2023

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE
BACHELOR OF BUSINESS SCIENCE

YOUR GUIDE
TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN
commerce

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.
- **Write both National Benchmark Tests (NBTs)** as early as possible. To be considered for Commerce, you need to do both the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) and Mathematics (MAT) tests.
- **The closing date for applications is 31 July. Late applications will not be considered.**
- When you apply to Commerce, you do not need to specify a degree choice. You only need to choose **ONE** of the options below:

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE BBusSc/BCom

Mainstream **OR** Academic Development Programme*

ALL OTHER COMMERCE DEGREES BBusSc/BCom

Mainstream **OR** Academic Development Programme*

(* See pages 12–13 for details)

For more information, visit the Faculty Downloads page at

www.commerce.uct.ac.za

or contact the Commerce Faculty Office (details on page 28).

CONTENTS

2023 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, become a leader, an agent for change and a team player. Your current worldview will be challenged and expanded through your 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 is an excellent choice. We invite you to explore the various degree options.

Remember that most people have 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. 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 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 being unsure of where it may lead. If you have a specific career in mind, find out as much as possible about it. Several degrees might lead to your career choice and being well informed will help you find the option that best suits your abilities. For more information on career options, visit:
www.commerce.uct.ac.za or www.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 because we recognise that career development is an ongoing process. Remember that most people have several jobs or even 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 other universities both locally and internationally. This research is brought into the classroom to enhance learning.

TEACHING METHODS

We emphasise innovative teaching methods, provide small group tutorials, and high levels of consultation 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

8

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).

Many careers and professions require additional postgraduate qualifications after completing the undergraduate degree.

Even if you don't do a Commerce undergraduate degree, there are options to study in Commerce at the postgraduate level through our Postgraduate Diplomas in Management.

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
- Accounting with Law

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 similar 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 is more or less common, for two main reasons:

1. All Commerce graduates should have a solid academic foundation in a range of 'core' subject areas: Accounting, Information Systems, Economics, Business Law, Mathematics, Statistics, Evidence-based Management and Business Ethics.

2. We do not expect first-year students to finalise their degree choices before the first-year orientation at the beginning of the year.

What are the differences?

In the standard format, a BBusSc takes four years to complete, and a BCom takes three years.

As the BBusSc takes a year longer to complete, students specialise in a discipline up to 4th year (level 8) enabling them to apply for a related Master's degree. BCom students can apply to do a 4th year (level 8) qualification known as Honours or a Postgraduate Diploma after completing their 3-year degree. This enables students to apply to a related Master's degree after finishing Honours or a Postgraduate Diploma.

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 (AD) programmes offered through the Commerce Education Development Unit (EDU). The AD BBusSc can be taken over a four- or five-year period, and the AD 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?

You DON'T select a specialisation when you apply unless it is Actuarial Science because we want students to make informed choices after they learn more during Orientation at the beginning of their first year.

A student accepted into Commerce may register for ANY Commerce degree or programme provided that their final Grade 12 scores and NBTs meet the minimum subject criteria specified on pages 25 to 27.

You may only choose ONE of the following four options when you apply:

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE BBusSc/BCom

Mainstream OR Academic Development programme*

ALL OTHER COMMERCE DEGREES BBusSc/BCom

Mainstream OR Academic Development programme*

* See the following pages for information about Academic Development programmes

---

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 NBTs, you meet the minimum Actuarial Science entrance criteria, you will be eligible to register for an Actuarial Science degree.

All other Commerce undergraduate programmes: Your final choice of which degree or discipline to register for is made ONLY at the end of orientation once you have received more information on the common core courses across all degrees, the flexibility between the degrees and the different disciplines available.

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 aims to enhance 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.

