

The numbers game for a commerce student begins with the cut-off percentage that hovers between 95 and 100 for good colleges. A wide range of courses opens up a host of possibilities for a biz whiz

Business of Numbers

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INFLATION and economic slowdown may have slackened the Indian growth story, but these have not indented the popularity of the Commerce stream in any which way. In India, where non-science students are at a disadvantage when it comes to making career switches later in life, several students opt for the Commerce stream at Class XI level as it is one stream that opens doors to a vast range of career options in banking, insurance, stock market, corporate, law and many other sectors. However, it is important to opt for subjects/fields that interest you the most and for which you have the right aptitude. This way you will never lose focus of the career goals that you started out with. It is a highly competitive field as the cut off for commerce courses remains very high. To get admission in one of the best colleges in commerce, you must have scored above 90 per cent, in fact, only a score of above 95 per cent marks is likely to secure a seat for you in the best colleges. Last year SRCC, Delhi, has admitted students with 100 per cent score.

Different courses that a commerce student can opt for are in the following two broad segments:

Graduation

Bachelor of Commerce: This degree is designed to equip students with a wide range of managerial skills, while at the same time building competence in general business principles, taking courses in accounting/finance, human resources, statistics, marketing, economics, and information systems.

Bachelor of Arts (Economics): This is a specialised academic degree in social sciences encompassing microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, economic statistics, history of economic thought and political economy. Courses in mathematics and statistics as well as in accountancy are often required when offered as a business degree. Some universities offer specialisations in a particular area of economics, such as applied economics, financial economics, mathematical economics and political economy.

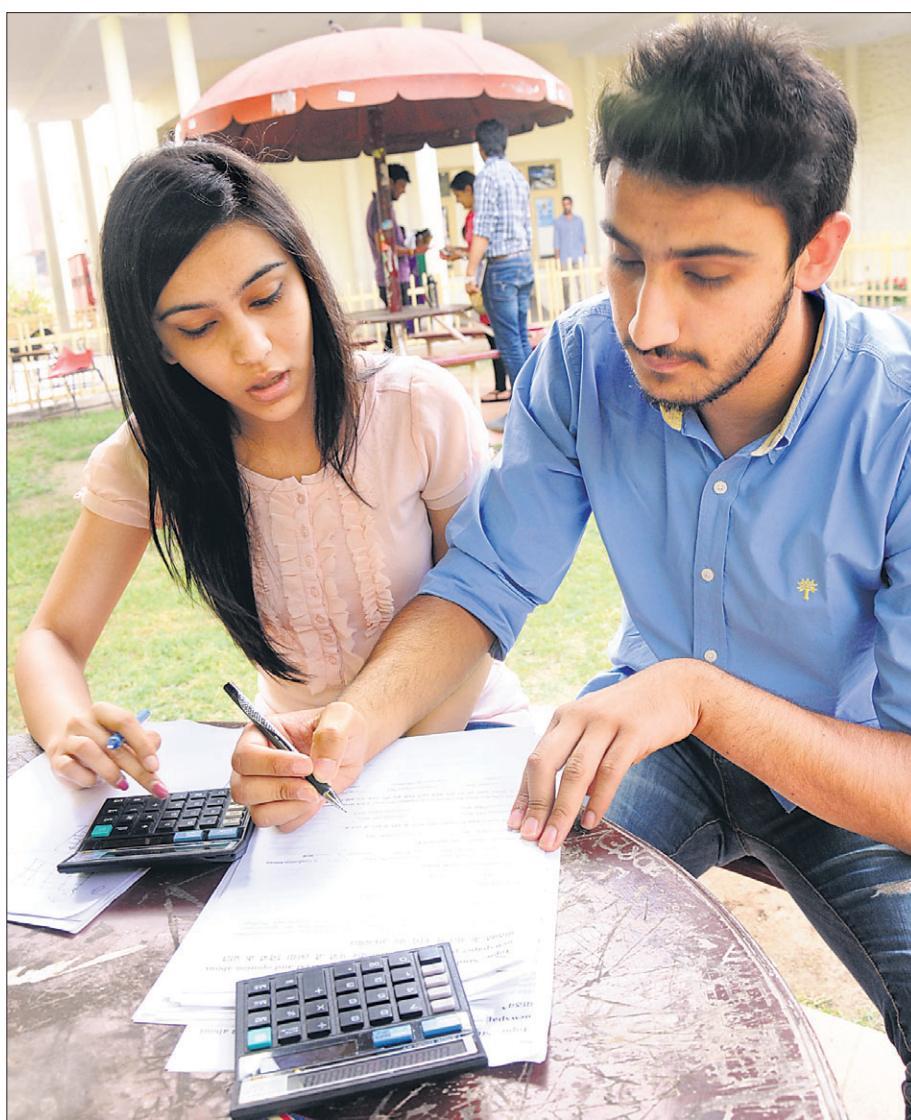
Bachelor of Business Administration: This is a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration. In most universities, the degree is conferred upon a student after four years of full-time study in one or more areas of business concentrations. The BBA programme usually includes general business courses and advanced courses for specific concentrations.

