

QUALIFICATION

Bachelor of Commerce (SAQA ID 90509, NQF LEVEL 7)

Bachelor of Commerce | General



Mode of Delivery:

Distance Learning Online

Description and Programme Purpose

The current drive to **expand the South African economy,** along with current global developments, requires the development of people with **general business management skills** who can be accommodated in any economic sector.



Learn More

The Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree provides students with a range of managerial skills in all main areas of commerce and industry. This option provides a strong foundation in general business principles and the required accounting, marketing, economic and quantitative skills. You will develop strong teamwork, critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. A sense of global citizenship is imparted through international case studies and cross-cultural analyses. Additional electives are available for people who have a need for knowledge in a specific area too.



The purpose of the BCom degree is to provide a broad but solid educational foundation to students in the field of commerce, including various key discipline management, as business accounting and economics. The qualification has been designed to provide the knowledge base, practical competence and application **skills** that would enable students either to enter the labour market or to pursue further studies in this field. Students who complete this option should be able to enrol for any postgraduate qualification in business administration and/or management (for example, a postgraduate diploma in business administration) or in a specialised subject field completed in the third year.

The BCom degree appears on the Financial Sector Conduct Authority's (FSCA) list of recognised qualifications for FAIS Fit and Proper purposes.

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Who Should Enrol

01

The **BCom (General) degree** provides a strong platform for a **wide** range of career opportunities in all branches of commerce and industry, including financial services, information technology, retail, manufacturing, tourism, transport and business consulting.

02

The programme covers a **broad spectrum of subjects** which offer graduates wide opportunities.

03

A **combination of foundation skills** derived from the compulsory modules, core skills built in the **second and third year** of study, as well as the critical thinking skills and professional business knowledge learned, will ensure that students **adapt effectively** in the everchanging business environment.

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Programme **Outcomes**

Successful completion of this qualification should enable the student to:

- Demonstrate awareness of the management and leadership competences necessary to operate in the local or international business environment.
- **3.** Demonstrate awareness of essential **economic theory** and its managerial and business implications.
- Demonstrate awareness of the essential components of an effective operations strategy in a business environment.
- Conduct business research with appropriate supervision in a business environment.

Kindly note

That an overview factsheet is available that provides information on all the different BCom majors offered by Milpark.

Learn more about our BComs

Programme Structure

"Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3" correspond with the complexity of the coursework and progression of the academic levels. These labels align with **international BCom standards.** They do not represent the time it takes for a student to complete the qualification at Milpark.

Students have a **minimum of three years** and a **maximum of nine years** to complete the qualification. This allows for **flexibility on the learning journey**, at a pace that enables students the best possible opportunity for successful outcomes.

Major: Bachelor of Commerce General: 381/388 credits

Semester 1	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Compulsory (all)	 Induction to Business Studies INDBS1-5 (2/5)* Business Numeracy BNUM01-5 (3/5)* Principles of Microeconomics PMICO2-5 (20/5) Principles of Accounting ACCP02-5 (20/5) Introduction to Business Management INBM02-5 (20/5) 	 Business Statistics BSTA01 6 (15/6) Intermediate Macroeconomics INME02 6 (15/6) Operations Management OMAN02-6 (20/6) Financial Management 1 FINM02-6 (20/6) 	 General Management GMAN01-7 (16/7) International Economics ECIN01-7 (15/7) Financial Management 2 FINM02-7 (15/7)
Semester 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Compulsory (all)	 Business Mathematics BSMA02-5 (20/5) Principles of Macroeco- nomics POME02 6 (15/6) Applied Financial Accounting AFAC02-6 (20/6) Business Law BLAW1B-6 (14/6) 	 Marketing Management Practice PMAR01-6 (20/6) Management and Leadership MLED02-6 (20/6) 	 Monetary Economics MOEC01-7 (20/7) International Business INBU01-7 (18/7) Business Research Methods BREM01-7 (20/7)



Select any 1 of the following:

Semester 1:

 Intermediate Microeco nomics IMECO2-6 (15/6)**

Semester 2:

