

FIRST-YEAR WORKSHOP

October 23, 2025

AGENDA



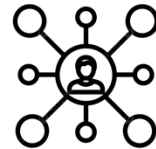
Introduction to the
Actuarial Career



What to Study



Exams



Recruitment



Overview

01

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACTUARIAL CAREER



THE ACTUARIAL CAREER

Actuaries analyze risk and uncertainty in...

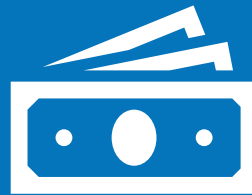
Insurance

- How much money should an insurance company charge for car insurance?



Retirement

- How much money should a company invest to pay for their employee's pensions?



Other Areas

- How should a company estimate the loss caused by an oil spill?



ACTUARIAL FIRMS

Property & Casualty (P&C)

- Allstate
- CSAA
- Farmers
- Liberty Mutual



Health & Benefits

- Aetna
- Anthem
- Kaiser Permanente
- UnitedHealth Group



Life

- Corebridge Financial (AIG)
- New York Life
- Pacific Life



Retirement

- Aon
- Fidelity
- Mercer



Reinsurance

- Gen Re
- Munich Re
- Swiss Re



Consulting

- Milliman
- Oliver Wyman
- WTW



02

WHAT TO STUDY



WHAT TO STUDY: FAM MAJOR

Financial Actuarial Mathematics

- Pre-Major: 13 courses
 - MATH 31A to 33B, MATH 11N/42/61/70
 - MGMT 1A
 - ECON 1, 2, 11
 - PIC 10A, 10B/16A
- Major: 12 Upper Division Math Courses
 - MATH 170E, 170S, 177
 - MATH 178A, 178B, 178C (Foundations of Actuarial Mathematics)

During your first year...

- Take math courses every quarter
- Start ECON/MGMT/PIC requirements
- Start GE's (save some for senior year)



WHAT TO STUDY: OTHER MAJORS

Actuaries come from all kinds of majors and minors.

- A quantitative background is usually preferred.

Potential majors:

Major	Requirements (excluding prereqs)
Mathematics	12 pure math courses
Applied Mathematics	12 applied math courses
Mathematics of Computation	14 math and computer science courses
Mathematics/Economics	14 math and economics courses
Data Theory	16 math and statistics courses, including a capstone project
Statistics & Data Science	13 statistics courses
Business Economics	10 economics and management courses



WHAT TO STUDY: MINORS

If your major is less quantitative or you just want to study another area relevant to the actuarial career, you might consider the following minors:

Minor	Requirements (excluding prereqs)
Specialization in Computing	7 courses related to math and programming
Accounting	7 courses related to financial & managerial accounting, tax policies, etc.
Statistics and Data Science	6 courses related to theoretical and applied statistics
Mathematics (for non-math majors only)	5 UD math courses



03

EXAMS



PRELIMINARY EXAMS



For Health, Life, & Retirement:

Exam P

Exam FM

=



For Property & Casualty:

Exam 1

Exam 2

You can take either exam first, depending on your interests and/or class sequence.



EXAM INFO

- Exams are often more important than your grades (but don't ignore your grades!)
- Computer-Based Testing (CBT)
 - Register for the exam with SOA
 - Sign up for a spot at a Prometric Testing Center
 - Exams P and FM are both multiple choice
- 1 exam is often required for an internship
 - A good target is to pass an exam by the Fall of the year that you are recruiting for a summer internship (i.e. sophomore/junior year)



EXAM 1/P: PROBABILITY

Exam Dates

Registration Deadline

November 3-14, 2025 (CBT)

Closed

January 15-26, 2026 (CBT)
January 15, 2026 (P/P)

December 17, 2025 12:00 AM

March 9-20, 2026 (CBT)

February 11, 2026 10:00 AM

May 8-19, 2026 (CBT)
May 8, 2026 (P/P)

April 8, 2026 12:00 AM

July 8-19, 2026 (CBT)

June 10, 2026 12:00 AM

September 10-21, 2026
(CBT)
September 10, 2026 (P/P)

August 12, 2026 12:00 AM

November 4-15, 2026 (CBT)

September 30, 2026 10:00 AM

- Offered in **odd** months
- Corresponds to Math 170E (Math 170A/B) and Stats 100A
- Many students also self-study for Exam P



