



2024 YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN commerce

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE
BACHELOR OF BUSINESS SCIENCE





IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ALL POTENTIAL COMMERCE APPLICANTS

- ▶ **You must take Mathematics at school** to apply for undergraduate studies in Commerce. Mathematical Literacy is NOT sufficient.
- ▶ If you are studying **Mathematical Literacy** you may want to **apply to Humanities or Law** where Mathematics is not necessarily required for every degree.
- ▶ You do not need to have Accounting, Economics, Information Technology (IT) or Business Studies as subjects at school to study in Commerce.
- ▶ To be considered for Commerce, you only need to write the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) test. Write the test as early as possible as this will allow you time to re-write if you don't achieve the required marks.
- ▶ **The closing date for applications is 31 July. Late applications will not be considered.**
- ▶ When you apply to Commerce, you don't choose a specific degree programme, except if you want to study Actuarial Science. You only select **ONE** of the options below:
 - **Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science (Mainstream)**
 - **Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science (ADP*)**
 - **Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science in Actuarial Science (Mainstream)**
 - **Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science in Actuarial Science (ADP*)**

* See pages 12–13 for details on the Academic Development Programmes (ADP)



2024 YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN commerce

WELCOME TO THE FACULTY OF COMMERCE	4
MAKING A DEGREE CHOICE	5
WHY CHOOSE COMMERCE AT UCT?	6
DEGREE PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE	8
BCOM OR BBUSSC? HOW DO I CHOOSE?	10
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT	12
KEY DISCIPLINE AREAS	14
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	24
CONTACT DETAILS	28



WELCOME TO THE FACULTY OF COMMERCE



We are delighted that you are considering the Faculty of Commerce at UCT as the place to pursue your studies. You can join top students from all over the country, continent and the world and become part of a richly diverse student body striving for academic excellence. We know that applying for a place at university can be stressful; hence we put together this booklet to assist you with the process. Once you join us, we will teach you the technical skills and knowledge required for your chosen career. You will also learn how to think critically and innovatively, and become a leader, an agent for change, and a team player. Your current worldview will be challenged and expanded through rich intellectual interactions with other exceptional young minds both inside and outside the classroom.

We hope that you and your classmates will go on to become future leaders in your chosen fields, and the people you meet at UCT will form part of your powerful future network. If you see yourself excelling in the worlds of accounting, actuarial science, quantitative finance, economics, finance, information systems, computer science, marketing, organisational psychology, statistical sciences, or other management studies, then Commerce at UCT is an excellent choice. We invite you to explore the various degree options.

We know that in the 21st century many people occupy several jobs or even different careers during their working life. We hope that this booklet will help you make the important decision for your foundational programme of study and early career. Be assured that an exciting future lies ahead of you!

We look forward to welcoming you to Commerce,
Professor Suki Goodman (Dean of Commerce)



CHOOSING A DEGREE IS NOT THE SAME AS CHOOSING A CAREER

Although some qualifications seem to be directly connected to specific fields of work (e.g. Chartered Accountant or Actuary), in a continuously changing world, Commerce degrees prepare you for many careers, and you will be exposed to several disciplines during your studies.

FIND OUT MORE BEFORE DECIDING

Nobody can predict the future or what the economy and society may require in the next 10 years. Many students start their degree unsure of where it may lead. If you have a specific career in mind, find out as much as possible. Several degrees might lead to your career choice. Being informed will help you find the option that best suits your abilities. For more information on career options, visit: commerce.uct.ac.za or careers.uct.ac.za

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SETTLE ON A CAREER RIGHT AWAY

Career choice is not a once-off decision taken in Grade 12. Our degrees offer a flexible and broad education as career development is an ongoing process. In today's global world, most people have a number of different careers during their working life.



WHY CHOOSE COMMERCE AT UCT?

1

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

UCT's excellent reputation is grounded in solid academic theory and research, combined with a high level of business and professional contact, which enables us to offer relevant, highly regarded qualifications.

2

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Academic staff contribute to research in a variety of fields and collaborate widely with business, government and universities both locally and internationally. This research is brought into the classroom to enhance learning.

