# 2025 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 a place in the Faculty of Commerce, you must write the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) National Benchmark Test (NBT). 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)

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# 2025 YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN commerce

# 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 about many of the complex problems facing industry and society. 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 our 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)

# MAKING A DEGREE CHOICE

## CHOOSING A DEGREE IS NOT THE SAME AS CHOOSING A CAREER

Although some qualifications are directly connected to professions (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

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

# 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

In your first year of 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.

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# 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) | Computer Science | |
| Economics | Economics with Law | Finance | Finance with Accounting |
| Information Systems | Marketing | Organisational Psychology | Statistics and Data Science |

# 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 (with a combination of specialisations)

# 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 Academic Development Programme (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)**

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**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.

# EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU)

**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.

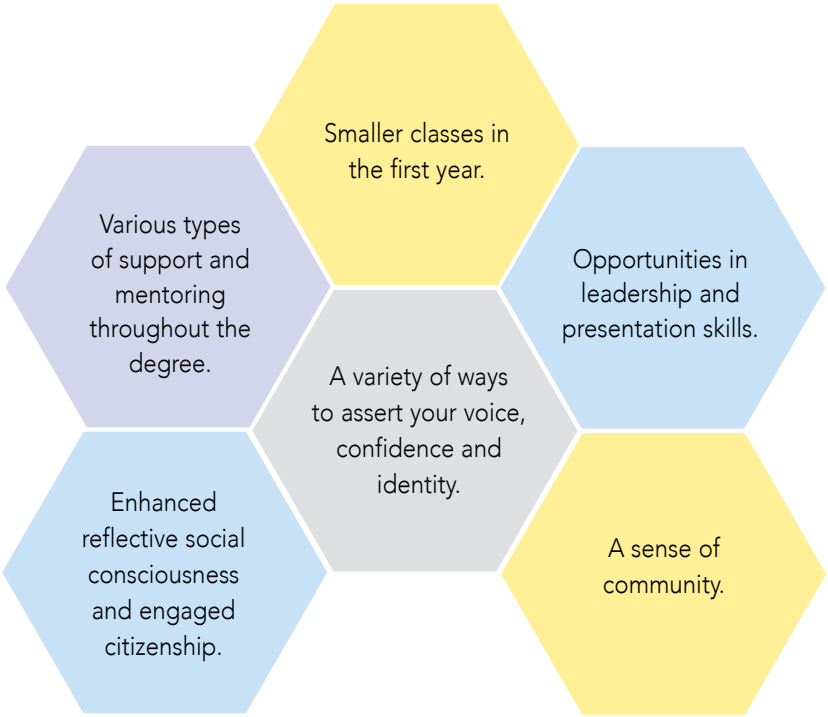
## Admission to the EDU

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 really know whether you will enjoy something until you try it. Keep an open mind and find out what your strengths and interests are, and possibly discover disciplines that you had never considered before.

In the first year, depending on your choice of programme, you may be exposed to the disciplines outlined in this section. A number 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. Items marked with an asterisk * are part of the core for all degrees.

## ACCOUNTING *

Studying accounting at university offers numerous benefits and opportunities, whether you're interested in pursuing a career as an accountant, working in the public sector, non-profit organisations, or leading a large corporate business. Accounting skills are versatile and applicable across various industries and sectors. 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. Studying accounting helps you to develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills. You'll learn how to interpret financial data, analyse trends, and make informed decisions based on quantitative information, which are valuable skills in many professions.

Accounting professionals are in high demand worldwide. As businesses continue to grow and evolve, there is a constant need for skilled accountants to manage finances, analyse data, and provide strategic insights to support decision-making. A degree in accounting can serve as a solid foundation for career advancement. With experience and additional certifications (such as CA(SA), ACCA, or CIMA), you can pursue higher-level positions, such as auditor, financial controller, or even chief financial officer (CFO).

## ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Actuaries use statistical techniques to solve financial and business problems. They evaluate uncertain financial risks. Quantifying uncertainty 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 based on 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. Actuaries can also use their training to branch into wider fields such as agriculture, infrastructure, telecommunications and climate change risk modelling.

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 enjoy excellent job security, and actuarial skills are in high demand locally and abroad.

Actuarial Science is suited to students with strong technical and mathematical aptitude who are willing to undertake years of exacting study and have 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.

