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QUALIFICATION: POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA in BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
(SAQA ID: 76924; NQF Level 8)
MODE OF DELIVERY: CONTACT (MELVILLE CAMPUS)/DISTANCE LEARNING ONLINE

DESCRIPTION AND PROGRAMME PURPOSE

The Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration (PGDBA) provides the opportunity for prospective students with an undergraduate degree to gain general and advanced knowledge of business administration and management. Students without management experience can engage in a challenging curriculum covering finance, strategic management, design thinking for problem solving, business research, business ethics and corporate governance, and social responsibility and environmental management.

An additional prospect, after completing the qualification, is to enrol for a Master of Business Administration (MBA) or a research Master's degree in order to further career prospects in management and administration. Students who proceed and are admitted to Milpark's Master of Business Administration degree, will receive module exemptions from the Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration.

WHO SHOULD ENROL

On your way to an MBA, you need Milpark's dynamic PGDBA for admission. The PGDBA equips you to excel in the marketplace by providing an immersive experience that provides you with a variety of skills, such as critical and strategic thinking, problem-solving, responsible and ethical leadership. Graduates will receive credits for four modules towards the Milpark MBA, which will enhance their career prospects and assist by reducing the time taken to complete the MBA.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Successful completion of this qualification should enable the student to:

- Read and interpret introductory, functional and advanced literature in the field of management science.
- Communicate effectively, using graphical and language skills in the modes of oral and/or written presentation.
- Demonstrate understanding of the business world as a set of open systems in which each element is embedded in an array of interrelated elements.

- Collect, organise, analyse and critically evaluate relevant information to enhance management decision-making.
- Undertake research projects.
- Identify and solve problems in the field of business management, using critical and creative thinking.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the economic, social and political factors that affect public managers and business people.
- Apply the conceptual knowledge and practical skills in a specific work context, either working alone or in teams.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Module name	Code	Credits	C/E
Semester 1			
Finance for Non-Financial Managers*	FNFM01-OS	0	Bridging
General Management Environment	GENV01-8	15	Compulsory
Business Ethics and Corporate Governance	BECG01-8	15	Compulsory
Social Responsibility and Environmental Management	SREM01-8	15	Compulsory
Management Accounting and Finance	MAFI1A-8	15	Compulsory
Semester 2			
Design Thinking for Problem Solving	DTPS01-8	20	Compulsory
Strategic Management	STRM01-8	20	Compulsory
Research Methodology	BRES01-8	20	Compulsory

*This module is compulsory for all students who have not studied financial management at an undergraduate level or have no working experience in financial management. This course must be completed within the first semester of studies and students should register for *FNFM01-OS* concurrently with *Management Accounting and Finance MAFI1A-8*.

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Business Ethics and Corporate Governance BECG01-8

This module exposes students to perspectives and philosophies on moral and business ethics. Students will develop skills to identify and manage issues related to ethical practice and decision-making, and will be exposed to the requirements and practice of good corporate governance.

Design Thinking for Problem Solving DTPS01-8

After completion of this module, students would have developed skills in alternative methodologies for problem-solving and the ability to create innovative solutions. Students should have developed an ability to define the problem that needs to be resolved in an empathetic way, allowing for a human-centred approach to product and service design.

Finance for Non-financial Managers FNFM01-OS

This short course introduces you to basic financial management principles and empowers you to better understand the financial aspects of business and management decisions. The purpose of the course is to enable people with no financial background to understand finance and its associated terminology. It will enable you to do the basics such as understand and analyse financial statements, complete basic cash and capital budgeting, manage working capital, make valid pricing decisions, and assess project progress and returns.

General Management Environment GENV01-8

After students have completed this module, they should have a good theoretical and practical understanding of management. Emphasis is placed on the managerial skills needed at various different levels of management and the ways in which to master management skills and competencies. Furthermore, an understanding of the nature of designing and managing a 'winning strategy' is demonstrated.

Management Accounting and Finance MAF11A-8

The purpose of this module is to provide students with the tools and abilities that enhance their decision-making proficiency. The ability to make informed and rational financial decisions is absolutely critical if students are to succeed within the financial management sphere.

Research Methodology BRES01-8

After students have completed this module, they should have a good theoretical and practical understanding of conducting applied research in a relevant business sector. Emphasis is placed on identifying an appropriate and viable research problem, formulating aligned research questions and objectives, conducting a literature review and selecting an appropriate design. Students will have to draft and submit an initial research report based on the research conducted, presenting their findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Social Responsibility and Environmental Management SREM01-8

The purpose of this module is to empower students (business executives, managers and leaders) to understand the influence and impact of business enterprises and their responsibilities. The module examines the social, ethical and environmental issues faced by both business and other kinds of organisations, providing business executives, managers and leaders with a theoretically supported analytical perspective of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and enabling them to assess CSR issues, initiatives, drivers and responses critically. The module will enable students to recognise that current forms of economic activity are either unsustainable or will at least be subject to a wider raft of ethical, social and environmental constraints in the future. As such, the module considers social, ethical and environmental issues to the extent to which they represent both constraints and opportunities for commercial enterprises.

Strategic Management STRM01-8

This module is designed to provide students with an essential understanding of the role of strategy in an organisation. Fundamental tools for the strategic analysis of the external and internal environment of the organisation are presented. Students will also develop an appreciation of the strategic thinking process.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications from persons who have obtained a Bachelor's degree (old NQF Level 6 or new NQF level 7) from a recognised university or institution will be considered.

