

2026 CASE COMPETITION: INTRODUCTION & KICKOFF

January 7, 2026

AGENDA



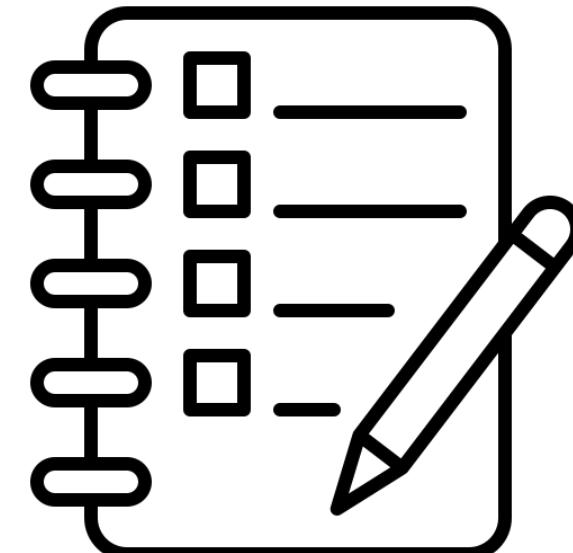
Important Information



Walkthrough of the Case Process



Final Words and Tips



01

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



CASE COMPETITION LOGISTICS

- Case Competition First Round (UCLA Teams)
 - Date: Friday, January 16th
 - Location: Mathematical Sciences Building (Room TBD)
 - Time: 5-8PM (Times may vary based on the number of teams)
- All deliverables due by January 16th, 5PM
- Submit as “*Team XX 2026 Deliverables*”
- Sign up for 20-minute slots (10 mins presentation, 10 mins Q&A)



CASE COMPETITION LOGISTICS

- Case Competition First Round (Non-UCLA Teams)
 - Date: Saturday, January 17th
 - Location: Zoom (Virtual)
- Time: 5-8PM (Times may vary based on the number of teams)
- All deliverables due by January 16th, 5PM
- Submit as “*Team XX 2026 Deliverables*”
- Sign up for 20-minute slots (10 mins presentation, 10 mins Q&A)



CASE COMPETITION LOGISTICS

- Final Round
 - Date: Friday, January 23rd
 - Location: Bruin Viewpoint Room
 - Time: 6:00-8:30 PM
- 4 Finalist Teams will make it to this round
- All revised deliverables due by January 21st, 8AM
- Judged by Case Writers and real-life actuaries
- Chance to network with Firm Representatives after presentations



CASE COMPETITION LOGISTICS

- Teams of at most four (4) undergraduate UCLA students
 - At least two (2) of whom must be first-years, second-years, or first-year transfers
 - All members must be paid BAS Members
 - You may network after this workshop in order to find additional team members or join an existing team



MINDSET

- Underclassmen are **NOT** a burden
 - If roles are properly assigned, the inclusion of Underclassmen can increase the efficiency of a team.
- Expect to spend long hours on the case, especially leading up to submission. Nevertheless, we recommend that you **START EARLY!**
- This case competition is going to mirror real problems actuaries face, therefore there may not be a single correct answer. **Justification is KEY!**



PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST TEAM MEETING

1. Set up a communication platform that works for everyone. Exchange contacts/emails etc.
2. Discuss how you would like to work early on (Individual/Collective; In-person/Virtual, etc)
3. Decide on meeting times, with higher frequency and longer durations leading up to the 16th (Next Friday)
 - Get to know any potential calendar blocks that your teammates may have
4. After you receive the case, read it thoroughly and come to the first meeting ready to discuss.
 - **Advice:** Don't waste valuable group time reading the case!



02

WALKTHROUGH

01. DETAIL YOUR ACTION PLAN

- Prioritize more immediate tasks.
 - E.g. understanding terminology, tasks, the Excel workbook, and how they all correlate.
- Look closely. The case might list out steps for you to follow!

2020 Case:

1. Analyze the data by the bands provided. For each factor, consider if the win rates are intuitive. If so, explain the intuition. If not, explain why these results might've occurred.
 - (a) Assuming the same amount of utilization, what are some other factors that could cause one group to have a higher loss ratio than others?
 - (b) In the past, some groups with a higher loss ratio had a lower rate increase. Give some reasons as to why this might've occurred.



02. LOOK FOR INFORMATION

- Go through the case question line-by-line and highlight words/phrases that are foreign to you. Here, have a **low bar** for “foreign”!
 - You should refer to the provided list of definitions in the case, experienced team members, or online research.
 - You are welcomed to use ChatGPT/other AI tools to aid understanding.

2021 Case:

Single Premium Immediate Annuity (SPIA) – As the simplest form of **annuity**, a SPIA policy provides retirement protection by **paying level benefits until the death of an annuitant**. SPIA policies are **funded with a single upfront premium**, often coming from all or a portion of someone’s 401k upon retirement.



03. EXAMINE THE DATA

- Compare the data to your action plan, determine what information you need to know.
 - Is there any terminology in the workbook you need to look up?
 - Do you understand what the data represents?
- Think about what you know and what you don't know. Discuss with your teammates what steps need to be taken.



04. DELEGATE DUTIES WISELY

- An Excel or Python file isn't like Google Docs/Google Sheets where you can collaborate in real-time and changes are synced across users.
- The person most experienced with Excel or Python can be the “keeper” of the data; the people with design or research skills can work on other parts of the case, such as preparing the report, slide deck, etc.
- Roles are fluid and NOT strict!



04(A). TECHNICAL ROLES

- Act as the Analysts in the team. Process the data/ run the projections so that Team can derive insights from initial materials.
- The most experienced will maintain a Master Copy of the Excel or Python files. **Highly recommended to keep backups between work sessions!**
- Explain technical procedures to other members so that they can help to catch potential errors or logical flaws.



04(B). NON-TECHNICAL ROLES

- Don't avoid Excel or Python. The whole point is to learn! Speak up if you think you can meaningfully contribute to the quantitative aspects.
- Research background info pertaining to actuarial concepts and standards.
- Discuss how to make certain calculations. Once everyone agrees on the methods, assign calculations to each person.
- Create charts and graphics for the presentations.



04(D). TEAM COLLABORATION

- To work around the lack of real-time collaboration in Excel and Python:
 - Team members can perform analysis in their own Excel and .ipynb files.
 - Name files in a way that is consistent and easy to understand.
 - Individual sheets are sent to a member to be compiled into one central file.
 - This member should regularly send out updated and consolidated sheets to the rest of the team so everyone has updated info to work with.



05. ASSIGN TASKS TO EACH PERSON

- One person starts cleaning and organizing data in a useful manner
- Other team members select independent parts to work on
 - Assign tasks by question number or by task type (Python/Excel/research/report)
 - Re-assign tasks along the way as they are completed
- **Important:** Make sure everyone is on the same page!
 - Dissect each task together and clear up any points of confusion
 - Discuss methods and findings for coding/analysis



06. ASSIGN SECTIONS OF DELIVERABLES

- Decide together on the theme and format of the task report + company presentation
 - Suggested: Divide labor evenly amongst the deliverables
 - Assign the person who worked on a specific task to the respective task report/slides
- Communicate!
 - Ensure everyone is following through with expectations and deadlines
 - Double-check each other's work for completion