This degree is designed to give a broad knowledge of the functional areas of a company, while also allowing for specialisation in a particular area. BBA programmes thus expose students to a variety of "core subjects" and allow them to specialise in a specific academic area. It also develops a student's practical managerial skills, communication skills and business decision-making capability. Many programmes, thus, incorporate training and practical experience, in the form of case projects, presentations, internships, industrial visits, and interaction with experts from the industry.

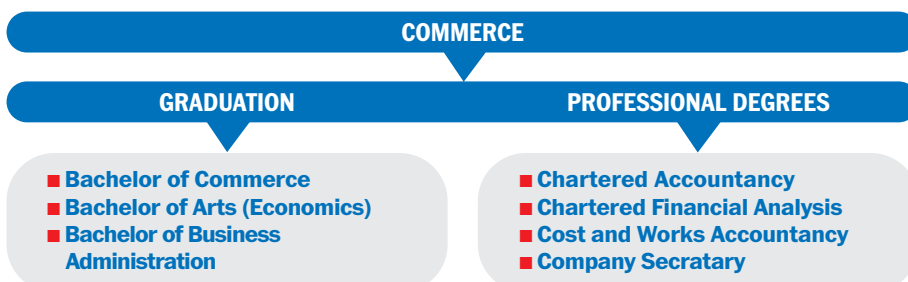
Professional degrees

These degrees can also be pursued alongside the bachelor's degrees to give that extra edge to your resume.

Chartered Accountancy: Chartered



YOU NEVER HAVE TO CALCULATE YOUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS AFTER CHOOSING COMMERCE STREAM



STAR INSTITUTES (ALL-INDIA)

BCom/BBA

- Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi
- St Xavier's College, Kolkata
- Loyola College, Chennai
- Christ University, Bangalore
- Narsee Monjee College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai
- Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Delhi University
- Madras Christian College, Chennai
- Symbiosis Centre of Management Studies, Noida

Chartered Accountancy

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
Indraprastha Institute of Finance and Accounts, New Delhi

Cost and Works Accountancy

The Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India

Company Secretary

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, New Delhi
Loyala College, Chennai

Accountancy is the core of all businesses and a dynamic, challenging and rewarding profession that continues to attract a large number of aspirants year after year. With the rapid growth in economy, careers in finance and accounts have gained tremendous popularity. The study route for a student who is interested in pursuing a career in Chartered Accountancy essentially involves three main stages — enrolling & appearing

for the Common Proficiency Test (CPT), appearing for and clearing the Integrated Professional Competence Course (IPCC), and lastly, clearing the CA Final examination. A student can pursue it alongside or after finishing graduation in any subject. Most students prefer graduating in economics, business studies, commerce etc. while getting CA qualification.

