actuaries (London), the Faculty of Actuaries (Edinburgh) or the Actuarial Society of America. To qualify as a Fellow of one of these bodies one needs to pass the examinations set by them. All studying is done by correspondence and before a South African student is allowed to enrol for the examinations he or she needs to obtain a high pass mark in first year university mathematics.

The University of Cape Town was the first university in South Africa to offer a degree specialising in Actuarial Science. This course has been designed to include much of the material covered by the early professional examinations and the successful student can expect to be exempted from up to 10 of the professional examinations in addition to gaining a broad business qualification offered by a BBusSc degree.

The Actuarial Science section of the Department is one of the largest and most qualified in the country. It attracts over 200 new undergraduate students and about 50 postgraduate students each year. Studying these courses through the University also enables the student to attend lectures given by qualified staff rather than to have to study by correspondence.

In addition the Actuarial Science section offers a Postgraduate Diploma/Masters in Actuarial Science. These courses cover the material in the remaining professional examinations and have greatly assisted in establishing Cape Town as one of the centres with the highest qualification rates in the world.

Another first for the section was the introduction of a Postgraduate Diploma in Management (Actuarial Conversion Course). This is an intensive one- or two-year programme, unique to South Africa, which has been specifically designed to provide exceptional graduates accelerated entry into an actuarial career from disciplines other than Actuarial Science.

COMPUTER SCIENCE (BBusSc)

At University the emphasis in Computer Science is on the principles underlying computing, including the structure and nature of the computer itself, the development and use of programming languages, as well as the application of the computer as a tool in problem solving.

Computing, when combined with Business Science, provides the student with an understanding of scientific management as well as the skills of a computer scientist which equips him/her for the consultancy profession. This course is an excellent combination of in-depth computer skills and management techniques. It allows the student to subsequently choose either a technical or managerial career.

Students in Computer Science should be precise and able to work out the solution to a problem in a logical manner. He/she also needs to be creative, resourceful and responsible. A good pass in Mathematics in the Matriculation examination is required.

A wide variety of careers are open to graduates in Computer Science. Some examples include:

- Systems Analyst/Designer, the link between the programmer and the user converting the user's requirements into system designs;
- Programmer, the conversion of system designs into a form understood by the computer. Application programmers are concerned more with business requirements, whereas technical programmers are concerned primarily with more complex tasks.
- Technical specialists are experts in areas such as data communication networks, databases and operating systems.
- Research and Development, both in the commercial and university worlds, is a rewarding experience for those that are academically minded.

ECONOMICS (BCom and BBusSc)

The School of Economics at UCT is one of the largest departments in the University offering tuition to more than 3500 undergraduate students and approximately 100 postgraduate students. At UCT, as at universities all

over the world, enrolments in economics classes are growing more rapidly than in any other discipline. This is not surprising. There exists ever-broadening scope for students who have specialised, or majored, in economics during their studies who wish to pursue a career in the field.

Why Take a Programme with a Strong Economics Component?

Economics is the study of Economic life. It asks what, how and why goods are produced, and who benefits. Economics covers 'micro' subjects like the economics of the firm (profit maximisation etc) and 'macro' issues like unemployment, inflation and economic growth. All of UCT's Economics programmes require that you do core micro- and macro- courses in first, second and third year. Other economics courses (some optional, some compulsory depending on the programme) include International Trade, Labour and Development Economics, Public Sector Economics and Resource Economics.

The more you study economics, the more you will understand economic policy dilemmas, the complexities of economic growth crises, etc. You will, in other words, be able to talk much more sensibly about economic issues than you would if you just took core economics subjects. Having this skill will enrich your business life (and certainly make you appear more intelligent in an interview!). It will also improve your attractiveness to many employers. Graduates who can think clearly and logically about the broader economic environment have a lot to offer potential employers – especially those in asset-management, stockbroking, merchant banking, investment guidance and management consulting. Most jobs in business require further training, and a background in economics is usually a good signal to employers that you are capable of analytical thinking and are worth training further.

Philosophy, Politics & Economics

The PPE is the School's 'mainstream' undergraduate economics programme, offering students the full range of the discipline's areas and approaches, with a range of carefully chosen related subjects. The UCT PPE degree places a unique focus on the special economic, political and

ethical aspects of private sector and public sector policy formation in the age of accelerating commercial and information globalisation. PPE seeks to prepare 'citizens of the world', with skills applicable to a broad range of challenging careers.

The PPE degree is designed to open a variety of career opportunities. Students who are interested in formulating economic policy, taking account of the implication of such policies for the political and ethical governance of the world, will find the PPE programme the ideal field of study for South Africa. Graduates will obtain an excellent first degree, which, especially if combined with postgraduate studies in Economics or related fields, will be a sound foundation for a career in policy making in the public and private sector. It is also an ideal beginning for a student who aspires to a career as an international trade diplomat or private/public sector trade policy analyst.

Economics & Finance

The Economics and Finance programme combines a full major in Economics with courses in financial options and management that together provide students with the skills needed to understand and operate in the world of finance. Students interested in careers in investment banking, asset management, equity consulting and other areas of finance that require both technical expertise and a critical understanding of economic forecasting will find this an ideal first degree.

Economics & Statistics

The Economics and Statistics programme combines full majors in both Economics and Statistics. It provides a highly distinctive first degree for students interested in careers as economic forecasters and econometricians (the name of the profession that measures such crucial concepts of daily attention and importance as GDP, the inflation rate, the national savings rate, etc.) Students who complete this programme send an unusually strong and convincing signal to potential employers that they have strong technical aptitude and confidence, attributes in short supply in the employment market.

Economics & Law

The Economics and Law programme is intended only for students who are interested in a law career with a commercial background or who wish to continue with an LLB degree.

Frequently Asked Questions

How, where and when do I register as a professional economist?

Economists do not have to register with a professional body or write a qualifying exam before they can work as economists. In fact, very few economics graduates will ever be appointed in positions carrying the job description of Economist.

