



School of Accountancy

www.sun.ac.za/accounting



Chartered Accountant (CA)

What does a CA(SA) do?

A CA can work inter alia:

- As an auditor and/or accountant for an auditing firm and is responsible for, inter alia, performing statutory audits and supplying of management advice services, tax advice services and advice about information technology.
- As an accountant in commerce and industry, (e.g. the financial or mining sector) performing a range of duties including management information; financial reporting; internal control; tax matters and asset management.
- As an independent consultant in areas including management advice, tax advice and advice regarding information technology.
- As an independent businessman/ woman

Multiple career opportunities exist. A chartered accountant is in huge demand, not only in South Africa but worldwide. Auditing firms are some of the major employers of CA's.

How to become a CA

A CA uses the designation CA (SA) and is a member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). Following the route offered by Stellenbosch University, a student must register for the BAcc degree (3 years), and then do the BAccHons degree / Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (PDA) (1 year). After gaining the required technical knowledge at university, students must enter into a 3-year contract with a registered auditing firm or other registered training organisation in commerce and industry to gain the required practical experience. In the first year of their traineeship, trainees are allowed to write the first part of SAICA's professional examination known as the Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC).

Passing the IAC allows a prospective CA to complete a specialist course (not offered by the University of Stellenbosch) and, after completing 20 months of traineeship, he/she is eligible to write the final part of SAICA's professional examination known as the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC). A prospective CA, who has met all these requirements and has completed his/her 3 years of traineeship, is allowed to register as a CA (SA) with SAICA.

Management Accounting (CIMA)

What does a management accountant do?

Management accounting combines accounting, finance and management with the leading-edge techniques needed to drive successful businesses. Chartered management accountants (amongst others):

- Advise managers about the financial implications of projects.

Financial Accounting (ACCA)

What does a financial accountant do?

As an ACCA you can work in any size or type of organisation, in any employment sector, in any country throughout the world. ACCA accountants in the corporate and public sectors transform the finance capabilities of their organisations through their in-depth skills in finance strategy, business analysis, investment appraisal, cost control, financial management, performance management, risk management, and financial reporting. In public practice, ACCA accountants provide advice from a business perspective through their deep skills and knowledge in corporate and business law, taxation and audit and assurance.

Chartered certified accountants (amongst others):

- Advise management to enable them to make informed business decisions.
- Evaluate financial performance.
- Monitor spending and financial control.
- Perform independent reviews.
- Provide financial advice and
- Prepare financial statements.

How to become an ACCA member

There are three parts to the qualification: 1) the examination syllabus, 2) practical experience and 3) a professional ethics module.

Following the route offered by the University of Stellenbosch, a student must register for the BCom (Financial Accounting)-degree (3 years). Currently students studying through Stellenbosch University are exempted from the first nine exam papers of the ACCA syllabus, which is also the maximum exemption that could be awarded by ACCA. Successful completion of the BCom (Financial Accounting)-degree

will allow a student to write the final five qualifying examinations through the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. To qualify as an ACCA member, learners must demonstrate that, in addition to passing the examinations, they have met ACCA's practical experience requirements. All learners are required to obtain a minimum of three years' relevant supervised accountancy experience and meet the minimum competence requirements for membership. In addition to all the technical skills and capabilities assessed throughout the ACCA Qualification, central to ACCA's mission and core values is the requirement that students learn about and demonstrate ethical values and professionalism. ACCA students are required to complete an online training professional ethics module.

Contact details

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Language of instruction

Undergraduate modules: presented in both Afrikaans and English.

BAcc Honours/PGDA: presented in English only with translation services to Afrikaans.

BCom Management Accounting Honours: presented in English only.

All notes and assessments are available in both Afrikaans and English.

Admission requirements

Refer to the faculty's website:
(<http://www.sun.ac.za/ems>)

- Explain the financial consequences of business decisions.
- Formulate business strategy.
- Monitor spending and financial control.
- Conduct internal business audits.
- Explain the impact of the competitive landscape and
- Bring a high level of professionalism and integrity to business.

Management Accounting is not about recording the past, in the way that financial accounting does. Instead, management accountants focus on the future; influencing and shaping strategies to develop their business' potential. They are often involved in forecasting and budgeting, cost control, risk assessment and project management. They do not compile or audit accounts but focus on assessing the unique business environment.

How to become a Chartered Management Accountant

Stellenbosch University offers the following route to become a Chartered Management Accountant:

- BCom (Management Accounting) (3 years)
- BCom Honours (Management Accounting) (1 year)
- Qualifying examinations through CIMA
- Three years' relevant work experience at any organisation worldwide

When you qualify as a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), you will join the world's largest and leading international professional body of management accountants with more than 667,000 members and students operating in more than 100 countries. You will become a Chartered Management Accountant and be able to use the letters ACMA (Associate of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) after your name. You will also be able to register as a Chartered Global Management Accountant, which is a joint venture between CIMA and the AICPA of the USA. (For more information about the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, visit their website at www.cimaglobal.com.)