

HIGH SCHOOL TO QUALIFICATION

The ACCA Route

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) is one of the world's largest and most globally portable accounting qualifications. It's exam-driven, flexible, and recognised in over 180 countries. Here's the path, step by step.

TYPICAL TIMELINE 3–4 years	GOVERNING BODY ACCA (Global)	TOTAL EXAMS Up to 13	GLOBAL REACH 180+ countries
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Your Roadmap

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1. High School — Meet the entry bar

You'll need a matric certificate (or equivalent) with passes in Mathematics and English, generally a Grade 3 (around 40%) or higher. If you don't quite meet this, the FIA (Foundations in Accountancy) route offers a gentler way in.

Grades 10–12
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2. Register with ACCA Global

Create your ACCA student account online. If you already hold a relevant degree or diploma, check the exemptions calculator first — you could skip up to 9 exams.

Online, self-paced
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3. Applied Knowledge (3 exams)

Business and Technology, Management Accounting, and Financial Accounting basics. Builds your foundation in how businesses actually work.

Level 1 of 3
- 4

4. Applied Skills (6 exams)

Corporate and business law, performance management, taxation, financial reporting, audit and assurance, and financial management. This is where real technical depth builds.

Level 2 of 3
- 5

5. Ethics and Professional Skills Module

A required online module developing professional judgement and ethics, completed alongside or before your final level.

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6. Strategic Professional (4 exams)

Two compulsory exams plus two options chosen to match the career direction you want — audit, tax, advisory, or performance management.

Level 3 of 3, the final exams

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7. Practical Experience Requirement (PER)

36 months of supervised, relevant work experience, demonstrating 13 performance objectives. Can be completed before, during, or after your exams.

Minimum 3 years

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8. ACCA Membership

Once exams, ethics module and PER are all complete, apply for membership. You're now a globally recognised ACCA professional.

Final step

Good to know: this route is built for flexibility

ACCA doesn't require a single accredited South African university, and it's exam-based rather than degree-based. That makes it a strong option if you're studying part-time while working, or want a globally portable qualification from the start.

Heads up: the qualification is changing

ACCA is redesigning its qualification, with new exams beginning in July 2027, including updated modules on technology, AI and sustainability. If you're starting now, confirm with ACCA Global which structure applies to you.

Requirements can change. Always confirm current details at accaglobal.com before making final study decisions. This guide is provided by LGC Foundation as a starting point, not professional advice.