EXAM 2/FM: FINANCIAL MATHEMATICS

Exam Dates Registration Deadline

December 1-12, 2025 (CBT) November 5, 2025 10:00 AM

February 5-16, 2026 (CBT)
February 5, 2026 (P/P) January 7, 2026 10:00 AM

April 2-13, 2026 (CBT) March 4, 2026 12:00 AM

June 11-22, 2026 (CBT)
June 11, 2026 (P/P) May 6, 2026 12:00 AM

August 6-17, 2026 (CBT) July 8, 2026 12:00 AM

October 1-12, 2026 (CBT)
October 1, 2026 (P/P) September 2, 2026 10:00 AM

December 3-14, 2026 (CBT) November 4, 2026 12:00 AM

- Offered in **even** months
- Corresponds to Math 177
- Can also take as a first exam



STUDYING FOR EXAMS

- Official recommended studying time: 100 hours per exam hour
- Some study resources:
 - Paper manuals: ACTEX, ASM
 - Online seminars: Coaching Actuaries (CA), The Infinite Actuary (TIA)
 - SOA Sample/Past Exams
 - Free resources: TIA for P/FM, Dr. Finan's study manual for P/FM, old manual from Boelter Library
 - Warning! Manuals may be outdated as exams have changed in recent years
- Exam Prep page on our website
 - <https://www.math.ucla.edu/~actuary/examPrep.html>



04

RECRUITMENT



GENERAL RESUME TIPS

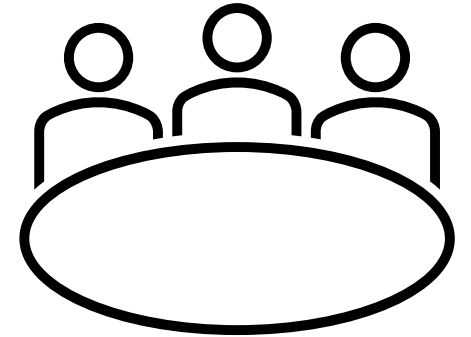
FIRSTNAME LASTNAME ProfessionalEmailAddress@domain.com (###) ###-#### Permanent Address	
ACTUARIAL EXAMS	
- Passed Exam P (Score: 8/10) - Sitting for Exam FM - Fulfilled VEE Economics	Jan 2021 Dec 2021 Jun 2020
EDUCATION	
University of California, Los Angeles <i>B.S. Financial Actuarial Mathematics, Specialization in Computing</i>	Los Angeles, CA Expected Jun 2023
- GPA: 3.XX/4.00 - Activities: [List some club memberships] - Relevant Coursework: Mathematics of Finance, Life Insurance and Annuities	
WORK EXPERIENCE	
ABCD Company <i>Position Title</i>	City, State Jun 2021 – Aug 2021
[Arrange bullet points in order of importance/relevance] [Start each bullet point with a strong, past-tense action verb] [Talk about <i>what</i> you did, <i>how</i> you did it, and <i>why</i> it matters] [Think about and focus on what skills and experiences an employer would care about]	
XYZ Company <i>Position Title</i>	City, State Jun 2020 – Sep 2020
[Try to have around 3 bullet points for each item—at least 2, no more than 4] [Be specific about what you accomplished—broad generalities aren't helpful] [Replace old, irrelevant work experience with more applicable actuarial experiences when possible] [Remove experiences from high school unless you are a freshman]	
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	
Bruin Actuarial Society Case Competition <i>Finalist</i>	Los Angeles, CA Jan 2020
[Try to fill as much of the line as possible—use all the space you can] [If your bullet point goes to a second line, try to use as much of it as you can so it doesn't look bare] [Use a variety of action verbs—there are plenty to choose from; avoid repeating]	
LEADERSHIP	
Name of Society / Club <i>Position Title</i>	Los Angeles, CA Sep 2020 – Present
[Look for some organizations to seek a leadership position in—doesn't have to be professional] [If you don't have any leadership experience, you can list "Extracurricular Activities" instead] [Even if the activity isn't professional, try to frame the activity in contexts employers would care about]	
SKILLS	
<i>Computer Skills:</i> Intermediate Microsoft Excel, Introductory C++, etc. <i>Languages:</i> [Languages you can speak and proficiency level]	

- Be concise
- Make sure each bullet point answers:
 - What?
 - How?
 - Why? (So what?)
- Use past tense verbs
- Make it look organized; follow Quadrant Rule
- OK to include high school experience for freshmen only
- Review our Resume Workshop slides (under Schedule of Events tab) and our BAS Handbook for more tips