TEACHING METHODS

We utilise innovative teaching methods, provide small group tutorials, and opportunities for students to consult with academic staff.

3

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

UCT offers a comprehensive array of student development services and personalised career planning. Students have a wide range of extracurricular options including sporting, social, cultural, environmental and spiritual activities.

4



5

DEGREE FLEXIBILITY

While in the early stages of your undergraduate studies, you may choose to change specialisations or degrees.

6

CAREER CHOICES

Our undergraduate degrees meet international standards of excellence. Whether you want to work locally, elsewhere in Africa or overseas, change jobs or even careers, your Commerce degree will enable you to succeed in a rapidly changing work environment.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

The Faculty offers two undergraduate degrees, a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) and a Bachelor of Business Science (BBusSc). Both are designed to provide you with maximum flexibility and opportunity in your career.

7





DEGREE PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE

The Faculty offers two undergraduate degrees: the four-year Bachelor of Business Science (BBusSc) and the three-year Bachelor of Commerce (BCom).

Bachelor of Business Science Degree (4 or 5 years)



DISCIPLINES			
Actuarial Science	Actuarial Science (Quantitative Finance)	Analytics	Computer Science
Economics	Economics with Law	Finance	Finance with Accounting
Information Systems	Marketing	Organisational Psychology	

Bachelor of Commerce Degree (3 or 4 years)

ACCOUNTING: SPECIALISATIONS

General
Accounting

Chartered
Accountant

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE: SPECIALISATIONS

Actuarial
Science

Actuarial
Science
(Quantitative
Finance)

ECONOMICS: SPECIALISATIONS

Philosophy,
Politics &
Economics
(PPE)

Economics
and Finance

Economics
and Statistics

Economics
with Law

INFORMATION SYSTEMS: SPECIALISATIONS

Information
Systems

Information
Systems and
Computer
Science

Information
Systems and
Finance

MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Management
Studies



BCOM OR BBUSSC – HOW DO I CHOOSE?

What are the similarities?

Entry requirements are the same for both degrees. Each degree offers a variety of specialisations to cater both for the interests of our students and employment needs. Both degrees are highly marketable.

The first year of the BBusSc and the BCom share several common courses in the subject areas of Accounting, Information Systems, Economics, Business Law, Mathematics, Statistics, Evidence-based Management and Business Ethics.

What are the differences?

The BBusSc curriculum teaches the science of business within a field of specialisation. This includes subjects such as People Management, Business Ethics and Strategic Thinking. On the other hand, the BCom curriculum prepares students for a specific field of specialisation.

As more material is covered in a BBusSc, the degree takes four years to complete, while a BCom takes three.

The BCom and BBusSc degrees may also be taken by South African students affected by disparities in educational or life experiences through the Academic Development Programmes (ADP) offered by the Commerce Education Development Unit (EDU).

The ADP BBusSc can be taken over a four- or five-year period, and the ADP BCom over a three- or four-year period. In the EDU, students receive a range of additional support. You can find out more about the EDU on pages 12 and 13.

When do I have to choose?

A student accepted into Commerce may register for ANY Commerce degree or specialisation provided that their final Grade 12 marks and NBT results meet the minimum subject and other criteria specified on pages 24 to 27.

Applying to Commerce

When you apply to Commerce, you don't choose a specific degree programme, except if you want to study Actuarial Science.

You only select ONE of the options below:

- Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science (Mainstream)
 - Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science (ADP)
 - Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science in Actuarial Science (Mainstream)
 - Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science in Actuarial Science (ADP)
-

Actuarial Science: If you do not meet the conditional offer points for Actuarial Science but you meet the criteria for the other Commerce degrees, we will automatically make you an offer for those degrees. If, in your final Matric and NBT results, you meet the minimum Actuarial Science entrance criteria, you will be eligible to register for an Actuarial Science degree.

All other Commerce undergraduate degrees: Your final choice of which degree or discipline to register for is made ONLY at the end of Orientation at the beginning of the first year, once you have received more information on each specialisation.





