



Higher Certificate in Financial Services (HCFS500)

**FACT
SHEET**

Higher Certificate in Financial Services

The Higher Certificate in Financial Services is a one-year foundational programme designed to introduce students to the core disciplines of financial planning, risk management, banking, and insurance, particularly within the South African financial environment. It prepares learners for entry-level roles in financial services or further academic study.

Learners will explore how financial institutions operate, understand the legal and ethical frameworks governing the industry, and acquire practical tools for risk analysis, investment planning, and client engagement.

The programme integrates theoretical learning with real-world application to ensure graduates are work-ready and confident in their professional environments.



Modules

* Prescribed textbooks, must be obtained by students at their own cost prior to the commencement of their studies

Module Codes	Description	Credits	Semester
HCFS501	Financial Planning A	3	1
HCFS502	Banking A	3	1
HCFS503	Fundamentals of risk management	3	1
HCFS504	Financial Planning B	3	2
HCFS505	Banking B	3	2
HCFS506	Fundamentals of Insurance	3	2



Assessment

The assessment approach is blended and includes:

- Practical tasks
- Case studies
- Quizzes
- Written assignments
- Final exams

Outcomes

- Apply core financial planning principles including investment and tax planning.
- Analyse and treat various types of risk in an organisational setting.
- Understand banking systems, financial markets, and monetary policy fundamentals.
- Compare and evaluate insurance products, principles, regulations, and innovations.
- Conduct basic financial calculations including returns, interest, and tax.
- Demonstrate awareness of ethical responsibilities in financial decision-making.
- Interpret and respond to evolving financial and economic environments

Admission Requirements

South African Applicants

- National Senior Certificate (NSC) or equivalent, with a minimum of NQF Level 4
- Proficiency in English and Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be applied for mature learners

International Applicants

- Completion of a qualification equivalent to NQF Level 4 (e.g. IGCSE, GED, A-Levels, IB)
- English language proficiency (e.g. IELTS 5.5 / TOEFL iBT 60+)
- SAQA evaluation may be required for non-South African qualifications



Completion Time

Full-time Duration: 12 months

Career Opportunities

Higher Certificate in Financial Services

- Financial Services Administrator
- Banking Support Assistant
- Insurance Claims Consultant
- Risk Management Assistant
- Junior Financial Advisor
- Client Services Representative