

Accounting Sciences @ Unisa

A complete guide to preparing yourself for career opportunities



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The information in this document was correct as on 19 September 2018. Visit the Directorate: Counselling and Career Development website (<http://bit.ly/2ux94B5>) for the latest version of this document.

How will this brochure help me?

- It will help you gain more information about the skills needed in the field of accounting.
- It will help you to identify possible specialisation areas related to accounting sciences.
- It will help you to find more information about career opportunities related to accounting sciences.
- It will assist you in finding accounting-related qualifications offered by Unisa.

About accounting sciences

Primarily you enjoy working with numbers and money. You, therefore, chose to explore the field of accounting sciences as a possible career. There are the following broad categories in the field of accounting sciences namely:

- financial accounting
- management accounting
- auditing (including internal auditing)
- taxation

Accounting professionals may choose to pursue training that includes academic and practical training in order to affiliate with a professional accounting body. It is important that you consider the professional designation you wish to prepare for when choosing your field of study, as well as professional experiences. Most potential employers and clients would view professional registration with an accounting body as an indication that the accounting professional has acquired the skills and knowledge needed to perform his or her tasks as an accountant. Your professional designation will also determine the type of tasks you are able to perform. For example, a registered auditor (RA) must be a Chartered Accountant (CA(SA)) and also have met additional Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA) requirements.

Professional bodies in South Africa include:

Accounting and Auditing

- South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA): www.saica.co.za
- Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors (IRBA): www.irba.co.za
- Southern African Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA): www.icsa.org.uk/about-us/our-governance/south-africa
- The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA): <https://www.accaglobal.com/africa/en.html>
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA): www.cimaglobal.com
- South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA): www.saipa.co.za
- South African Institute of Business Accountants (SAIBA): www.saiba.org.za
- Institute of Certified Bookkeepers (ICB): www.icb.org.za
- Institute of Administration and Commerce (IACSA): www.iacsa.co.za

Internal auditing

Institute of Internal Auditors (IIASA): www.iiasa.org.za

Taxation

- Register as a tax practitioner with SARS:
<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Tax-Practitioners/Pages/Register-as-a-tax-practitioner.aspx>
- South African Institute for Tax Professionals:
http://www.thesait.org.za/?page=membership_overview

For an overview of accounting professional designations in South Africa, visit the following webpage:

https://www.findanaccountant.co.za/content_qualifications.

What skills and qualities are needed in this career field?

- Attention to detail
- Comfortable to work with numbers
- Good planning and organisational skills
- Communication skills (accountant and bookkeepers)
- Information management skills
- Integrity and ethical awareness
- Computer skills
- Analytical skills
- Supervisory skills
- Stress tolerance

Experienced vs inexperienced accounting student

When you first apply to study with Unisa, you may enter the University with work experience and realistic expectations of the career you wish to pursue. You may also enter the University without any work experience and without any understanding of what you may face as a distance learner wanting to complete a professional qualification.

The table below outlines two possible scenarios:

1. The first scenario describes an experienced student with work experience in the accounting or related field.
2. The second scenario describes a student who does not have experience in this field.

The information in the third column relates to the impact of this on your decision to study accounting sciences.

The fourth column indicates how you can prepare yourself to become a successful accounting science student.

Experienced Accounting student (currently working in the field)	Inexperienced Accounting student (no work experience in the field)	How does this impact on your decision to study accounting	How can you prepare yourself to become a successful accounting student
Has work experience in the field or related field and knows which specialisation in the field of accounting sciences to pursue	Has no experience in the field of accounting and is uncertain about which specialisation in the field of accounting sciences to pursue	When you have experience in the field you have a realistic perception of what your future career will entail and whether there is a good fit between you and the chosen specialisation. If there is a good fit between yourself and the field of work you will be successful in meeting the demands of the job	Spend time conducting some informational interviews with individuals who work in the field you wish to work in. This will assist you to gain a realistic understanding of what the job will demand of you. You will gain a better understanding of whether there is a good fit between you and the field you wish to work in. You can find details on how to go about this process in this brochure

