



Prometric Testing Centers to be used for the Fall 2020 written-answer exams

The fall written-answer exam administration covers 30 different examinations typically involving over 6,500 candidates. The Society of Actuaries (SOA) is preparing for a computer-based delivery of these written answer exams via Prometric's network of testing centers. Our decision is based on a thorough review of the issues related to in-person testing during the pandemic and consideration of remote proctoring options.

How did we make this decision?

We considered multiple options for exam delivery, including arrangements that involve remote proctoring. Through our research, we concluded that remote proctoring systems cannot currently support the integrity of the SOA examination process, provide the level of assurance that our standards demand and offer a fair and valid opportunity for all candidates to progress toward a designation.

SOA candidates (and those who hire or employ them) expect our examination process to be fair, without advantage or disadvantage to any candidate, and secure, with tight controls to prevent collusion and all forms of cheating. Based on thorough research, only the in-person approach at Prometric centers can meet those expectations. The use of remote proctoring poses a threat to the integrity and fairness of the exam system and places candidates on unequal footing regarding technology. Computer-based delivery for the fall 2020 exams via Prometric's network of responsible testing centers is the lowest-risk option currently available that also maintains the required integrity of the exam process.

In the current COVID environment, there are challenges to in-person testing and the procedures and infrastructure put in place by Prometric help mitigate that risk. [Prometric test centers have stringent COVID-19 preventative and cleaning measures](#) in compliance with all local public health requirements to protect the health and safety of candidates and we are confident in the company's administration of this system. In addition, their global network of testing centers allows for the most comprehensive administration of the exams geographically.

The COVID environment also places strain on test center capacities in certain locations. The SOA's Customer Service and Education staff as well as Prometric staff have assisted many candidates in finding acceptable location options for taking their exams this fall. We will continue to monitor all developments relating to the administration of the exams and keep candidates informed if circumstances change.