

# THE PATH TO A REWARDING CAREER BEGINS HERE.

## GETTING STARTED

### *What SOA support is available to me?*

As an SOA candidate taking exams, you enjoy access to exam resources and an active global actuarial community. Our mission is to empower you with the critical resources and support you rely on to reach your educational and career goals.

- Network with a community of SOA member actuaries, employers and other candidates taking exams through the SOA Explorer tool
- Stay connected with other candidates and news about the actuarial profession with the SOA Community Facebook page
- Receive the *Candidate Connect* eNewsletter with updates on relevant SOA initiatives, exam developments, upcoming events, news of the profession and much more
- Utilize the SOA's exam support resources that give students an edge, including suggestions for taking multiple choice examinations, study methods, online practice exams and performance feedback

**Ready to take the first step in becoming an actuary with the SOA? Visit [SOA.org/Impact](https://www.soa.org/Impact) to get started.**



**SOCIETY OF  
ACTUARIES**





# Your path to an actuarial career

Becoming an actuary with the Society of Actuaries





# ADVANCING ACTUARIAL KNOWLEDGE, EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE GLOBE.

## *Who is the SOA?*

The Society of Actuaries (SOA) is the largest global professional actuarial organization, with 27,000 members in 82 countries. We prepare the highly sought-after, well-rounded thought leaders organizations trust to drive better decisions.

The SOA is recognized the world over for the strength of our credentials, the rigor of our education, the reach of our network, the quality of our research and the work we do to advance the interests of actuarial professionals around the globe.

### WHO ARE SOA MEMBERS?

Our members come from every walk of life and work all over the world—measuring and managing the financial implications of future events. SOA actuaries have a passion for the quantitative, often with backgrounds in mathematics, statistics, probability, economics or finance, and enjoy data analysis, problem solving, solution modeling and more.

SOA actuaries are trusted financial and business advisors—individuals of integrity, held to a rigorous code of professional conduct. They work in a broad range of industries, as in-house actuaries or as consultants, using their diverse skills to anticipate and solve financial, economic and other issues.

### WHY BECOME AN ACTUARY WITH THE SOA?

As an SOA member, you can take advantage of extensive research, candidate support and professional development resources and opportunities.

- Global network of actuaries in all practice areas
- Recognition of credentials by employers and international career mobility
- Ability to play a critical role in business and society
- Rigorous education that prepares individuals for risk management careers in every practice area
- Ability to delay choosing a specialization (Fellowship track)
- Career-long learning, professional and leadership skill development opportunities
- Access to innovative research on a wide range of topics that inform and guide business, policy and society
- Participation in diverse interest groups related to different aspects of actuarial work

### WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN I EXPECT FROM EMPLOYERS?

With highly sought-after skills, SOA members are in demand. The top-ranked job in the United States in 2015\*, actuaries enjoy high compensation and job satisfaction and are able to make a positive impact on the world around them.

In the actuarial field, you'll have the opportunity to work while completing the SOA education process—employers often allow study time during working hours, pay exam fees, provide internships and even award raises for each exam passed. To get the best start on a rewarding career, many future actuaries begin taking exams while still in college. Of those who do, most achieve Associateship in three to five years.



\*Adams, Susan. "The Best Jobs for 2015." Forbes.com 4 April 2015.



## SOA EXAMS AND CREDENTIALS

A credential from the SOA is well respected, highly portable (between both employers and countries) and recognized by regulatory bodies around the globe. The SOA offers rigorous education pathways covering all areas of actuarial practice and distinguished credentials that demonstrate a mastery of risk management and analytic skills, including:

**FSA** | Fellow of the  
Society of Actuaries

**ASA** | Associate of the  
Society of Actuaries

**CERA** | Chartered Enterprise  
Risk Analyst

*The SOA offers a full range of specialty areas to Fellowship in all practice areas, including:*

- Corporate Finance and Enterprise Risk Management
- General Insurance (Property Casualty)
- Group and Health
- Individual Life and Annuities
- Quantitative Finance and Investment
- Retirement Benefits

## EXAM AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates seeking an **ASA** must complete:

- 5 Exams
- 3 Validation by Educational Experience (VEE) requirements
- 1 e-Learning course on the Fundamentals of Actuarial Practice (FAP)
- 1 Associateship Professionalism Course (APC)

To obtain an **FSA**, you will need to complete additional exams and modules, specific to your chosen track, along with a Fellowship Admissions Course (FAC). Learn more at [SOA.org/Pathways](https://www.soa.org/Pathways).

## BENEFITS OF AN SOA EDUCATION?

A credential from the SOA encompasses a robust education backed by an organization recognized the world over.

- Rigorous exam process
- Convenience in exam options and frequency of exams offered; exam centers in more than 40 countries
- Robust, standardized, reliable assessment methods and grading process
- Comprehensive training provided to volunteers—actuaries with current practical experience—who write and grade exams
- Team of more than 30 dedicated education staff (including actuaries and Ph.D. holders) in North America and Asia, working with more than 1,100 volunteers serving on various exam committees

Want to see if the SOA pathway is for you? Visit [SOA.org/Pathway](https://www.soa.org/Pathway)