BBusSc 4- or 5-year degree

BCom 3- or 4-year degree

(Both options also include Actuarial Science)



The EDU recognises and specifically addresses disparities in South African students' educational or life experiences. The EDU enhances your university experience by helping you develop a comprehensive range of educational and life skills that will not only help you achieve success in your studies, but will also be of value in your future career.

Admission to the EDU

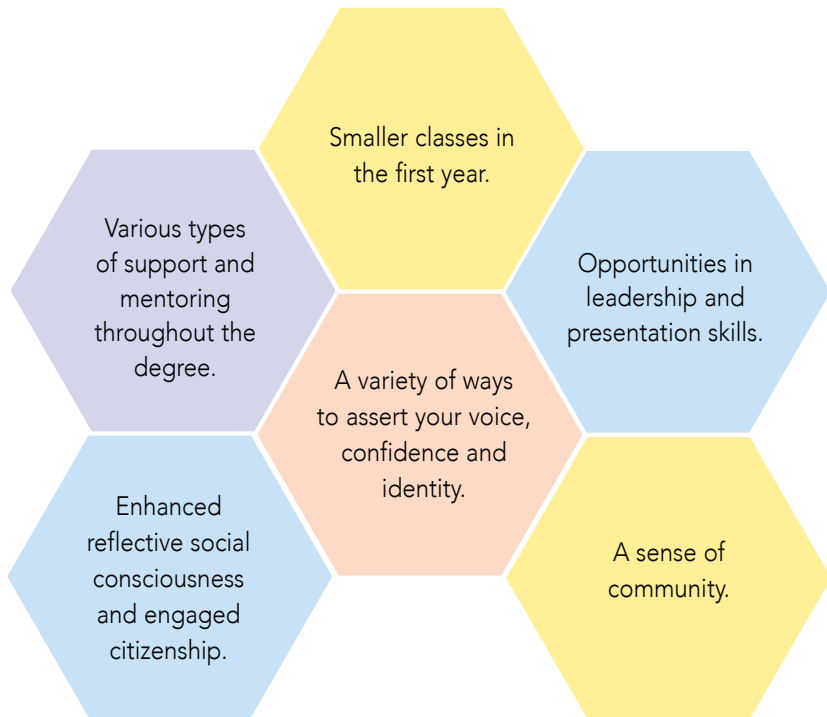
Your application for the EDU Academic Development Programmes (ADP) is screened to assess whether you are eligible for the extra support and resources provided. This is informed by UCT's policy on admissions.

Your acceptance is weighed against a variety of admission criteria related to academic potential and background.

Once you are accepted for the Bachelor of Commerce/Business Science (ADP) you are eligible to complete any of the BBusSc/BCom specialisations (provided you meet the particular admission requirements).



Being on an Academic Development Programme provides you with an extensive variety of support, including:



EDU structure

The EDU offers augmented degrees (standard time with support), as well as extended degrees (longer time with extra support), spreading the course load over an extra year.

The degrees and specialisations in the EDU are the same as the mainstream programmes, and you receive the same degree at graduation.

For more information about the EDU, please do not hesitate to contact us (see contact details on page 28 of this booklet).



KEY DISCIPLINE AREAS

The options available at university can be confusing as there are so many choices. You won't know whether you will enjoy something until you try it. Keep an open mind, find out what your strengths and interests are, and possibly discover disciplines you have never considered before.

Depending on your programme choice, you may be exposed to the disciplines outlined in this section in the first year. Some of these disciplines are included in the core courses required for all undergraduate degrees (BBusSc and BCom) as introductory knowledge is fundamental for a Commerce graduate working in any organisation.

ACCOUNTING

Accounting is essential for financial literacy, which is important in business and life. Understanding and interpreting financial information is empowering whether you are an entrepreneur, a spaza or corner shop owner, working in the public sector, or leading a large business. The ability to understand the financial impact of decisions on a range of stakeholders (investors, employees, government, and society) drives our economy and contributes to an equal society.

As responsible citizens, accountants know that money matters. A person who is honest and ethical, committed to hard work, responsive to change, a problem solver, an effective communicator, a critical thinker, and a lifelong learner will make a good accountant.

