

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION							
SECTION A							
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER		Botho University					
TITLE		Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in Accounting				NCQF LEVEL	8
FIELD	Business, Commerce and Management Studies		SUB-FIELD	Accounting			
New qualification		✓	Review of existing qualification				
SUB-FRAMEWORK		General Education			TVET		Higher Education
QUALIFICATION TYPE		Certificate			Diploma		Bachelor
		Bachelor Honours		✓	Master		Doctor
CREDIT VALUE:						120	
RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION							
Rationale Botswana through its Vision 2016 envisages having an educated and informed nation by 2016 (Vision 2016). This vision has been reiterated by vision 2036 that aligns the country's goals with the global agenda for sustainable development. Vision 2036 advocates for sustainable economic development through human and social development hence the need to train more accountant professionals who are still scarce in Botswana and other neighbouring countries within Southern Africa Development Community. The accountancy profession naturally spans across all business sectors and industries and supports all aspects of Botswana's economy. Accounting professionals will contribute in the following sectors: agriculture, mining, manufacturing, utilities, construction, trade, hotels & restaurants, science & technology, transport & telecommunications, finance & business services, general government and social & personal services. The economy has been diversifying and expanding constantly over the past years and there is need to sustain the growth of the foreign direct investment. For continued foreign investment there is a need to provide investors with assurance that their investments will be well taken care of, which is one of the key fundamental aspects of the accountancy profession as accountants protect public interests.							

Therefore, the expanding and increasingly diversified economy of Botswana needs competent professional accountants who are all-rounded and exhibit the following characteristics: honesty, integrity, professional competence and due care. These characteristics are a challenge to be achieved, resulting in a gap in the demand and supply of professional accountants that has left a deficit for qualified professional accountants, which the country is battling to fill in.

The government's long-term objectives need fully equipped accounting professionals. It is against this background that the qualification seeks to develop and nurture accounting professionals who are multi-skilled in this field. It also provides grounding in other areas like risk, business, and research skills. The qualification equips learners with skills that help them to work as fully-fledged accounting professionals who can find a place in any industry locally, regionally, and internationally. The qualification provides basic, technical, and advanced skills in accounting. It covers areas like economics, information technology, accounting, research, risk management and management which are vital for success by accounting professionals. HRDC report published in 2019 has shown that accounting skills are scarce in Botswana and encouraged universities to provide an adequate supply of qualified and productive graduates. Therefore, this BCom (Hons) in Accounting qualification was developed: to achieve the vision by equipping the participants with the knowledge, skills, and competencies for accounting practitioners. The current industry trends show that there is still a shortage of qualified citizens registered as professional accountants in Botswana. As of 31 October 2019, there were 1334 accountants registered with the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA), of whom 717 were non-citizens and 617 are citizens (BICA, 2019). Graduates from this qualification will gain local professional registration with BICA and other regional accounting bodies.

A market survey was conducted to establish whether the qualification was viable. The responses from the survey were positive as most prospective students (73.8%) responded yes to the need for the qualification compared to 26.2% who said the market was saturated. The qualification was also popular with the industry/ employers as 77.1 % of the employers stated that the qualification is relevant in keeping pace with trends and developments in the industry, hence the qualification is sustainable. Furthermore, a review was made by an industry expert and an academic expert.

Purpose of the Qualification

The purpose of this qualification is to produce graduates with knowledge, skills, and competence to:

- Combine various accounting skills to develop accounting policies and apply them in line with the accounting profession.
- Identify opportunities and threats in the accounting environment to create a competitive advantage for the business and make decisions regarding the optimization of financial resources.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

The minimum entry requirement for this qualification is a:

Bachelor's Degree (NCQF level 7) in Accounting or Finance or equivalent.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):

There shall be provision for entry through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) in line with institutional and national policies.

