



UCT closed its online undergraduate applications on 31 July 2026. This document is a **SAMPLE** and assumes applications are still open. Several other South African universities still have undergraduate applications open, with final closing dates in September 2026. This is the last realistic window to widen your options beyond a single university.

Your UCT actuarial science analysis

Prepared for Candice Hall, Hilton, Pietermaritzburg

Dear Candice, this analysis looks at your 2025 matric results and your June 2026 upgrade marks against what the University of Cape Town usually asks for on its Bachelor of Business Science degree, and sets out where things realistically stand while you prepare for your prelims.

Your 2025 matric results

Subject	Mark
Mathematics	72%
Average	75%

UCT usually requires at least 80% for Mathematics before you would be considered for Actuarial Science, well above the 60% it asks for on most other Commerce degrees. On this result alone, your 2025 Mathematics mark of 72% would not have met the Actuarial Science requirement.

Your subjects

- Mathematics
- English Home Language
- isiZulu First Additional Language
- Physical Science
- Economics
- Business Studies
- Geography
- Life Orientation

Your June 2026 upgrade results

Subject	Mark
Mathematics	80%
Average	82%

Your June Mathematics mark of 80% meets the usual minimum UCT looks for in Actuarial Science. Your average of 82% is also strong. If your final marks in October and November stay at around this level, you have a realistic chance of an offer for Actuarial Science.

An average of this level may also put you forward for the Extended Degree Programme. This is the same degree, organised over five years rather than four, with additional academic support built in, so the heavy Mathematics workload is spread out rather than concentrated into the first year.

Your Faculty Points Score (FPS)

Subject	Mark
Business Studies	88%
Geography	84%
English HL	83%
Economics	82%
Mathematics	80%
isiZulu FAL	80%

For Commerce, UCT's Faculty Points Score is the total of your six best subject percentages, English plus your best five others, with Life Orientation never counted. Adding these six gives you 497 out of 600.

Unlike Health Sciences, Commerce does not add your NBT results on top of this 497 to reach a further total. Your FPS for Commerce is the 497 itself. The NBT AQL is a separate requirement you still need to meet rather than extra points added to your FPS: you are aiming for a strong result in both the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy sections, particularly Quantitative Literacy given Actuarial Science.

Public guides vary on exactly where the competitive line sits for Actuarial Science, with figures commonly quoted from around 500 upward, so at 497 you are close to that range. Because UCT does not publish one fixed cut-off and it can move slightly each year, it is worth confirming the current figure with UCT Commerce admissions once your prelim marks are in.

One more thing worth knowing: Commerce applicants generally only need to write the Academic and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) National Benchmark Test, not the separate Mathematics NBT. It is worth putting remaining preparation time into the AQL rather than the Maths NBT.

Understanding actuarial science and board exams

Actuarial science is the use of mathematics and statistics to work out risk, most often for insurance, pensions and investments. Becoming a qualified actuary is not only a matter of the degree title you graduate with. After university, actuaries also have to pass a further set of professional exams, generally referred to as board exams, set by the Actuarial Society of South Africa. Most people write these over several years while working as an actuarial analyst.

UCT does not allow you to move into Actuarial Science once you have already started a different degree, so being offered a place in it from the outset matters. However, if UCT instead offers you a place in the Economics stream of the same faculty, you would take almost the same first year Mathematics and Statistics courses as the Actuarial Science students. The Economics degree focuses more on how money moves between countries and how markets behave, rather than on insurance and risk directly, but the level of mathematics involved would still allow you to go on and write the board exams later. This is a well recognised route into the profession, particularly in banking and finance.

Final stretch: universities close in September

LogTraq prepares this kind of analysis, checking a student's marks against the entry requirements of a specific university and degree, and **assist with the application process**. If you have questions about this analysis, contact us on 079 325 7256.