School accounting emphasises the recording of transactions. At university, accounting studies focus on the decision-making that influences those transactions, communicating financial information to a broader audience outside the organisation, and interrogating financial information to ensure reliability.

Most businesses employ professional accountants (particularly those who wish to function well). Accountants can work in different areas, including financial reporting, tax, management accounting and financial decision-making, auditing and corporate governance, or in the broader economy. Many people who qualify as professional accountants later choose careers in senior management.



ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Actuaries use statistical techniques to solve financial and business problems. They evaluate uncertain future events and various other financial risks. Quantifying uncertainty and risk helps individuals and companies proactively manage risk and ensure they can withstand future adverse events. Actuaries operate within a strict professional and ethical framework. It is important to note that actuaries cannot predict the future. Still, using statistical techniques given past events and the current environment can help optimise decision-making for future uncertain events.

Actuaries have an extensive skill set used in insurance, pensions, investments, banking, health care, risk management and other areas. Many actuaries use their training to branch into varied business fields, such as agriculture, infrastructure and telecommunications.

As an actuary, you will participate in high-level business decision-making and solve real-world problems in the industry. You could use your talents to make a meaningful and positive impact on people's financial well-being. Actuaries generally have good starting salaries and enjoy excellent job security.

Actuarial Science is suited to anyone willing to undertake several years of exacting study and has a well-disciplined approach to problem-solving.

Students who graduate within this specialisation are particularly well prepared for further study to obtain the prestigious FASSA (Fellow of the Actuarial Society of South Africa) qualification. UCT is accredited by the Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA). As such, students who meet the requirements can gain exemptions from some of the professional examinations required for the FASSA designation. Students doing a BBusSc in Actuarial Science can attain up to 10 exemptions. Those doing the BCom in Actuarial Science can achieve 7 exemptions and earn a further 3 exemptions during the BCom Honours in Actuarial Science. Students interested in performing research in the various fields of actuarial work may apply for a Master's programme after completing their undergraduate studies. Limited places are available, and selection is based on academic merit.

The ASSA website (www.actuarialsociety.org.za) provides comprehensive information for aspiring actuaries and detailed information on the actuarial curriculum, including the professional exams, modules and workshops needed to qualify for the various levels of association with the society.



QUANTITATIVE FINANCE

The increasing complexity of the modern financial services environment created a demand for professionals with strong quantitative skills. The Quantitative Finance specialisation, therefore, shares much of the same foundation as Actuarial Science, with a greater emphasis on applications in the world of finance and investment. As a result, it places equally rigorous demands on students and has the same entrance requirements.

Quantitative finance provides an ideal platform for a career in the fields of investment banking, derivatives trading and quantitative asset management. Most graduates pursue postgraduate studies in financial economics, mathematical finance or the internationally recognised Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) qualification.



ECONOMICS

Economics focuses on how consumers, firms, and markets operate and teaches students how to critically analyse the factors that affect economic and social development locally and internationally. Furthermore, it equips students with skills to analyse data for informed decision-making, which helps foster economic and social development.

Economics empowers students to understand the complex relationships between individuals and institutions in our society. Economics is a continually evolving body of theory and empirical research that has been referred to as the queen of the social sciences and is the only social science recognised by the Nobel Prize committee. It is a remarkably broad discipline that seeks to understand and predict choice behaviour in response to incentives and the welfare consequences of these choices.

Anyone interested in the way the world works (e.g., why poverty is so hard to eradicate, the role of the Reserve Bank, how the finance minister allocates the budget, why consumers purchase certain goods, why firms make decisions, why markets operate in more or less efficient ways, etc.) will find economics fascinating. Someone with a critical mind and the ability to understand logic, mathematics, and statistics will excel in economics.

The economics taught at school is very simple and does not explore alternative explanations for fundamental economic phenomena. At university, we assume students have no prior knowledge of economics and teach from first principles. We show students how the skills they learn in mathematics and statistics are applied to economic problems.