Experienced Accounting student (currently working in the field)	Inexperienced Accounting student (no work experience in the field)	How does this impact on your decision to study accounting	How can you prepare yourself to become a successful accounting student
Aware of the practical requirements for your chosen specialisation (e.g. in-service training)	Not aware of the practical requirements for your chosen specialisation (e.g. in-service training)	If you are aware of the practical requirements you are able to make arrangements, complete the relevant practical components, meet all the requirements to register with a professional body	You must investigate and consider what are the practical requirements, and how you will manage to complete the relevant practical components
You are aware of how your skills and values match those necessary for you to become successful in the field of accounting	You are unaware of how your skills and values match those necessary for you to become successful in the field of accounting	When you have a good understanding of your skills and values you are able to make informed career decisions which will result in greater job satisfaction	Spend time exploring what your skills and values are by visiting http://bit.ly/2gmt8nv then see how these match the skills required in the field of accounting

Experienced Accounting student (currently working in the field)	Inexperienced Accounting student (no work experience in the field)	How does this impact on your decision to study accounting	How can you prepare yourself to become a successful accounting student
You have a realistic understanding of the demands that training in the field of accounting will place on you	You have a vague understanding of the demands that training in the field of accounting will place on you	When you have a realistic understanding of the demands that will be placed on you, you are more inclined to achieve academic success	Spend time job shadowing or conducting some informational interviews with an individual/s who works in the field you wish to work in. This will assist you to gain a realistic understanding of what the job will demand of you

Careers related to accounting sciences

The following section contains more detailed information about chartered accounting, professional accounting, management accounting, auditing (including internal, external, and forensic), and taxation.

Chartered Accounting

How do I become a Chartered Accountant?

The journey towards a CA (SA) professional qualification includes three major steps. These are: (1) obtaining the necessary university qualifications, (2) completing a learnership programme, and (3) completion of two final professional examinations administered by SAICA.

Unisa offers the following SAICA-endorsed qualifications:

- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Financial Accounting (98302); followed by
- Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences (98231); followed by
- Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting Sciences (98255) (serving as the second year of the two-year CTA programme, with direct entry to students qualifying for the one-year CTA programme [refer to www.unisa.ac.za/cas/cta]. All five modules linked to this qualification must be completed in one academic year to thereby meet the admission requirements of SAICA's first professional examination as described below.)

The College of Accounting Sciences also offers a bridging diploma (Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences [98320 – Stream 1 / CTA]) for candidates who have not completed a SAICA-endorsed BCom degree, who wish to enter the CTA programme.

A learnership programme should be completed with a registered training office and will range between three and five years, depending on academic progress.

The final two steps on your pathway to becoming a CA(SA) are to pass two Qualifying Examinations, namely the Initial Test of Competence (ITC) and the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC). To qualify for entry to the ITC, a candidate must have completed a CTA. To qualify for entry to the APC, a candidate must have passed the ITC, completed a minimum of 20 months of a registered training contract, and successfully completed a professional programme with a registered provider.

Read more about becoming a chartered accountant on the Unisa College of Accounting webpage:
<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/CTA-student-support>.

What does a Chartered Accountant do?

Chartered Accountants are well represented at senior management level and in the boardrooms of most large South African companies. Chartered Accountants work in all industries and in several business fields. Areas of speciality include:

- Accounting and External Reporting;
- Auditing and Assurance;
- Management Decision Making and Control;
- Financial Management;
- Taxation;
- Strategy, Risk Management and Governance;
- Forensic Auditing;
- Management Consulting;
- Corporate Finance; and
- Financial Planning

Further detail is available from www.saica.co.za.

Professional Accounting

What does a Professional Accountant do?

Some of the services offered by a Professional Accountant are as follows:

- accounting and tax-related services,
- business advisors to SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) offering tailored advice on business challenges and creating opportunities for business success for their clients,
- estate planning,

- secretarial work for companies,
- business rescue,
- personal finance (compiling personal budgets, advice on tax insurance and investments); and
- forensic consulting (Expertise in the analysis of systems and accounting information).

How do I become a Professional Accountant?

