MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

ACCOUNTING 1

This module introduces students to the basic principles of accounting. The double-entry principle and accounting equation are addressed. In addition, students are introduced to different types of journal entries, ledger accounts and bank reconciliation statements. Different types of financial statements are also introduced.

ACCOUNTING 2

This module builds on the introductory Accounting 1 ACC152 module. It introduces the concepts of VAT and depreciation. On successful completion of this module, students will be able to prepare the Statement of Cash Flows, analyse financial statements, and prepare financial statements from incomplete financial records. Students will also learn about the different financial statements for sole proprietors and partnerships.

BUSINESS LAW AND COMPLIANCE

This module introduces students to the basic principles of commercial law, addressing a broad spectrum of content which includes all modern aspects of the field. First, an overview of the South African Legal System is covered. Second, the basic principles of contracts are presented, and then applied to examples of specific business contracts. Students are familiarised with the concept of agency and different legal business entities. Lastly, the module outlines the concepts of business conduct and compliance.

BUSINESS MATHEMATICS

This is a foundation-level module that aims to provide students with an understanding of and an ability to apply a range of mathematical techniques to real-world situations in a quantitative manner. The competencies gained in this module will be required in most other modules in the B.Com degree.

DATA AND DECISION-MAKING

In this module students will learn the importance of data in the decision-making process. They will be exposed to the fundamentals of decision making and how to assess risk and uncertainty while supporting this with well formulated and appropriate data. Students will further learn how to apply this knowledge as part of a larger project team for highly complex and more specialised decision-making environments where they act as facilitators rather than the actual analysts or decision makers.

ECONOMICS 1

This first economics module introduces students to the meaning of economics for society as well as an institutional framework to set context. It also familiarises students with relevant microeconomic tools relating to supply and demand, the production of goods and services, as well as different market forms. Finally, students learn about non-traditional economic models, like for example the platform economy, and how businesses operate in this “new” economy.

ECONOMICS 2

This module is the follow-on module from Economics 1 and as such explores further concepts in the economy, after having covered economics related to businesses and industries. First, students are introduced to the profession of an economist, in order to support them in their choice of career. The next topics relate to the macroeconomic system, policies and theories, and measuring economic performance. The module also covers unemployment and inflation, as well as the current account balance and external debt of a country. Last, students will familiarise themselves with economic growth and business cycles.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR FM 1

This module introduces the student to the financial management environment, and to first concepts in corporate finance, i,e. time value of money, valuation of financial assets, risk and return, cost of capital and capital budgeting.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR FM 2

This module exposes the student to the more in-depth financial management and corporate finance topics, like for example, mergers and acquisitions, leasing decisions and financial management in a global environment.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

This module shall introduce students on the Financial Management Major to financial markets and instruments, in order to cover Finance from a different angle (not from a corporate finance angle). Students are first familiarised with an introduction to Financial markets, and will then cover various financial instruments like, for example, equities, bonds and various derivatives. Last but not least, students will immerse themselves into how different (institutional) investors participate in the financial markets.

FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ANALYSIS

The purpose of this module is to enable students to prepare and analyse financial statements for different types of entities. The students will cover important International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in the form of the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting; Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE); Inventory; and Revenue.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

This module introduces students to contemporary global challenges that countries, companies and individuals need to find solutions for. Students will be able to place themselves in relation to the concept of citizenship, with the relevant rights and obligations. In both the local and global contexts, diversity provides students with opportunities to appreciate the value of different ways of thinking, seeing the world and the resulting richness of enhanced solutions to business challenges, many of whom are linked to ethical dilemmas. As connected actors, students are able to appreciate the importance of sustainable development in dealing with the challenges of an overstretched planet. In addition to this, students get to appreciate the impacts of corporations’ actions through corporate social responsibility programmes.

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INDUCTION TO BUSINESS STUDIES

In this induction module, students are provided with the skills and knowledge required to be successful in entry-level business degree studies. The Academic reading and writing component exposes students to good reading techniques, guides them through the writing process, and helps them to write effective academic essays. The Study skills component is aimed at providing students with basic information and techniques on how to improve their study skills from preparation to the exams. The module concludes with the Numeracy component that focuses on essential business numeracy skills required for business studies.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

This module Introduction to Business Management introduces the student to the fundamental principles of management and the essential skills and competencies for effective management. The student will be exposed to the primary management tasks: planning, organising, leading and controlling. Supporting management tasks, such as communication, motivation and delegation, are also covered. The student is introduced to how these management competencies and tasks are applied across management functions; notably, operations, financial, marketing and human resources management.

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

The purpose of this module is to introduce the student to basic business research methodologies. Business research is a process of acquiring detailed information about all the areas of the business and using this information to maximise the sales and profit of the business. Such a study helps companies determine which product/service is most profitable or in demand. In simple words, it can be stated as the acquisition of information or knowledge for professional or commercial purposes to determine opportunities and goals for a business.

PROJECT

This module is aimed at enabling students to apply the principles acquired in their chosen major (General, Financial Management, Risk Management, Economics or Investment Management) in a practical environment, after laying the foundation in the Introduction to Research module. Students will research a specific industry or business challenge, and suggest a suitable solution basis. As such, the module will foster problem solving, critical thinking and solution orientation skills. Furthermore, students will hone their report writing and presentation skills. The last part of the module introduces students to acquiring funding for and collaborating in research.

RISK MANAGEMENT 1

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the world of risk management. Globally, throughout various industries, risk management is becoming more important, and specialists are sought to work with existing and new risks. Note, however, that this is a specific and separate module on this topic, because businesses need to understand what it means to build a specific risk culture, which risks to take, and how to mitigate unwanted risks.

STATISTICS

In this module, students will gain a good theoretical and practical understanding of statistical techniques and experimental design as applied to commercial problems. The topics covered in this module address the full breadth of the components of statistics, consisting of descriptive statistics, inferential statistics and statistical modelling.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to strategic management with a practical focus. After theoretical foundations are presented, students will understand how different role players influence and interact with regard to strategy. Different strategy tools and practices are covered, as well as the importance of discourse in the formulation and implementation of strategy. Through various case studies the topic will be brought alive, from different industry perspectives.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

This module aims to enable students to understand how technology and innovation impacts business with reference to success or failure. The module commences with introducing students to the differences between creativity and innovation. Thereafter, students are provided with opportunities to understand the innovation process, paying particular attention to how a business needs to be organised for innovation. Disruptive Innovation allows students to appreciate the importance of acting speedily and intelligently in bringing new technology to market. Social Innovation, on the other hand, provides students with a different view to how products and or services can benefit society.

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