The ASSA website (https://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 shares much of the same foundation as Actuarial Science, with a greater emphasis on applications in 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 investment banking, derivatives trading and quantitative asset management. Many graduates pursue postgraduate studies in financial economics, financial engineering 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 crucial for the functioning of all organisations and economies. Since the availability of money is limited, it's essential to raise funds economically and invest them profitably while minimising the risk involved. This applies to households, communities, businesses, investment funds, and governments. Finance is the discipline that deals with sourcing, allocating, and investing funds. Good financial skills and professionals are fundamental to the growth and success of any organisation or country. Finance is an exciting blend of science and art. It's based on rigorous theory and quantitative models but requires judgment and insights into human behaviour. This makes finance a diverse discipline that intersects with accounting, economics, mathematics, politics, psychology, strategy, statistics, and many other fields. Studying finance opens up a world of diverse knowledge, offering a rich and exciting learning experience.

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

One of the challenges first-year students face when choosing a degree is that they often assume they are 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. Finance specialists are found in the investment or asset management industry, the financial industry (for example, banks), and large organisations. Graduates are employed as investment managers, fund managers, investment analysts, corporate treasurers, financial risk specialists, and credit analysts.

## 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 Information Systems, there is an exciting shift towards Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLMs like ChatGPT) and their use in enhancing various aspects of technology, development, and business.

You may have learned about computer-based subjects like Information Technology (IT) and Computer Applications Technology (CAT) in school. These are similar to information systems but not exactly the same. Information systems focus on designing and implementing computer applications (the implementation part refers to computer programming, like in IT at school). In contrast, CAT focuses on using these applications once they have been developed.

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

The discipline of computing has profoundly impacted modern society. Over the last sixty years, computing has played a crucial role in worldwide economic, social, and human development. It has been instrumental in lifting economies out of poverty and driving significant societal changes. Many of the wealthiest individuals in the world have made their fortunes in computing, and many of the most successful organisations globally are computing companies. There are many job opportunities in the computing industry, and skills such as designing and developing software, understanding artificial intelligence concepts, and mathematical problem-solving remain highly marketable.

Computer Science is the science and practice of creating software for computers. This field is broader than just writing software; it is about the design, testing and

measurement of software and its impact. While high school IT courses focus on basic programming, a Computer Science degree provides a comprehensive foundation in the fundamental principles and advanced concepts of computing. 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 concurrent programming, theory of computation, machine learning, operating systems, computer networks and others.

Successful computer scientists are logical thinkers, disciplined, attentive to detail, creative and have strong communication and collaboration skills.

Graduates in Computer Science pursue diverse roles such as software developers, application developers, systems analysts, and programmers. Many positions in the industry require a combination of computer science expertise and business acumen. Programmes like the BBusSc in Computer Science and the BCom in Information Systems and Computer Science cater to this demand, preparing graduates to excel in technical and business-orientated computing roles.

## 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; using 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 personal legal documentation in order; and contributing to 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 the 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.

With some undergraduate degrees, including the BCom and BBusSc Law options, it is possible to complete the postgraduate LLB degree in two years rather than three. This is because some of the courses offered in the LLB have been incorporated into the curricula of these degrees. Commerce options leading to a two-year postgraduate LLB include the BCom Accounting with Law, the BCom Economics with Law, and the BBusSc Economics with Law specialisations.

## 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 core of 11 courses that will provide a solid foundation in Commerce. In addition to these core courses, students must complete electives at first-, second- and third-year levels. Students can choose from an extensive range of disciplines offered by Commerce and other faculties, tailoring their education around their specific abilities and interests whilst gaining knowledge in a range of disciplines.

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 positive customer experience.

The modern marketing graduate is ready for embracing data-driven solutions applied to complex customer segmentation, new product development and

implementation of strategic marketing decisions. New skills in big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning are frontiers to be integrated into the development of marketing strategy.

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, then enter lucrative junior positions and quickly rise to managerial positions contributing to society.

A popular question asked by prospective marketing students 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 the emphasis today 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, also known as Industrial Psychology, applies psychological theories, principles, and research to the workplace context. It examines individual and group behaviour within organisations and seeks to enhance people management practices.

In today's organisations, Organisational Psychology plays a vital role. Studying this field will give you a deep understanding of the factors driving human behaviour. With this understanding, you'll be equipped to design organisational structures, processes, teams, and job roles that positively influence employee behaviour.

Successful practitioners in Organisational Psychology possess a genuine interest in people and problem-solving. They demonstrate strong analytical, strategic, and creative thinking skills and a commitment to understanding complex situations deeply. Students are encouraged to construct coherent arguments supported by evidence and to hone their writing and research abilities.

