MILPARK EDUCATION

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QUALIFICATION

Postgraduate Diploma
(SAQA ID: 108930; NQF Level 8)

Postgraduate Diploma in **ACCOUNTING / CTA**

Accredited

ACCREDITED CA(SA) ACADEMIC PROVIDER

Mode of Delivery:
Immersive Online Learning

We've got you.
You've got this.

1 Description and **Programme Purpose**

The **Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (PGDip Accounting)** is a **fully online, SAICA-endorsed** programme designed to comprehensively support graduates on their journey toward becoming chartered accountants. This **flexible and future-focused** qualification builds on prior learning, offering a **transformative experience** that strengthens technical expertise while fostering **ethical leadership**, resilience and real-world problem-solving capabilities.

Learners engage in a dynamic and supportive learning **environment that encourages** collaboration, **critical thinking** and continuous professional growth. Graduates are equipped to **lead with purpose**, contribute meaningfully in diverse contexts, and navigate the complexities of a **rapidly evolving business landscape.**

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The **PGDip (Accounting) has four compulsory modules**, namely Financial Reporting, Taxation, Management Accounting & Finance and Corporate Governance & Auditing.

2 Programme **Outcomes**

Upon **successful completion of this programme**, students will be able to:

01 **Apply integrated financial, accounting, taxation and assurance principles** that respond to diverse business contexts, demonstrating critical thinking, creativity and adaptability in dynamic environments.

02 **Demonstrate ethical awareness and professional conduct,** identifying ethical threats, implementing appropriate safeguards, and reflecting on the social responsibility and ethical decision-making required of professional accountants and business leaders as part of an ongoing professional development journey.

03 **Apply principles of risk management, corporate governance, and strategic analysis** to evaluate organisational challenges and contribute to sustainable business leadership across multiple sectors.

04 **Apply management accounting and financial management principles** to support strategic financial decision-making and provide context-specific advisory services.

05 **Interpret and apply South African tax legislation**, including relevant acts and practice notes, to determine tax liabilities and explain the principles underpinning taxation in various business contexts.

06 **Compile, interpret and critically evaluate financial statements** in accordance with applicable financial reporting frameworks and user needs, demonstrating technical competence and analytical insight.

07 **Analyse and apply external auditing principles and processes**, from planning through execution to reporting, with consideration of legal, regulatory and technological factors affecting audit practice.

3 Programme **Structure**

Module name and code	Compulsory/Elective	Credits
Financial Reporting FREP01-8	Compulsory	30
Taxation TAXA01-8	Compulsory	30
Management Accounting & Finance MACF01-8	Compulsory	30
Corporate Governance & Auditing CGAU01-8	Compulsory	30

4 Mode Of **Learning**

The programme will be offered via **Immersive Online (IO) Learning**. IO Learning is our guided, dynamic and flexible digital study experience designed to foster deeper learning and meaningful connection.

Through **scheduled online sessions**, interactive content, and collaborative activities, students engage in a **human-centred environment** that blends structure with flexibility. **IO Learning** uses advanced online systems and **multimedia resources** to support clear pathways, small-group collaboration, and personalised feedback, creating a rich, connected, and **engaging learning journey**.

5 **Module** Descriptions

Each module aims to develop students' conceptual reasoning and analytical skills through the application of technical principles to **authentic business and economic scenarios**, so that students are prepared for the **level of problem-solving**, creativity, learning, resilience, ethical behaviour and adaptation **required in the working world for them to lead** and add value. Thus, each module prepares students to be effective in **fulfilling the various aspects** of the role of an entry-level chartered accountant.

Financial Reporting FREP01-8	This module focuses on the application of **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)** at an advanced level, in preparing and critically evaluating and **interpreting financial statements**. This includes content **relating to all aspects of businesses**' financial statements, both at an individual financial **statement level and at a group** financial statement level.