Economics is offered in three faculties, and in this Faculty in four different programmes. How do I know which programme is right for me?

The answer depends to a large extent on the career that you hope to follow. While you can easily switch between economics programmes during the first two years, each programme takes a different focus in year three. Consult a student advisor and study the programme content carefully to help you decide which is best for you.

What are the possibilities for further study at postgraduate level?

Graduates from all economics programmes will be eligible to apply for Honours level study (and beyond) in economics at UCT or abroad. The school of Economics also offers Masters by dissertation and coursework and PhD degrees.

Graduates with a PPE degree will also be eligible for postgraduate study in Political Science, Public Administration, Philosophy, Mathematics, Accounting or Finance, depending on the student's choice of second major.

A graduate of the Economics and Finance programme will also be eligible for postgraduate study in Finance, and a graduate of the Economics and Statistics programme will be eligible for postgraduate studies in Statistics. UCT's Economics degrees carry full international recognition because of their carefully designed content, which make them complementary with all similar programmes abroad.

How is the study of Economics at UCT different from other universities?

There is a certain core body of theory that is common to all economics courses taught at South African and international universities. UCT accepts the credits for Economics I from most other universities, in the same way that other universities accept credits obtained at UCT.

In the senior undergraduate and postgraduate years the UCT courses in economics tend to be more technical and mathematical than those of other South African universities. This is in line with international trends. We find that UCT students who go on to study at so-called ivy league foreign universities (e.g. Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, etc.) have an excellent grounding in economics and do very well in the Masters and PhD programmes offered by these institutions. The technical nature of UCT's courses requires a high degree of mathematical insight and background – more than that required by other South African universities.

FINANCE (BBusSc)

Finance is a modern and exciting discipline, and the most popular of the BBusSc streams.

Two recent trends have fuelled the value of finance as a globally recognised profession and underpin its relevance for the 21st century. The first is the world-wide move to deregulation and the opening of markets which has coincided with an almost universal appreciation of the importance of capital and investment for growth and prosperity. The second is the phenomenal growth in finance theory, computing power and financial research. The impact has been extreme. There are few businesses today that are not acutely aware of the significance of markets and financial planning for their viability.

Financial assets represent claims on other assets. For example, money is a claim on goods and services; stocks and bonds are claims on future cash-flows. Finance is concerned with the creation and valuation of these claims, the markets in which they are traded, and their use by both individuals and corporations.

Finance, as a discipline, is broken down into two primary components: the pricing and valuation of assets (Investments) and the structure and financial decision making of firms (Corporate Finance). While investment finance takes the perspective of the investor, corporate finance takes the perspective of the investee. Finance research is characterised by the development of theoretical models and the subsequent empirical testing of those models. This stream makes intensive use of the quantitative skills that students develop simultaneously during their undergraduate study.

Career opportunities in finance are many and varied. They can be similarly broadly broken down into two categories:

Corporate Finance. People who work in a corporate setting are concerned with acquiring funds for the operation and growth of the firm, the firm's capital expenditure decisions, and the analysis of the firm's operations and performance.

Investments. The people who have careers in the investments area are concerned with how stocks and bonds are valued, and the management of investment portfolios. Many of these jobs are with banks, brokerage houses, and fund managers.

Problems in finance do not occur in isolation of other disciplines. The finance stream thus includes courses in accountancy, economics, business strategy and law, and requires the quantitative skills needed to make informed decisions.

A mark of 60% or more for Finance I is required to proceed to Finance II. Similarly, Finance Honours Advanced Topics and Research is only available to BBusSc students who have a mark of at least 60% for Finance II.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS (BCom and BBusSc)

What is Information Systems?

Information Systems (IS) is one of the most fascinating and dynamic fields in which to pursue a career. We have all entered the information age, where computers, networks and information technology (IT) play a major role in our working and social lives. Information Systems applies these technologies to real world situations in commerce, industry, education, government, entertainment and virtually every area of society. Every time we draw money from an ATM, book an airline seat, use a word-processor, take out a library book, surf the web, use a telephone or pay an account, we are interacting with an information system.

IS professionals analyse problems and opportunities found in all areas of business and society, design systems (including computer systems) to satisfy requirements, build these systems, and implement them "in the field". They need to work with managers, system users, and people of all types and levels, thus requiring knowledge of business, organisations and management issues. A good IS qualification will therefore focus on acquiring people and business skills and will balance coverage of the technical (hardware and software) aspects with the human side of information systems.

What Opportunities are there for IS Graduates?

IS is a rapidly changing field, which is creating new jobs and even new organisations. IS is essential to almost every aspect of the modern organisation. For this reason, IS graduates are sought after by employers, and work in large companies or in IT specialist companies. IS is also useful for entrepreneurs. IS graduates hold many important and challenging positions locally and internationally such as:

- Business analysts
- Computer programmers
- Database administrators
- IS consultants
- IS architects

- IS entrepreneurs
- IS managers
- Network and computer systems administrators
- Project managers
- Systems analysts

IS degrees are becoming essential for finding IS employment. ITWeb, a South African technology news site, runs annual IS salary surveys. Their surveys confirm the IS skills shortage in South Africa, particularly for people with specialised skills such as object-oriented development and candidates with the right technical and business mix. In contrast, job seekers with only entry-level certifications may struggle to find IS employment and are likely to earn less.

There are not enough undergraduate students currently studying to meet predicted shortages of qualified computer specialists. The earning potential for IS graduates is high, particularly if you are prepared to work hard. In the competition to hire graduates coming out of these programmes, we expect to see higher starting salaries in this field.

Who should consider a career in IS?

There is no magic formula for success or aptitude in this area, but as IS professionals provide technology solutions to business problems, some important personal characteristics would include:

- A willingness to continually learn new skills
- An interest in technology, people and organisations
- Good interpersonal skills
- An ability to acquire analytical and holistic problem solving skills

Information Systems at UCT

The Department of Information Systems offers a range of programmes and courses accommodating students from 1st year to doctoral level. Our focus is on acquiring business and people skills and balancing technology (such as object-oriented development) with the human side of information systems.