All applicants must achieve an acceptable rating in either the Milpark Admission or NMAT assessments.

Admission to the qualification is subject to academic selection criteria. The applicant must also be:

- proficient in English. (Proof of proficiency may be required for international students.)
- computer and internet-literate.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications*

**Kindly contact the relevant Programme Manager BEFORE applying online for admission on RPL grounds to determine availability, as RPL admissions are limited to 10% of the total intake and it is continuously oversubscribed.*

Applicants who do not have the required degree but who have extensive work experience and/or proven leadership in their particular field of endeavour may also apply in terms of Milpark's Recognition of Prior Learning policy; however, admission on these grounds is limited. RPL applicants must have a minimum of 10 years of employment experience and demonstrate potential to complete the programme, and must submit:

- a brief curriculum vitae.
- a one-page statement of why they believe they should be admitted to the programme.

In addition, an applicant may be required to present him/herself for an interview with the Selection Panel.

Foreign students

Foreign applicants whose first language is not English are required to provide proof of proficiency in English prior to admission to the qualification. Foreign students who do not hold a South African matric certificate must present a matric verification from the South African Matriculation Board on application.

MODE OF DELIVERY

Students are required to select their mode of study on admission. Please note that there are mode factsheets available that explain each mode in detail.

A change of mode will only be allowed in specified circumstances. An application has to be submitted to the Academic Committee for consideration.

The following modes are available for this specific programme:

- Contact learning (CLPT)
- Distance learning online (DLO).

Note: Contact-learning classes are subject to minimum student numbers, but a module will be available via distance learning should it not be available in contact-learning mode.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Milpark provides students with materials, resources, formative assessments (including online tests and quizzes), discussion opportunities and a number of administrative services as part of the myMilpark and myCourses online tuition and support environments. Course materials contain links to additional external resources in the form of links to downloadable documents, websites and videos.

Having access to the above online facilities is essential for efficient communication, learning and success. You will need continuous (daily) access to study, using the resources mentioned above, and to submit and receive your assignments.

Minimum system requirements

1. Reliable broadband internet access
2. Chrome web browser/Internet Explorer/Firefox
3. Microsoft Word
4. PDF Viewer
5. Ability to scan and upload documents
6. Email/Cellphone for notification and communication.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Library Access

The Milpark Library provides access to e-books in a virtual library called Cyberlibris (Scholartext). Lecturers may create smart bookshelves per course or module for students to access (these shelves can contain prescribed and recommended books). Students can also create their own personal smart bookshelves containing resources for their studies. Having access to a digital library means that thousands of students can access books and resources from anywhere at the same time online. There is no need to make reservations and requests, and no limit on the time a student has to access a book. With the implementation of Cyberlibris, students also have access to full-text resources via ProQuest (global), Ebsco (global) and Sabinet (South African publications) to assist with research and enrich their learning experience. Access to the Library is included in the module fee.

Tutor

Comprehensive student support services are available. Students are provided with administrative support by Student Services. To assist with understanding content, students have access to tutors whom they can contact individually. Students who experience study and/or personal problems have access to a student counsellor. All support services are available to registered students via *myMilpark (myCourses)*.

RULES OF PROGRESSION

All modules are compulsory. Students are required to complete all seven credit-bearing modules. Students require 120 credits to complete the qualification. *Finance for Non-Financial Managers FNF01-OS* must be completed by all students who have not studied financial management at an undergraduate level or have no working experience in financial management and students should register the module concurrently with *Management Accounting & Finance MAF11A-8*.

ASSESSMENT

Students are generally required to submit an assignment for each module, which contributes 40% towards the final mark. Some modules may have multiple formative assessments. These will be communicated to you at the start of the semester.

In addition, contact-learning (CL) students are expected to attend at least 80% of the contact sessions in order to meet the Due Performance (DP) requirement. Distance-learning online (DLO) students need to participate in specific online forums per module and join online live@Milpark sessions in order to meet the DP requirement.

Students will write a final, summative assessment at the end of each semester, which contributes 60% towards the final mark. Students need to obtain a sub-minimum mark of 40% in the final, summative assessment and an overall mark of 50% in order to pass the module.

DURATION

The programme can be completed in a minimum of one year and a maximum of three years.

CERTIFICATION

On successful completion of the qualification, the student will receive a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration, NQF Level 8 (credits: 120). The Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration is accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

FURTHER STUDIES

Milpark Education is committed to the process of lifelong learning and opening access to higher education. The programme is at NQF level 8 and it will provide for articulation options into NQF level 9 programmes. Narrowly, students may proceed to Milpark's Master of Business Administration.

Students who successfully complete the GEN01-8, BECG01-8, SREM01-8 and MAF11A-8 modules, and are desirous of continuing with MBA studies at Milpark, will be granted exemptions for these modules if admitted onto the MBA programme.

Beyond Milpark Education, this qualification should articulate vertically with other Master's qualifications in the relevant fields of management development. A student who has completed modules on this qualification at Milpark Education and who wishes to transfer to another tertiary-level institution horizontally should be able to apply for exemption from relevant modules on the basis of the modules that have been passed at Milpark Education.

PRICING

All module fees include one round of formative and summative assessments (supplementary examinations excluded). Contact fees include lectures. Module fees do not include the cost of prescribed textbooks, which will be for your own account. The prescribed book list will be available on *myMilpark* on registration.

DISCLAIMER

The content of this brochure is accurate at the time of going to print. Milpark Education reserves the right to change the programme content due to changes in legislation, market requirements and other reasons. Notice of such changes will be published on our website.

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