



2026

STUDENT RESEARCH

Case Study Challenge

Official Rules

January 16, 2026

These are the Official Rules that will govern the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Research Institute 2026 Student Research Case Study Challenge (“Challenge”). These tentative rules will be supersede and tentative rules previously posted on the [2026 Challenge web page](#), URL: <https://www.soa.org/research/opportunities/2026-student-research-case-study-challenge/> on www.soa.org. In these rules, “You” and “Your” refer to an eligible team (“Team”). By providing a submission in response to this Challenge, Teams acknowledge compliance with these Official Rules.

Entering The Challenge

The case study will be released by 5:00 p.m. U.S. Central Standard Time on Friday, January 16, 2026. The SOA Research Institute prefers Teams provide notice of their intent to participate by completing the [online intention form](#) URL: <https://soa.wufoo.com/forms/z1eojtgc0du2rem/> by Thursday, March 5, 2026.

To enter the Challenge, final submissions must be attached to a completed online submission form prior to 3:00 p.m. U.S. Central Daylight Time on Friday, March 13, 2026, (“Entry Due Date And Time”). The [online submission form](#) URL: <https://soa.wufoo.com/forms/zwovrnny1s0mck9/> will be available on or before March 12, 2026. Submissions received after the Entry Due Date And Time are ineligible for participation in the Challenge.

Challenge Submissions

Recommendations regarding submissions:

- Teams are encouraged to consult with a university faculty advisor. However, the work and submission must be completed solely by the Team. If a team is comprised of students from multiple universities, the university that employs the faculty advisor will be deemed to be the Team’s university.
- Show the Team name and brief description of file content in the filename of the submitted files for quick identification; for example, “Team ABC Report.”
- For privacy, do **not** show email addresses on or in the report.

Submissions must meet the following requirements:

- Teams must be comprised of two to five students who are enrolled in a university (“Team”). Each Team must identify a faculty advisor; the university that employs the faculty advisor will be deemed the Team’s university for purposes of this Challenge. There is no limit on the number of Teams that may participate from a university.

Submissions will be accepted via the online submission form, which will become available approximately March 12, 2026, and may be accessed directly <https://soa.wufoo.com/forms/zwovrnny1s0mck9/> or from the [2026 Challenge web page](#), URL: <https://www.soa.org/research/opportunities/2026-student-research-case-study-challenge/>.

- Each Team is allowed to submit only one Entry in this Challenge. In the event that a Team submits more than one Entry in this Challenge, the latest submission received prior to the Entry Due Date And Time will be judged.
- A Team's submission and all supporting work must be completed solely by the Team. All submissions must be the original work of the Team and created in response to this Challenge. Submissions found in part or entirely to be other than original work created for this Challenge will be disqualified.
- Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or software during the creation of a Team's Entry must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Additionally, use of any AI tools must be disclosed in writing and documented responsibly and appropriately. No portion of the submission may materially rely on content generated by AI or similar automated tools, except as disclosed or for performing non-substantive, mechanical, or editorial functions (such as spelling, grammar, or formatting corrections). A Team is responsible for the quality, originality and integrity of the Team's Entry and for ensuring any AI-generated output, citations, and references have been validated and disclosed in writing. AI tools shall not be listed as an author, and the Team will disclose in writing and include proper citations for all sources (including AI) and contributors included the Team's Entry.
- The cover of the submitted report must state the Team's name, university affiliation, and names of each Team member. For security and privacy, do not include email addresses in the report or on its cover.
- Submissions must be in English and follow all specifications and requirements set forth in the section of the case study that is titled "Submission Requirements". Adherence to the specifications and requirements, including length, will be considered during judging.
- The submitted report for a Team's Entry must be a single document in a file that is a maximum of 25,000 kilobytes or 25 megabytes. The report file must be in Adobe (.pdf) or Microsoft Word without macros (.docx or .doc) format. Appendices and supporting documents are optional; up to three are allowed. Appendices, if any, and any supporting documents, if any, must be submitted in one or more separate documents or files. Appendices and supporting documents, if any, must be in either Adobe (.pdf), Microsoft Word without macros (.docx or .doc), or Microsoft Excel without macros.pdf (.xlsx or .xls).
- Each Entry will be comprised of the online submission form plus a maximum of four files, with each file being a maximum of 25,000 kilobytes or 25 megabytes. The online submission form will accept neither larger files nor more than four files.

By submitting Your work to this Challenge, You are agreeing to provide the SOA Research Institute with a license to use Your submission, in accordance with the "Participant Obligations" section of these Official Rules. Teams of submissions selected as one of the top three submissions will receive a prize and a grant for the university of the team's faculty advisor, and such Teams agree to transfer copyright in their submissions to the SOA Research Institute.