1. Enrol for the Bachelor of Accounting Sciences degree offered by Unisa.
2. In addition, the following practical component must be fulfilled:
 - a. Practical supervised training or experience of at least three years at a SAIPA recognised training office;
 - b. *or* six years of relevant verifiable experience;
 - c. *or* a completed training programme from another accredited professional accounting body such as SAICA.
3. Thereafter there is a SAIPA Professional Evaluation, which consists of a three-hour examination offered twice yearly covering Financial Accounting, Auditing, Taxation, Commercial Law, Management Accounting and Practice Management.

Read more on the South African Institute of Professional Accountants' web site: <http://www.saipa.co.za>.

(Source: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/Schools,-departments-&-centre/School-of-Accountancy/Department-of-Financial-Accounting/How-to-become-a-CA>)

Management Accounting

What does a management accountant do?

Management accountants gather and communicate both financial and non-financial information to the organisational management and thereby assist them to make better decisions and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of existing operations.

In recognition of the ever-changing business environment, the study of management accounting comprises cost accumulation, constructing accounting information for decision making, including strategy and risk management, performance measurement, and particular emphasis on environmental focus and ethical behaviour. A qualification in management accounting provides a host of exciting career options in the business world.

Unisa qualifications provide successful students with an opportunity to become a member of the Institute of Chartered Management Accountants (CIMA), and thereby obtain an internationally recognised professional qualification. This institute is the largest independent professional accounting body in the world, based in the United Kingdom that offers training for a qualification in Management Accounting and related business accounting subjects.

How do I become a management accountant?

The following qualifications at Unisa have been endorsed by CIMA:

- Diploma in Accounting Sciences
- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Financial Accounting
- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Management Accounting
- Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences
- Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting

Once you obtain any one of these Unisa qualifications, you will qualify for exemption from specified exam papers at CIMA and may qualify for partial credit towards a CIMA qualification. These three qualifications allow an opportunity for a step-by-step

progress at Unisa in preparation for the strategic stage CIMA-level examinations and ACMA qualifications.

More detailed information about Unisa and the CIMA endorsement is available in a Frequently-asked questions document available on the Unisa Department of Management Accounting website at:
<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/Schools,-departments-&-centre/School-of-Accountancy/Department-of-Management-Accounting/CIMA-endorsement>

Auditing

The following broad categories are related to auditing:

- External auditing
- Forensic auditing
- Internal auditing

External auditing

In terms of the *Auditing Profession Act No. 26 of 2005* an audit is defined as the examination of, in accordance with prescribed or applicable auditing standards:

- Financial statements with the objective of expressing an opinion as to their fairness or compliance with an identified financial reporting framework and any applicable statutory requirements; or
- Financial and other information, prepared in accordance with suitable criteria, with the objective of expressing an opinion on the financial and other information.

External auditing is, therefore, an independent and objective assurance service that is designed to add value to the business of its clients. An external auditor identifies risks associated with a business and responds to such risks by designing and

performing audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to base the audit opinion on.

Read more about this career field here:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/Schools,-departments-&-centre/School-of-Accountancy/Department-of-Auditing/Fields-of-study/External-auditing>

Forensic auditing

Forensic auditors are investigators of legal and financial documents that are hired to look into possible suspicions of fraudulent activity within a company; or are hired by a company who may just want to prevent fraudulent activities from occurring. They also provide services in areas such as accounting, damages, analysis of data, valuation, and general consulting. Forensic auditors have also been used in divorces, bankruptcy, insurance claims, personal injury claims, fraudulent claims, construction, royalty audits, and anti-money laundering by investigating financial records. Many forensic accountants work closely with law enforcement personnel and lawyers during investigations and often appear as expert witnesses during trials.

Read more about this career field here:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/Schools,-departments-&-centre/School-of-Accountancy/Department-of-Auditing/Fields-of-study/Forensic-auditing>

Internal auditing

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

An internal auditor analyses and evaluates all activities, controls and governance processes concerned with the operations of an organisation, reports to executive management on audit findings and submits proposals for improvements.

Unisa offers the following two qualification paths:

Option 1	Option 2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Internal Auditing 2. Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Auditing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diploma in Accounting Sciences 2. Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences 3. Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Auditing

Read more about this career field here:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/Schools,-departments-&-centre/School-of-Accountancy/Department-of-Auditing/Fields-of-study/Internal-auditing>

Taxation

All individuals who provide advice to others about tax-related matters or complete tax returns for others need to be registered as tax practitioners with the South African Revenue Service (SARS). In order to register as a tax practitioner with SARS, you need to belong to a professional body recognised by SARS, have the minimum qualifications and experience as required by this body, not have criminal convictions, and you are participating in continuous professional development activities as per the professional body. For more information about registering as a tax practitioner with SARS, visit <http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Tax-Practitioners/Pages/Register-as-a-tax-practitioner.aspx>.

