

***North American Actuarial Journal* Annual Prize for Best Paper Guidelines**

An annual prize of \$500 and a plaque are awarded to the author or co-authors writing the best eligible paper published in each year's volume of the *North American Actuarial Journal* (NAAJ) (\$500 for each co-author). The SOA has a record of the awards [back to 1982](#). A prize is awarded only if the NAAJ Editorial Board considers that the best eligible paper is of sufficient value to justify an award.

Eligibility

- All papers published in one of the four annual issues of a year's volume are eligible except published discussions of published research papers and replies to those discussions.
- No special action is needed for an eligible paper to qualify for consideration in the potential award pool for the Annual Prize. Every paper published in the year's volume is automatically considered—except published discussions about published research articles and published replies to those discussions.

Selection and Notification Process

- The prize recipients are selected mid-year after the preceding volume's publication year (e.g., recipients of the 2023 award for volume 27 (the 2023 volume) would be selected mid-year 2024).
- NAAJ Editorial Board members consisting of the NAAJ editor-in-chief and the current NAAJ co-editors select the recipient through rounds of anonymous voting.
- Any NAAJ co-editor who has a published an article in the year's volume cannot vote.
- If no clear winner emerges, or the vote tally is close (within three points), a second round of voting occurs, and co-editors continue to recuse themselves from voting in rounds in which their paper is included.
- Winners are notified by email by SOA staff once selection is complete.

Selection Criteria

Criteria taken into consideration in selecting the prize-winning paper include the following:

- The quality of the research
- Reach
- Scientific impact

Prize-winning papers must be examples of highly considered papers and exemplify scientific research. Two quantitative indicators that may be considered are the number of citations to the paper in other published works and the number times the full text of the paper has been viewed from the digital archive (housed on Taylor & Francis Online), though the voting panel may consider momentum in advancing the discipline and whether the paper creates new scientific knowledge to expand the accumulated knowledge in the discipline. (Article "[views combine cumulative total PDF downloads and full-text HTML views](#) from publication date on Taylor & Francis Online to the current date for the majority of articles.")

Publicity

- The SOA publishes a feature article about the prize-winning paper and the authors' research in *The Actuary Magazine*.
- The prize-winning paper is made available to read for free on the [NAAJ webpages on Taylor & Francis](#) Online for one year; Taylor & Francis, the NAAJ's publisher, helps announce the prize on their website.
- A [notice is posted to SOA.org](#).
- The prize-winning paper is announced in *SOA News Weekly*.

Winners consent to the use of their name, title of paper, and biographical information for publicity purposes and to the use of their personal information in the event that an eligible author wins the prize and there is an issue or news to communicate regarding the award.

By using SOA.org, you agree to the use of your personal information as described in the Society of Actuaries' Privacy Policy as described here: <https://www.soa.org/legal/privacy-policy/>. The Society of Actuaries does not disclose personal information to third-parties without your consent except as described in the Society of Actuaries' Privacy Policy (link above).