



**SHORT COURSE PROGRAMME IN ADVANCED ACCOUNTING
MODE OF DELIVERY: ONLINE**

This document should be read together with the information at <http://OnlineBridging.Milpark.ac.za>

DESCRIPTION

PROGRAMME PURPOSE

The Short Course Programme in Advanced Accounting (“Bridging programme”) is a professionally oriented programme that is designed for graduates who would like to specialise in accounting with the goal of working in the field of professional accountancy and/or as Chartered Accountants (CA(SA)).

The Bridging programme is designed to:

- enhance students’ employability and entrepreneurial ability through the study of specialised accounting.
- strengthen and deepen students’ knowledge, skills and values in advanced aspects in the field of accounting and its related sub-disciplines to improve career opportunities.
- prepare students for the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (PGDip (Accounting)) (and thereafter for SAICA’s qualifying exams).
- prepare students for a career in professional accounting and/or Chartered Accountancy.

The programme is designed to foster theoretical engagement, application to real-world scenarios and intellectual independence. The programme strengthens and deepens students’ knowledge and equips them to qualify as well-rounded, responsible and ethical professional accountants with advanced and specialist knowledge, relevant competencies and lifelong learning skills in the areas of Financial Reporting, Corporate Governance, Auditing, Financial Management, Management Accounting and Taxation. Graduates demonstrate these competencies in the context of the challenges inherent in a changing business environment.

The Bridging programme is aligned with the competency framework and curriculum requirements of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

The Bridging programme offers a pathway to Milpark's SAICA-accredited PGDip (Accounting) for students who:

- hold a BCom degree (or equivalent qualification at NQF level 7), and
- have completed Financial Accounting (aimed at preparing students to be Chartered Accountants) up to at least a second-year level (NQF level 6), but
- do not yet meet the selection requirements for the PGDip (Accounting).

The programme acts as a bridging course between degree and postgraduate studies, preparing students for selection onto a SAICA-accredited PGDip (Accounting), from which students can progress to SAICA's first qualifying examination (the Initial Assessment of Competence, or IAC) on the path to qualifying as a Chartered Accountant.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

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

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of core accounting disciplines through critical thought and analysis.
- Apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in preparing and analysing individual and group financial statements.
- Provide context-specific advice using management accounting and finance theory to aid the financial and strategic decisions of businesses.
- Apply advanced knowledge of the Income Tax Act, the VAT Act, and SARS' Practice Notes to calculate taxable income and provide detailed explanations of appropriate tax principles.
- Apply advanced knowledge of external auditing and corporate governance that takes into account the legal and regulatory environment.
- Demonstrate an integrated understanding of ethical behaviour as a professional accountant and as a citizen.
- Apply advanced knowledge of business risk management, corporate governance and business strategy.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme consists of four compulsory modules.

| Module name |
|---|
| Financial Reporting FREP01-OS |
| Taxation TAXA01-OS |
| Management Accounting & Finance MACF01-OS |
| Corporate Governance & Auditing CGAU01-OS |

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Financial Reporting FREP01-OS

Financial Reporting is an advanced and integrated module that builds students' financial reporting knowledge. In the applied context of the topics, this module focuses on developing a sound conceptual grasp of the overall system of financial reporting.

The module goes into more depth and explores further integration of topics that students have covered previously. It also introduces more advanced concepts and topics.

Topics covered in this module include the advanced application of accounting for various assets and liabilities, financial statement preparation, accounting for tax, group accounting, revenue from contracts with customers, leases and foreign transactions, all in an ethical manner.

The module assesses the preparation of financial reports and the cognitive process of preparing financial reports in the context of present-day businesses, in an integrated and applied way that includes presentation, calculation, discussion and critical analysis.

After completing this module, students will have a strong foundation in Financial Reporting and will be well-equipped to enter practice in middle-management level accounting positions and, should they choose to continue studying, be well positioned for further postgraduate-level financial reporting.

Taxation TAXA01-OS

Taxation develops a strong foundation in principles of taxation in a contextually rich, applied manner. It equips students with a well-rounded knowledge of the fiscal tax planning arena so that they can apply the knowledge in integrated business contexts and scenarios.

This module focuses on the application of the Income Tax Act, the Value-Added Tax Act, SARS' practice notes and case law, including adapting to legislative changes and additions.

Content includes general principles of taxation, the taxation of companies and the taxation of individuals.

Completion of this module equips students with a broad and detailed knowledge of tax to enter the working world of taxation and/or to continue studying postgraduate Taxation.

Management Accounting & Finance MACF01-OS

This module builds a strong foundation in management accounting and financial management, with integration and application to authentic business scenarios that link to business strategy and business decision-making.

