

# DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MILPARK  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

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**QUALIFICATION:**  
DOCTOR OF  
BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION

SAQA ID 104778, NQF Level 10

**MODE OF DELIVERY:**  
Distance Learning/Distance  
Learning Online



DEVELOPING ETHICAL LEADERS FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

## DESCRIPTION AND PROGRAMME PURPOSE

The purpose of the programme is to enable students to develop in-depth, advanced discipline-specific skills and applied competence in business administration to provide opportunities for continued personal intellectual growth, productive economic activity and for making a rewarding contribution to society.

In addition, the programme aims to empower students to solve complex business-related problems in a focused way and to effectively manage and allocate resources, to communicate effectively, and to contribute to knowledge and socio-economic transformation in a responsible and ethical manner.

Furthermore, the programme endeavours to provide South Africa with highly skilled individuals, particularly from disadvantaged communities, with knowledge and skills in the field of business administration in order to ensure that the leadership base of innovative and knowledge-based economic and scholarly activity is strengthened and diversified.

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 informed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Fourth Industrial Revolution context.

## PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Successful completion of this qualification should enable the student to:

1. Independently design a research project and execute such a project.
2. Apply advanced scientific methods responsibly.
3. Efficiently manage the collection, organisation and analysis of relevant information.
4. Analyse theory and practical problems in order to contribute to the existing body of knowledge related to a specific aspect of business administration.
5. Contribute to the development of new theories, models and/or practices.
6. Conduct further academic research independently in order to contribute to local research output.
7. Author and present technical reports to professional audiences including business and government.

TOMORROW IS BEAUTIFUL

## 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.

### Proposal phase

The proposal phase is split into two parts, namely initial proposal (concept) and final proposal with defence. Applications for the initial proposal will be considered annually at the end of October for the January intake the next year. Applicants will be required to apply online and upload the following documents in the application process:

- Comprehensive curriculum vitae (CV)
- ID Document
- Matric Certificate
- Academic transcripts and copies of qualification certificates
- Biographical essay covering motivation and rationale for wanting to undertake doctoral studies.

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. There will be no second opportunities allowed.

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 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, students will also have to attend at least two colloquia per year where they present their progress to a panel.

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.

The module codes are indicated below.

Phase	Code
<b>Phase 1:</b>	
DBA Initial Proposal	DBAIPR-10
DBA Final Proposal	DBAFPR-10
<b>Phase 2:</b>	
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

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The minimum admission requirement is an appropriate master's degree on NQF level 8/9.

### Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications

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. The DRC will then respond based on what the motivation is and what evidence of prior learning was listed. The DRC will ask for further evidence that may be needed to meet the programme outcomes of the MBA. The submission of a comprehensive portfolio of evidence will be required that demonstrates that the student has met the programme outcomes of the MBA in prior learning. As part of the portfolio, the student will have to demonstrate research experience with outputs like the research output requirements of the MBA. The portfolio will be assessed by an external examiner. If the portfolio is successful, admission will be granted. However, the institution does *not* award an MBA.

### Other certificates

Any applicant who has a certificate other than a South African National Senior Certificate must provide a SAQA Certificate of Equivalence, if they want to enrol for a postgraduate qualification ([www.saqa.org.za](http://www.saqa.org.za)).

## ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Students will need to access online resources and to communicate with the institution and with the supervisor.

### Minimum system requirements

1. Reliable broadband internet access
2. Firefox/Chrome/Edge web browser
3. Microsoft Word
4. PDF Viewer
5. Ability to scan and upload documents
6. Email/cellphone for notification and communication
7. Access to Microsoft 365 using Milpark student credentials.

## 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.

## 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.)

## 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.

## 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.

**Candidacy phase:** 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).

## 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).

## FURTHER STUDIES

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

## 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.

## 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.