



**Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University**

f o r t o m o r r o w

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

BCOM CHARTERED ACCOUNTANCY, BCOM GENERAL ACCOUNTING, BCOM RATIONUM, BCOM HONOURS

1. MISSION STATEMENT

In recognising the increasingly important role that will be played by accountants and financial managers in the management of resources of the economy in order to ensure sustained economic growth, the School of Accounting aims to provide high quality, relevant education (informed by scholarly activity, research and engagement) to:

- prospective professional accountants and
- those who wish to make a meaningful contribution to financial reporting, control and management in the private and the public sectors.

In order to achieve this aim, it is imperative that our School:

- maintains close links with the accounting profession so as to be aware of, and contribute to, developments within the profession;
- fosters and maintains a focus on academic research; and
- takes cognisance of the socio-political environment in which we operate.

2. PROGRAMMES OFFERED

The School of Accounting offers various under- and postgraduate accounting degree programmes which aim at preparing candidates for careers in business and accounting generally or as professional accountants and auditors, financial managers or financial/tax consultants.

NMMU accounting degrees are recognised nationally and internationally and our accounting graduates have not only done extremely well in the professional qualifying examinations of South African Institution of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) but many of them have also progressed to senior management positions in commerce and industry and in the accounting and auditing profession, both locally and abroad.

In addition to the BCom and BCom Honours in Accounting programmes leading towards various professional qualifications (CA(SA), RA, ACCA, SAIPA, CIS, etc), the School also offers MCom (Research or Coursework Programmes) and Postgraduate Diplomas in Internal Auditing and Accountancy.

3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

(i) BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) [BCom programme 3] AND BCom Rationum

The 3-year BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) or 4 year BCom Rationum programmes are prescribed for students who intend becoming Chartered Accountants and focuses on Financial Accounting, Auditing, Taxation and Management Accounting. Graduates of this programme need to complete a Bachelor Honours degree in Accounting, followed by a period of practical training and professional examinations in order to register as Chartered Accountants.

Minimum NSC requirements for degree entry must be met.

Requirements for direct admission:

- Admission Points Score (*see method of calculation on next page*) At least 38
- English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa (home language or first additional language) At least a level 3 (40-49%)
- Mathematics At least a level 5 (60-69%)

(ii) BCom (General Accounting and related subjects) [BCom programme 2]

This programme is offered for students wishing to major in General Accounting. The General Accounting stream is intended for students who wish to qualify as Professional Accountants and who may wish to join other professional institutes such as the SA Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA).

Minimum NSC requirements for degree entry must be met.

Requirements for direct admission:

- Admission Points Score (*see method of calculation on next page*) At least 38
- English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa (home language or first additional language) At least a level 3 (40-49%)
- Mathematics At least a level 4 (50-59%)

OR

Mathematical Literacy¹

At least a level 6 (70-79%)

Notes:

1. Should you wish to become a Chartered Accountant, but you do not meet the requirements for admission to the BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) programme, you can register for the BCom (General Accounting and related subjects) programme. Should your academic performance be good enough (as prescribed in the Faculty Prospectus) you will be able to transfer to the BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) programme during your period of study.
2. **Admission via testing (Non-direct admission)**
Should you not meet the above minimum admission requirements for direct admission, but have an APS of between 30 and 37, you will be referred for access testing at the university. The test results, together with your NSC results, will then be used to determine your admission possibilities to your preferred or other Accounting programme at NMMU.

¹ If the applicant presents Mathematical Literacy instead of Mathematics, s/he could be placed in an extended programme.

How to calculate your APS score:

Subject %	0 - 29%	30 - 39%	40 - 49%	50 - 59%	60 - 69%	70 - 79%	80 - 89%	90 - 100%
APS point	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Having determined the APS point for each of the seven subjects, add these together to compute an overall APS total score (which is the "Admission Points Score").

Is accounting as a school subject compulsory?

No. The course is designed both for students who have done accounting at school and for those who have not. Research has shown that students who do not have accounting at school are not academically prejudiced.

4. CORE ACCOUNTING SUBJECTS

The core subjects offered by the School of Accounting and a brief description of these are as follows:

Financial Accounting

Recording and summarising financial information in the financial records of an enterprise and preparing the financial reports mainly for users external to the enterprise.

Management Accounting

Measures and reports financial and other information which assists management with decision making and meeting the goals of the organisation.

Financial Management

Emphasises the creation and maintenance of economic value and the fundamental importance of cash flow.

Auditing

Gathering evidence about, and reporting on, the fair presentation of an enterprise's annual financial statements. Credible financial statements, resulting from the audit, are vital to an enterprise's ability to raise finance.