If you're intrigued by workplace dynamics and adept at managing interpersonal interactions, a career in Organisational Psychology could be an excellent fit.

The knowledge and skills acquired in this field open up various career opportunities. Our graduates find roles as scientists, registered psychology or HRM professionals, or practitioners in areas such as change management, talent management, diversity and inclusion, organisational strategy, employee relations, learning and development, and human resources management. They work across diverse sectors, including corporate business, government, NGOs, and management consultancies. Organisational Psychology is increasingly data-driven, with professionals using data management, statistical analysis, and artificial intelligence to inform decision-making processes in organisations.

## STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE *

Statistics and data science plays a crucial role in understanding the world around us and making informed decisions. Today, vast amounts of data are generated and collected every second from every sphere of life, such as from sensors, devices, video/audio, networks, log files, transactional applications, internet, and social media - much of it generated in real-time and on an enormous scale. The demand for people with the right skills to analyse the vast amount of data is higher than ever before.

Statisticians are critical players in the analytics/data science environment. Using their quantitative skills and by applying statistical methods, statisticians can make predictions, draw conclusions, and test hypotheses to better understand complex phenomena in fields such as 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."

Data science, on the other hand, is a multidisciplinary field that combines techniques from statistics, computer science, and domain knowledge to extract insights and knowledge from data. Strong analytical skills, as well as proficiency in programming languages such as Python, R, or SQL, along with a solid understanding of mathematical concepts, are the key to becoming really good statisticians and data scientists.

The demand for professionals skilled in statistics and data science is booming across various industries, from IT to finance to healthcare and government. The opportunities in statistics and data science are vast and diverse, offering a wide range of career paths and possibilities.

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, consider yourself a logical, creative and innovative thinker, or are passionate about making a positive impact through data-driven decision-making, then a career in Statistics/data science is for you.

# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**Commerce applicants must 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. Write the test at the earliest opportunity, as this will allow you time to re-write if you don't achieve the required mark.**

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, COMPUTER SCIENCE, AND STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE

| ELIGIBLE | BAND | REQUIREMENTS |
|---|---|---|
| **ALL APPLICANTS** | **BAND A FPS** | **GUARANTEED ADMISSION**<br>FPS of 435 or above<br>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL<br>Mathematics 60%<br>English HL 50%<br>English FAL 60% |
| **ALL APPLICANTS** | **BAND B WPS** | **PROBABLE ADMISSION**<br>WPS of 470 or above<br>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL<br>Mathematics 60%<br>English HL 50%<br>English FAL 60% |
| **Only SA applicants in targeted redress categories** | **BAND C FPS** | **POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) ONLY**<br>FPS of 430 to 434<br>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL<br>Mathematics 60%<br>English HL 50%<br>English FAL 60% |

Please refer to the UCT Undergraduate Prospectus for further information

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 SPECIALISATION
# STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE SPECIALISATION

| ELIGIBLE | BAND | REQUIREMENTS |
|---|---|---|
| **ALL APPLICANTS** | **BAND A FPS** | **GUARANTEED ADMISSION**<br>FPS of 435 or above<br>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL<br>Mathematics 70%<br>English HL 50%<br>English FAL 60% |
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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 QUALIFICATIONS AND STREAM

| ELIGIBLE | BAND | REQUIREMENTS |
|---|---|---|
| **ALL APPLICANTS** | **BAND A FPS** | **GUARANTEED ADMISSION**<br>FPS of 500 or above<br>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL<br>Mathematics 80%<br>English HL 60%<br>English FAL 80% (but require Proficient for AL & QL NBT) |
| **ALL APPLICANTS** | **BAND B WPS** | **PROBABLE ADMISSION**<br>WPS of 525 or above<br>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL<br>Mathematics 80%<br>English HL 60%<br>English FAL 80% (but require Proficient for AL & QL NBT) |
| **Only SA applicants in targeted redress categories** | **BAND C FPS** | **POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) ONLY**<br>FPS of 475 to 479<br>NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL<br>Mathematics 80%<br>English HL 60%<br>English FAL 80% (but require Proficient for AL & QL NBT) |

Please refer to the UCT Undergraduate Prospectus for further information

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@uct.ac.za

## APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 JULY

For online applications:
applyonline.uct.ac.za

commerce.uct.ac.za