Professional economists have career possibilities both in the public and private sectors. Public sector roles include diverse options such as central banking and national accounting, the design and implementation of economic and development policy, and trade diplomacy. In the private sector, economists work in financial analysis and asset management, journalism, research for NGOs, consulting firms, business associations and trade unions, and independent consulting.

FINANCE

Money is the lifeblood of all organisations and economies. Because the availability of money is limited, funds must be raised economically and effectively and invested as successfully and profitably as possible while minimising the risk involved. This applies to households, communities, businesses, investment funds, and governments. Finance is the discipline that is concerned with the sourcing, allocation and investment of funds. Thus, good financial skills and finance professionals are fundamental to the growth and success of any organisation and country.

Finance is both a science (it is based on rigorous theory and quantitative models) and an art (it requires judgment and insights into things like human behaviour). Thus, it is an incredibly diverse discipline which overlaps with accounting, economics, mathematics, politics, psychology, strategy, statistics and many other fields. Furthermore, although finance considers the past, it mainly focuses on the future.

People who succeed in finance enjoy dealing with diverse information and the complexities of the real world.

One of the challenges first-year students have when choosing a degree is that they are often unfamiliar with the finance discipline. However, some finance elements are covered in economics, accounting and business-related subjects at school.

Finance has a role to play in most organisations. Specialists in the field are specifically found in the investment (asset management) industry, the financial industry (for example, in banks), and large organisations. Graduates are employed in roles such as investment manager, fund manager, investment analyst, corporate treasurer, financial risk specialist, and credit analyst.



INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Information systems are special tools that use computers and technology to help us do things in our daily lives. They can be found in organisations and society, and you might use them without even realising it! For example, when you take money out of an ATM, an information system ensures the transaction is recorded. You also interact with information systems when you use apps on your phone, post on social media, book a flight online, or even order an Uber.

People who work with information systems are called Information Systems professionals, and they help organisations run better by designing and creating IT solutions. To be good at this job, you need to have an interest in both business and technology, be creative and be good at communicating and working in a team.

In school, you may have learned about computer-based subjects like Information Technology (IT) and Computer Applications Technology (CAT). These are similar to information systems but not exactly the same. Information systems focus on designing and implementing computer applications, while IT and CAT focus on using them.

If you study information systems at university, you'll be in a field that is exciting and in high demand. After you graduate, you could get a job as a business analyst, system designer, project manager, or solution architect. All organisations, big and small, business and community, and all sectors – public, private, and non-profit, depend on information systems. So, when you design and implement new solutions, you'll be helping society develop!



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is about creating computer software, which is required for economic, social and human development in every country. Many countries have economies that either hinge strongly on or were raised out of low-income status because of computing.

The 4th Industrial Revolution arose out of the radical changes brought about in society because of computers. No other discipline has had such a profound influence on modern society. Many of the wealthiest people in the world made their fortunes in computing, and numerous economically successful organisations are computing companies.

The most sought-after jobs in the world are in the computing industry. The ability to design and develop software, understand the concepts of artificial intelligence, and mathematically solve some of our greatest software challenges is, without a doubt, the most marketable skill on the planet.

Successful computer scientists are logical thinkers, disciplined, have an eye for detail, can communicate in written and verbal form and collaborate well with others.

The high school IT subject concentrates on the mechanics of basic programming without a solid foundation in fundamental principles and with more emphasis on problem-solving than design. The degree in Computer Science has little in common with IT at school. The first year of Computer Science introduces you to programming, problem-solving, and the foundational principles of Computer Science. After that, you move on to higher-level concepts such as operating systems, computer networks and concurrent programming.

The computer science field requires a high number of qualified graduates every year but also needs graduates with different skills to fulfil a variety of roles in industry across all sectors. Graduates work in roles such as software developer, applications developer, systems analyst, and programmer. According to industry data, a considerable number need to have a combination of computer science and business skills. Both the BBusSc in Computer Science and the BCom in Information Systems and Computer Science fulfil this requirement.