- Financial Reporting FINR01-6 (15/6)**
- Taxation TAXN01-6 (15/6)
- Project Management PROM02-6 (20/6)

Select any 1 of the following:

Semester 1:

- Risk Management RISM01-7 (20/7)**
- Entrepreneurship ENPS02-7 (18/7)

Semester 2:

 Technology and Innovation Management TIMA01-7 (20/7)**

Total credits per year	125 or 130	122 or 124
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- * INDBS1-5 and BNUM01-5 are only offered via Distance Learning Online (DLO) and should be completed in the first semester of study.
- ** IMECO2-6 and RISMO1-7 are on offer only in Semester 1, whereas FINRO1-6 and TIMAO1-7 are on offer only in Semester 2. Specialist modules will be on offer via distance learning only.

Note: TAXN01-6 will no longer be offered as an elective as from 2026.

Electives



Programme Structure

Compulsory

Applied
Financial
Accounting
AFAC02-6

This module builds on the introductory *Principles of Accounting ACCP02-5 module*. Students will learn about the **different types of trade entities** and their unique accounting needs. It also introduces the concepts of **VAT and depreciation**. On successful completion of this module, students will be able to do forecasting, prepare reports and analyse the **different financial statements**. *Principles of Accounting ACCP02-5* is a prerequisite for this module.

This module covers the **South African legal framework** as it relates to the business environment. Specific reference is made to the **principles of contracts applicable** in the commercial environment. The requirements for a valid contract, as well as the consequences of valid, void and voidable contracts, are dealt with. In order to **ensure relevance**, the law of contract is dealt with as it applies to different commercial interactions, including agency, sale, letting and hiring, insurance, surety, negotiable instruments, consumer credit agreements and consumer protection.

Business Law BLAW1B-6

Business
Mathematics
BSMA02-5

This is a **foundation-level module** that aims to provide students with an understanding of and an **ability to apply a range** of mathematical techniques to real-world situations in a quantitative manner. The module emphasises the use of **basic principles of mathematics** in order to summarise and analyse data from diagrams, distributions and index numbers. **Students will be introduced to** basic forecasting techniques, including time-series analysis and relating variables through regression analysis and scatter diagrams, and will perform calculations of simple and compound interest. *Business Numeracy BNUM01-5* is a prerequisite for this module.

In this induction module, students are provided with the **essential mathematics and business numeracy skills** and knowledge to be successful with entry-level business degree studies in subjects that require these skills and knowledge. The course is divided into two weeks. **Topics 1 and 2** focus on basic numerical skills, such as integers, fractions, decimals, notation, percentage, ratio and proportion. **Topics 3 and 4** focus on business-related applications, such as equations and formulae, representation and analysis of data, measurement and tax calculations.

Business Numeracy BNUM01-5 Business Research Methods BREM01-7 Business research is about a **systematic inquiry** that helps to solve business problems and contribute to management knowledge. The purpose of this module is to introduce you to **basic business research methodology**. This module will guide you towards **identifying and describing a research problem**, drafting a basic research design to investigate the problem, and engaging in a literature review. **The final task** will be to draft a basic research proposal that will serve as a blueprint for a possible research project.

In this module, students will learn **fundamental concepts** and techniques in both descriptive and inferential statistics. The module prepares students for the **course in research methodology** in the third/final year of the qualification. Business Mathematics BSMA02-5 is a prerequisite for this module. **Business Mathematics BSMA02-5** is a prerequisite for this module.

Business Statistics BSTA01-6

Financial
Management 1
FINM02-6

This module introduces students to the **fundamentals of financial management**. It explores the purpose of financial management, the role of the financial manager, and the interaction between financial management and other disciplines. The module **equips students with the necessary tools** to analyse financial statements, appraise investment opportunities, identify appropriate sources of funds for a business, and manage working capital in a business. Financial Management 1 FINMO2-6 provides the foundation for further studies in corporate finance and other related modules. *Principles of Accounting ACCPO2-5* is a prerequisite for this module.