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This **module focuses on the advanced application** of taxes and duties levied in accordance with **South African tax legislation**, including relevant acts and practice notes. This **includes content relating** to taxation of companies, trusts and individuals.

Taxation TAXA01-8

Management Accounting & Finance MACF01-8

This **module focuses on providing practical tools** to support applied and advanced analytical reasoning and contribute to effective financial management and **decision-making in the context** of real-world scenarios. The module draws on a broad understanding of the economy and risk management, and **includes content related to financial** decision-making, financial structuring, and budgeting and valuations.

This module **provides a comprehensive background** to the external audit process, including different types of external audits, corporate governance and **company-related legislation** that can be applied to various business scenarios. The content focuses on the audit process, computer auditing, the **legal and regulatory environment** and corporate governance.

Corporate Governance & Auditing CGAU01-8

6 Minimum Admission **Requirements**

The **minimum admission requirement** for the **PGDip (Accounting)** is a **SAICA-accredited Bachelor of Commerce degree** or **SAICA-accredited** bridging programme, with a gap from the year of completion of no greater than last three years. (For example, a student wishing to start the PGDip (Accounting) in **February 2026** should have completed their **SAICA-accredited undergraduate** degree or bridging programme no later than the end of 2022.)

Generally, any **gaps in study longer** than three years result in students struggling if they enter the **PGDip (Accounting)** directly, and we therefore require that such students first complete our six-month **Bridging programme** before advancing to the **PGDip (Accounting)**.

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Meeting the **minimum admission criteria does not lead** to automatic acceptance. A limited number of students are **enrolled each year according** to an analysis of their academic history and propensity for success (refer to the factors considered), as well as the **institution's enrolment plan** and the available **capacity in respect of teaching** infrastructure and human resources.

Students will be selected based on a combination of the following criteria:

01 Average mark across **major NQF 7 modules** in the undergraduate degree – the higher the marks, the better.

02 **Time taken to complete the undergraduate** degree – the shorter the time taken, the better.

03 **Any academic inactivity in accounting-related studies** – ideally, students should have no gaps in study, and they should be up to date with the latest legislation. Generally, **any gaps in study longer** than three years result in students struggling if they enter the PGDA directly, and we therefore require that they first complete our **six-month Bridging programme.**

04 **Average mark across modules** if previously attempted a **PGDip (Accounting)/CTA programme** – generally, having attempted a CTA before is an advantage if the average was above **36%.**

As this is an online programme, there are important IT hardware and software to which students must have access.

Other / International certificates

Given the **requirement for students** to have completed a **SAICA-accredited qualification** to gain entrance to the PGDip (Accounting), it is **not expected that students** with foreign qualifications will be eligible for this programme.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications

In exceptional cases, admission may **take place via RPL**. RPL applicants must have a **minimum of 10 years of employment** experience in the field of accounting and must be able to demonstrate up-to-date knowledge of and application of **all** relevant legislation (tax, accounting, external auditing and governance).

RPL applicants would need to provide:

a detailed curriculum vitae; and

a one-page statement explaining how the above criteria are met.

In addition, an **applicant may be required to present** him/herself for an interview with the Head of Department. **RPL applicants may also be required** to prove their competence via an admission test.

Learn More About The RPL Requirements

7 Rules Of **Progression**

To complete the PGDip (Accounting), all four modules must be passed.

To progress to **SAICA's IAC**, all four modules must be **passed in the same academic** period (which comprises a summative exam and the supplementary **exam immediately** thereafter.)

8 Duration

Students have a **choice with reference to workload** (i.e. full or half), depending on the time they have available for studies on a weekly basis – i.e. the **selection of a workload is based** on the time that a student has available each week to commit to their studies, **NOT** on their academic strength. **Both workloads are completely flexible** in that the time required to complete the weekly requirements can be inside and/or outside business hours.

