

Sustainability Assurance

As business continues to face social, economic and governance challenges, the level of interest in sustainable value creation will increase. Stakeholders are demanding more accountability from business and seek reassurance that information provided in sustainability and other forms of non-financial reporting is credible. They assume that because the information has been assured by an independent expert, it must be a faithful representation of an organisation's value creation and long-term sustainability. From a company's perspective, the pressure to have their sustainability-related or other types of non-financial information assured can be immense. Organisations allow market trends to guide their decisions on what and how to have their reports assured rather than being informed by the need to use assurance as part of the broader value creation process. The result is that they are ill-prepared for the assurance process and cannot maximise the benefits which can be provided by having their reporting, systems and processes subject to third party verification. This short course provides candidates with a conceptual and theoretical appreciation of assurance in the context of sustainability and integrated reporting. The course is designed to further candidates' understanding of how emerging forms of assurance (and related concepts) are being applied in practice. Candidates will be exposed to a mix of technical and professional publications, complemented to a limited extent by relevant academic readings. They are required to engage with an alternate perspective on the drivers and benefits of assurance being advanced by practitioners and assurance experts.

Wits University, in partnership with SAICA, decided to create a series of short courses dealing with the role and function of the CVO aimed specifically at chartered accountants.

The CVO Programme is part of a continuing research-driven enquiry into integrated reporting, integrated thinking and sustainable development being undertaken by the Wits School of Accountancy. It consists of three short courses, of which Sustainability Assurance is the third.

Target Audience: Limited to Registered CA SA (SAICA) members only at present



Some of the leading minds in Sustainability Assurance will provide input to, and lecture on the course including those from the Wits School of Accountancy and topic experts from the profession and business. These include:

- Prof Warren Maroun, Wits
- Adj Prof Yvette Lange, Wits
- Danielle Cerbone, Wits
- Zubair Wadee - Wits

Sustainability Assurance

Course Facts



Course delivery

Online, digitised short course



Course duration

Eight weeks



Notional learning hours

6-8 learning hours per week, anytime, anywhere



B-BBEE

Where applicable, assistance offered to obtain Category B recognition under the skills development element of the B-BBEE scorecard



Learner Journey Management

The Wits DigitalCampus team provide learning support throughout the course



Accreditation

There are two options for accreditation – Certificate of Competence or certificate of attendance from the University of Witwatersrand



Target market

All Chartered Accountants [CAs(SA)] who are registered and in good standing with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)



Assessment

For those who enrol 'by competence', prescribed assessments must be completed. The pass mark is 50%. You will be awarded a certificate of competence upon successful completion of the course. For participants who prefer not to write assignments, the course can be completed 'by attendance'. A certificate of attendance is awarded upon the completion of the requisite number of hours on the course.



Course outcomes

On completion of the course, participants will therefore have a detailed understanding of the importance of Assurance and will be provided with a conceptual and theoretical appreciation of assurance in the context of sustainability and integrated reporting. The course is designed to further candidates' understanding of how emerging forms of assurance (and related concepts) are being applied in practice.

📍 Learner Journey Management

Our Wits DigitalCampus Learner Journey team will ensure that all applicants are enrolled, informed, supported and motivated to complete the course. The team can be contacted online, telephonically or by email and will respond to learner queries and comments within a working day.

Our effective Learner Journey Management is evident in these statistics across all our current courses:

Course completion rate:

97% plus

Course pass rate:

94% plus

Sustainability Assurance

Course Outline



Application & Payment Process

Apply online at www.digitalcampus.co.za

In accordance with Wits policies, upfront payment is required to register for the course. The payment of the fees for this course is the responsibility of the individual registering for the course.

Group discounts available, speak to the Sales team.

For any application or payment queries, please contact the DigitalCampus sales team.