This module develops further the concepts introduced in Financial Management 1 FINMO2-6. It **exposes students to the valuation** of financial assets, further issues in capital budgeting (such as capital rationing and risk in capital budgeting), mergers and acquisitions, leasing decisions, and financial management in a global environment. *Financial Management 1 FINMO2-6* is a prerequisite for this module.

Financial
Management 2
FINM02-7



General Management GMAN01-7 The General Management module builds on the **fundamental principles of business management** learnt in earlier modules (from the first and second years of your study). It aims to develop **general management competencies** in areas such as planning, organisational structure, decision-making, teamwork, leadership and motivation. It also aims to **strengthen your knowledge of critical and contemporary** management issues, such as ethics, corporate social responsibility and workforce diversity. The emphasis lies in the integration of these diverse competencies and skills sets to enable you as emerging manager, to function effectively in a dynamic business environment. *Management and Leadership MLED02-6* is a prerequisite for this module.

On this induction module, students are provided with the **skills and knowledge to be successful with entry-level** business degree studies. Making the most of the online learning environment is at the heart of success for degree studies, and students are exposed to the requirements, practices and techniques that will help them to succeed. The **academic reading and writing** component exposes students to good reading techniques, guides them through the writing process, and helps them to write successful academic essays. The study skills **component is aimed at providing students** with basic information and techniques on how to improve their study skills – from preparation to exams. Students need to register for this module and Business Numeracy BNUM015 before they will be allowed to register for any further modules.

Induction to Business Studies INDBS1-5

Intermediate

Macroeconomics

INME02-6

This module is aimed at providing students with an understanding of the central concepts of macroeconomics. The students gain a conceptual and contextual understanding of macroeconomic events, as well as policy issues such as balance of payments, unemployment, inflation and economic growth. The module emphasises Classical and Keynesian types of macroeconomic policies. Different monetary policies under various exchange rate regimes are analysed. Students gain a deeper understanding of the functioning of the different markets; that is, the goods market, the financial market and the labour market. The course will also prepare students for further study in economics. Principles of Microeconomics PMICO2-5 and Principles of Macroeconomics POMEO2-6 are prerequisites for this module.



This module draws on the **knowledge and understanding of business management** principles and practices that have been covered during the **first and second years of study**. This **international business module** is an integrated and multi-disciplinary module, and it incorporates business management, human resource management, operations, economics and marketing facets, in order for students to gain a holistic understanding of international business and globalisation. It also gives **emphasis to the importance of ethical leadership**, global corporate citizenship and good corporate governance within international organisations. The importance of this module lies in the **integration of diverse knowledge**, skills and competencies, in order to enable the emergent business manager to function effectively within a dynamic international business environment, with specific reference to the advent of the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**.

International
Business
INBU01-7

International Economics ECIN01-7

This module is aimed at **providing students with fundamental knowledge** in the key areas of international trade. Using microeconomic analysis, students will explore trade patterns (that is, the movement of goods and services/ factors production), as well as the prices thereof, across borders. In addition, the module covers the **flow of goods and services**, labour and capital, and the classical theories of trade. The module deals with the **standard theory of international trade** as a basis for trade, as outlined by the factor endowments/ proportions theory. International trade policy – from both an individual country and aggregate level perspective – is discussed. The course will also prepare students for further study in economics. *Intermediate Macroeconomics INMEO2-6* is a prerequisite for this module.

This module introduces the **students to the fundamental principles of management** and the essential skills and competencies needed for effective management. Students are exposed to the **primary management tasks** of planning, organising, leading and controlling. Supporting management tasks such as communication, motivation and delegation are also covered. Further, students are **introduced to how these management competencies** and tasks are applied across management functions; notably, operations, financial, marketing, and human resources management.

Introduction to Business Management INBM02-5

Management and Leadership MLED02-6 The purpose of this module is to **provide a holistic picture of the dynamic** and evolving concept of leadership, taking into account typical African circumstances, values and beliefs in order to equip students with entrepreneurial and managerial leadership skills that will contribute towards the facilitation of a transformed African society. Students will be exposed to the basic strategies that can be implemented to ensure successful leadership and change initiatives in the corporate environment. A structured approach to ethical, transformational and entrepreneurial leadership will also be presented. *Introduction to Business Management INBMO2-5* is a prerequisite for this module.