LAW

There are many reasons why people choose Law. These include being able to earn a good, secure living – because, at some point, everybody needs a lawyer; security – as a traditional profession with good income potential; acquiring the skills to make a difference in the world; using the law to ensure access to justice amongst marginalised communities; having the knowledge and skills to make a real impact in specialised areas of commerce (for example shipping, tax and contracts); contributing to the quality and security of people’s lives by ensuring they have their legal documentation in order; and furthering academic knowledge about how the law is developed, practised, implemented and accessed.

Good lawyers are skilled in critical analysis, writing (being able to draft a clear written argument), research, argument and presentation, and sharing ideas.

Lawyers are employed as advocates, attorneys in law firms, by the Department of Justice as state attorneys, prosecutors, legal drafters, magistrates and judges, and other government departments. Additionally, law graduates are found across the whole spectrum of business. There are legal advisers in tax, real estate, labour relations, contracts, public information and acquisitions; there are forensic auditors and ombudsmen, ethics and employment officers, and policy and legislative analysts. Publishing firms employ legal editors, researchers and writers. And many law graduates work for NGOs and Public Interest Organisations.

Students who want to qualify to practise as an attorney or advocate in South Africa may complete any bachelor's degree followed by a three-year postgraduate LLB (Bachelor of Law) degree. The entrance requirement for the three-year postgraduate LLB is a bachelor's degree with certain pass levels in this first qualification. It is also possible to do a BCom or BBusSc taking Law courses as part of the undergraduate degree. This makes it possible to complete the postgraduate LLB degree in two years rather than three because some of the courses offered in the LLB are incorporated into the undergraduate curriculum of these Commerce degrees. Commerce options leading to a two-year postgraduate LLB include the BCom and BBusSc Economics with Law specialisations. Law courses can only be included as a major from the second academic year of study in an undergraduate degree, and certain pass levels are required for first year courses to be able to enter the Law major stream.

MANAGEMENT STUDIES

The BCom specialising in Management Studies is the most flexible three-year degree offered in the Faculty of Commerce. The degree requires students to take a rigorous core of 18 courses. In addition to these 18 core courses, students must complete another 9 electives from a range of disciplines offered by Commerce and other faculties. These 27 courses make the BCom specialising in Management Studies an intensive choice of study.

Management Studies is ideal for a student who wants a more personalised combination of disciplines and the opportunity to tailor the degree to their specific requirements. The combination of academic rigour, breadth and flexibility enables students to leverage their strengths and interests and makes graduates attractive to employers.



MARKETING

Marketing offers challenging work opportunities in an increasingly technology-driven business environment. Marketing is concerned with creating the revenue streams crucial to the success of profit-seeking businesses, non-governmental organisations and public sector enterprises. The marketing manager is adept at identifying and serving customers' needs, managing communications in a digital-enabled workplace and ensuring a positive customer experience.

The modern marketing graduate is ready to embrace data-driven solutions applied to complex customer segmentation, new product development and implementation of strategic marketing decisions. New skills in big data, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are frontiers to be integrated into marketing strategy development.

Employment opportunities for marketing graduates equipped with the academic and practical skills obtained in the Bachelor of Business Science (BBusSc) make the study of marketing a popular choice.

Marketing graduates are sought after by employers across a wide range of enterprises in South Africa and abroad. They serve as interns, enter lucrative junior positions and quickly rise to managerial positions contributing to society.

A popular question prospective marketing students ask is: *"What can I become with a marketing specialisation?"* Exciting career opportunities await in roles such as product manager, brand manager, social media marketer, public relations manager, advertising executive and marketing manager. Career prospects in marketing span most industries. For example, consumer goods retailers, banks, insurance companies, eCommerce and digital channels, market research houses, the public sector and the newly emerging technology-driven organisations increasingly employ marketing graduates.

Alternatively, with today's emphasis on small business, many graduates experience great success in starting businesses or joining a ground-breaking new start-up.

Students can also apply for the Postgraduate Diploma in Management specialising in Marketing, once they have completed their undergraduate degree. We accept students with undergraduate backgrounds in all areas, for example, arts, engineering, humanities or social sciences, hospitality, health sciences, film and media studies, environmental and geographical sciences and law – as well as commerce.

ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Organisational Psychology applies psychological theories, principles, and research to the work context. It deals with individual and group behaviour in organisations and the management of people in the workplace. Some university departments call their degree industrial psychology, but here at UCT, we use organisational psychology.

Organisational Psychology has become increasingly important in contemporary organisations. If you decide to study Organisational Psychology, you will gain an in-depth understanding of what drives people's behaviour. By understanding people, you can carefully select how to communicate and structure organisations and processes to influence people's behaviour at work.

Successful organisational psychologists are interested in people and problem-solving, have strong analytical skills, think strategically and creatively, and seek to develop an in-depth understanding of situations. We require students to build logical arguments substantiated by evidence and develop strong writing and research skills. If you are fascinated by how people interact in the workplace and how to manage these interactions, this is a possible career for you.

The knowledge and skills you gain in organisational psychology will enable you to succeed in various roles. Our graduates are practitioners in several areas, including change management, reward and recognition, talent management, diversity and inclusion, organisational strategy, employee relations, learning and development and human resources management, and across diverse sectors such as corporate business, government, NGOs, and management consultancies.

STATISTICAL SCIENCES

(BBusSc in Analytics)

Big Data has become the subject of attention worldwide, creating a demand for analysts globally. Big Data is characterised by high volume, high velocity, or high variety. Big Data comes from sensors, devices, video/audio, networks, log files, transactional applications, web, and social media – much of it generated in real time and on a very large scale.

Statisticians are key players in the analytics/data science environment, using their quantitative skills to transform large amounts of data into information to solve real-

world problems and enhance decision making. The skills learnt during studies in Statistical Sciences are current and have universal application.

Data science/analytics is a multidisciplinary field incorporating statistics and computer science that uses quantitative skills in business (optimise business processes), marketing (predict consumer purchasing patterns), government (use of mobile data to optimise public transport services), medicine (identify subsets of genes associated with a particular disease), astronomy, ecology, language processing and much more. To quote a famous statistician, Tukey, "the best thing about being a statistician is that you get to play in everyone's backyard."

It has thus been our experience that our students find it easy to obtain jobs immediately after graduation and are promoted rapidly into management positions. Graduates work in roles such as data analyst, statistician, data scientist, data architect, business intelligence specialist and research analyst. If you enjoy quantitative subjects, have problem-solving skills and consider yourself a logical, creative and innovative thinker, then a career in data science/analytics is for you.





ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Commerce applicants only need to write the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) National Benchmark Test. The test consists of an Academic Literacy (AL) section and a Quantitative Literacy (QL) section. The results of the two sections of the test are reported separately. Write the test at the earliest opportunity, as this will allow you time to re-write if you don't achieve the required mark. Your NBT results may lead to an early offer.

Offers will be based on the following:

- Academic results from your NSC based on your percentage score for your top six subjects. Life Orientation is excluded from your Faculty Points Score (FPS) calculation.
- Performance in the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) National Benchmark Test. A maximum of two attempts will be allowed. For further information about NBT dates and venues, please visit nbt.uct.ac.za or call the NBT Helpline on 021 650 3523.
- Performance in Mathematics and English in your final matric exam.
- Your Grade 11 and Grade 12 final results.

The table below shows **an example** of how your FPS may be calculated:

SUBJECT	NSC % SCORE	POINTS
English Home Language	75	75
Afrikaans/isiXhosa First Additional Language	70	70
Mathematics	84	84
Life Sciences	86	86
Drama	79	79
History	69	69
Life Orientation	80	0
Total		463/600
FPS		463

ALL SPECIALISATIONS EXCEPT FOR ACTUARIAL SCIENCE AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

ELIGIBLE	BAND	REQUIREMENTS
ALL APPLICANTS	BAND A FPS	<p>GUARANTEED ADMISSION</p> <p>FPS of 480 or above NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60%</p>
ALL APPLICANTS	BAND B WPS	<p>PROBABLE ADMISSION</p> <p>WPS of 470 or above NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60%</p> <p>Minimum required for possible admission</p> <p>FPS of 435 or above. NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60%</p>
Only SA applicants in targeted redress groups with a disadvantage factor greater than 1	BAND C FPS	<p>POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) ONLY</p> <p>FPS of 430 to 434 NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60%</p>