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION B		SECTION
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
1. Demonstrate understanding of the relevant accounting treatment of a range of economic transactions in accordance with the appropriate international accounting standards and correctly determine the accounting treatment to be applied and critically discuss the accounting implications of contemporary financial reporting issues, including the limitations of financial reporting.	1.1 Explain accounting treatment of a range of accounting transactions 1.2 Explain the implications of the accounting treatment of a range of accounting transactions	
2. Critically evaluate and prepare consolidated financial statements under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS/IAS) from single company statements, including accounting for business combinations such as subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures.	2.1 Prepare Consolidated Financial Statements (Statement of Financial Position (SPP), Statement of Profit or Loss (SPL), Statement of cash flow (SCF), Statement of Changes in Equity (SOCE) 2.2 Analyse Consolidated Financial Statements.	
3. Demonstrate the ability to apply concepts in management accounting control and performance measurement to various business scenarios and case studies.	3.1 Apply Management accounting concepts to solve performance management and performance measurement issues	
4. Analyse financial statements to make decisions on the strength, sustainability and adaptability of a business.	4.1 Analyse and evaluate Group financial statements 4.2 Use data in group financial statements to measure the financial strength of a business	

5. Analyse, evaluate and calculate the tax consequences of actions for individuals and companies and evaluate the interaction of taxes in given scenarios and examine the implications of other contemporary tax issues.	5.1 Calculate the taxation due to the government, given the business' financial information 5.2 Explain the tax implications and tax treatment of a range of taxation transactions (Income tax, Capital Gains, VAT etc) 5.3 Advise and assist clients in adhering to tax regulations 5.4 Discuss tax havens and implications on tax revenues, bilateral taxation treaties, blacklisting and economic being 5.5 Discuss the developments in the digital economy and its relationship with taxation.
6. Identify and formulate the work required to meet the objectives of audit assignments, within a digital environment, and apply the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and evaluate findings and the results of work performed and draft suitable reports on assignments	6.1 Identify and explain audit risk in a scenario, 6.2 Explain different Audit Opinions which can be given by External Auditors. 6.3 Prepare audit reports for use by management 6.4 Discuss the relationship between information systems accounting and auditing in supplying information that has implications on the work of an auditor 6.5 Discuss information systems auditing, controls and assurance and how they are applied during information systems development 6.6 Discuss the role of regulations and ethics auditing and implications on information

	technology governance from the point of view of auditors 6.7 Apply excel while doing the duties of an auditor 6.8 Discuss the role of data science in performing effecting audits to present new audit evidence.
7. Demonstrate the ability to work independently and present a substantive piece of research in an applied aspect of accounting, finance, business, and management critically articulating; evaluating and reflecting upon the outcomes to an appropriate critical depth.	7.1 Identify a problem statement 7.2 Critically review the literature and other appropriate contextual sources pertinent to the issue, theme, subject, or applied problem as identified within the proposal submission 7.3 Critically analyse data and write a report based on findings, drawing conclusions and recommendations for policymaking
8. Identify and analyse major issues in public sector accountability, financial management, accounting, budgeting, and performance measurement.	8.1 Identify the main components of accountability and financial management affecting government institutions 8.2 Prepare and analyse financial statements for public institutions 8.3 Analyse performance of public institutions using financial information 8.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of budgeting techniques applied by government institutions

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE							
			SECTION C				
CORE COMPONENT Subjects / Units / Modules /Courses	Title	Level	Credits				
	Corporate Reporting	8	20				
	Applied Auditing, Regulation, and Information Systems	8	20				
	Applied Management Accounting	8	10				
	Research project	8	40				
	Accounting-case study	8	10				
ELECTIVE COMPONENT Subjects / Units / Modules /Courses (Select 2)	Tax Planning	8	10				
	Applied Strategic Management	8	10				
	Applied Financial management	8	10				
	Applied Performance management	8	10				
Rules of combinations, Credit distribution (where applicable):							
Rules of Combination - The credit combination for this qualification is from 100 core components and the remaining 20 is from elective components. - Students should complete all core and elective components (120 credits) to achieve the qualification. Credit distribution: <table><tr><th>Level</th><th>Credits</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>120</td></tr></table>				Level	Credits	8	120
Level	Credits						
8	120						

ASSESSMENT & MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

This qualification is assessed and moderated as follows:

Integrated Assessment:

As assessment practices must be open, transparent, fair, valid, and reliable and ensure that no learner is disadvantaged in any way whatsoever, an integrated assessment approach is incorporated into the qualification. Both formative and summative assessment processes are monitored during the qualification to determine competence at the end of the qualification.

Formative assessment:

Learners are continuously assessed during the learning period. The contribution of formative assessment to the final grade shall be **40%**.