The purpose of this module is to **provide a holistic picture** of the field of **marketing management** and the resultant marketing strategies that can be implemented to obtain a competitive advantage. The **module provides more insight into the context** of the contemporary **marketing landscape** and presents students with a **structured approach to developing** a marketing plan. Topics include an analysis of the **marketing environment**, market targeting and positioning, as well as strategies that can be implemented to obtain a competitive advantage.

Marketing
Management
Practice
PMAR01-6

Monetary Economics MOEC01-7 The purpose of this module is to **provide students with fundamental aspects** of monetary economics and of the operations of monetary and financial systems. **Specifically, it addresses the main issues** in monetary theory, the transmission channels of monetary policy to the real economy, the strategy, and the instruments used in modern central banking, in line with rule-based and unconventional monetary policies. Furthermore, the **module provides an overview of the main features** of the South African monetary system, focusing on the interaction of fiscal and monetary policy. The module covers, among other things, the **basic concepts** of money, the link between money and other economic variables, the concepts of money demand and money supply, the role of financial institutions in economic growth and development and monetary integrations. Intermediate *Macroeconomics INMEO2-6* is a prerequisite for this module.

The purpose of this module is to **provide students with essential knowledge** of how **operations management designs** for and operates in productive systems. Emphasis is placed on **strategic operations management**, supply chain management, project management, process design, forecasting, inventory management, materials requirement planning, scheduling, and quality control. Introduction to *Business Management INBM02-5* is a prerequisite for this module.

Operations
Management
OMANO2-6

Principles of Accounting ACCP02-5

This module **introduces students to the basic principles** of accounting. The **double-entry principle** and accounting equation are addressed. In addition, students are introduced to **different types of journal entries**, ledger accounts and bank reconciliation statements. Different types of financial statements are also introduced.



Macroeconomics focuses on the economy as a whole. The economic system is studied, with special attention paid to aggregate economic behaviour and aggregate economic performance. In order to do this, students will be introduced to topics such as total production, income and expenditure, economic growth, unemployment, inflation and the balance of payments. Through linking economic action on a microeconomic level (the individual) with economic action on a macroeconomic level (all the individuals added together), we develop an overall view of the economy. The aim of this module is to develop students' understanding of the structure and performance of the South African economy.

Principles of Macroeconomics POME02-6

Principles of Microeconomics PMICO2-5

This module aims to introduce students to the discipline of economics, including microeconomic theory and its application to economic analysis. Economic principles are then applied to a wide range of individual and business applications to give a solid grounding in microeconomics. The module emphasises the importance of managing scarce resources, demand and supply, the price mechanism, and consumer and producer equilibrium in an economy. It also provides a basic understanding of the different market structures that exist. Economic concepts, tools and techniques will be evaluated as explanations of economic behaviour.

Electives

This module covers the **important principles** and theories that students must consider when establishing a new business venture. We explore the nature, significance and characteristics of entrepreneurs. Students **learn how to generate ideas** and develop them into viable opportunities and build competitive advantage to protect their opportunities. **Creative and innovative thinking** is applied to generate business opportunities. This module will **equip students with the entrepreneurial** skills that are needed to address challenges and demands facing economies worldwide.

Entrepreneurship ENPS02-7

Financial Reporting FINR01-6 This module is a continuation of certain **Applied Financial Accounting AFACO2-6 topics.** The purpose of this module is to **enable and equip** the student to prepare financial statements for different types of entities and **disclosure requirements** thereof. We also **discuss the important International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs):** Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting, Property Plant and Equipment (PPE), Inventory and Revenue. **Applied Financial Accounting AFACO2-6** is a prerequisite for **Financial Reporting FINRO1-6**. This module is only on offer in Semester 2.