The South African Institute of Tax Professionals outlines the various professional membership categories at http://www.thesait.org.za/?page=membership_overview.

Identify opportunities with career research

How do you identify opportunities?

Your career research will connect you to others who will help you to answer questions you have in relation to your career choice; expand your understanding of the opportunities related to your career vision; identify "hidden" career paths that you did not think of previously; and think about how you could plan to pursue specific opportunities.

Prepare

Think about what you still need to find out: what questions do you have? You will use these questions as a starting point to structure your research. Examples of questions include “What can I do with a major in financial accounting”, “How much do chartered accountants earn?” or “What must I study to be a tax practitioner?”

Keep track of information

Keep track of your research by making notes about what you learn and what you still need to find out. Use online services or apps such as Google Keep (<http://keep.google.com>), (Evernote (<http://www.evernote.com>) or Diigo (<http://www.diigo.com>) to keep track of your research online.

Evaluate

Evaluate the information that you are finding: Who wrote the information (person/organisation)? Which country does the information relate to? When was the information last updated? Read more about evaluating online information in the Unisa Library libguide: <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/c.php?g=355522&p=2400635>.

After you have visited a number of websites, you could compare your notes about the information you found – what are the similarities and differences? What else do you need to find out?

Further ways to do career research

1 Online search

Use a search engine such as Google to search for information related to your questions. For example, you need to find out about career opportunities related to accounting sciences. You could start with using keywords such as “careers in accounting sciences” and then to further contextualise your findings, you could search keywords such as “careers in accounting in Africa” and “careers in accounting South Africa”. Scan the brief descriptions of the first ten results and decide which website you would want to explore first. Skim-read through the information on the website (start with the headings) to get an understanding of the content of the page and to find information related to your question. Also, check whether there are links to other websites that you could further explore. As you are reading, make a summary of the information. You could use the information you find to make lists of job titles related to your field of study, organisations that employ individuals in these fields and professional organisations.

Activity

Use Google to find specific job titles related to accounting as a major. The following are some search terms you could consider: “job titles financial accounting”; and “job titles accounting graduates South Africa”.

Job title	Website
Example: Accountant	Compdataedge.com

Job title	Website

2 Occupational information websites

The following websites will help you to learn more about specific job titles:

Website	Description
Unisa Counselling & Career Development http://bit.ly/2fE0Xd0	This website provides more information about opportunities related to qualifications at Unisa
Kheta (from SAQA) http://ncap.careerhelp.org.za/occupations	Search for information about specific job titles
Career Planet http://www.careerplanet.co.za/	Learn more about career areas such as IT, tourism, engineering and more. The website also contains information about learnerships and student finance
O*Net http://www.onetonline.org/	Explore job titles related to different categories such as your interests, skills, values, typical work activities, and more. You could also browse through groups of occupations related to specific industries or economic sectors
Prospects http://www.prospects.ac.uk/	Explore different job titles related to job sectors, as well as what you could do with your major subject

3 Job-search portals

Job search portals are useful in terms of researching specific job titles linked to different career fields and industries. Finding jobs advertisements that interest you is a worthwhile activity, even if you are not currently applying for jobs. You may not yet be eligible to apply for your dream job, but you can still gain a lot of information that can be applied to your career planning. For example, you are interested in accounting sciences, but you are not sure which specific job titles are linked to this field, or you want to know what kind of qualifications and skills are needed to be a cost accountant.

You can use this information to make career goals and think strategically about how you can develop experiences that will help you meet more of the selection criteria in the future.