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

To **complete the programme in the minimum one-year** duration, a full workload is required with all four modules taken concurrently. The full workload requires **±40 hours per week** and is in **line with other distance** and contact institutions' **one-year CTA programmes.**

If a **student cannot commit** to a **full workload**, the programme is also offered on a half workload basis **(which requires ±20 hours per week)**, over a minimum duration of two years. **Two concurrent modules** are taken in *year 1 (MACF01-8 and CGAU01-8)* and two concurrent modules are taken in *year 2 (FREP01-8 and TAXA01-8)*. To progress to **SAICA's IAC**, all four modules must be written and passed at the end of year 2 in the same exam sitting (irrespective of prior results).

Students **who are unsuccessful in year 2 repeat the second year of the half** workload and are not required to repeat **year 1** if there are no gaps in their studies.

9 Mode of **Delivery**

The **Department of Higher Education and Training** has registered the programme, and the Council on Higher Education has accredited the programme,

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The following mode is available for this specific programme:

Distance learning (DL)

10 Access to **Technology**

Through the *myMilpark* **and** *myCourses* **online tuition** and support environments, students have **access to all course materials** (including formative and summative assessments), discussion opportunities, administrative **services and a wealth of external resources.**

Minimum requirements to study online and complete assessments and online proctored assessments

A **laptop or personal computer** (PC) with one of the **following operating systems**:

- Windows 10+
- macOS 10.11+
- Ubuntu 18.04+
- Chrome 58+

- Continuous (daily) access to a **stable internet connection** with an upload and download speed of at least 5 Mbps.
- A **camera/webcam** (720p resolution)
- Speakers and a microphone **OR** headphones
- 2GB free **RAM** (memory)
- 250MB **free disk space.**

View Technical Requirements

How To Check Your RAM

11 **Student** Support

Academic support

Comprehensive student support services are available. Students are provided with administrative support by **Student Services**. To assist with understanding content, students have access to the academics whom they can contact via several platforms, and who are introduced and **explained during orientation**. Students who experience study and/or personal problems have access to a student counsellor and a **team of Student Support and Development Advisors**. All support services are available to registered students via *myMilpark* and *myCourses.*

12 Assessment

Each **module is assessed via four written tests** and **one final exam**. Students may elect whether to **write assessments at venues or online**, via proctoring. Dates of all assessments will be communicated to students at the start of the programme.

Students may participate in live online sessions for each module.

Students will write a final summative assessment at the end of the programme, which **contributes 60% towards the final mark.** Students must obtain an overall mark of **50% to pass each module.**

13 Certification

On **successful completion of the qualification,** the student will receive a **Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting**, **NQF Level 8 (credits: 120)**. The Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting is accredited by the **Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education (CHE)** and the **South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).**

14 Further Studies

The programme is at **NQF level 8** and it will provide for articulation options into **NQF level 9 programmes.**

01

Successful completion of the **PGDip (Accounting)** in one sitting allows students to write **SAICA's first qualifying** examination, namely the **Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC)**, in partial completion of the Chartered Accounting qualification (other requirements for the Chartered Accounting qualification are appropriate work experience and specialist study towards **SAICA's** second qualifying examination).

02

The completion of the **PGDip (Accounting)** meets the minimum requirements for **admission to a cognate coursework** or research **Bachelor of Commerce Honours** or **Master of Commerce** or **Business at NQF level 9**. Potential Master of Commerce specialisations may include Financial Accounting/Reporting, Tax, Management Accounting, Finance, Corporate Governance and Auditing. Other **wider articulation opportunities** also include areas of management and leadership such as **Milpark's Master of Business Administration.**

15 Pricing

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

16 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.**

Website:

www.milpark.ac.za

Contact Us

Enquiries:

Tel: (086) 999-0001
Deneb House
3rd Floor | 368 Main Road
Observatory | Cape Town
7925 | PO Box 44235
Claremont | 7735

Firms:

Can contact our LA team to learn about the Pathway to CA(SA)

Find out more

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