In all courses up to Honours level extensive practical project work is done using a variety of system development tools. At senior levels, students interact with real clients outside the university, building valuable career skills while developing small commercial applications.

Our IS undergraduate classes are small and students receive personal attention from academic staff.

You can major in Information Systems as part of the Bachelor of Business Science or the Bachelor of Commerce degree. In the first year you need to complete the Foundations of Information Systems and then the Commercial Programming course. The syllabus of each course is included at the end of this booklet.

LAW (BCom and BBusSc)

Applicants wishing to qualify to practise as an attorney or advocate in South Africa may complete any Bachelor's degree followed by the three year LLB (Bachelor of Law) degree. The entrance requirements for the LLB are a bachelor's degree with certain pass levels in this first degree. With certain undergraduate degrees, including the BCom and BBusSc Law streams it is possible to complete the LLB degree in two years rather than three. This is because the courses offered in the first year of the LLB have been incorporated into the curricula of these degrees. Law Streams are included in the BCom Accounting Programme, the BCom Economics Programme and the BBusSc Management Studies Programme.

What does it lead to?

Commerce graduates with an LLB are in considerable demand in the legal profession because of their focus on the Commercial aspects of law. They assist clients with compliance of rules and regulations to do with stock market activities such as flotations, mergers, acquisitions, and share transactions etc. as well as giving advice to clients on legalities that concern their business processes.

Other graduates find employment in the legal departments of large companies, and are sought after by banks, financial institutions and accounting firms.

MARKETING (BBusSc)

The Marketing special field has always drawn students because it is seen to be an area of study which leads to exciting and challenging work both locally and overseas. Marketing has become recognised as being crucial to success in not only the private sector but also in many other organisations not traditionally regarded as being business enterprises. Indeed, given the massive changes taking place in our social, economic and political environment, the tasks of identifying and serving customers' needs, managing communications with its ever advancing technology and meeting management objectives through marketing strategy have never been more challenging.

The Marketing stream within Business Science is well equipped to prepare students to be effective to meet these challenges.

Marketing begins with the customer, not with the production process. Using scientific application of marketing research, the marketer is in a position to determine what target market to serve, which products or services to develop, design and package, how to price them, how best to make them available to their markets and what sort of pricing strategy to adopt. The marketer must also select the appropriate communication techniques using the most efficient media to make the market aware of the company's offerings. This fundamental approach is used by marketers irrespective of the market in which they operate and this includes not-for-profit organisations, informal businesses as well as large corporations.

In order to achieve an understanding of the marketing process as well as to develop the skills required to implement marketing strategy, students are initially given a broad overview which includes economics, behavioural science, law, mathematics and statistics; thereafter, the educational process focuses on specific marketing functions such as marketing research, product selection, design and development, pricing policy, advertising and sales promotion, retailing, wholesaling and physical distribution and strategic marketing. The different forms of marketing also receive attention, viz. consumer, industrial, services, social and international marketing.

Classes are run by our team of academic staff well supported by marketing practitioners who give willingly of their time. Study takes place in the lecture room as well as in the field as students do practical projects and a dissertation.

The BBusSc Marketing Stream has been carefully structured to develop the discipline of marketing out of a broad base of relevant and supporting business courses.

The introductory Marketing I course is taught in the second year, after students have been given a grounding in economics, mathematics, statistics, behavioural sciences and information systems. The third and fourth years are specialist years as far as marketing is concerned and consumer behaviour, marketing communications, international marketing, industrial marketing, and marketing research are all covered. In addition, students are expected to write a marketing paper or dissertation where they can show evidence of critical analysis when considering a marketing problem.

The increasing demand for marketing graduates who can immediately apply their knowledge and skills in the work place and particularly those who have a solid knowledge of the fundamentals of business, testifies to the popularity of the marketing stream of the Business Science degree and the Postgraduate Diploma. Career prospects are not limited to those types of companies traditionally associated with marketing, i.e. consumer goods sellers. Banks, insurance companies, retailers, the public sector and many other organisations are employing Marketing graduates on an increasingly greater scale. In addition, with the emphasis today on small business, many graduates find great success in starting their own businesses.

ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (BBusSc)

What is Organisational Psychology?

Organisational Psychology is an applied area of Psychology that deals with human behaviour in the workplace. Working behaviour is a bit different from everyday behaviour, as it occurs within a specific context of

an organisation. An organisation can be anything from a big corporate to a small business to a non-governmental organisation.

Organisational Psychology developed as an applied field in about 1910, so it is quite a new area (in comparison with applications in health and education which are older and more established as knowledge areas). Organisational Psychology has gone through a number of significant phases as the world of work has changed over the years:

- The psychotechnics or job selection phase (1910-1960) where the focus was on personnel selection and vocational guidance
- The human relations phase (1920-1980) where organisational psychologists focused on the social dynamics of the workplace (e.g. workers' attitudes to work; organisational climate; etc.)
- The human resource management phase (since 1985 to the present) where the central idea is that people are to be valued as an organisational asset rather than a necessity or a cost.

In South Africa, universities differ in their thinking about human resource management and organisational psychology. At some universities Human Resource Management is presented as a separate subject area from Organisational Psychology. At UCT we take the position that Human Resource Management is an integral part and a current historical phase of Organisational Psychology. In this way students learn about human resource systems, human behaviour and the nature of organisations in order to end up with an integrated view of people, process and context.

What it leads to

A degree in Organisational Psychology opens up a wide variety of employment opportunities. The one most people think about first is becoming a human resource manager and dealing with people issues in organisations. However, this is just one possibility. If you are interested in learning and teaching people, you can become a training and development specialist, or even specialise in on-line learning. With Organisational Psychology you can also work in the area of reward management, where you provide guidance regarding job grades and

levels and the pay and benefits associated with these. Another area of work is industrial relations. An industrial relations manager is the custodian of fair labour practice in an organisation and supports other managers to treat their employees in a fair and legal manner. You can also become a recruitment and selection specialist – someone who matches new staff to suitable positions in the organisation. Another area of work is organisational change. In this area you support people and organisations through change (e.g. mergers, acquisitions, new product or service offerings; organisational culture change, etc.). You can also work in fields like organisational communication; health, safety and well-being; performance management; etc. Another exciting area of work is evaluation of human resource programmes where you advise human resource practitioners which programmes are most suitable to their circumstances or which programmes have proven impact on the organisation.