The module aims to develop students' ability to apply management accounting processes and financial management considerations in businesses, financial markets and wider operational environments to equip them with analytical, decision-making, adaption and professional writing skills required by modern management accountants and financial managers. Exposure to a variety of practical business contexts under which strategy

is determined and implemented ensures that students have the tools to make appropriate decisions in a way that can be implemented, controlled and monitored.

Topics covered include information for planning, control and performance measurement and decision-making; investing, financing and dividend decisions; valuations; and risk management and strategic thinking. Completion of the module equips students with a well-rounded background in management accounting and finance to enter practice in middle-management level positions. It also gives them the option, should they choose, to continue studying postgraduate-level management accounting and financial management.

Corporate Governance & Auditing CGAU01-OS

This module builds a strong foundation in external auditing, integrating and applying it to diverse business processes and linking to key aspects of corporate governance. The module focuses on authentic business contexts from which to demonstrate the application of principles.

It looks at the role and responsibilities of the external auditor within the regulatory environment that governs South African auditors and explores the rationale for and the function of the external audit by briefly exploring the history and evolution of the profession. It then systematically works through the different aspects of the external audit process, starting with engagement activities through to the concluding phase of the audit engagement. It also explores and interrogates the external auditing process in more complex, integrated and computerised business environments, including auditing business cycles, gathering audit evidence, tests of controls and substantive procedures. The module also builds a foundation in applied corporate governance and the legislative frameworks that guide companies and professionals in South Africa.

Completion of this module provides a well-rounded and detailed background to external auditing and corporate governance from which students are well-equipped to enter practice in middle-management level positions and, should they choose to continue studying, be well positioned for further postgraduate-level external auditing and corporate governance where more detail is explored.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The minimum admission requirement is an appropriate Bachelor of Commerce Degree, Diploma or equivalent qualification at NQF level 7. The qualification should, at minimum, include study of Financial Accounting/ Reporting, aimed at preparing students to be Chartered Accountants, up to NQF level 6.

For a qualification to be considered “appropriate”, it would usually have been obtained from a SAICA-accredited institution. If the undergraduate qualification is not from a SAICA-accredited institution, the applicant would need to demonstrate that their undergraduate qualification is aligned with SAICA’s competency framework.

Meeting the minimum admission criteria does not guarantee automatic acceptance, as only a limited number of students are enrolled per year.

The institution will ensure that the number of students selected for the programme does not exceed the capacity for offering excellent quality education. The number of students selected will be balanced against the learning outcomes of the programme and the specific mode of delivery.

Where applications exceed the programme's capacity, selection will be considered based on a combination of the following criteria:

- The level to which relevant accounting modules have been attempted and completed in the relevant undergraduate qualification. Relevant accounting courses include:
 - Financial reporting/accounting
 - Management accounting
 - Financial management
 - Taxation
 - External auditing.
- Marks in the relevant accounting modules in the relevant undergraduate qualification
- Time taken to complete the undergraduate qualification, and
- Academic inactivity in accounting-related studies.

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

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, NQF Level 7 equivalent qualification or degree, must obtain, and submit to Milpark, a Certificate of Equivalence from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) (www.saqa.org.za).

Applicants with non-South African/foreign tertiary qualifications, are advised to submit their SAQA Certificate of Equivalence at the time of applying online for a Milpark Postgraduate degree.

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.

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 NQF Level 7 equivalent qualification or degree, must obtain, and submit to Milpark, a **Certificate of Equivalence** from the **South African Qualifications Authority** (SAQA) (www.saqqa.org.za).

Applicants with non-South African/foreign tertiary qualifications, are advised to submit their SAQA Certificate of Equivalence at the time of applying online for a Milpark Postgraduate degree.

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 six months.

To complete the programme in the minimum 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' equivalent workload requirements.

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 one year, whereby two concurrent modules are taken in each half of the year.

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, which 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*.

RULES OF PROGRESSION

In every six-month offering of the programme, at least two concurrent modules should be taken, unless three modules have already been passed.

To obtain the Short Course Programme in Advanced Accounting certificate, students need to pass all four modules.

ASSESSMENT

Each module is assessed via two 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 complete 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% in order to pass each module.

CERTIFICATION

Students who complete the programme successfully will receive a certificate for the Short Course Programme in Advanced Accounting.

FURTHER STUDIES

The programme provides excellent bridging opportunities into Postgraduate Diplomas on NQF level 8 – for example, a PGDip (Accounting), or similar.

For students who hold a BCom but do not meet selection requirements for the PGDip (Accounting), the Bridging programme offers a pathway to the CA(SA) designation. It prepares students for selection onto a SAICA-accredited PGDip (Accounting), from which students can progress to SAICA's first qualifying examination (ITC) on the path to qualifying as a Chartered Accountant.

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.

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.