Taxation

Determining the taxes payable by an individual, close corporation or company in terms of the relevant legislation. Advising on methods of arranging an individual's or enterprise's affairs in the most tax efficient manner.

5. BCOM CHARTERED ACCOUNTING (3-YEAR DEGREE)

This curriculum is aimed specifically at students wishing to qualify as chartered accountants. The BCom degree is followed by a one-year BCom Honours degree in Accounting, where after candidates proceed to the professional chartered accountancy examinations.

FIRST YEAR		Term	Module Code	Credit Value
1	Business Management: Introduction to Business Management & Entrepreneurship	1 & 2	EB101	12
		3 & 4	EB102	12
2	Law: Commercial Law	1 & 2	JHA101	12
		3 & 4	JHM101	12
3	Accounting: Accounting 101	1 & 2	R101	10
		3 & 4	R102	14
4	Computer Science & Information Systems: Computing Fundamentals	1 & 2	WRFC101	8
		3 & 4	WRFC102	8
5	Statistics: Mathematics for Accountancy	1 & 2	MACC101	12
		3 & 4	STAE102	12
6	Economics: Introduction to Macroeconomics	3 & 4	EC102	12

SECOND YEAR		Term	Module Code	Credit Value
1	Ethics and Corporate Governance	1 & 2	RE201	14
2	Economics: Introduction to Microeconomics	1 & 2	EC101	12
		1 & 2	EC201	14
3	Law: Advanced Company Law	1 & 2	JHM201	12
		3 & 4	JHA201	12
4	Accounting: Accounting 201	1 & 2	R201	14
		3 & 4	R202	14
5	Auditing, Taxation and Management Accounting: Auditing	3 & 4	RO202	12
		3 & 4	RTK202	12

THIRD YEAR		Term	Module Code	Credit Value
1	Accounting: Accounting 301	1 & 2	R301	24
		3 & 4	R302	24
2	Taxation: Taxation 301	1 & 2	RT301	15
		3 & 4	RT302	15
3	Auditing: Auditing 301	1 & 2	RO301	15
		3 & 4	RO302	15
4	Management Accounting: Management Accounting 301	1 & 2	RK301	15
		3 & 4	RK302	15

6. BCOM RATIONUM (4-YEAR DEGREE)

This degree is also aimed at students wishing to qualify as chartered accountants, but an additional major subject area (Economics, Business Management, Law or Computer and Information Systems) is studied. The degree is also followed by the BCom Honours in Accounting, whereafter candidates also proceed to the professional examinations of SAICA.

<u>OPTION A: BCOM RAT (BUSINESS MANAGEMENT/ECONOMICS)</u>				
ADDITIONAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT/ECONOMIC MODULES				
FIRST YEAR				
1.	Economics	Term	Module Code	Credit Value
	Microeconomics	1 & 2	EC101	12
SECOND YEAR				
1.	Business management	Term	Module Code	Credit Value
	Marketing Management	1 & 2	EBM201	14
	Logistics/Purchasing Management	3 & 4	EBM202	14
2.	Economics			
	Microeconomics	3 & 4	EC202	14
3.	Mathematics			
	Mathematics Special A	1 to 4	MATA 101/2	16
OPTION A1: Majoring in Business Management				
THIRD YEAR				
Any three Economics modules offered in the first semester:				
1.	Economics	Term	Module Code	Credit Value
	Public economics	1 & 2	ECO301	10
	Economics of financial Markets	1 & 2	ECO302	10
	Labour economics	1 & 2	ECO307	10
	Managerial Economics	1 & 2	ECO308	10
2.	Business management			
	General and Strategic Management	3 & 4	EBM203	24
OPTION A2: Majoring in Economics				
THIRD YEAR				
Any five Economics modules, irrespective of the semester in which they are offered:				
1.	Economics	Term	Module Code	Credit Value
	Public Economics	1 & 2	ECO301	10
	Economics of Financial Markets	1 & 2	ECO302	10
	Labour Economics	1 & 2	ECO307	10
	Managerial Economics	1 & 2	ECO308	10
	Econometrics (not available to students who have completed STAT203)	3 & 4	ECO304	10
	Development Economics	3 & 4	ECO305	10
	International Economics	3 & 4	ECO306	10
	Economics and Development Ethics	3 & 4	ECO309	10

<u>OPTION B: BCOM RAT (LAW)</u>				
ADDITIONAL LAW MODULES				
FIRST YEAR				
		Term	Module Code	Credit Value
	Introduction to Law	1 to 4	JLK111/2	24
	Law of Persons	1 & 2	JLP111	12
	Family Law	3 & 4	JLV111	12
	Research and Reading Skills	1	JJS114	6
	Writing Skills	2	JJS115	6
	Advocacy Skills	3	JJS116	6
	Numeracy Skills	3 & 4	JJS117	6

