Welcome to the Faculty of Commerce

Commerce degree programmes prepare students for the constantly changing business and public management environments, and for participation in the global economy. The faculty continually reviews degree curricula and outcomes to ensure that qualifications maintain academic integrity, workplace relevance and professional accreditation.

Did you know?

1. UCT’s new School of IT is a collaboration between the Department of Information Systems in the Faculty of Commerce and the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science.

2. The Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice relaunched in July 2018 as the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance with the support of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

3. The Faculty of Commerce is home to 26 social responsiveness initiatives, 12 of these in the Development Policy Research Unit in the School of Economics.

Undergraduate studies

The faculty offers two undergraduate degrees: a three-year Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) and a four-year Bachelor of Business Science (BBusSc). Both programmes are offered in a variety of disciplines to cater for the interests of our students and the employment needs of the country. All undergraduate degrees are available as mainstream and, in the Education Development Unit (EDU), as extended and augmented programmes.

Visit the faculty during UCT’s annual Open Day. Alternatively, contact Admissions to arrange an appointment. Be sure to visit www.commerce.uct.ac.za/Pages/Prospective-Students for information on studying in Commerce.

Undergraduate applications open on 1 April and close on 31 July. Late applications will not be considered.

KEY NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE SUBJECT CHOICE NOTES
- You don’t need to take accounting, business studies or economics at school.
- You must do mathematics, NOT maths literacy.

“The world of work is rapidly changing, and those shifts impact the kinds of competencies graduates require. While technical skills are high on the list, there will also be a need for enhanced interpersonal skills, resilience and adaptability that will help students build and maintain relationships, communicate effectively and resolve conflicts and disputes. Individuals with high EQ have the ability to regulate their own behaviours as well as others, better lead teams and steer projects. Our students need to be resilient when faced with challenges or failures. They have to be able to think critically and creatively to address organisational and societal issues.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LINDA RONNIE
Dean of Commerce

Contact Us

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The Graduate School of Business (GSB) operates as an independent entity within the university, under the academic governance of the faculty. The GSB offers a range of qualifications and non-credit bearing courses aimed at individuals with work experience, including an MBA and Executive MBA.

Research

The African Institute of Financial Markets and Risk Management (AIFMRM) is an industry-funded unit within the Faculty of Commerce, offering postgraduate programmes in financial risk management and quantitative finance.

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Seven departments

**College of Accounting** equips graduates to prepare and use financial information to make operational and strategic decisions in organisations.

**Finance and Tax** develops the skills required to source, allocate, price and value assets (investments) and evaluate the structure and financial decision-making of firms (corporate finance), including the South African and International tax implications.

**School of Economics** focuses on how consumers, firms and markets operate and on their impact on economic and social development. Microeconomics includes the economics of the firm, while macroeconomics incorporates issues like unemployment, inflation and economic growth.

**School of Management Studies** includes actuarial science, demography, marketing, organisational psychology, programme evaluation, professional communication and postgraduate diplomas in management.

**Information Systems** deals with information management and technology in organisations – from business analysis to information security and software development.

**Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance** promotes the development of strategic public leadership, with emphasis on accountability and trust in governance.

**Education Development Unit (EDU)** is the home of the Commerce Academic Development extended and augmented programmes. EDU offers additional support and works with a variety of education initiatives throughout the faculty.

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"The EDU to me means a unit of opportunities that can grow and groom you to be your best self professionally as well as personally" Khumbulani Mzayiya

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**Staff**

Academics in the faculty make leading contributions to all aspects of South African society. They:

- track and model the causes of poverty and inequality
- perform professional monitoring and evaluation for public- and private-sector projects
- educate public and private sector financial professionals
- uphold South Africa’s reputation as a leader in integrated reporting implementation
- diversify and transform the national profile of graduates
- generate information technology innovations relevant to Africa
- ensure that African statistics and demographics are accessible, understandable, reliable and useful
- contribute to debates relating to economic policy, governance and taxation.

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**Commerce in numbers**

6,559 students

- 209 PhD students
- 615 master’s students
- 784 postgraduate diploma students
- 513 honours students
- 152 professional, administrative support and service staff
- 192 academic staff
- 4,414 undergraduates

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**Research**

3 SARChI CHAIRS

45 National Research Foundation (NRF)-rated researchers, of which two are A-rated

12 research groupings:

- African Collaboration for Quantitative Finance and Risk Research (ACQuFRR)
- AIDS and Society Research Unit (ASRU)
- Centre for Actuarial Research (CARE)
- Centre for Information Technology and National Development in Africa (CITANDA)
- DataFirst
- Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU)
- Environmental Policy Research Unit (EPRU)
- Institute for Monitoring and Evaluation (IME)
- Policy Research in International Services and Manufacturing (PRISM)
- Research Unit in Behavioural Economics and Neuroeconomics (RUBEN)
- Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU)
- Unilever Institute of Strategic Marketing