Chartered Financial Analysis: CFAs pro-

vide expertise in the area of management accounting as also a range of financial services, covering project planning, merchant banking services, portfolio management, venture capital, leasing, hire purchase, new issue management, credit rating and other allied areas. The CFA course is a PG programme conducted through postal tuition, and admission is on the basis of an entrance test. The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI), Hyderabad, that has branches in different cities, is the premier institution for this programme. Some business management institutes also offer this course.

Cost and Works Accountancy: Cost and Works Accountants structure the business policy of a company and give a forecast for projects to be carried out based on the company's financial history and current performance. Students have to pass the Foundation, Intermediate and Final levels to become a qualified Cost and Works Accountant. Students can either pursue this degree after Class XII or can finish their graduation and sit for the Intermediate level directly.

Aptitude and skills

You are fit to take up commerce if you:

- Are extremely good at numbers
- Take active interest in analysing the economy, the share market
- Like studying about how to manage an organisation, how to work on building a good economy, how to work and manage a team etc.
- Have good reading and comprehension skills and can analyse and interpret data.

Company Secretary: A company secretary's job profile today would typically encompass corporate restructuring, formulating corporate policies, managing public issues, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures within and outside India. Curiosity and an eagerness to understand, analyse and interpret complex and technical legal issues are requisites for pursuing this course. A general interest in economics, business and finance and excellent communication skills are added advantages. To be a Company Secretary a student can either join the course conducted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for CS after Class XII or after graduation. A candidate who wants to pursue the Company Secretaryship course under the new scheme of examination has to complete the following three stages:

- **Foundation Programme**
- **Executive Programme**
- **Professional Programme**

After qualifying for the professional examination and on successful completion of training, a candidate can be an Associate Member of the ICSI and can use the letters ACS after his/her name i.e. Associate Company Secretary.

Other options: Those completing Plus II in commerce stream may also apply for professional courses like the five-year integrated law degree course, or the three or four-year hotel management degree course or Bachelor of Fine Arts in fine arts/applied art or an undergraduate programme in design, fashion design or allied programmes that are suitable for those with aptitude for drawing/sketching.

— The writer is Career Expert, Meritnation.com

TOP Commerce colleges

Shri Ram College of Commerce

New Delhi

www.srcc.edu

Seats: 501

Cut-off: 98 per cent

USP: Experienced faculty and a fluid academic culture makes this college the top ranked one year after year for Commerce courses.

Lady Shri Ram College for Women

New Delhi

www.lsrccollege.org

Seats: 45

Cut-off: 97 per cent

USP: LSR is one of the finest institutions for commerce, social science and humanities, while also offering a BSc in statistics. Professional courses like Elementary Education and Journalism are among its strengths.

Hindu College, New Delhi

http://www.hinducollege.org/

Cut-off: 96.25 per cent (first cut off list)

USP: The Commerce Department has a specialised computer lab and a central computer lab with one computer for every student. The college also offers admission to Masters in Commerce courses.

GGSDS College, Sector 32

Chandigarh

www.ggsdsc.com

Seats: B.Com - 280; BBA - 120

Cut-off: B.Com - 92 %, BBA - 88 %

USP: The college has been awarded "A" Grade by NAAC. It has been granted the status of "College with Potential for Excellence" by UGC.

MCM DAV College for Women

Chandigarh

www.mcmdavcw-chd.edu

Seats: B.Com (210); B.B.A.(40)

Cut-off: 75 per cent

USP: The college has state-of-the-art computer labs, multimedia centre and seminar room fitted with latest teaching, learning aids - OHPs, LCDs, computers etc.

Government College for Girls

Ludhiana

principal@gcgudhiana.org

Seats: BBA- 40; B.Com - 170.

Cut-off: 92 per cent

Claim to fame: Maximum university positions in different undergraduate courses and national championships in Sports.

Multani Mal Modi College

Patiala

http://www.modicollege.com

Seats: B.Com (180); BBA (50).

Cut-off: B.Com (73 per cent); BBA (62 per cent).

