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## **UCT achieves 96% pass rate in accounting to secure top national rankings**



UCT is celebrating its 2026 IAC results.

Photo: Lerato Maduna

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has delivered a standout performance in the January 2026 Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC), with a 96% pass rate among first-time candidates and a strong showing on the national honours list.

A total of 188 out of 196 students passed the exam, reflecting a clear year-on-year improvement from 150 passes in 2025. The results also show that 90% of the 2025 postgraduate diploma in accounting (PGDA) cohort passed on their first attempt, signaling consistent academic strength and high student throughput.

The IAC, administered by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), is the first of two qualifying exams on the path to becoming a chartered accountant. It tests the technical knowledge and applied competence required in the profession.

UCT's performance extends beyond pass rates. Five PGDA graduates earned places on the national honours list, with four ranked in the top 10, placing the university among the country's leading accounting programmes.

The [Faculty of Commerce](#) also recorded a 95% pass rate for the Thuthuka programme, well above the national average of 80%. This translates into an 86% throughput rate for the 2025 cohort. In addition, all 15 academic trainees passed the January IAC, reinforcing the strength of the faculty's development pipeline.

### **Excellence in teaching and student success**

Commerce Dean Professor Suki Goodman said: "The faculty is extremely proud of the January 2026 IAC results. The results reflect the outstanding performance of our students and are a testament to their commitment and dedication to their professional development. Equally, the results reflect the excellence of the teaching team involved in preparing students for the assessment. Our colleagues in the College of Accounting work tirelessly to support our students' success. It is deeply rewarding when this collective effort pays off."

Associate Professor Goolam Modack, head of the [College of Accounting](#), added: "We celebrate and honour the students who have passed and are now one step closer to becoming CAs(SA). These results reflect their hard work, perseverance and resilience. We know that they are carried by the prayers and support of their loved ones. In many instances their success is important not only for themselves but also for their families and communities, a way out of poverty, and a signpost to what is possible.

"A massive thank you and well done to the college team (academics, administrators, academic trainees and tutors) for all their efforts to support our students. These results are an encouragement and validation of their commitment, time and care. Thank you to the deanery and the executive for their support and encouragement.

"We know that we have students who are likely disappointed with their IAC results in January 2026. In addition to our SAICA-endorsed undergraduate programmes and the PGDA, UCT offers a Preparatory Board Course for students across all universities to prepare for January and June sittings of the IAC. We trust that these students will work with our board course to prepare for the next sitting in June this year, which represents an opportunity to get back on track."

Associate Professor Modack concluded: "These results are testament to the strength of the academic project at UCT and an affirmation that we are a place where human potential is unleashed."

*According to SAICA, the January 2026 IAC assessed candidates against its updated CA of the Future Competency Framework. SAICA noted that although the overall pass rate for first-time candidates has declined from last year's 82% (now at 77%), this still reflects a solid performance in the first of SAICA's professional assessments, which is written at the end of a SAICA-endorsed postgraduate programme.*

*Story by Kamva Somdyala, UCT News.*

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