

Change the World

**NELSON MANDELA**  
UNIVERSITY

*"The programme has empowered me to want to further my studies."*

**Nomahlubi Davids (Diploma in Accountancy Student)**

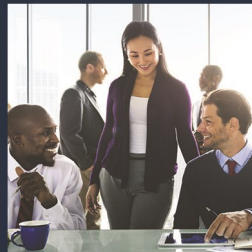
**ENQUIRIES:**

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Search for "Nelson Mandela University School of Accounting" and "Nelson Mandela University Accounting School for Learners" on Facebook and YouTube.



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**Diploma in Accountancy**

## WHY DOES ACCOUNTANCY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BUSINESS?

The service rendered by accountants is the lifeblood of any successful business. Without credible financial information produced by the accounting function, no executive team can make the right decisions, and outside funders will be reluctant to make resources available for the business to be properly capitalised.

Without adequate cash resources, managed by the finance team, businesses will be unable to settle their debts when due and be forced to close. Without ensuring that all taxes are correctly computed, and timeously paid over to the South African Revenue Service, the business will face significant adverse consequences from the revenue authority.

It is fair to say that without competent accountants; the South African economy will simply not reach the growth targets needed to address the unacceptable current high levels of unemployment.

## WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF AN ACCOUNTANT?

Prospective accountants need to have an interest in business/financial affairs and also have the ability to analyse and solve problems logically. Furthermore, they must have:

- strong numerical skills;
- the ability to adapt to changing circumstances;
- the ability to be able to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines.

Accountants do not sit behind desks all day looking at figures. They make significant contributions to organisations achieving their goals. They work with people at all levels in managing the activities of an organisation, and hence must also possess strong inter-personal skills.

## WHAT MAKES THE DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY UNIQUE?

- This Diploma prepares students for many careers in commerce and industry as well as public practice.
- A career in accountancy is very rewarding and challenging, and career opportunities (e.g. as financial and management accountants, internal auditors or taxation consultants) are highly sought after.
- Most classes in the Diploma programme are small, with individual attention.
- The Diploma will provide students with a strong foundation in the core disciplines of accountancy and computerised accounting applications (Pastel). Specialisation will occur once the foundation is in place (e.g. further study in Advanced Diplomas).

## PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT (SA)

The South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) is a professional body for accountants. The Professional Accountant (SA) designation communicates that you not only uphold the highest professional standards, but you also continuously keep up to date with the latest developments in the field of accounting.

To register as a Professional Accountant (SA) you need a relevant BTech / Advanced Diploma in Accountancy (Professional Stream) qualification (which follows on the Diploma in Accountancy programme) plus three years relevant practical experience.

## MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS - NSC

- Minimum NSC statutory requirements for diploma entry must be met.
- An applicant with NSC Grade 12 **Mathematics or Technical Mathematics** requires a minimum Applicant Score of **350**.
- An applicant with NSC Grade 12 **Mathematical Literacy** requires a minimum Applicant Score of **365**.
- NSC achievement rating of at least level 45% for Mathematics or Technical Mathematics or 65% for Mathematical Literacy.

## HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR APPLICANT SCORE (AS)

- Your Applicant Score (AS) will be different if you took Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy or Technical Mathematics at school.
- Your Applicant Score (AS) is calculated using **six** subjects. Please note that Life Orientation (LO) is excluded.
- Write down your Grade 12 subjects and the most recent percentage (%) obtained in each subject (**NO** Gr 12 March results).
- You **MUST** include the results for the following **three compulsory subjects: 1) Home language; 2) 1<sup>st</sup> Add. Language; and 3) Maths; or Maths Lit; or Technical Maths.**
- For applicants with seven Grade 12 NSC subjects, the AS is calculated by adding the percentages for the six 20-credit subjects (**Note** that the Life Orientation percentage is not included as it is a 10-credit subject). This gives a score out of 600.
- For those applicants **taking eight or more subjects** their AS is calculated as follows: add the percentages obtained for your three compulsory subjects (the two languages and Mathematics, Technical Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy), plus the percentage(s) for any subject(s) required by the programme, together with the percentage(s) for the next best / highest subject(s), to a maximum of six subjects.
- In addition, for those applicants from quintile 1 to 3 schools who attain 50% or higher for Life Orientation (LO), 7 points are added to their score out of 600 to arrive at their final AS.
- Compare your AS & subject requirements to the minimum needed for the qualification you want to apply for.

- If your Applicant Score (AS) & subject requirements are below the minimum required, you will need to consider another qualification for which you do qualify.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (ABRIDGED)

### FULL-TIME

#### YEAR 1

Financial Accounting I  
Cost and Management Accounting I  
Business Calculations I  
Accountant in Business I  
Business Information Systems I  
Communication I  
Commercial Law: Business Entities

#### YEAR 2

Financial Accounting II  
Cost and Management Accounting II  
Taxation I  
Auditing I  
Economics I

#### YEAR 3

Financial Accounting III  
Cost and Management Accounting III  
Taxation II  
Auditing II  
Commercial Law  
Computerised Accounting Applications I

## STUDY PROGRESSION PATH FOR DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS

### Diploma in Accountancy

Full-time – 3 years  
Part-time – 5 years

Upon completion of the above Diploma, students can elect to register for:

### Advanced Diploma in Accountancy

(with specialisation in either Professional Accounting or Internal Auditing)

Full-time – 1 year  
Part-time – 2 years

These programmes are offered at Nelson Mandela University's Second Avenue Campus in Summerstrand.

For more information on these programmes, refer to the School of Accounting website at <http://accounting.mandela.ac.za/Home>

## NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Diploma in Accountancy is included on the list of recognised qualifications with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA).