



QUALIFICATION

Doctor Of Business Administration
(SAQA ID: 104778; NQF Level 10)

Doctor Of Business Administration



Mode of Delivery:
Distance Learning Online

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

1 Description and Programme Purpose

The purpose of the programme is to **enable students to develop in-depth**, advanced discipline-specific skills, such as leadership in business strategy, innovation management, financial decision-making and ethical governance in **business administration** to provide opportunities for continued personal intellectual growth, productive economic activity and for making a rewarding contribution to society.

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Research focus: In line with the mission of Milpark Business School, the current research focus is to **contribute to the body of knowledge** in relation to equipping current and future business leaders to pursue ethical and sustainable business practices. This includes **research in areas** such as sustainable finance, corporate social responsibility and ethical decision-making frameworks for leadership in global business.

2 Programme Outcomes

Successful completion of this qualification should enable the student to:

01

Independently design a **research project** and execute such a project.

02

Apply **advanced scientific** methods responsibly.

03

Efficiently manage the collection of qualitative and quantitative data from both internal company reports and public databases,” or “**Apply advanced scientific methods** such as statistical modeling, econometric analysis, or case study research methodologies.

04

Analyse theory and practical problems in **order to contribute** to the existing body of knowledge related to a specific aspect of business administration.

05

Contribute to the **development of new theories**, models and/or practices.

06

Conduct **further academic research independently** in order to contribute to local research output.

07

Author and **present technical reports** to professional audiences including business and government.

3 Programme Structure







The Milpark DBA consists of two distinct phases, namely (1) Proposal (initial and final) and (2) Candidacy. Each of these phases is described in detail in this document.

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We've got space.**

Proposal phase

The proposal phase is split **into two parts**, namely initial proposal and final proposal with defence.

Applications for the initial proposal will be considered annually at the **end of October for the January intake** of the following year. The admission requirements for this qualification are as follows:

					
Submit an ID document	Submit academic transcripts and copies of qualification and certificates.	Submit a one page letter of motivation stating the rationale for wanting to undertake doctoral studies.	Submit a comprehensive curriculum vitae (CV).	Be proficient in English.	Attend an interview with the Research Manager/Head of Research.

Once the student has been admitted and registered for the initial proposal phase, they will be required to **submit their initial proposal**. The initial proposal of the intended research needs to be written in academic language and forms a very important part of the application documentation to be submitted. The initial proposal serves to demonstrate **research ability** at doctoral level, and to evaluate early on whether the intended research is viable and justifies doctoral research. It also serves to determine whether the research concept has been well thought through and whether it demonstrates commitment and suitability to the programme. The initial **proposal should not exceed 4 500 words**, excluding the reference list, and the prescribed template must be used.

This proposal will be assessed and evaluated by the **Doctoral Research Committee** (DRC), which will decide on whether the student may proceed to the final proposal. The initial proposal phase forms part of the admission process. If a student does **not submit the initial proposal** on the due date, they will be required to wait until the next intake to submit, which will be their final attempt. All prospective students have only one attempt to apply for the DBA at Milpark Education.



Successful applicants will be eligible for registration onto the final proposal phase. Students now need to work towards preparation and submission of a full research proposal in the prescribed template, culminating in the defence of the final proposal with the Proposal Assessment Panel. A supervisor is allocated to the student to **provide guidance** in the crafting of the proposal, and defence of the proposal must take place no later than one year after registration. During this phase, students must attend a compulsory Final Proposal workshop.

Candidacy phase

Students who have successfully defended their final proposals will be eligible to progress to and register onto the candidacy phase. It is only from this point that a student is registered as a doctoral candidate. **Under the guidance of a supervisor**, the student will work towards the writing up and submission of a doctoral thesis. The **minimum registration period is two years**, and the maximum time allowed for completion is four years. During this phase, four colloquia will be held throughout the year, and students need to present their progress at two of these colloquia at minimum.

The candidacy phase culminates in the submission of a thesis, which is assessed by **three examiners, followed** by an oral defence of the thesis (viva voce) before final endorsement. Colloquia provide students with an **opportunity to present their research progress** and receive feedback from peers and faculty, fostering a collaborative learning environment and enabling students to refine their methodologies or theoretical approaches. Students are required to submit at least one article to a peer-reviewed journal before graduation.

The module codes are indicated below.



Phase	Code
Phase 1:	
DBA Initial Proposal	DBAIPR-10
DBA Final Proposal	DBAFPR-10
Phase 2:	
DBA Year One	DBA001-10
DBA Year Two	DBA002-10
DBA Year Three (if applicable)	DBA003-10
DBA Year Four (if applicable)	DBA004-10
DBA Thesis for Examination	DBATEX-10

4 Admission Requirements

The minimum admission requirement is an appropriate Master's degree with a mark of **65%** or higher for the research component of their qualification.

[Learn More](#)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Milpark admits a small number of students onto its programme via Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). The student **must make an initial application to the Doctoral Research Committee (DRC)** regarding RPL admission. RPL allows experienced professionals without a formal MBA to demonstrate that they possess the equivalent knowledge and skills.

[Learn more about RPL](#)

5 Technical Requirements

[View Requirements](#)



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6

Student Support

Library access

The Milpark Library provides access to e-books in a **virtual library called Cyberlibris** (Scholartext). Students can also create their own personal smart bookshelves containing resources for their studies. Having access to a digital library means that students can access books and resources from anywhere at the same time online. There is **no need to do reservations and requests**, and no limit on the time a student has to access a book. With the implementation of Cyberlibris, students also have access to full-text resources via ProQuest (global), Ebsco (global), Emerald (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.

Supervision

Students **receive guidance from a supervisor** once the final proposal phase commences. Supervisors will assist students on a one-to-one basis for the duration of the research and writing up of the thesis. They **typically meet with students on a bi-monthly basis**, either through virtual meetings or face-to-face sessions, and provide written feedback on research drafts via email or the institution's online platform.

7

Rules Of Progression

Students must be successful in the DBA Initial Proposal (DBAIPR-10) in order to **enrol for the Final Proposal (DBAFPR-10)**. The proposal phase must be completed successfully in order to be admitted onto the Candidacy phase (DBA001-10).

(See programme structure above for detail.)
Should a student fail to successfully defend their proposal, they may **request an additional review meeting** or be provided with guidance for resubmission during the next academic cycle.



8

Assessment

Each phase following initial admission has to be successfully passed as follows:

Proposal phase

This **assessment consists of two parts**, namely the submission of the final proposal, and defence of the proposal with the Proposal Assessment Panel.

Assessment consists of two parts, namely **submission of the thesis for marking**, and defence of the thesis with the DBA Thesis Assessment Panel (*viva voce*). During the *viva voce*, students will present their thesis findings to a panel of three examiners, who will ask questions related to the methodology, theoretical framework, and contribution to the field. The defence typically lasts between one to two hours.

Candidacy phase

9

Duration

The proposal phase generally takes **one year to complete**. Only after successfully completing the proposal phase does a student become eligible for registration as a DBA candidate, from which time registration of a minimum of two years and a maximum of four years takes effect

10

Certification

On successful completion of the qualification, the student will receive a **Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)** degree, **NQF Level 10 (Credits: 360)**. The Doctor of Business Administration degree is accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

11

Further Studies

Students in this field may consider **post-doctoral research fellowships** with higher education institutions and universities.

12

Pricing



The **annual registration fee includes the Final Proposal workshop**, supervision, colloquia and the assessment of the proposal and thesis. Library services are also included in the annual registration fee.

Additional services such as statistical services and unique software as well as editing will be for the account of the student.

13

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

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