NETWORKING TIPS

- Prepare a short self-introduction (1 minute max)
 - Name, year, major(s), minor(s)
 - Relevant past experience(s)
 - Career-specific experience(s)
- Network
 - Meet reps! They're actuaries and recruiters at the same time
 - Take one — Ask for their business card (or email/LinkedIn if virtual)
 - Give one — Ask to present your resume



CAREER CENTER

Career Center

- Where on-campus interviews take place
- Located on 3rd floor of the Strathmore building at Strathmore and Westwood Plaza
- Offers events & workshops, virtual services career advising, online resources and tools
- Career Center website: <https://career.ucla.edu/>

Handshake

- LinkedIn for students
- Companies post job openings here



LINKEDIN

- Social media networking platform for professionals
- Connect with friends and colleagues (classmates, BAS officers, mentors, firm reps/recruiters)
- Keep your information updated
- Consider posting about experiences and accomplishments to keep your network updated



Choose a professional headshot



Write an informative headline & summary



Describe your work experience



Include your education



Add volunteer experience



Use keywords and phrases for skills



Join groups to stay connected



05

OVERVIEW



USEFUL SKILLS

Math Skills

- Quantitative Major/Minor
- 3.0+ GPA (3.5 to be competitive)
- 1 exam passed



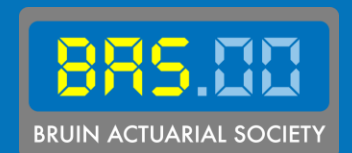
Computer Skills

- Object-oriented languages
- SQL (database manipulation)
- Excel (PivotTables, macros, formulas)



Professional Skills

- Resume
- Interview Skills
 - Review Interviewing Workshop
- Communication Skills



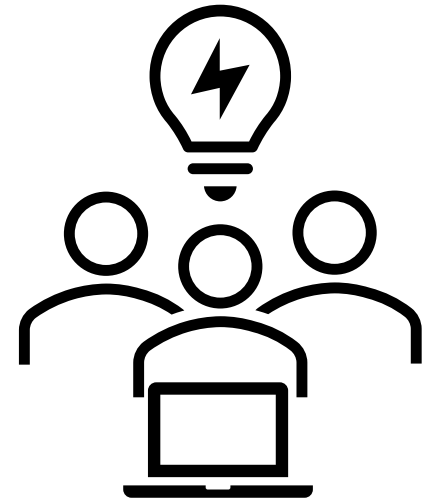
BAS RESOURCES

Mentorship Program	Ask your mentor if you have any questions or need advice
Technical Workshops	Learn how to use Excel, R, VBA, etc.
Professional Development Workshops	Learn about career paths, exams, actuarial techniques, soft skills, etc.
Career Fair	Network with various insurance and actuarial firms and connect with recruiters to learn more about internship and career opportunities
Case Competition	Build your technical and communication skills and gain industry knowledge by tackling an actuarial problem
BAS Handbook	Look on our website for a more detailed guide on writing a resume, interviewing, taking actuarial exams, creating a 4-year plan, and more!



CASE COMPETITION

- Takes place early Winter Quarter (first few weeks of January)
- Great way to add actuarial experience to your resume!
 - Implement skills you learned throughout technical workshops
 - Gain exposure to relevant actuarial topics
 - Develop soft skills (work in a team while practicing problem-solving/critical thinking)
- Opportunity to network with judges, firm reps, and fellow members at final round
- Past Case Competitions available on our website:
 - <https://www.math.ucla.edu/~actuary/caseCompetition.html>



SAMPLE TIMELINE

01

1st Year

- GPA
- Programming
- Networking/Mentorship
- Resume & LinkedIn
- Communication
- Case Competition (Winter quarter)

02

2nd Year

- Attend Career Fair
- Pass exam(s)
- Case Competition (Winter quarter)
- Finish major pre-reqs & officially declare major
- Interviewing Skills

03

3rd Year

- Attend Career Fair
- Summer internship
- Pass exam(s)
- Case competition (Winter quarter)
- Interviewing skills

04

4th Year

- Secure a full-time position for post-grad
- Get your degree!



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Attend BAS workshops and events to develop technical and professional skills
- Work on building your resume, network, and professional profile
- Plan class and exam schedule (the earlier the better)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *International Student Workshop* happening shortly after!
- *Coaching Actuaries Workshop* on Tuesday 10/28 @ MS 6627
- *Basic Excel Workshop* on Thursday 10/30 @ MS 6627



www.math.ucla.edu/~actuary/



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THANK YOU!

Any questions?