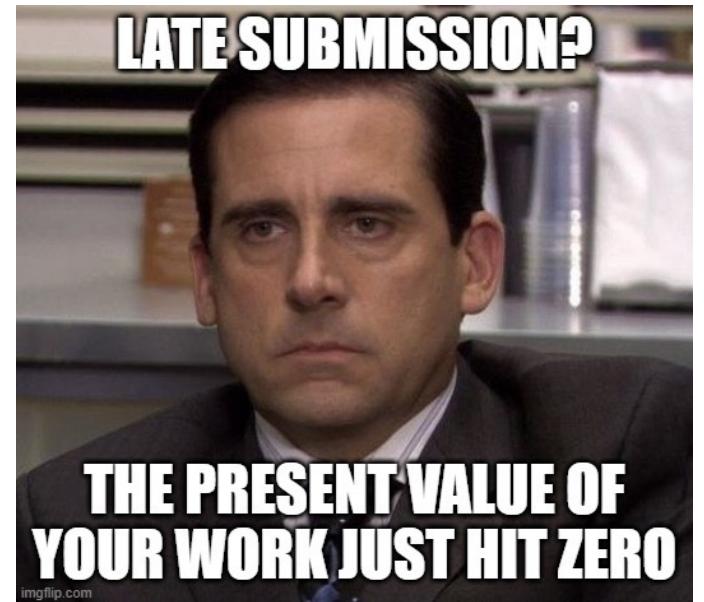
07. PRACTICE PRESENTING

- Decide who will present what slides
- Rehearse individual parts
 - Practice your gestures and posture to enhance professionalism
 - Maintain a natural flow and tone, avoid sounding robotic
- Run through full presentation as a team
 - Dial in on timing and slide transitions
 - Share feedback with one another
- Ensure the presentation runs within the allotted timeframe



08. SUBMIT DELIVERABLES ON TIME!

- Include:
 - Task report
 - Company presentation
- **No** late submissions will be accepted!
- You **can't** compete with what you **don't** submit



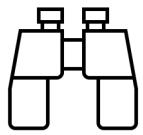
WALKTHROUGH RECAP



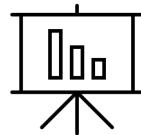
Detail your action plan



Assign tasks to each person



Look for information



Assign parts of deliverables



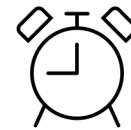
Examine the data



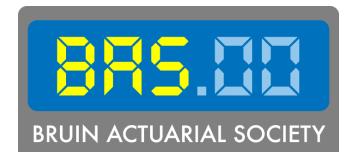
Practice Presenting



Delegate duties wisely



Submit on time!



03

FINAL WORDS + TIPS



PREPARATION TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Present confidently
 - Share everything you've worked on – everything counts!
 - Clearly state your success and any notable knowledge gaps
 - Prioritize actionable items that can be presented
- Leverage available resources
 - Refer to finalists' presentation as examples of presentation design and layout
 - Refer to BAS past workshops for help on technical and presentation skills
 - CAS website also offers a lot of valuable resources



PREPARATION TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Case Competition 2025

Thirteenth Annual Actuarial Case Competition

January 2025 - Presented by Aon

for a commercial property policy that will cover three specific perils: NWS, EQ, and Fire. They are seeking various combinations of retentions/limits to ensure that Montgomery is presented with the best terms. The risk manager has requested the assistance of an actuary to help pick the "optimal" program – balancing company internal objectives with cost-effectiveness."

You can find the case files [here](#).

First-Place Winners

Team 18 (UCLA)

Patricia Lansang
Ashley Li
Otilia Olson
Grace Yang
Presentation
Memorandum

Finalists

Team 14 (UCLA)

Grant Berkey
Ariel Farzan
Atharva Raut
Presentation
Memorandum

Team 17 (UCLA)

Evan Dixon
Ismael Martinez
Bryson DeMain
Kristen Ngo
Presentation
Memorandum

Team 06 (UCSD)

Willem De Haan
Raine Hoang
Zaide Pasion
May Tran
Presentation
Memorandum

Past Competitions

Twelfth Annual Actuarial Case Competition

January 2024 - Presented by Corebridge Financial

Eleventh Annual Actuarial Case Competition

January 2023 - Presented by Blue Shield of California

895.00

BRUIN ACTUARIAL SOCIETY

TEAMWORK & PROBLEM SOLVING

- Communication is KEY!
 - Daily messaging and in-person meetings are essential
 - Discuss calculations, assumptions, and methodologies as a team
 - Explain your thought processes clearly to catch errors on any work, recommendations, conclusions, etc.
- Keep a positive mindset
 - Focus on delivering what you can, regardless of challenges
 - Practice multiple times, but don't stress about perfection
 - Some teams didn't think they would make it to the final round, but end up winning the competition
 - The case competition will be a valuable experience for everyone



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Proper job delegation is key to making strong progress
- Be sure to discuss working habits and check-in with each other
- Don't let unfamiliarity or vagueness hold you back; it is not supposed to be trivial.
- Enjoy the process and good luck!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please scan the QR code for attendance
- Designate one main contact to fill out the registration form by 8:00 PM tonight to participate
- Case files will be sent to main contacts tonight
- Look out for communication next week to sign up for presentation slots



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THANK YOU!

Any questions?