USP: The college is conferred with the status of "College for Potential of Excellence" by UGC.

Government Bikram College of Commerce

Patiala

www.gbcpatiala.org

Seats: B.Com (240); vocational course in Office Management and Secretarial Practice (30).

Cut-off: NA

USP: One of the oldest colleges in the state, it exclusively imparts education in the commerce stream.

DAV College,

Amritsar

Established: 1955

www.davindia-asr.org

Cut off: 70 per cent

Seats in different courses: BBA (100); B.Com (225); B.Com.(P) (150)

Claim to fame: Accreditation: A+ Grade by NAAC, UGC's Selected College with Potential for Excellence

Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya

Jalandhar

www.hrmv.org

Seats: B.Com reg. (225); professional (180); BBA (100)

Cut-off: NA

USP: NAAC A grade. First Indian college to be awarded maximum score of 3.83 CGPA out of 4 by NAAC.

Apeejay Institute of Management,

Jalandhar

Established:1997

Seats: BBA

Cut off:

USP: The campus has modern lecture theatres with smart boards, air-conditioned conference hall with latest PA system, state-of-the-art computer labs with 534 computers along with latest software and round-the-clock internet

(Based on selected lists from India Today, Outlook and other surveys)

Maximising Maths

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

IF the commerce stream is your choice and you are looking for a different and challenging career course then check out Actuarial science. This relatively new field in India is well suited for commerce students. It involves the study of application of statistics and mathematical methods that involve risk management in financial institutions like banks and financial sectors. Actuarial courses involve application of mathematics and statistical methods related to business management and insurance problems. The course study involves instructing students on quantitative and non quantitative risk management, forecasting theory, expansion of risk tables, computer assisted research, secondary data analysis, economic risks in the business sector as well as insurance field.

A person who has completed his graduation in first class with mathematics or postgraduates is well qualified for a career in this field. One has to study probability, finance, statistics and economics that helps in solving the problems in any business facility.

There are a number of universities



that offer an undergraduate course and post graduate courses in actuarial sciences. The candidate should have complete Class XII in the commerce stream. There are several colleges in India that

teach Actuarial science. One can opt for a graduate course BA in Insurance, or Bachelor of Science in Actuarial science. The admission is based on the merit scored in the entrance exam held by the various institutions. Some of the entrance exams are: Institute of Actuaries of India entrance exam Actuarial society of India entrance exam

Where to study

- Amity School of Insurance and Actuarial Science, Noida
- Guru Nanak Dev University
- Jaipuria Institute of Management College Of Vocational Studies, Delhi University, Delhi

Important websites

Actuarial Society Of India
www.actuariesindia.org
Institute of Actuaries - London
www.actuaries.org.uk
Institute Of Actuaries - Australia
www.actuaries.asn.au
Society Of Actuaries, USA
www.beanactuaries.net
Insurance Regulatory And Development Authority - Hyderabad
www.irdaindia.org

Sound Account

BANKING AND FINANCE

THE massive growth in the banking sector has increased the demand for bank professionals with public sector, foreign and multinational banks recruit more and more MBA graduates, CAs and CFAs to enhance their efficiency. There are specialised courses for students wanting to enter banking and finance sector. For admission in a bachelor's degree, the candidate must have passed the higher secondary school certificate (Class XII) examination with commerce subjects such as accounts, maths and economics. The duration for this course is three years. Some of the courses that students can check out are:

- Certificate Course in Banking and Financing
- Certificate course in Banking
- Diploma Courses in Banking and Financing
- Diploma In Banking Services
- Bachelor of Commerce in Banking & Finance
- Bachelor of Commerce in Banking Management

Professionals in this sector usually work in commercial banks, mortgage companies, savings and loan establishments and credit unions. Government agencies and companies also require financial services professionals to manage their portfolios and statements and also to audit and regulate other institutions.

Where to study

- Indian Institute of Banking and Finance, Mumbai
- Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, University of Delhi
- Department of Financial Studies, University of Delhi (PhD)