In fact, the knowledge and skills you gain in Organisational Psychology will enable you to be successful in many jobs, as you will leave the university as competent knowledge workers: people who can label and describe human behaviour in the work place, people who can distinguish patterns in work behaviour and people who can identify problems and find innovative solutions for these organisational problems.

Professional Qualifications

You can register with two professional bodies in our subject area. The South African Health Professions Council registers you as an Industrial Psychologist. To become an Industrial Psychologist, you need a Masters degree and a one-year internship. As a registered Industrial Psychologist, you can conduct psychometric testing.

The South African Board of Personnel Practice will register you as a practitioner after you have done a number of required courses (all included in our undergraduate programme) and worked for a specified length of time. There are different levels of practitioner registration depending on the level of the courses and the length of work experience. Currently there are no specific professional tasks demarcated for Human Resource Practitioners (the South African Board of Personnel Practice is still consulting on these professional tasks).

Frequently Asked Questions

I see that technical universities offer human resource diplomas and degrees. How do these differ from a degree in Organisational Psychology?

At a technical university, your education will focus on human resource processes (recruitment, selection, training, performance management, etc.), while at the university the focus is on the behaviour of people, human resource processes and an understanding of the organisational context of working. While a technical university education will give you immediate, job-relevant skills, a university education will provide an overview of these skills, but with more emphasis on knowledge work (problem-solving, providing solutions, etc.).

Does it matter in which faculty an Organisational Psychology department is located?

Some universities have located their Organisational Psychology departments in Schools of Psychology in Humanities or Social Science Faculties. At UCT we are located in the faculty that deals with the world of work, namely the Commerce Faculty. The quality of content of the Organisational Psychology course (an integrated, in-depth offering of human behaviour in the work place) is much more important than its location within a university structure.

Is this really a good study direction for finding a job?

In South Africa, we are experiencing a general skills shortage and working in the area of workplace skills and people management is excellent preparation for the job market. As the area of Organisational Psychology is so varied, specialisation in a people, process or organisationally focused area provides even more job opportunities.

I see that the BBusSc is a four year degree. As a Business Science student, do I automatically qualify for the BBusSc Honours year when I have completed the third year?

Completing the third year of your BBusSc degree does not qualify you automatically for the Honours year. Entry into the Honours year is subject to an independent selection process.

So what happens if I am not selected into the Honours year?

Students who do not qualify for admission to the Honours year will be required to register for courses selected in consultation with the Head of the Organisational Psychology Section.

STATISTICAL SCIENCES (BCom and BBusSc)

The Statistical Sciences help people working in all areas of human endeavour to make sensible decisions.

The Statistical Sciences are underpinned by Mathematics and especially Probability Theory, the branch of Mathematics that quantifies uncertainty.

Uncertainty is the very thing that makes it difficult for us to take decisions! In business, some of the areas in which the Statistical Sciences make a key contribution have special names of their own. Operations Research and Management Science provide guidance on decisions of how to maximise profits with limited resources; Quality Management considers how to minimise losses due to flaws in products, from the design stage to production; Market Research helps assess the performance of existing and potential products in the marketplace; Econometrics helps to provide a theoretical understanding of the quantitative interrelationships in the economy; Financial Statistics helps, for example, investment analysts to decide what shares to buy for their clients; Production Management enables a manufacturing process to be organised to optimise the utilisation of people and machines; and Actuarial Science considers, amongst other aspects, concepts of risk in insurance.

An education in the Statistical Sciences provides an excellent platform to launch a career in business. The additional leverage that you get from such an education is the ability to take business decisions on an objective numerate basis, making use of all the available quantitative and probabilistic information.

The skills learnt during education in UCT's Department of Statistical Sciences are immediately applicable. It has been our experience that our students find it relatively easy to obtain jobs immediately after graduation,

and that they are promoted rapidly into management positions. There is a worldwide shortage of statisticians, and the training received at UCT has universal application.

The statistics courses given by the UCT Department of Statistical Sciences to students from the Faculty of Commerce provide a blend of theory and applications of that theory to real-world problems in business. Computational aspects are stressed and there are opportunities to acquire skills in the use of statistical data analysis packages. The department aims to develop top-quality professionals in the various branches of the Statistical Sciences but also to ensure that graduates in other disciplines acquire the necessary quantitative and decision-making skills.

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) COMMERCE

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT (AD) BBusSc FOUR- OR FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT (AD) BCom THREE- OR FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME

The EDU recognises and specifically addresses the gaps and disparities in students' educational/life experience, so that they can more easily succeed – and excel – in their studies at UCT.

The AD BBusSc and AD BCom degree programmes have been structured over a four- or five-year period and three- and four-year period respectively, and provide a range of additional support and value not included in the standard programmes. The EDU aims to enhance their students' university experience by helping them develop a comprehensive range of educational and life skills that will not only help them achieve success in their studies, but will also be of value in their future careers.

Being on an AD programme provides you with a wide variety of support, opportunities and incentives :

- Your progress is monitored and you are mentored
- You have regular contact with the programme coordinator, where you can discuss and work out solutions to your day-to-day and academic concerns
- There are regular opportunities to interact with your fellow students to develop and practice collaborative learning and communication skills
- Specific support is provided in Language development and Mathematics
- Academic workshops are offered during all levels in the programme
- Senior AD students mentor first-year students in particular courses
- A 'Skills for Commerce' course is provided in your first year
- A variety of interventions develop different skills throughout the degree
- Yearly award ceremonies acknowledge academic achievement

Admission to the programme

Your application for the EDU Academic Development programmes is carefully screened to assess whether you indeed have had gaps in your education or general life experiences.