Summative assessment:

Integrated assessment, focusing on the achievement of the exit-level outcomes, will be done by means of a written examination. The contribution of summative assessment to the final grade shall be **60%**.

Project: Learners need to do a project and submit their project work at the end of the qualification.

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

There shall be internal and external moderation arrangements done by BQA registered and accredited Moderators.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (if applicable)

There shall be provision for the award of the qualification through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) in accordance with institutional policies in line with the National RPL and CAT Policy.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Learning Pathway:

1. Horizontal Articulation

Graduates of this qualification may consider pursuing related qualifications at this NCQF level 8 such as

- Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Risk Management
- Bachelor of Commerce Honors in Financial Management
- Bachelor of Commerce in Finance

2. Vertical Articulation:

A BCom (Hons) in Accounting graduate can pursue a:

- Master's degree in Accounting
- Master's degree in Finance or management field with an emphasis on Financialmanagement.
- Master's degree in finance
- Master's degree in Banking
- Master's degree in Risk management
- Master's degree in management

3. Graduates may pursue professional qualifications like:

- Internal Audit
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountancy (CIMA)
- Associated of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

Employment Pathway:

After completing the BCom Hons in Accounting qualification, students are expected to be practitioners as follows:

- Accountants
- Assistant Accountant
- Auditors
- Educationist
- Taxation Consultants
- Finance Managers
- Accounts Consultants
- Middle-Level Managers

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

For a Candidate to achieve this qualification they must have acquired a minimum of **120** credits. The Candidate should pass all the **CORE and 2 ELECTIVE** modules.

Certification

A **Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) in Accounting** will be awarded to a candidate upon completion of the qualification in accordance with applicable policies. A certificate and transcript will be issued at the award.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

This Qualification was compared with one international and two regional universities running similar qualifications. The following universities and their qualifications were taken for the comparison:

Regional

- University of Johannesburg (Bachelor of Business Science Honours in Accounting)
- University of Stellenbosch (Bachelor of Business Science Honours in Accounting)

International:

- University of Brighton – United Kingdom

Summary:

University of Johannesburg (UJ) - South Africa:

Bachelor of Business Science Honours in Accounting

The similarities are that both qualifications are B Com Honours degrees in accounting and they are all at level 8 except for Brighton University which is at level 6. More so, this qualification has 120 credits while the qualification from UJ has 120 credits. This qualification has 7 modules while UJ's qualification has 4 modules. This qualification will be completed in 2 semesters and the one from UJ is completed in 2 semesters. The exit learning outcomes this qualification came out with 7 exit learning outcomes whilst the University of Johannesburg came out with 7 exit learning outcomes. Graduates from both qualifications will be able to register with the accounting bodies as professional accountancy which is an added advantage to both qualifications.

University of Stellenbosch - South Africa:

The similarities are that both qualifications are offering exit outcomes that train graduates to be accountants who can work in any competitive environment. The BCom Honours in Accounting is at level 8 whilst the Bachelor of Business Science Honours in Accounting for the University of Stellenbosch is also at level 8.

More so, this qualification has 120 credits while the qualification from Stellenbosch has 120 credits. This

The qualification has 7 modules while Stellenbosch's qualification has 4 modules. This qualification will be completed in 2 semesters while the one from Stellenbosch is completed in 2 semesters. The exit learning outcomes for this qualification are 7 exit outcomes whilst the University of Stellenbosch came out with 7 exit learning outcomes. However, both students will be able to register with the accounting bodies as professional accountants which is an added advantage to both two qualifications and Honours in accounting.

University of Brighton – United Kingdom:

This qualification was benchmarked with the Bachelor of Business Science Honours in Accounting of the University of Brighton, United Kingdom. Bachelor of Business Science Honours in Accounting from the University of Brighton is registered with the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations (OFQUAL) at NQF Level 6 that is equivalent to the qualification in BCom Honours in Accounting. Both qualifications show that a graduate requires one year of further studies to complete the qualification. The main difference is in learning outcomes; This qualification has seven (7) learning outcomes whilst the University of Brighton has nine (9) learning outcomes. Graduates from both qualifications can register as members of the Institute of Banking and practice as accounting professionals. Both qualifications are completed in one year.

REVIEW PERIOD

The qualification will be reviewed every 5 Years