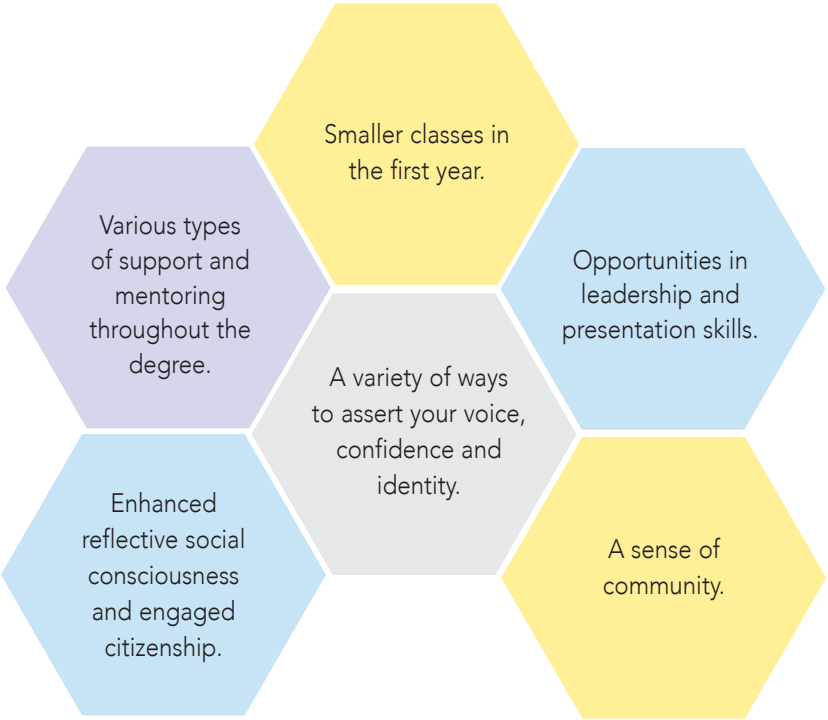
Admission to the EDU

Your application for the EDU Academic Development programmes is carefully 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 AD BBusSc or AD BCom you are eligible to complete any of the BBusSc/BCom specialisations (providing that you meet the particular requirements for the given specialisation).

Being on an AD programme provides you with an extensive variety of support, including:



EDU structure

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

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

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 *

Accounting is essential for financial literacy, which is important in any organisation and in life. So, understanding financial information is empowering whether you are an entrepreneur, the owner of a spaza or corner shop, working in the public sector, or leading a multinational. It is the ability to understand the financial impact of decisions on a range of stakeholders (investors, employees, government and society) that drives our economy and contributes to an equal society. And accountants are key because generally, they understand the flow of the money.

A person who is; honest and ethical, committed to hard work, responsive to change, a problem solver, an effective communicator, detail focused 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 wider audience outside the organisation, and interrogating that financial information to ensure that it is reliable.

All organisations employ professional accountants (and particularly those who wish to function well). Accountants can work in different areas, including financial reporting, tax, management accounting and 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. Being able to quantify uncertainty and risk helps individuals and companies concentrate on proactively managing their risk and ensuring that 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, but by using statistical techniques given past events and the current environment, they can help to 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. As the professional qualification is so demanding, UCT requires applicants to obtain at least 80% for Mathematics (higher grade for NSC) and at least 60% for English home language (or 80% for English first additional language) in addition to the required faculty points score.

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), and 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 can then 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 the successful completion of 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, as well as detailed information on the actuarial curriculum, which includes 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 the ways in which consumers, firms, and markets operate and thereby teaches students how to analyse critically the factors that affect economic and social development both locally and internationally. Furthermore, it equips students with a useful set of 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 is poverty so hard to eradicate, what is the role of the Reserve Bank, how should the Finance Minister allocate the budget, why consumers purchase the goods that they do, why firms make the decisions that they do, why markets operate in more or less efficient ways, etc.) will find economics fascinating. Someone with a critical mind and an 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, it is important that funds be raised in the most economical and effective way and be invested as effectively and profitably as possible whilst 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 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 extremely diverse discipline, which overlaps with accounting, economics, mathematics, politics, psychology, strategy, statistics and many other disciplines. Furthermore, although finance considers the past, it is mostly focused on the future.

People who succeed in finance like to deal with diverse information and the complexities of the real world.

One of the challenges that first year students have when choosing a degree is that they are often not familiar with the finance discipline. However, some finance elements are covered at school in economics, accounting and business-related subjects.

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 in 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 systems based on computers and IT infrastructure that assist us in our daily lives, and can be found throughout organisations and society. Every time money is drawn from an ATM; an information system ensures that the transaction is recorded. People interact with them daily; when using mobile phone apps, posting messages on social media, booking a flight ticket online, or even ordering an Uber. Organisations use information systems to deliver better customer service, improve business processes and enhance decision making through sophisticated analysis and visualisation of data. Information Systems professionals play an essential role by optimising new and existing information technologies to design and develop innovative solutions benefitting organisations and society.