If you are accepted for a four-year BBusSc or a three-year BCom degree, you may still choose to be considered to be accepted for the AD programme.

If you have not been accepted for the four-year BBusSc or the three-year BCom programme, with careful assessment regarding your academic potential and ability to succeed, you could be accepted to the AD BBusSc or AD BCom.

We do not state a particular matric score that should be attained, as your acceptance is weighed against a variety of admission criteria related to academic potential and background. However, you would need at least a (4) Mathematics and (4) English first language or (5) English second language.

In exceptional circumstances, for entry into AD BCom, Maths Literacy may be considered subject to a minimum score of (7). In the past, the only exceptional circumstances that would qualify would be where an applicant into this programme attended a school which did not offer Mathematics as an option.

AD structure

Once you are accepted for the AD BusSc/BCom you are eligible to complete any of the BusSc/BCom streams (providing that you meet the particular requirements for the given streams).

It is important to remember that a student who has completed the requirements for the AD BusSc/BCom will be awarded exactly the same degree certificate as a student who has completed the standard BusSc/BCom degree.

For more information about the EDU programmes, please do not hesitate to contact us (contact details on page 60).

DETAILS OF PROGRAMME SYLLABI

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS SCIENCE

BBusSc STANDARD PROGRAMMES

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

- YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting 1
 Evidence-Based Management
 Introduction to Actuarial Science
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems 1 OR
 Computer Science 1A
 Mathematics 1
 Statistics 1006
- YEAR 2 Finance 1
 Actuarial Science 1: Financial Mathematics
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Mathematics II
 Statistics 2004
 Statistics 2005
- YEAR 3 Actuarial Science II: Models
 Actuarial Science II: Contingencies
 Marketing I
 Business Law 1
 Statistics 3041
 Statistics 3043
 Markov Processes and Advanced Time Series
 People Management

YEAR 4 Business Strategy
 Actuarial Project
 Actuarial Science III: Assets, Liabilities & Asset Liabilities Management
 Actuarial Science III: Financial Economics
 Professional Communication (Actuarial Science)

QUANTITATIVE FINANCE

YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I
 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Mathematics 1
 Statistics 1006
 Information Systems I OR
 Computer Science IA

YEAR 2 Actuarial Science 1: Financial Mathematics
 Finance 1
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Mathematics II
 Statistics 2004
 Statistics 2005
 Business Law 1

YEAR 3 Finance II
 Marketing 1
 Professional Communication
 Statistics 3041
 Statistics 3043
 Markov Processes and Advanced Time Series
 People Management

YEAR 4 Business Strategy
 Actuarial Science III: Assets
 Actuarial Science III: Financial Economics
 Finance Honours Selected Topics
 Quantitative Finance Project

MANAGEMENT STUDIES PROGRAMME

FINANCE

- YEAR 1 Evidence-Based Management
 Business Law I option
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Mathematics 1002
 Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I
 Business Statistics 2020
 Marketing I
 Finance I
 Business Law II
 Company Law
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
- YEAR 3 Financial Reporting II
 Control of Financial Information Systems OR
 Issues Around Business OR
 An approved half course
 Project and Operations Management OR
 An approved half course
 Finance II
 Information Technology in Business OR
 An approved half course
 Professional Communication
 People Management
- YEAR 4 Taxation IT OR
 Management Accounting I
 Business Strategy
 Finance Honours Advanced Topics and Research
 Finance Honours Special Topics OR
 An approved half course

Advanced Macro and Microeconomics AND
 Quantitative Methods in Economics OR
 Corporate Reporting OR
 An approved course

FINANCE (CA OPTION)

- YEAR 1 Evidence-Based Management
 Business Law I
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Mathematics 1002
 Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I
 Management Accounting 1
 Marketing 1
 Finance 1
 Business Law II
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Business Statistics 2020
- YEAR 3 Financial Reporting II
 Control of Financial Information Systems
 Management Accounting II
 Finance II
 Company Law
 Information Technology in Business
 People Management
- YEAR 4 Taxation and Estate Duty I
 Financial Reporting III
 Auditing I
 Business Strategy
 Finance Honours Advanced Topics and Research

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- YEAR 1 Evidence-Based Management
 Computer Science 1A
 Computer Science 1B
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Mathematics 1
 Statistics 1006
 Business Law I
- YEAR 2 Financial Accounting
 Business Accounting
 Business Finance
 Computer Science 2A
 Computer Science 2B
 Statistics 2006
 Statistics 2020
 Two approved half courses
- YEAR 3 Project and Operations Management OR
 An approved half course
 Computer Science 3002
 Computer Science 3003
 Marketing I
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Professional Communication
 People Management
- YEAR 4 Business Strategy
 Computer Science Honours

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- YEAR 1 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Commercial Programming

Business Law 1
 Mathematics 1002
 Statistics 1000

YEAR 2 Financial Accounting
 Business Accounting
 Marketing 1
 Business Finance
 Database Systems
 Systems Development A
 Systems Development B
 IT Architecture

YEAR 3 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Systems Development Project
 IT Applications
 Electronic Commerce
 Business Statistics 2020
 Professional Communication
 People Management

YEAR 4 Information Systems Honours
 Business Strategy

ECONOMICS

YEAR 1 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Mathematics 1002
 Statistics 1000
 Business Law 1

YEAR 2 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I OR
 Business Accounting
 Marketing 1
 Business Finance
 Business Statistics

Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Cooperation and Competition
 At least 2 credits from:
 Ethics
 Introduction to Politics

- YEAR 3 Project and Operations Management
 Advanced Micro and Macroeconomics
 Quantitative Methods in Economics
 People Management
 At least 2 credits from:
 ECO3000-level courses
 At least 8 credits from:
 Financial Reporting II
 Finance II
 ECO2000 and 3000-level courses
 20th Century Industrialisation
 Mathematics II
 Any PHI2000 or 3000-level courses
 Comparative Politics
 South African Politics
 State, Management and Administration
 Political Theory
 Political Economy of International Relations
- YEAR 4 Business Strategy
 Economics Honours