Job search sites include

- PNet (<http://www.pnet.co.za>)
- CareerJunction (<http://www.careerjunction.co.za>)
- Careers24 (<http://www.careers24.com/>)
- Indeed (<http://www.indeed.co.za>)
- Government positions (<http://www.gov.za/aboutgovt/vacancies.htm>)

4 LinkedIn

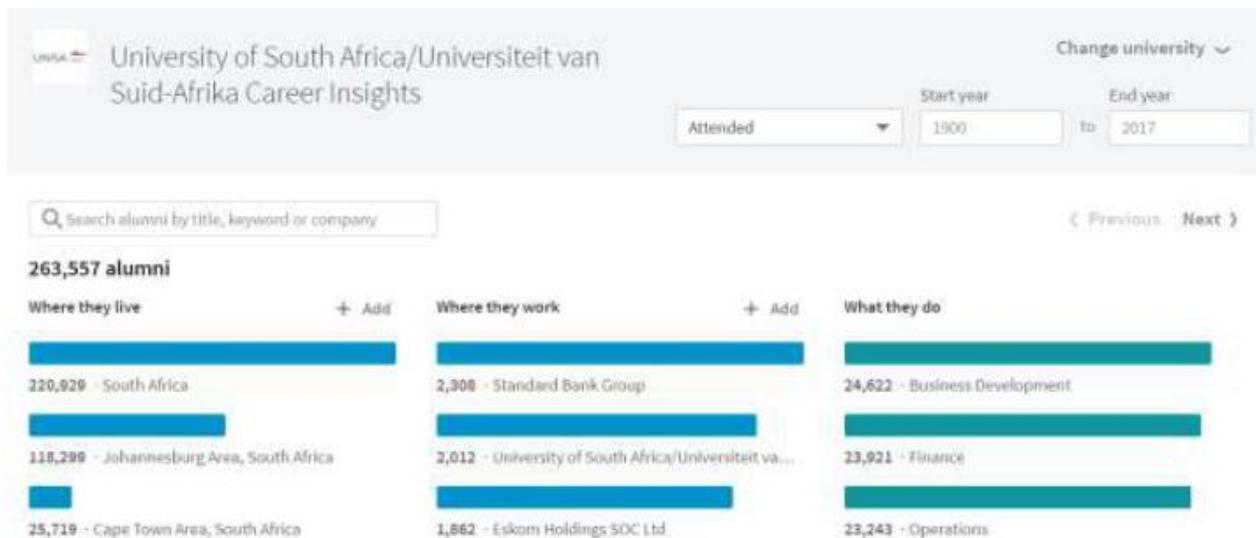
If you have not done so already, start building your network on LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com>) today!

Register for a free account and start connecting with your network online. Join groups relevant to your career field so that you could participate in discussions, ask questions and provide answers about specific topics and search for people, organisations and jobs in your field of interest. Do research about companies and

employees to help you identify opportunities. To learn more about using LinkedIn effectively, go to <http://bit.ly/2gyOAzS>.

Activity

1. Go to www.linkedin.com and sign in to your LinkedIn account. If you do not have an account yet, then create one.
2. Make sure that you have captured your current or previous studies at Unisa on your LinkedIn profile.
3. Once you are signed in, go to the University of South Africa page at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/12049/>
4. Click on the “See alumni” button.
5. You will now be presented with a page with headings and graphs beneath the headings (eg. Where they live, Where they work, What they do).



6. Click on the “Next>” link to go to the next set of headings (What they studied, What they are skilled at and How you are connected)



7. Click on “+Add” next to the heading “What they studied”
8. Start to type “accounting” in the search box. You will notice that you are provided with suggestions for study fields (e.g. financial, accounting)
9. Choose one of those options that you would want to explore.
10. You will notice that the graphs for the different headings adjust. You have now filtered the information to contain information about Unisa graduates who work in the field you searched for.
11. You can now see how many graduates in these fields are on LinkedIn, where they work, what they do, what they’re skilled at, etc.
12. You are also able to view the profiles of alumni who meet the criteria you searched. For example, you can filter your search results to those alumni who indicated that they studied accounting, and work at a specific financial institution.

5 Talk to others (informational interviewing)

Once you have done some research about specific options, your next step is to talk to individuals in the type of job/ industry that you are interested in. The goal of these conversations is to explore your career options, to expand your network, to build confidence, to access information and to identify your own strengths and areas of development. For example, you read an article about profits and loss. You could contact one of the authors of the article to ask if they would be willing to share how they went about gaining access to the information they needed for their evaluation.

