

Open Forum on the Actuarial Syllabus for the New Millennium

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Abstract: There will be a presentation on the latest development of the new syllabus, followed by a general discussion in which the audience will be strongly encouraged to participate. Some topics that may be discussed are: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the new syllabus? How should we be advising our students with respect to exam-taking strategies and mathematical pre-requisites? What is the most efficient way to become an FSA in the new millennium? How will the new syllabus affect the various actuarial and pre-actuarial programs, particularly those in liberal arts colleges? Who are the winners and who are the losers? Are the new Courses 1 and 2 "attractor" examinations or are they "repellent" examinations? Do employers of actuarial students prefer the new Courses 1 and 2 or the current 100 and 110? Is the SOA giving up too much in syllabus content in order to please the CAS? Conversely? What is the difference between a new FSA and an MBA majoring in finance or insurance? Are the courses of reading suitable for self-study? Are some of the prescribed textbooks and papers too mathematical or too difficult for self-study?