LAW

- YEAR 1 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Business Law 1
 Information Systems I
 Mathematics 1002
 Statistics 1000

- YEAR 2 Financial Accounting
 Business Accounting
 Marketing 1
 Business Finance
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Applied Ethics
 An approved half course
- YEAR 3 Project and Operations Management OR
 An approved half course
 Issues Around Business
 Foundations of South African Law
 Comparative Legal History
 Law of Persons and Marriage
 People Management
 Business Statistics 2020 AND
 An approved half course
- YEAR 4 Business Strategy
 Law of Property
 International Law
 Constitutional Law
 Advanced Micro and Macroeconomics
 At least 2 credits from:
 Quantitative Methods in Economics
 Advanced Labour and Development Economics
 Public Sector Economics
 International Trade and Finance
 Natural Resource Economics

MARKETING

- YEAR 1 Information Systems I
 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Mathematics 1002
 Statistics 1000
 Business Law I

- YEAR 2 Financial Accounting
Business Accounting
Marketing 1
Business Finance
Microeconomics II
Macroeconomics II
Business Statistics 2020
Cooperation and Competition
- YEAR 3 Marketing II
Research in Marketing
Project and Operations Management OR
An approved half course
Advanced Micro and Macroeconomics
Research & Survey Statistics
People Management
Professional Communication
2 credits from:
 Quantitative Methods in Economics
 Advanced Labour & Development Economics
 Public Sector Economics
 International Trade and Finance
 Applied International Trade Bargaining
 Natural Resource Economics
- YEAR 4 Business Strategy
Marketing Honours
Marketing Project

ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

- YEAR 1 Introduction to Organisational Psychology
 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Mathematics 1002
 Psychology I
 Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2 Organisational Behaviour and Research
 Organisational Design and Resourcing
 Marketing I
 Business Finance
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Financial Accounting
 Business Accounting
 Information Systems I
- YEAR 3 Organisational Learning and Wellness
 Labour Relations and Organisational Change
 Professional Communication
 Project and Operations Management OR
 An approved half course
 Business Law I option
 Research in Psychology I
 Social Psychology & Intergroup Relations
 Business Statistics
 One from:
 Applied Ethics
 Introduction to Philosophy
 Introduction to Politics
 Any other approved option
- YEAR 4 Business Strategy
 Organisational Psychology Honours Coursework
 Organisational Psychology Honours Research Paper

QUANTITATIVE MANAGEMENT

YEAR 1 Evidence-Based Management

Microeconomics I

Macroeconomics I

Information Systems I

Business Law I

Mathematics I

Statistics 1000 OR

Statistics 1006*

*Stats 1006 is compulsory for students doing the Mathematical Statistics option)

YEAR 2 Financial Accounting

Business Accounting

Business Finance

Microeconomics II

Macroeconomics II

Mathematics II

Mathematical Statistics option:

Statistics 2004

Statistics 2005

Business Statistics option:

Business Statistics 2020

Theory of Statistics 2030

YEAR 3 Marketing I

Professional Communication

People Management

Project and Operations Management OR an approved half course

6 CREDITS from 3rd level approved courses

Mathematical Statistics option:

Statistics 3041F

Statistics 3043S

Business Statistics option:

Inferential Statistics 3030

Operational Research Techniques 3036

YEAR 4 Business Strategy

Statistics Honours Selected Topics

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

BCom STANDARD PROGRAMMES

ACCOUNTING PROGRAMME

GENERAL ACCOUNTANT STREAM

- YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
Financial Reporting I
Evidence-Based Management
Microeconomics I
Macroeconomics I
Information Systems I
Statistics 1001
Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2 Financial Reporting II
Control of Financial Information Systems
Management Accounting I
Issues Around Business
Business Law I
Microeconomics II
Macroeconomics II
Information Technology in Business
- YEAR 3 Corporate Reporting
Taxation & Estate Duty IT
Management Accounting II
Financial Management
Business Law II
Company Law
Auditing I

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT STREAM

- YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I
 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Statistics 1001
 Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2 Financial Reporting II
 Control of Financial Information Systems
 Management Accounting I
 Issues Around Business
 Business Law I
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Information Technology in Business
- YEAR 3 Taxation & Estate Duty I
 Financial Reporting III
 Management Accounting II
 Financial Management
 Auditing I
 Business Law II
 Company Law

ACCOUNTING AND LAW STREAM

- YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I
 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Statistics 1001
 Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2 Financial Reporting II
 Information Technology in Business
 Control of Financial Information Systems

Foundations of South African Law
 Comparative Legal History
 Law of Persons and Marriage
 Applied Ethics

YEAR 3 Corporate Reporting
 Financial Management
 Issues Around Business
 International Law
 Constitutional Law
 Law of Property

INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROGRAMME

YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I OR Business Accounting
 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Commercial Programming
 Statistics 1001

YEAR 2 Issues Around Business
 Business Law I
 IT Architecture
 Database Systems
 Systems Development A
 Systems Development B
 Statistics 1000
 Control of Financial Information Systems
 An approved half course

YEAR 3 IT Applications
 Systems Development Project
 Electronic Commerce
 Marketing I
 Professional Communication
 People Management
 An approved half course

ECONOMICS PROGRAMME

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (PPE) STREAM

- YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I OR Business Accounting
 Introduction to Philosophy
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Introduction to Politics
 Statistics 1001 OR Mathematics 1002
 Ethics
- YEAR 2 Statistics 1000
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Information Systems I
 Co-operation & Competition
 Business Law I
 Political Economy of International Relations
 Plus 4 credits from:
 EITHER
 Logic & Epistemology
 Philosophy of Psychology & Mind
 OR
 Comparative Politics
 Political Theory/ Philosophy
- YEAR 3 Advanced Micro & Macroeconomics
 Applied International Trade Bargaining
 One other ECO3000-level course
 Plus 4 credits from:
 EITHER
 Contemporary Political Philosophy
 Language, Thought & Reality
 OR
 Conflict in World Politics
 And 2 credits from
 Political Analysis
 SA Political Thought & Traditions
 Third World Politics

