



QUALIFICATION

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

Bachelor of Commerce with a Major in
FINANCIAL PLANNING



Mode of Delivery:

Learning Online
Distance Learning Online

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

1 Description and Programme Purpose

Financial planning has emerged as an exciting career path in South Africa over the **past 20 years**. This is partly due to the fact that the **financial services industry** has become highly regulated, and that minimum educational standards are prescribed to those who provide advice to the public. Furthermore, it has become an **established and growing profession supported by the opportunity** to achieve an internationally recognised designation, namely that of **Certified Financial Planner®**, offered in South Africa by the **Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa (FPI)**.

Learn More

In order to become a **Certified Financial Planner®** professional, the educational requirement is a relevant postgraduate diploma. This **Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)** degree will allow graduates access to [postgraduate studies in financial planning](#).

The degree will provide a **solid basis in all areas of financial planning** to enable graduates to operate responsibly and successfully in this highly regulated environment.



Milpark Education is a **Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa (FPI)-accredited education** provider and the **BCom with Financial Planning** as a major is an approved programme. The Milpark BCom with a major in Financial Planning addresses the academic qualification requirements for the designation of **FINANCIAL SERVICES ADVISOR® professional** awarded by the Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa. On completion of this qualification, students will be eligible to apply to the **FPI** to write its professional competency exam for the **FSA® professional membership**.

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 areas such as business management, accounting and economics. The qualification has been **designed to provide the knowledge base**, practical competence and application skills that will enable students either to enter the labour market or to pursue further studies in this field.

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

2 Who Should Enrol

The programme would be suitable for:



Persons who require a **strong foundation in general business principles** and the required accounting, marketing, economics and quantitative skills. However, the **additional modules enable candidates** to acquire detailed knowledge of the key principles, rules and theories applicable to financial planners.



Persons wanting to progress to the **Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning**.



Persons wanting to apply for the designation of **FINANCIAL SERVICES ADVISOR® (FSA®)** awarded by the Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa.

3 Programme Outcomes

Successful completion of this qualification should enable the student to:

1. Demonstrate **awareness** of the management and leadership competencies necessary to operate in the **local or international** business environment.
2. Demonstrate **awareness** of the essential components of an **effective operations** strategy in a business environment.
3. Demonstrate awareness of essential **economic theory** and its managerial and business implications.
4. 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](#)

4

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: Financial Planning: 405 credits

Semester 1	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Compulsory (all)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction to Business Studies INDBS1-5 (2/5)* • Business Numeracy BNUM01-5 (3/5)* • Principles of Microeconomics PMIC02-5 (20/5) • Principles of Accounting ACCP02-5 (20/5) • Introduction to Business Management INBM02-5 (20/5) • Risk Planning RPLA02-5 (30/5)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate Macroeconomics INME02-6 (15/6) • Legal Aspects of Financial Planning LEGA01-6 (20/6)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Management GMAN01-7 (16/7) • International Economics ECIN01-7 (15/7) • Advanced Investment Planning INVPO1-7 (20/7) ** • Retirement Planning RETPO1-7 (20/7)**
Semester 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Compulsory (all)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Macroeconomics POME02-6 (15/6) • Applied Financial Accounting AFAC02-6 (20/6) • Business Law BLAW1B-6 (14/6) • Retirement and Investment Planning RIPL01-5 (30/5)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing Management Practice PMAR01-6 (20/6) • Management and Leadership MLED02-6 (20/6) • Taxation TAXN01-6 (15/6)** • Corporate Financial Planning CFIN01-6 (20/6)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Financial Planning CFIN01-6 (20/6)** • Case Study CSTU01-7 (30/7)**
Total credits per year	174	110	121

- * INDBS1-5 and BNUM01-5 are only offered via Distance Learning Online (DLO) and should be completed in the first semester of study in year 1.
- ** Denotes specialist modules relating to major.

Note

TAXN01-6 will no longer be offered as an elective as **from 2026** and will be **replaced by Taxation for Financial Planners (TAXP01-6)** as from 2026

Note

Specialist modules relating to your chosen major will be on offer via distance learning only. **INVP01-7** and **RETP01-7** are offered in Semester 1 only, while **ESTP01-7** and **CSTU01-7** are offered in Semester 2 only. All other Level 3 modules must have been passed or enrolled for before registering for **CSTU01-7**.



This module provides students with an **in-depth knowledge of the fundamentals of investment planning**. The investment planning process is analysed and various investment products are discussed. Students are **introduced to the various asset** classes and the role of each in the investment planning process. The module will **enable students to conduct a comprehensive investment** planning exercise and draft an investment report, given various client scenarios. *Retirement and Investment Planning RIPL01-5* and *Taxation TAXN01-6* are prerequisites for this module. *This module is only on offer in Semester 1 of every year.*

**Advanced
Investment
Planning
INVP01-7**

**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
Numeracy
BNUM01-5**

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. *Students need to register for this module and Induction to Business Studies INDBS1-5 before they will be allowed to register for any further modules.*

This module requires students to integrate knowledge gained in all other modules in order to provide comprehensive financial planning advice to a client in a specific scenario. The module focuses on the advice process as it applies to all advice areas and provides case study examples. *Risk Planning RPLA02-5, Retirement and Investment Planning RIPL01-5, Corporate Financial Planning CFIN01-6, Taxation TAXN01-6 and Legal Aspects of Financial Planning LEGA01-6 are prerequisites for this module. All other Level 3 modules must have been passed or enrolled for before registering for this module. This module is only on offer in Semester 2 of every year.*