Before you interview someone, do research about what you would want to discuss with them – you could ask this person to “fill in the gaps” for you. Start with people you already know: friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, lecturers, tutors and fellow students. Use online social networks such as LinkedIn to further identify potential people. For more information about informational interviews, go to <http://bit.ly/2riGpQq>. Also, watch these videos to learn more: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixbhtm8l0sl> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6Pa4ZB4mvQ>.

Remember to keep track of the information you have gathered and how you make sense of this. Also, track the questions you still have and how you think you would be able to get answers to these questions.

Activity

Write a list of any people you know who might work in the fields you are interested in. For instance, do any of your parents' friends work in any of the fields you are considering? Make a list of people who could give you information about any careers you are considering.

People I can connect with	

You may have identified a lot more people than you thought! Imagine how much information you can gather about the career you are interested in just by talking to these people. Each person will give you fresh insights opinions and valuable information about the careers you are considering, whether they are currently working in that field or are only remotely related to or associated with it.

6 Attend a careers fair event

Attending a careers fair event gives you the opportunity to speak to people from different industries. You may be studying a qualification that does not seem to have a direct link to the exhibitors or the presenters, but they have one thing in common: they employ people, who work in organisations, who do business with all kinds of suppliers and services. Somewhere in this value chain, your qualification will find a place to fit – either as a customer or as an employer or employee.

The annual Unisa Careers Fair usually takes place in March, July and August at various venues. Go to <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/About/Service-departments/Counselling-and-Career-Development/Explore-careers/Unisa-Careers-Fair> for more information.

7 Experience studying topics related to your field of interest

Explore what accounting sciences are by watching and listening to online lectures and reading free open textbooks. These resources will enhance your understanding of criminology and the various opportunities related to this field.

Search for open courses and open textbooks on these sites:

- Coursera.org (<http://www.coursera.org/>)
- Udemy (<http://www.udemy.com/>)
- Saylor Academy (<http://www.saylor.org/books/>)
- Open Textbook Library (<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>)
- College Open Textbooks (<http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/textbooks/>)
- MITOpenCourseware (<http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>)
- Open Culture (<http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>)
- iTunes University (<http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/>)
- YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/>)

- FreeVideoLectures (<http://freevideolectures.com/>)

8 Join a professional organisation

Many professional bodies offer student registration categories to enable those who are still studying towards a qualification in the field, to join and receive specific benefits such as training, development and networking opportunities. The professional bodies websites are also valuable sources of information should you wish to do research related to specific occupations. Many professional websites also list practitioners or organisations in the field and allow you to identify individuals whom you could contact for further conversations about your career.

Qualifications offered by Unisa

Visit the Unisa website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/qualifications> for more information about these qualifications.

Higher Certificates

- Higher Certificate in Accounting Sciences (98201)

Undergraduate qualifications

- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Financial Accounting Financial Accounting (98302 - FAC)
- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Internal Auditing Internal Auditing (98303 - AUI)
- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Management Accounting Management Accounting (98304 - MAC)
- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Taxation Taxation (98318 - TAX)

Postgraduate Diplomas

- Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences (98231)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting Sciences (98255)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Accounting (98233)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Auditing (98234)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Auditing (98207)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (CTMA) (98205)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Taxation (98256)

Honours degree

- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting (98354)

Master's degree

- Master of Accounting Sciences (Coursework) (98656)
- Master of Accounting Sciences (Coursework) Auditing (98656 - AUE)
- Master of Accounting Sciences (Coursework) Financial Accounting (98656 - FAC)
- Master of Accounting Sciences (Coursework) Financial Governance (98656 - GOV)
- Master of Accounting Sciences (Coursework) Financial Intelligence (98656 - INT)
- Master of Accounting Sciences (Coursework) Management Accounting (98656 - MAC)
- Master of Accounting Sciences (Coursework) Taxation (98656 - TAX)
- Master of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences (Full Dissertation) Auditing (98587 - AUE)
- Master of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences (Full Dissertation) Financial Accounting (98587 - FAC)
- Master of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences (Full Dissertation) Financial Governance (98587 - GOV)
- Master of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences (Full Dissertation) Financial Intelligence (98587 - INT)
- Master of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences (Full Dissertation) Management Accounting (98587 - MAC)