This module is highly **quantitative in nature** and is aimed at providing students with an understanding of central concepts of microeconomics. The students gain a **conceptual and contextual understanding** of microeconomic principles as they pertain to the input base of a firm, and **consumer behaviour** as it pertains to marketing and advertising strategy, as well as economic and production efficiencies, and elements of strategic decision-making. Intellectually, students will be **prepared to engage in analysis**, interpretation and application of knowledge relating to microeconomic principles as they pertain to business environment decision-making. The course will also prepare students for further study in economics. *Principles of Microeconomics PMICO2-5* and *Principles of Macroeconomics POMEO2-6* are prerequisites for this module. *This module is only on offer in Semester 1*.

Intermediate
Microeconomics
IMEC02-6

Project
Management
PROM02-6

This module covers the **application of fundamental management** principles in the management of projects. It runs along the well-known **Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBoK)**. All the recognised knowledge areas and processes of project management are given detailed treatment. This is further reinforced by the extensive use of case studies and practical scenarios to bring theoretical concepts to life.

This module covers the **principles and practices of risk management** at corporate, strategic business and project levels. Students **become aware of the various types** of risks, how to analyse risks, and a range of response strategies. It also introduces students to **principles of corporate governance** and the ethical debate in the financial services sector. *This module is only on offer in Semester 1.*

Risk Management RISM01-7

Project
Management
PROM02-6

This module covers the **application of fundamental management** principles in the management of projects. It runs along the well-known **Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBoK)**. All the recognised knowledge areas and processes of project management are given detailed treatment. This is further **reinforced by the extensive** use of case studies and practical scenarios to bring theoretical concepts to life.

This module serves to provide an introduction to **taxation in the South African** context. The module will **cover fundamental taxation principles** such as gross income, exempt income, deductions, fringe benefits, capital allowances and recoupments. The **calculation of the tax liability** of companies, close corporations, partnerships and sole proprietors is also covered, as are taxation of retirement benefits, provisional tax, donations tax, value-added tax, SITE and PAYE. Students are **introduced to the fundamental principles** relating to tax avoidance and tax evasion.

Taxation TAXN01-6

Technology and Innovation Management TIMA01-7 The module aims to **equip students with the generic knowledge** needed to manage the introduction or change of technology, its **impact on the organisation's operations**, and ultimately, on the attainment of organisational objectives. Key themes **covered in the module include** the strategic importance of innovation and technology management, managing disruptive change and harnessing the technology lifecycle. *This module is only on offer in Semester 2 on DL*.

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Admission Requirements

The admission criteria for the **Bachelor of Commerce** degree are as follows:

- 1. A Senior Certificate with **matriculation endorsement/exemption** for degree studies. Candidates who have a **Senior Certificate** but who do not meet the matriculation endorsement/exemption requirements stated above, may apply to Universities South Africa (USAf), for mature age exemption (https://mb.usaf.ac.za/).
- 2. A symbol of E or higher for Mathematics on HG, or a symbol of D or higher for Mathematics on SG. Candidates who do not meet the Mathematics requirements may be offered admission on condition that they successfully complete the BCom bridging programme, if they have achieved at least a symbol of E on HG or a C on SG in any two of the following subjects:



Economics



Business Economics



Accounting



Physical Science or Physics/ Chemistry



Natural Science or Biology

Candidates who matriculated in 2008 or later require:

1. A National Senior Certificate (NSC) with a minimum of 50% in four NSC 20-credit subjects, including English as the language of instruction at Milpark Education, as certified by Umalusi. (Life Orientation is not a 20-credit-bearing subject.) Candidates who have a National Senior Certificate (NSC) but who do not meet the matriculation endorsement/ exemption requirements stated above, may apply to Universities South Africa (USAF), for mature age exemption (https://mb.usaf.ac.za/)

2. A minimum mark of 50% for Mathematics or 70% for Mathematics Literacy. Candidates who do not meet the Mathematics requirement but who have achieved a minimum mark of 50% or higher in any two of the following subjects may be offered admission on condition that they successfully complete the bridging programme:











Candidates who have completed a relevant **Higher Certificate (NQF 5)** or **Diploma (NQF 6)** in the field of business or commerce, may also be admitted to the **BCom degree**.

