All About Actuarial Exams

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Wells Hall B-210 Wednesday, 27 August 2014



Outline

Introduction

What are actuarial exams? Incentives
Salary incentives

Pathways to memberships

Preliminary exams MSU course mapping

Now what?

Where to begin? When offered?

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Visit these sites



- To receive professional status as an actuary, you need to pass a series
 - Society of Actuaries (mainly life and health, but also pensions, finance,
- Admission requirements are a combination of:
 - examinations
 - computer-based testing (CBT) most of the preliminary exams
 - pencil and paper (PnP, multiple choice, essay/written-answer)

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 - Materials may still be fresh in your mind, especially if you just take the
 - Exam success is a requirement to get an internship; many require at
- Your exam success demonstrates that you have the "aptitude,
- The level of your position and your salary depends "heavily" on your
 - Salary increments are provided for every exam passed.
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Salary ranges (the rookies): 0-1 years experience

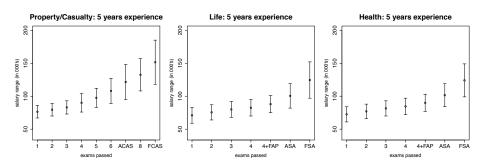
(Amounts shown are in thousands, per year)

	Number of Exams		
Туре	1	2	3
Property/Casualty	50-65	53-68	56-74
Life	47-60	51-62	54-64
Health	49-60	52-63	56-65
Pensions	49-58	49-64	53-67

* EzraPenland.com Actuarial Salary Surveys, updated October 2013



Salary ranges: 5 years experience



Source: http://www.ezrapenland.com/salary/ Link



- Associateship (ASA, ACAS)
- Fellowship (FSA, FCAS)





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 - General probability (15-30%), Univariate probability distributions (30-50%), Multivariate probability distributions (30-45%)
- Exam FM: Financial Mathematics
 - Interest Theory (65-80%), Financial Economics (Derivatives Markets) (20-35%)
- Exam MFE: Models for Financial Economics
- Exam MLC: Models for Life Contingencies
- Exam C: Construction and Evaluation of Actuarial Models



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MSU course mapping with preliminary exams

SOA/CAS	MSU Actuarial Subjects	
	077 114 5 0/4 0	
Exam P/1	STT 441, Exam P/1 Prep course	
Exam FM/2	MTH 360, FI 379, Exam FM/2 Prep course	
Exam MFE	FI 379, MTH 457, MTH 458	
Exam MLC	STT 455, STT 456	
Exam C	STT 459	



- Take the necessary courses:

 - Take the prep courses at MSU whenever offered
- Checklist: syllabus (frequently updated), reading materials, other
- Find out exam format (MC, CBT, no. of questions, length of exams)
- Registration process: deadline, fees, exam dates, exam centers
- Start studying
 - SOA/CAS sample/actual exams download

 - Repeat problems, if time permits



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Sample Pass Marks and Passing Percentages

Exam	Date	Pass Mark	N	# Passing	% Passing
Exam $P/1$	Jan 2012	63%	2973	1243	41.8
	Jul 2012	63%	3188	1250	39.2
Exam FM/2	Feb 2012	72%	2027	978	48.2
	Dec 2012	69%	1976	8334	42.2



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Be an Actuary (http://beanactuary.org/)
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