Judging

Submissions will be graded by the judges. The judging criteria for the submissions will be located in the Case Study. The submissions will be judged by a panel of judges considered to be qualified by the SOA Research Institute. The teams with the top submissions ("Finalist Teams") will be notified by approximately 8:00 pm U.S. Central Daylight Time on April 10, 2026. The Finalist Teams will be invited to present their submissions to the judges for the final round of judging via video conference during the approximate timeframe of April 15–17, 2026. The judges' decision is final and binding. The judges reserve the right to select fewer than three winners, including no winners, or to disqualify a Team.

Prizes, Grants, and Recognition

Up to four Teams will be selected as the winners, with one Team selected as the first-place winner, one Team as the second-place winner, and up to two Teams as the third-place winner(s). Each member of the winning Teams will receive \$500.00 USD. The universities that employ the faculty advisor of each winning Team will receive a grant according to how their Teams placed. The first-place grant will be \$5,000.00 USD, the second-place grant will be \$3,000.00 USD, and the third-place grant will be \$2,000.00 USD. All taxes on the prizes and grants and other expenses related to accepting and/or using the prizes or grants are the sole responsibility of the winners and universities.

Winning and finalist submissions will likely be posted on the SOA Research Institute website; semifinalist submissions may be posted on the SOA Research website. By entering this Challenge, Teams agree that if their submission is selected as a place winner, finalist, or semifinalist, Teams agree that their submission may be posted on the SOA website.

The winning submissions will be determined on or about April 24, 2026. The winners will be notified by email. Winning submissions will be available on the [2026 Challenge web page](#), on www.soa.org. By entering this Challenge, Teams agree that if their submission is selected as first, second, or third place winner, they may be considered for an invitation to present at an SOA meeting during 2026.

Participant Obligations

- a. By entering this Challenge, Teams consent to the use of their names, email addresses, submission, biographical information, photographs, and/or likenesses for advertising and publicity purposes without additional compensation (except where prohibited) by the SOA Research Institute for purposes concerning this Challenge or any succeeding case study/grant opportunities and for publicity, special events, and advertising purposes in connection with promoting the Society of Actuaries.
- b. By entering this Challenge, Teams grant the SOA Research Institute a perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-revocable license to publish, display, and reproduce their submission in any and all media, in whole or in part, throughout the world for any purpose including commercial purposes. Teams hereby grant the SOA Research Institute permission to format their submissions for the SOA Research Institute's purposes at the SOA Research Institute's sole discretion.
- c. By entering this Challenge, each individual on a Team agrees to defend, indemnify, release, and hold harmless the SOA Research Institute from and against any and all losses, demands, damages, rights, claims, injuries, actions, and liabilities of any kind arising out of or related to Entrant's participation in the Challenge. Any disputes that may arise hereunder shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Illinois without regard to the conflicts of laws principles of any jurisdiction. Venue with respect to any such disputes shall be had in the state and federal courts of the State of Illinois. SOA Research Institute's failure to enforce any term of these rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. In any cause of action, the SOA Research Institute's liability will be limited to five hundred dollars (\$500.00 USD), and in no event shall the SOA Research Institute be liable for attorneys' fees and/or experts' fees and costs. By participating in the Challenge, each individual on a Team waives the right to claim any additional damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, incidental, or indirect damages.

Personal Information

Personal information submitted in relation to submissions will only be used in the event You are selected as a winner, if there is a question or issue regarding Your submission or its content, if there is an issue or news to communicate to You pertaining to the Challenge, or as otherwise permitted in accordance with the terms of the

Official Rules. We will not disclose, give, sell, or transfer any personal information about You, unless required by law or with Your consent. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the winning Teams' personal information will be used in accordance with the "Participant Obligations" section of these Official Rules.

Additional Terms

Neither the SOA Research Institute, its respective officers, directors, and employees (collectively "Releasees") are responsible for incorrect or inaccurate transcription of entry information, or for any human or other error, technical malfunctions, lost/delayed data transmission, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, line failures of any telephone network, computer equipment, software, inability to access any online service or website, or any other error or malfunction, or any injury or damage to Team's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in this Challenge, or for any injury to person or property. Releasees are not responsible for lost, late, illegible, or misdirected entries. If, for any reason, the Challenge is not capable of being executed as planned, and/or the Challenge is adversely affected by actions/technical failures/events beyond the control of SOA Research Institute that may corrupt, affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of Challenge, the SOA Research Institute reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any suspect entry and/or to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Challenge, as the SOA Research Institute determines in its sole discretion. Entries not complying with all rules are subject to disqualification. The SOA Research Institute is not responsible for any unauthorized use of Your submission by third parties.

Questions/Comments

Any questions or clarifications on these rules should be directed to the SOA Research Institute via email to research@soa.org. So that all participating Teams have access to the same information, questions about the case study content or data will not be answered.

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