



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

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UCT celebrates superior performance in the 2023 SAICA APC

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) candidates attained a pass rate that surpassed the national average by a significant margin in the [South African Institute of Chartered Accountants \(SAICA\)](#) Assessment of Professional Competence (APC).

UCT offers an APC Professional Programme for aspiring Chartered Accountants about to sit their final board exam, known as the SAICA APC.

In 2023, a total of 1 505 UCT APC candidates wrote the SAICA APC. UCT candidates attained an overall 66% pass rate, compared to 52% at national level. For first-time candidates, UCT obtained 73%, while the national average was 63%.

The extent to which the UCT APC overall pass rate exceeds the national average is also the greatest since 2018, reflecting the dedication and excellence of UCT's APC programme.

With 987 successful candidates, UCT celebrates the second-highest number of successful APC candidates in its history. UCT Head of College of Accounting, Professor Ilse Lubbe CA(SA), commented on the achievement: "We are pleased that our candidates continue to outperform the national average by a substantial margin."

Professor Lubbe added that UCT's number of successful black candidates has increased significantly over the last three years. "Nationally, there continues to be a disparity in pass rates across race groups. While we are encouraged that this disparity is less for UCT candidates, this differential continues to be a cause for concern and a focus area for our programme," she said.

The impressive 73% first-time pass rate, consistent with 2022, is particularly notable given the increased number of UCT candidates this year. UCT candidates comprised 45% of the total number of first-time candidates in 2023, having historically represented approximately 33% of past cohorts. This achievement underscores the quality and effectiveness of UCT's accounting education model.

Furthermore, UCT dominated the Honours Roll list, with nine of the top 10 performing candidates hailing from the UCT APC programme. This exceptional performance highlights the APC programme's readiness to prepare candidates to excel in the professional sphere.

Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Professor Suki Goodman, expressed her satisfaction with the results. "The performance demonstrates our continued commitment to excellence and reinforces our ongoing efforts to decrease the racial disparities in performance. On the latter, we are not where we want or need to be, but we are moving in the right direction."

Professor Goodman further acknowledged both the academic as well as professional, administrative and support service (PASS) staff, as well as the students, for being behind these incredible results.

Approximately 17% of UCT APC first-time candidates completed their undergraduate and postgraduate studies at UCT. The remaining candidates attended other universities across Southern Africa. The diversity of the UCT APC candidates reflects the programme's national-reach and its important contribution to the pipeline of South African Chartered Accountants.

UCT's College of Accounting is one of four service providers offering an APC Professional Programme to prepare candidates for the APC exam. The College has offered this programme since 2014 (at the inception of the APC). UCT remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing top-tier accounting professionals and contributing to the transformation of South Africa's accounting landscape.

Professor Lubbe congratulated all successful UCT APC candidates on their remarkable achievement and said she looked forward to their future contributions to the accounting profession, now that they are one step closer to qualifying as chartered accountants.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Velisile Bukula

Head: Media Liaison
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 2149
Cell: (071) 642 3495
Email: velisile.bukula@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za