SECOND YEAR				
	Constitutional Law	1 to 4	JJT111/2	24
	Law of Contract	1 to 4	JLC211/2	24
THIRD YEAR				
	Specific Contracts A	1 & 2	JLQ311	12
	Specific Contracts B	1 & 2	JLQ314	12
	Business Entities Law	1 & 2	JMB311	12
	Labour Law	3 & 4	JML313	12
	Company Law	3 & 4	JMM311	12

<u>OPTION C: BCOM RAT (COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS)</u>				
ADDITIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE MODULES				
FIRST YEAR		Term	Module Code	Credit Value
1.	Mathematics (Special) A			
	Mathematics (Special) A	1 & 2	MATA 101	8
	Mathematics(Special) A	3 & 4	MATA 102	8
2.	Computer Science and Information Systems:			
	Programme Fundamentals	1 to 4	WRA101/2	16
	Computing Fundamentals	1 to 4	WRFC101/2	16
SECOND YEAR				
1.	Mathematics (Special) B			
	Mathematics (Special) B	1 & 2	MATB 101	8
	Mathematics(Special) B	3 & 4	MATB 102	8
2.	Computer Science and Information Systems:			
	Data Structures & Algorithms 2.1 & 2.2	1 to 4	WRA201/WRA202	16
	Business Systems	3 to 4	WRBA202	6
	Computer Architecture & Networks 2.1	1 to 2	WRC201	6
	Information Systems 2.1 & 2.2	1 to 4	WRI201/WRI202	12
THIRD YEAR				
	Advanced Programming 3.1 & 3.2	1 to 4	WRAP301/302	21
	Database Systems 3.1	1 to 2	WRDB301	7
	User Interface Design	3 to 4	WRUI307	7
	Management Information Systems	1 to 4	WRB301/2	16
	Project	3 & 4	WRR301	9

7. BCOM HONOURS DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING

This one year full-time honours degree is designed specifically for candidates wishing to qualify as chartered accountants. The NMMU BCOM Honours (Accounting) degree is accredited by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), allowing graduates to write the professional examinations of SAICA.

CURRICULUM

Subjects	Term	Module Code
Accounting 400	1 to 4	R400
Auditing 400	1 to 4	RO400
Management Accounting 400	1 to 4	RK400
Taxation and Estate Planning 400	1 to 4	RIT400

Graduates of our BCom Honours programme have achieved excellent results in the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants qualifying examination:

YEAR	<u>PASS RATE</u>	
	UPE/NMMU	NATIONAL
2012	85%	78%
2011	90%	80%
2009	97%	79%
2008	88%	75%
2007	92%	66%
2006	91%	60%
2005	84%	59%
2004	92%	56%
2003	65%	53%
2002	100%	62%
2001	87%	66%

After completion of the honours degree, candidates will enter into a three-year training contract, either with a firm of registered auditors or with a commercial enterprise registered for such training purposes with SAICA. During this three-year period candidates write the final professional qualifying examinations, the successful completion of which enables candidates to join a group of professionals who are amongst the highest paid in the world!

8. STAFF OF THE SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

- Highly qualified and experienced faculty members.
- Faculty members serve on various committees at the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants and at the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors.
- Staff regularly have papers published in local and international journals.
- Staff are dedicated to maintaining the highest academic standards comparable with similar institutions anywhere in the world.
- Holistic approach to learning affording students every opportunity to realise their full potential.

9. TEACHING APPROACH : STUDENT CENTRED

AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

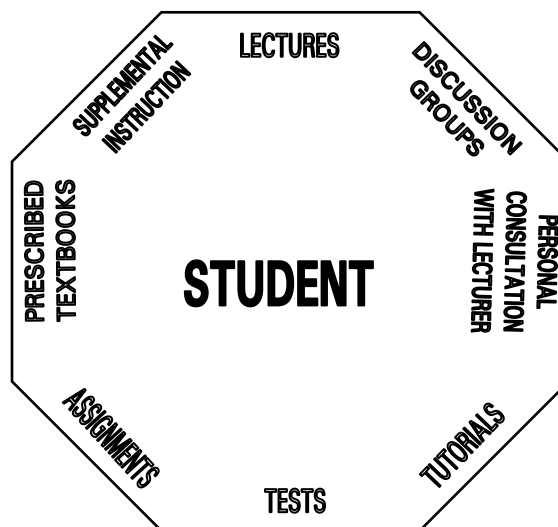
STUDENT:

Responsibility for own learning

LECTURER:

Responsibility to provide resources which enable the student to learn efficiently and effectively

LEARNING RESOURCES / A LEARNER-CENTRED APPROACH



Students are encouraged to develop responsibility for their own learning and thereby acquire the ability to become

LIFELONG LEARNERS

10. STUDYING AT NMMU

- A friendly, stable environment
- Relatively small classes
- Extensive academic assistance from staff and tutors
- Excellent course material
- Well qualified and experienced academics
- Excellent library and study facilities
- Nationally and internationally recognised programmes
- NMMU graduates secure outstanding jobs

11. A CAREER AS A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SA)

Chartered Accountants (CAs) analyse and evaluate financial information, make decisions based on that information and plan the implementation of those decisions. They are entrusted with confidential information and their personal integrity must therefore be beyond question.