Case Study CSTU01-7

Corporate Financial Planning CFIN01-6

Students will learn how to **explain the structure and workings of the different types** of employee benefits. They will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the **South African** healthcare system and its challenges and become familiar with current affairs in this sector. The aim is to **prepare students to evaluate the financial statements** of a business in order to determine business assurance needs – with specific reference to the structure, implementation, tax consequences and legal requirements of a business. *Risk Planning RPLA02-5 and Retirement and Investment Planning RIPL01-5 are prerequisites for this module.*

This module will provide students with an **in-depth knowledge of legislation relevant to estate planning**. Relevant legislation will be analysed in order for students to conduct estate duty calculations for various types of clients. **Students will gain in-depth understanding** of trusts as an estate planning mechanism, including all relevant features and legislation pertaining to trusts. Students are introduced to the **complete estate-planning process** and enabled to produce a comprehensive estate plan, including suitable recommendations, given unique client scenarios. *Risk Planning RPLA02-5, Retirement and Investment Planning RIPL01-5, Corporate Financial Planning CFIN01-6, Taxation TAXN01-6 and Legal Aspects of Financial Planning LEGA01-6 are prerequisites for this module. This module is only on offer in Semester 2 of every year.*

Estate Planning ESTP01-7



**We're online.
We've got space.**

**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 PMIC02-5 and Principles of Macroeconomics POME02-6* are prerequisites 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**

**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 INME02-6* is a prerequisite for this module.



**Introduction
to Business
Management
INBM02-5**

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.

This module introduces students to the **legislation and subordinate legislation applicable** to the rendering of appropriate advice in the South African financial planning context. It covers the **regulatory environment**, as well as legislation that impacts on financial planners, their practices, clients and products. **Factors that impact on a client's status** are also explored, which include the various matrimonial property systems.

**Legal Aspects
of Financial
Planning
LEGA01-6**

**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 INBM02-5* 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**

**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
PMIC02-5**

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.

This module is aimed at **providing students with an understanding** of the financial planning process. The student will be **introduced to the capital needs analysis** as it applies to a client's investment needs. The student will also **be provided with an in-depth knowledge** of the structure, nature, tax consequences, features and benefits of various products that are designed to address the client's investment needs.

**Retirement and
Investment
Planning
RIPL01-5**

**Retirement
Planning
RETP01-7**

This module provides students with **comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the South African retirement planning landscape**. Details of relevant aspects of available retirement savings vehicles are discussed, and students are equipped to make recommendations based on individual client needs. **Students gain detailed knowledge** of the financial calculations required in this and other areas of financial planning in order to conduct client needs analyses. *Corporate Financial Planning CFIN01-6, Risk Planning RPLA02-5, Retirement and Investment Planning RIPL01-5, Taxation TAXN01-6 and Legal Aspects of Financial Planning LEGA01-6* are prerequisites for this module. *This module is only on offer in Semester 1 of every year.*

Risk Planning RPLA02-5

This module is aimed at providing students with a fundamental knowledge about the various risk needs that clients may have in various life stages. Students are **introduced to short-term, long-term and healthcare planning with reference to** specific risks, legislation and factors relevant to each discipline. Students are **required to perform a capital needs analysis** to establish client needs at various life events. The module provides an **in-depth understanding of specific long-term and healthcare product** solutions to meet risk needs. Students are equipped to analyse and compare features, benefits and applicable legislation relevant to various long-term products in order to recommend suitable solutions to client needs.

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

6 Admission Requirements

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

If the candidate matriculated in 2007 or earlier

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 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:



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 (at Home Language level) as the language of instruction at Milpark Education, as certified by Umalusi. **A minimum mark of 60%** for English at First Additional Language level will be expected where candidates did not complete English at Home Language level. *Life Orientation is not a 20-credit bearing subject.
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 a bridging programme:



Economics



Business
Economics



Accounting



Physical Science
or Physics/
Chemistry



Natural Science
or Biology

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.

Learn More about Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications

7 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.

Learn More

The following mode is available for this specific programme:



Distance
learning
(DL)



Distance
Learning
Online

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



8

Technical Requirements

[View Requirements](#)



9

Student Support

Library access

The Milpark library provides **access to eBooks 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), 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, indicated under Module Descriptions.

Students need to register for the *Business Numeracy BNUM01-5* and Induction to Business Studies **INDBS1-5 modules** in the first semester. **Distance Learning candidates** may NOT register for any Level 2 or Level 3 modules if they still have three or more modules outstanding on the previous level. **Candidates with any outstanding** first-year module(s) may NOT register for any third-year module. All other Level 3 modules must have been passed or enrolled for before registering for *Case Study CSTU01-7*.



11 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.

12 Duration

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

13 Certification

On successful completion of the qualification, the student will receive a Bachelor of Commerce degree, **NQF Level 7 (minimum credits: 360)**. The Bachelor of Commerce degree is **accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education (CHE)**.

14 Further Studies

Milpark Education is committed to the process of lifelong learning and opening 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 Financial Planning](#) (offered by Milpark Education) 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 **transfers from one to another qualification within Milpark Education** may be given credit for some modules successfully completed. Beyond Milpark Education, this qualification should articulate with other qualifications in the relevant fields of banking or investment.

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.

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

Apply Now

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You've got this.**

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