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THE WISCONSIN TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING PROJECT

By Elizabeth Foste

The Society of Actuaries (SOA) is a strong supporter of education and through its Centers of Actuarial Excellence (CAE) program has been making major commitments to universities across the United States and Canada. Shortly after receiving its CAE designation, the University of Wisconsin–Madison's Actuarial Science, Risk Management and Insurance Department was awarded a \$300,000 grant. The grant is being used to support the "Technology Enhanced Learning in Actuarial Science Classes" project, which includes the development of new Web-based modules designed to help students with actuarial exam practice problems. There are also modules created to help students learn software, theory, applications and historical vignettes in actuarial science.

"Technology enhanced learning tools provide a new way for students to master classroom material from anywhere and at anytime," said the project's director Edward W. (Jed) Frees, Ph.D., FSA. A major goal of the project is to develop learning modules that can be accessed by students and the general public. A team of actuarial science students has been working hard to create these modules. The team has already developed several six-minute videos that explain step by step how to solve problems from actuarial exams.

Senior Hillary Ladwig has been working on the project for several months: "Sometimes talking to another student about a problem can really help me understand a concept or make connections. This project gives students a convenient way to learn from each other and get more explanation for topics they find particularly challenging." Exam modules are currently being piloted [here](#). More will be added during the summer months, with a goal of having 100 modules for each of the five technical exams within three years.

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Work has also begun on developing introductions to the statistical package "R." The format of these instruction modules is similar to the exam modules and includes voice and screen captures to provide detailed tutorials to students. You can access the "R" modules [here](#).

More information about the project will be presented at the 46th Annual Actuarial Research Conference (ARC) at the University of Connecticut, Aug. 11–13, 2011. The team will provide an update, share its thoughts on the project and take questions. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

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