FAL = FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE; HL = HOME LANGUAGE; FPS = FACULTY POINTS SCORE;
 NBT = NATIONAL BENCHMARK TEST; AL & QL = ACADEMIC LITERACY & QUANTITATIVE LITERACY;
 WPS = WEIGHTED POINTS SCORE

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS SPECIALISATION

ELIGIBLE	BAND	REQUIREMENTS
ALL APPLICANTS	BAND A FPS	<p>GUARANTEED ADMISSION</p> <p>FPS of 480 or above</p> <p>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL</p> <p>Mathematics 70%</p> <p>English HL 50%</p> <p>English FAL 60%</p>
ALL APPLICANTS	BAND B WPS	<p>PROBABLE ADMISSION</p> <p>WPS of 470 or above</p> <p>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL</p> <p>Mathematics 70%</p> <p>English HL 50%</p> <p>English FAL 60%</p> <p>Minimum required for possible admission</p> <p>FPS of 435</p> <p>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL</p> <p>Mathematics 70%</p> <p>English HL 50%</p> <p>English FAL 60%</p>
Only SA applicants in targeted redress groups with a disadvantage factor greater than 1	BAND C FPS	<p>POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) ONLY</p> <p>FPS of 430 to 434</p> <p>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL</p> <p>Mathematics 70%</p> <p>English HL 50%</p> <p>English FAL 60%</p>

FAL = FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE; HL = HOME LANGUAGE; FPS = FACULTY POINTS SCORE;
NBT = NATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS; AL & QL = ACADEMIC LITERACY & QUANTITATIVE LITERACY;
WPS = WEIGHTED POINTS SCORE

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE AND QUANTITATIVE FINANCE QUALIFICATION AND STREAM

ELIGIBLE	BAND	REQUIREMENTS
ALL APPLICANTS	BAND A FPS	<p>GUARANTEED ADMISSION</p> <p>FPS of 500 or above</p> <p>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL</p> <p>Mathematics 80%</p> <p>English HL 60%</p> <p>English FAL 80% (but require Proficient for AL & QL NBT)</p>
ALL APPLICANTS	BAND B WPS	<p>PROBABLE ADMISSION</p> <p>WPS of 525 or above</p> <p>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL</p> <p>Mathematics 80%</p> <p>English HL 60%</p> <p>English FAL 80% (but require Proficient for AL & QL NBT)</p>
Only SA applicants in targeted redress groups with a disadvantage factor greater than 1	BAND C FPS	<p>POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) ONLY</p> <p>FPS of 475 to 479</p> <p>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL</p> <p>Mathematics 80%</p> <p>English HL 60%</p> <p>English FAL 80% (but require Proficient for AL & QL NBT)</p>

FAL = FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE; HL = HOME LANGUAGE; FPS = FACULTY POINTS SCORE;
NBT = NATIONAL BENCHMARK TEST; AL & QL = ACADEMIC LITERACY & QUANTITATIVE LITERACY;
WPS = WEIGHTED POINTS SCORE.

IMPORTANT: It is compulsory for all applicants to write the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) National Benchmark Test

FACULTY OF COMMERCE CONTACT DETAILS

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (COMMERCE)

For information about the EDU and Academic Development Programmes, contact Shanaaz Solomons:

Tel: 021 650 3729 or Email Shanaaz.Solomons@uct.ac.za
or Sherry Stuart

Tel: 021 650 4022 or Email: Sherry.Stuart@uct.ac.za

COMMERCE FACULTY OFFICE

For further information about Commerce studies, contact the Faculty of Commerce:

Tel: 021 650 4375 or Email: com-faculty@uct.ac.za
commerce.uct.ac.za

APPLYING TO UCT

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

Tel: 021 650 2128 • Email: admissions-ug@uct.ac.za

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 JULY

Apply online at
applyonline.uct.ac.za/



commerce.uct.ac.za