The following are some examples of the work that you as a CA could be called upon to tackle:

- A company is considering whether to build a new factory or to renovate the old one. There may be many engineering and technical problems. It is the CA who determines the most cost effective alternative and the means of financing the project.
- All companies, and many other institutions, have their financial statements audited. Most auditors have followed the CA education route and much of the CA's training is designed to equip them with this specialised expertise.
- A wealthy individual seeks advice on the best way to minimise his tax commitment or how best to protect the interests of his wife and children upon his death. The CA is trained to advise on these matters and may also be appointed as the executor in the estate and as a trustee in any family trust.
- In times of recession, a business looks for ways and means of saving costs, of cutting down on its financial commitments and of operating more efficiently. The CA's wide experience and training equips him to advise management on these matters.
- A company is developing a new product. It is the CA who calculates the costs and profits and the return on the capital employed.
- A company's need for reliable information has outgrown its systems and it is considering buying a computer. The CA has a very sound knowledge of computers and controls.
- A company is considering a take-over, a merger or the listing of its shares. The CA prepares the valuations, approves the agreements and is part of the team that drafts the prospectus.

12. OPPORTUNITIES

Accounting graduates and professionals are sought after throughout South Africa and internationally. Every organisation, whether it be a business, a school, university, non-profit organisation, municipality, province or club, requires financial managers to manage the organisation and particularly to manage the finances and investments. One very seldom hears of an accountant out of work!

Accountants and financial managers do not sit behind desks all day looking at figures. They make significant contributions to organisations achieving their goals. They work with people at all levels in managing the activities of an organisation. All major corporations have numerous accounting professionals on their boards of directors and accountants are amongst the highest paid professionals in South Africa and in the world.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD ACCOUNTANT?

- Numeracy skills
- Communication skills
- An ability to work hard
- A logical mind
- An ability to work with people
- A commitment to ethical conduct

13. THUTHUKA PROGRAMME

The Thuthuka programme provides the School of Accounting with an opportunity to be actively involved in attempts to redress the racial imbalance in the chartered accounting profession. Based on its solid track record relating to providing education to previously disadvantaged students and prospective chartered accountants, the NMMU School of Accounting was initially selected as one of only four SAICA accredited universities to offer the programme. The project is managed by a steering committee responsible for the academic interventions supplementary to those of the mainstream programme as well as financial and administrative support.

FUNDING

The project aims to assist academically talented South African Black and Coloured students to pursue a BCom (Accounting) degree followed by a BCom Honours (Accounting) degree in order to become Chartered Accountants. Funding is administered by SAICA and is provided by the Thuthuka Trust, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and the Sector Education and Training for Finance (FASSET). Due to available capacity constraints the number of students that can be accommodated on the programme is limited.

THE NMMU THUTHUKA PROGRAMME PROVIDES ITS STUDENTS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Funding for studies at NMMU (comprising a bursary/loan scheme);
- Dedicated residence accommodation;
- Dedicated lectures for financial accounting in the first two years of the BCom programme;
- Dedicated tutorials in financial accounting in all undergraduate years;
- Formal study sessions in dedicated venues presided over by appropriately qualified tutors;
- A mentoring and monitoring system supported by regular assessments;
- Additional academic support in developing skills and competencies;
- Special programmes including academic enrichment, numeracy, literacy and life skills; and
- A full-time administration co-ordinator responsible for all administrative and financial matters.

These interventions have contributed to the results of students on the Thuthuka programme often exceeding those of students on the mainstream programme.

ENQUIRIES

For further information on the Thuthuka programme at NMMU, please contact the Admin Assistant, Ms Zukiswa Ngqoyiya, at 041 504 2012 or via email at zukiswa.ngqoyiya@nmmu.c.za or the Project Coordinator, Mrs Shareen van der Watt, at 041 504 2014 or via email at Shareen.vanderWatt@nmmu.ac.za.

14. FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our website: <http://accounting.nmmu.ac.za/Home>
Search for “**NMMU School of Accounting**” on Facebook and Youtube.

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