Information Systems is an exciting field in which you design, create and implement IT solutions to help organisations operate better. People working in this area need an interest in and understanding of both business and information technology, effective communication and teamwork skills, and a flair for design and creativity.

At school, you may have been exposed to computer-based subjects such as Information Technology (IT) and Computer Applications Technology (CAT). Both subjects differ from Information Systems, which focuses on designing and implementing computer applications, while CAT and IT focus on using computer applications.

Information Systems graduates are in high demand and are employed in roles such as business analyst, system designer, project manager and solution architect. All organisations (big and small, business and community) and all sectors (public, private, non-profit) depend on information systems. With their skills in understanding people, computers and organisations, Information Systems graduates are able to design and implement new solutions that further societal development.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is about the creation of computer software, which is required for economic, social and for 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, to understand the concepts of artificial intelligence, to mathematically solve some of our greatest software challenges, is, without 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 of Computer Science has little in common with IT at school. The first year of Computer Science introduces you to programming and problem solving, as well as 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; 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 by 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, 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 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 highly attractive to a range of 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 applies psychology to work. It deals with individual and group behaviour in organisations and the management of people in the workplace.

Organisational Psychology has become increasingly crucial as contemporary organisations realise that people are their most valuable asset. In Organisational Psychology, you gain an in-depth understanding of what drives people's behaviour. By understanding people, you can carefully select how to communicate and how to structure organisations and processes to direct people's behaviour. Did you know that next to digital skills, understanding how to manage people is considered one of the most critical skills for jobs in the future?

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.

Our graduates are employed as practitioners in a variety of areas ranging from change management, employee relations, learning and development to human resources management - across diverse sectors: corporate business, government, NGOs, and management consultancies.

STATISTICAL SCIENCES *

(Analytics in the BBusSc)

Big Data has become the subject of attention worldwide, with its sudden rise 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.

Analytics/data science 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 analytics and data science is for you.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants need to write both National Benchmark Tests (Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy, and Mathematics) at the earliest opportunity. The results of these tests 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 both of the National Benchmark Tests (AQL and MAT). A maximum of two attempts will be allowed. For further information about NBT dates and venues, please visit www.nbt.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**	**GUARANTEED ADMISSION** FPS of 480 or above NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60%
ALL APPLICANTS	**BAND B WPS**	**PROBABLE ADMISSION** WPS of 470 or above NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60% **Minimum required for possible admission** FPS of 425 or above. NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60%
Only SA applicants in targeted redress groups with a disadvantage factor greater than 1	**BAND C FPS**	**POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) ONLY** FPS of 425 to 429 NBT scores of Lower Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 60% English HL 50% English FAL 60% In exceptional circumstances a basic for QL may be mitigated by a score of Intermediate in NBT Mathematics

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS SPECIALISATION

ELIGIBLE	BAND	REQUIREMENTS
ALL APPLICANTS	**BAND A FPS**	**GUARANTEED ADMISSION** FPS of 480 or above NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 70% English HL 50% English FAL 60%
ALL APPLICANTS	**BAND B WPS**	**PROBABLE ADMISSION** WPS of 470 or above NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 70% English HL 50% English FAL 60% **Minimum required for possible admission** FPS of 425 NBT scores of Upper Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 70% English HL 50% English FAL 60%
Only SA applicants in targeted redress groups with a disadvantage factor greater than 1	**BAND C FPS**	**POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (EDU) ONLY** FPS of 425 to 429 NBT scores of Lower Intermediate for AL & QL Mathematics 70% English HL 50% English FAL 60% In exceptional circumstances a basic for QL may be mitigated by a score of Intermediate in NBT Mathematics

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

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE AND QUANTITATIVE FINANCE QUALIFICATION AND STREAM

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

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

IMPORTANT: It is compulsory for all applicants to write BOTH National Benchmark Tests: Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) and Mathematics (MAT)

FACULTY OF COMMERCE CONTACT DETAILS

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (COMMERCE)

For information about the EDU and AD programmes,
contact 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
www.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

Apply online at
http://applyonline.uct.ac.za/

www.commerce.uct.ac.za