Plus 6 credits from:

Selected courses in Economics, Philosophy,
Politics and other approved disciplines

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE STREAM

YEAR 1 Financial Accounting

Financial Reporting I OR Business Accounting

Evidence-Based Management

Microeconomics I

Macroeconomics I

Information Systems I

Mathematics 1002

Statistics 1000

YEAR 2 Issues Around Business

Finance I

Microeconomics II

Macroeconomics II

Co-operation and Competition

Business Statistics

Plus 4 credits from approved 2000- or 3000-level courses,
including:

Financial Reporting II

Development Economics

Information Technology in Business

Mathematics II

Political Economy of International Relations

Marketing I

YEAR 3 Finance II

Advanced Macro & Microeconomics

Quantitative Methods in Economics

Plus 2 credits from:

Public Sector Economics

Natural Resource Economics

International Trade & Finance

Advanced Labour Economics

Applied International Trade Bargaining

Plus 6 credits from approved 2000- or 3000-level courses, including:

- Financial Reporting III
- Corporate Reporting OR
- Project and Operations Management
- Company Law
- Business Law I
- Any other ECO3000-level courses

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS STREAM

- YEAR 1** Financial Accounting
 Financial Reporting I OR Business Accounting
 Evidence-Based Management
 Microeconomics I
 Macroeconomics I
 Information Systems I
 Mathematics 1002
 Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2** Issues Around Business
 Microeconomics II
 Macroeconomics II
 Cooperation and Competition
 Business Statistics 2020
 Theory of Statistics 2030
 Plus 4 credits from approved 2000- or 3000-level courses in relevant subjects
- YEAR 3** Business Finance
 Advanced Macro & Microeconomics
 Quantitative Methods in Economics
 Information Technology in Business
 Inferential Statistics 3030
 Operational Research Techniques 3036
 4 CREDITS from any approved ECO3000-level courses and/or
 Business Law I

ECONOMICS AND LAW STREAM

- YEAR 1 Financial Accounting
Financial Reporting I OR Business Accounting
Evidence-Based Management
Microeconomics I
Macroeconomics I
Information Systems I
Statistics 1001
Statistics 1000
- YEAR 2 Issues Around Business
Microeconomics II
Macroeconomics II
Co-operation and Competition
Applied Ethics
Foundations of South African Law
Comparative Legal History
Law of Persons and Marriage
- YEAR 3 Advanced Macro and Microeconomics
Applied International Trade Bargaining
International Law
Constitutional Law
Law of Property
Plus 4 credits from:
 Advanced Labour & Development Economics
 Quantitative Methods in Economics
 Public Sector Economics
 Natural Resource Economics
 International Trade & Finance

BRIEF OUTLINE OF FIRST YEAR COURSES

BUSINESS LAW I

Introduction; general principles of contract; sale; lease; credit agreements and agency. Intellectual property.

BUSINESS LAW II

Negotiable instruments, insurance, insolvency and secured transactions.

COMPANY LAW

The common law and statutory provisions relating to the nature, formation and management of partnerships, trusts, companies and close corporations.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 1A AND 1B

Problem solving and algorithm development using both procedural and functional programming languages, data structures, algorithms, computer architecture, assembly language, file structures and operating systems.

MICROECONOMICS I

The course focuses on demand and supply analysis; consumer behaviour, production functions and production costs; market forms and income distribution.

MACROECONOMICS I

The course covers the following areas: national income accounting; aggregate demand and supply; money, interest rates and exchange rates; monetary, fiscal and balance of payments policy.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Understanding: the purpose of accounting, the accounting framework, the accounting cycle, the recording of accounting information, the preparation of financial statements.

FINANCIAL REPORTING I

Further development of understanding financial statements: accounting framework, introduction to cash flow statements, financial analysis, PPE, company financial statements, recording for non-profit organisations.

BUSINESS ACCOUNTING

Analysis and interpretation of financial information; group and company financial statements; costing and budgeting.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS I

This course provides a business perspective of information systems and stresses how information systems can be used to improve the planning and running of businesses. The course introduces students to the theoretical and practical basis of business and information systems. It investigates information systems concepts such as data, input, processing, output, and information technology such as hardware, software and networks. It investigates the use of information technology and communication technology as well as their convergence to support business information systems. The nature and value of information as well as the impact of internet technology on organisations and society are also considered.

COMMERCIAL PROGRAMMING

The Commercial Programming course provides students with practical knowledge of the fundamentals of application development in a commercial environment. The course teaches programme planning skills and good programming practice and principles through the medium of Visual Basic.Net. The intention is to give students a solid foundation in general programming principles as well as Object Orientated programming and Database concepts.

EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT

This is a course taken by all students in the Commerce Faculty. It is intended to furnish students with the main intellectual skills required in the study and practice of business at all levels. The focus is on the development of critical reasoning skills, including the ability to analyse and construct logical arguments, to research problems, to articulate competing viewpoints and to form independent judgements about contentious issues of policy and practice. The approach of the course is centred on case studies and controversies in areas of relevance to an understanding of commercial activity and the social and political environment in which it occurs.

INTRODUCTION TO ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of the field of actuarial science. Topics covered include: elementary mathematics, statistics and multistate models; principles of mathematics of finance, life contingencies, risk assessment and management, practice of investments, life insurance, general insurance and retirement provision, and current topics. The course culminates by addressing questions concerning professionalism and what it is to be an actuary.

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course provides an introduction to the study of people at work and the organisations in which they operate. It is designed to provide a foundation of those students who wish to pursue further study in Human Resource Management or Industrial/Organisational Psychology. The course will typically cover individual and group behaviour in organisations and explore human resource systems and management approaches.