- Master of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences (Full Dissertation) Taxation (98587 - TAX)

Doctoral degree

- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences Auditing (90026 - AUE)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences Financial Accounting (90026 - FAC)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences Financial Governance (90026 - GOV)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences Financial Intelligence (90026 - INT)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences Management Accounting (90026 - MAC)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting Sciences Taxation (90026 - TAX)

The research focus areas for the Master's and Doctoral degrees can be found at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Master%27s-&-doctoral-degrees/Research-focus-areas/College-of-Accounting-Sciences>

Short Learning Programmes (SLPs)

Unisa offers a number of SLPs that offer people a way to meet a specific learning need. It is important to remember that an SLP is not a formal qualification and will not allow you to qualify for a formal qualification.

The Unisa Centre for Accounting Sciences offers a wide range of SLPs related to accounting, auditing and taxation. For more information about the programmes, go to: <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/Schools,-departments-&-centre/Centre/Centre-for-Accounting-Studies>.

Frequently asked questions

I completed my BCompt degree with Unisa or another University and do not qualify for CTA – what are my options?

The College of Accounting Sciences also offers a bridging diploma (Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences [98320 – Stream 1 / CTA]) for candidates who have not completed a SAICA-endorsed BCom degree, who wish to enter the CTA programme.

Do I qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences or the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting Sciences?

You can review the admission requirements for these qualifications here:

- [Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences \(98231\)](#)
- [Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting Sciences \(98255\)](#)

On each of these pages, there is a link to a document with more information about the accredited qualifications and requirements for students who completed their undergraduate studies at Unisa, or another higher education institution.

I do not plan to continue with the CA training route at postgraduate level – what further study options are there for me?

Explore one of the other postgraduate diplomas offered by the College of Accounting Sciences:

- Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Accounting (98233)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Auditing (98234)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Auditing (98207)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (CTMA) (98205)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Taxation (98256)

Where do I find more details on the qualifying CA examination?

Visit <https://www.saica.co.za/Training/BecomingaCA/tabid/157/language/en-ZA/Default.aspx>.

Where do I find support as a CA student?

Visit <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Accounting-Sciences/CTA-student-support>.

Does Unisa offer a one-year CTA programme?

Qualifying students may complete the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting without having to do the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences. Further details are available here: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/cas/cta>.

CA route: I registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences and/or the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting Sciences and was unsuccessful – what are my further study and career options?

Unisa gives you three attempts to complete the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences and/or the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting Sciences. Should you not be successful, you may not be re-admitted to those qualifications for further study. You could then consider applying for another Postgraduate Diploma offered in the College of Accounting Sciences.

Can I study accounting sciences if I did not pass mathematics at grade 12 level?

You can view the current admission requirements for the professional qualifications here: http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications?cw_college=ACCOUNTING%20SCIENCES.

The College of Accounting Sciences offers a Higher Certificate in Accounting Sciences as an alternative pathway. You must apply for admission to this qualification and if you complete this qualification successfully, you can apply for admission to the relevant degree.

Counselling and career development services at Unisa

The Unisa Directorate for Counselling and Career Development offers career-, academic- and personal counselling services to Unisa students and the broader community. You can talk to a counsellor about:

- **Career decisions.** I am not sure which career path to follow; I don't know which qualification would be best; I want to change my career direction...
- **Career information.** How can I find out more about a career in ...
- **Employability.** How do I market myself to employers? How can I look for work? How can I compile an effective CV? How do I go about networking with others? How do I put together my career portfolio? How can I meet potential employers? How can I improve my interview skills?)
- **My studies at Unisa.** How can I get started with my studies? How do I plan my studies? How can I study more effectively? I don't feel motivated to continue with my studies... I feel worried about preparing for/ writing the exams. I failed my exams – what now? I need to improve my reading/ writing/ numeracy skills
- **Personal issues.** How can I have better relationships with others? How can I cope more effectively with issues that impact on my studies?

Visit our website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/counselling> to access many self-help resources, or talk to a counsellor by e-mail to counselling@unisa.ac.za.