Learn More

Other / International certificates

Further to the **requirements for admission provided above**, foreign nationals or South African nationals, seeking to apply for admission onto the qualification based on a **non-South African/foreign** senior school leaving certificate, must obtain and submit to Milpark, a Certificate of Exemption from Universities South Africa (USAf) (www.usaf.ac.za).

Applicants with foreign senior school leaving certificates, who have already completed the equivalent of a **South African Grade 12**, are advised to submit their **USAf Certificate of Exemption** at the time of applying online for the Milpark bachelor's degree.

Any foreign national or South African national, seeking admission based on a non-South African/foreign tertiary qualification must obtain and submit to Milpark a Certificate of Exemption from Universities South Africa (USAf) (www.usaf.ac.za) at the time of applying for admission onto the qualification.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications





Mode of **Delivery**

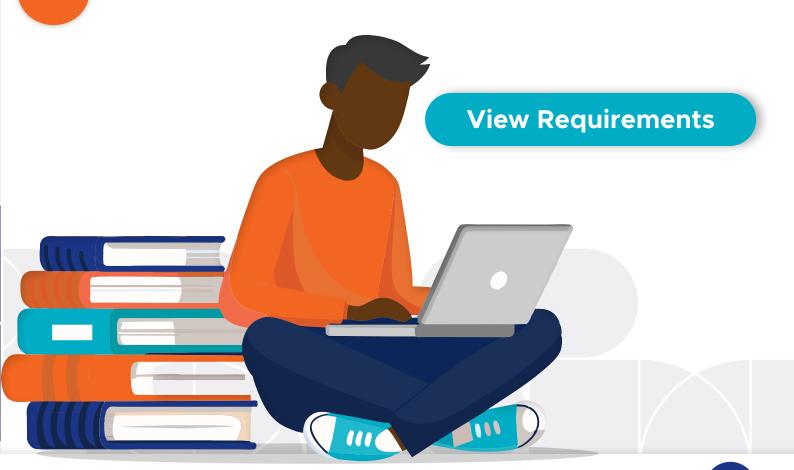
Students are **required to select their mode of study** on admission. **Please note** that there are mode factsheets available that explain each mode in detail. A change of mode will only be allowed in specified circumstances. An **application has to be submitted** to the Academic Committee for consideration.

Learn More

Select one of the following modes available for this specific programme:



Technical Requirements



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 to 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), Emerald (global), Ebsco (global) and Sabinet (South African publications), to assist with research and to 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).

10

Rules Of Progression

Compulsory modules have to be **completed by all students**. Students are required to select **one of the majors** which will determine the **electives available** to them.

Most of the **advanced modules** have prerequisites, which are indicated under the Module Descriptions.

Candidates may **NOT** register for any **Level 2 or Level 3 modules** if they still have four or more modules outstanding on the previous level. Candidates with any outstanding first-year module(s) may **NOT register** for any third-year module.

Assessment

Formative assessment contributes **30**% to the final mark and consists of a combination of assignments and tests. The exact formative structure per module will be communicated to the student at the start of the semester.

Students will complete a final, summative assessment per module at the end of each semester, which contributes **70%** 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.

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Duration

Part-time and distance-learning students have a **minimum of three years** and a **maximum of nine years** to complete the qualification.



Certification



On successful completion of the qualification, the student will receive a **Bachelor of Commerce** degree, NQF Level 7. The Bachelor of Commerce degree 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 to opening up access to higher education. The programme is at NQF level 7 and will provide for articulation options into NQF level 8 programmes.

Narrowly, students may proceed to a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration (offered by Milpark Education), a Postgraduate Diploma or an Honours degree (at any number of public universities) in one of the disciplines, subject to meeting the admission and selection criteria of the receiving institution.

A student who has **completed certain modules** on this qualification at Milpark Education, and who wishes to transfer to another tertiary-level institution, should be able to apply for exemption from relevant modules on the basis of the modules that have been passed at Milpark Education.

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 the student's 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, as well as for market requirements and other reasons. Notice of such changes will be published on our website.

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www.milpark.ac.za

Apply Now

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