



SOCIETY OF  
ACTUARIES®

# What is an actuary?

Learn about the profession  
with the Society of Actuaries!



Join the SOA's free  
affiliate membership





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“I like Math,  
but what can I  
do with it?”

*Change the world as  
an actuary!*

### **The World Counts on Actuaries**

Actuaries dedicate their time to delivering value to businesses, organizations, and the public that can help make key decisions for the future of the world. How is that possible? Not by using a crystal ball, but by using math!

- Earn recognition for making a difference.
- Consistently ranked as one of the best careers, actuaries enjoy satisfying work, excellent salaries and a wide avenue for career development.
- Earning a credential with the SOA provides members with a globally accredited designation, granting each actuary the chance to practice anywhere in the world.



## Why should I become an actuary?

Actuaries with an SOA designation:

- Help make the world more financially secure. You'll have the opportunity to have an impact on society in real time.
- Advance actuarial education. The SOA offers a wealth of continuing education, professional development and volunteer opportunities.
- Belong to a global actuarial community. We aim to properly serve our growing global market of actuaries.
- Help lead innovative research. Our research supports a dynamic agenda, which include emerging risks, disability, retirement plans, healthcare costs and longevity.



## Earning Actuarial Credentials

- By progressing through training and an examination process, actuaries earn professional credentials and career opportunities.
- **How do I earn my credential?** Actuarial candidates undertake independent study to master actuarial tools and techniques to gain credentials by passing a series of exams and other components, including online modules.
- **How long does that take?** Exams for the first credential, the Associate of the SOA (ASA), typically take 5-8 years to complete. Exams are often taken while candidates are in school or working full time.
- **Wow, that's a lot to take on at once!** Luckily, the SOA is here to support you along your journey, as are our employers — many offer paid study time, cover their employees' exam fees and offer raises and promotions for passed exams.
- **Can I work as an actuary before I earn my ASA?** Absolutely! After passing the first two exams (often taken during college), candidates are qualified for many entry-level actuarial roles!





## Okay, I'm interested! What should I do next?

- Take math classes that are eligible for Validation by Educational Experience (VEE) credits. See those options here: <https://www.soa.org/vee>
- Join the SOA's free affiliate membership: [soa.org/programs/affiliate/](https://www.soa.org/programs/affiliate/)
- Check out 4-year colleges that support actuarial science by visiting [soa.org/institutions](https://www.soa.org/institutions)
- Ask your professor or math club to bring an actuary to speak using the QR code below!



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