MATHEMATICS 1000

Differential and integral calculus of functions of one variable, differential equations, partial derivatives, vector geometry, matrix algebra, complex numbers, Taylor series, basic familiarity with computers through the use of elementary mathematical software.

MATHEMATICS 1002

Differential and integral calculus, with some algebra (including elementary work on matrices). The material will be chosen for its usefulness to Business Science students and relevant applications will be made.

STATISTICS 1000

This course provides an introduction to the field of statistics, focusing on ways of describing and analysing data. Students will learn about different types of data and exploratory data analysis, the use of random variables and probability theory to represent uncertainty about events, and statistical inference, including the use of hypothesis testing and confidence intervals to draw conclusions about a population from a sample. Relationships between two variables are also explored using correlation and simple linear regression.

STATISTICS 1006

This course contains largely the same material as Statistics 1000, but covers the material with greater attention to mathematical detail. The course is aimed at those students intending to specialise in mathematical statistics or actuarial science.

STATISTICS 1001

This course covers topics including matrix algebra, functions, systems of equations, differential and integral calculus, linear programming, and the mathematics of finance. The course is designed to provide students with the necessary mathematical background for Statistics 1000.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS 2009

UCT's rating system of matriculation results is as follows:

NSC Rating Table – Matric from 2008

ACHIEVEMENT RATING	POINTS
7 at 90% or better	8
7 at 80% – 89%	7
6	6
5	5
4	4
3	3
2	0
1 below 30%	0

NSC: To calculate your points for the Commerce Faculty, you need to double your points for Mathematics, and then add English and your next four best subjects. If you have passed two languages at the first language level, add on two extra points.

SC Rating Table– Matric from 2007 or earlier

SYMBOL	POINTS Higher Grade	POINTS Standard Grade
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1

SC: To calculate your points for the Commerce Faculty, you need to double your points for both Mathematics **and** English, and then add your next four best subjects. If you have passed two languages at the first language level, add on two points.

Here is an example of calculating points on the NSC rating:

Subject	Mark	NSC Rating	Score for Commerce
Mathematics	66%	5	$5 \times 2 = 10$
English (1st Lang)	91%	7	8
History	86%	7	7
Geography	83%	7	7
Afrikaans (2nd Lang)	74%	6	6
Science	58%	4	4

Total points (NSC) : $10 + 8 + 7 + 7 + 6 + 4 = 42$

If Afrikaans had also been taken as a 1st language, add two points
 $42 + 2 = 44$

Here is an example of calculating points on the SC rating (all subjects taken on the Higher Grade):

Subject	Mark	SC Rating	Score for Commerce
Mathematics	66%	D	$5 \times 2 = 10$
English (1st Lang)	91%	A	$8 \times 2 = 16$
History	86%	B	7
Geography	83%	B	7
Afrikaans (2nd Lang)	74%	C	6
Science	58%	E	4

Total points (SC) : $10 + 16 + 7 + 7 + 6 + 4 = 50$

If Afrikaans had also been taken as a 1st language, add two points
 $50 + 2 = 52$

Entry Requirements for the Faculty of Commerce 2009 (NSC ratings – for those writing Matric in 2008)

These are guidelines only and do not guarantee admission.
Study offers may be limited for reasons of available capacity.

Degree	Minimum Subject Requirements	Early offer point score Open (White & Int)	Early offer point score Black Coloured Indian	Offer Probable Open B C I	Waitlisted Open B C I
BCom Accounting BCom Information Systems BCom (PPE) BCom (Accounting and Law) BCom (Economics and Law) BCom (Economics and Finance) BCom (Economics and Statistics)	60% (5) for Mathematics 50% (4) for English 1st language or 60% (5) for English 2nd language	45	43	43	38
BBusSc (Management Studies)	60% (5) for Mathematics 50% (4) for English 1st language or 60% (5) for English 2nd language	47	45	45	43
BBusSc (Actuarial Science)	80% (7) for Mathematics 60% (5) for English 1st language	52	50	50	49
BBusSc (AD) BCom (AD)	50% (4) for Mathematics 50% (4) for English 1st language or 60% (5) for English 2nd language	Disparities in educational, language or socio-economic background; Student evidencing an ability to succeed on the basis of AARP test results; Number and type of courses passed at National Senior Certificate level.			

Life Orientation Skills is not scored, but a minimum of 50% (4) is required for entry into the Faculty of Commerce.

Entry Requirements for the Faculty of Commerce 2009 (SC ratings – for those who wrote Matric in 2007 or earlier)

These are guidelines only and do not guarantee admission.
Study offers may be limited for reasons of available capacity.

DEGREE	ADMISSION PROBABLE	WAITLISTED	MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS
BCom Accounting BCom Information Systems BCom (Economics – PPE) BCom (Accounting and Law) BCom (Economics and Law)	51 SC points and above	49 SC points	D (HG)/B(SG) Maths*
BCom (Economics & Finance) BCom (Economics & Statistics)	51 SC points and above	49 SC points	D (HG) Maths
BBusSc (Management Studies)	53 SC points and above	52 SC points	D (HG) Maths
BBusSc (Actuarial Science)	58 SC points and above	56 SC points	A (HG) Maths C (HG) English (1st Language)

Admission to the AD BCom

MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS
Maths HG (D) OR Maths SG (B) *
English First Language HG (E) OR English Second Language HG (C)

* Applicants with Standard Grade Mathematics will only be considered where their school did not offer Higher Grade Mathematics

Admission to the AD BBusSc

MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY OFFER	MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS
Maths HG (C) English First Language/ Second Language HG (C)	English First Language HG (D) Maths HG (D) English Second Language HG (C)

NB: ALL APPLICANTS who are applying to the Humanities Faculty as a second choice are required to write certain tests as an admission requirement. Please contact the Humanities Faculty for further information.

CONTACT US

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Applying to UCT

For general information about applying to UCT, including financial aid, scholarships and student housing, contact the Admissions Office:

Tel: 021 650 4399 • Fax: 021 650 3736

email: admissions@uct.ac.za

Further details and application forms are available on UCT's website:

www.uct.ac.za