

**The University of Iowa
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Fall, 2024**

Title of Course: ACTS: 1001 Introductory Seminar on Actuarial Science

Course meeting time and place: Thursdays, 5:00-5:50 p.m., 71 Schaeffer Hall, some courses will be online

Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science: [department website](#)

Course ICON site: To access the course site, log into [Iowa Courses Online \(ICON\)](#) using your Hawk ID and password.

Course Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the home of this course, and CLAS governs the add and drop deadlines, academic misconduct policies, and other undergraduate policies and procedures. Other UI colleges may have different policies.

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: 360 Schaeffer Hall or online

Student drop-in hours: I am available by appointment and will have drop-in hours on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., immediately prior to class, and most Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m. Thursday's will either be onsite or virtual on class format that day. Monday's drop-in hours will be virtual. Phone: 319-467-4242

E-mail: Barbara-Hogg@uiowa.edu

Departmental Executive Officer (DEO): Kung-Sik Chan, 241 Schaeffer Hall, [kung-sik-
chan@uiowa.edu](mailto:kung-sik-chan@uiowa.edu) *The DEO is responsible for supervising the delivery of courses in their department.*

Description of Course

All actuarial science majors are recommended to take the seminar in the fall and/or spring semesters. In fall, the seminar covers topics including an overview of actuarial science, the BS Actuarial Science program and associated programs, actuarial science club, effective study strategies, extracurricular activities organized by the actuarial science club and insurance companies, CV preparation and mock interviews to prepare students for the career fair, and the SOA and CAS exam systems. In spring, the seminar provides an overview of the different subfields of actuarial science, e.g., health actuary, pensions, life annuity, reinsurance, property and casualty insurance, predictive modeling, etc.

Learning Objectives

This course is designed provide students considering or pursuing an actuarial science major with a better understanding of what an actuary does and outlines the pathways for becoming a credentialed actuary.

Textbook/Materials

No textbooks are required for this course. Students may be provided links to online resources to supplement seminar discussions.

Academic Honesty and Misconduct

All students in CLAS courses are expected to abide by the [college's standards of academic honesty](#). Undergraduate academic misconduct must be reported by instructors to CLAS according to [these procedures](#). Graduate academic misconduct must be reported to the Graduate College according to Section F of the [Graduate College Manual](#).

Student Complaints

Students with a complaint about a grade or a related matter should first discuss the situation with the instructor and/or the course supervisor (if applicable), and finally with the DEO (Chair) of the department, school or program offering the course. Sometimes students will be referred to the department or program's Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) or Director of Graduate Studies (DGS).

Undergraduate students should contact [CLAS Undergraduate Programs](#) for support when the matter is not resolved at the previous level. Graduate students should contact the [CLAS Dean's Office](#) when additional support is needed.

Drop Deadline for this Course

You may drop an individual course before the drop deadline; after this deadline you will need collegiate approval. You can look up the drop deadline for this course [here](#). When you drop a course, a "W" will appear on your transcript. The mark of "W" is a neutral mark that does not affect your GPA. To discuss how dropping (or staying in) a course might affect your academic goals, please contact your Academic Advisor. Directions for adding or dropping a course and other registration changes can be found on the [Registrar's website](#). Undergraduate students can find policies on dropping CLAS courses [here](#). Graduate students should adhere to the [academic deadlines](#) and policies set by the Graduate College.

Grading System and the Use of +/-

Course grades will be either **pass** or **fail**.

Course Grades

Final course grades will be assessed based on attendance and class participation. Students may have no more than two undocumented absences to pass the course. For situations that may require additional absences, student should discuss with the instructor to see if there are options to make up the session. Participation will be measured on engaging in class discussions and providing the class with a short update on a question they explored about actuaries.

Date and Time of the Final Exam

Note: There will be no final exam for this class.

The [final examination date and time](#) will be announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes, and it will be announced on the course ICON site once it is known. **Do not plan your end of the semester travel plans until the final exam schedule is made public. It is your responsibility to know the date, time, and place of the final exam.** According to the Registrar's final exam policy, students **have a maximum of two weeks after the announced final exam schedule** to request a change if an exam conflict exists or if a student has more than two exams scheduled for the same day (see the [policy](#) here).

Calendar of Course Assignments and Exams

A tentative outline of seminar sessions is:

- Session 1: What is an Actuary
- Session 2: Exam Process
- Session 3: Educational Pathways at Iowa
- Session 4: Learning from Current Students and Recent Graduates
- Session 5: Career Opportunities
- Session 6: Student Questions/Explorations
- Session 7: Beyond the Basics – Supplementing your Actuarial Education
- Session 8: Sharing Student Explorations (5-minute presentations)

Attendance and Absences

No more than 2 undocumented absences are allowed in order to pass this class. You are encouraged to discuss any known absences with the instructor ahead of time. If circumstances require additional absences, please discuss with the instructor.

[University regulations require that students be allowed to make up examinations](#) that have been missed due to illness, religious holy days, military service obligations (including service-related medical appointments), or other unavoidable circumstances or University-sponsored activities. Students with UI-authorized activities must discuss their absences with the instructor as soon as possible. Religious obligations must be communicated within the first three weeks of classes.

Communication: UI Email

Students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for any communication with instructors or staff in the UI community. For the privacy and the protection of student records, UI faculty and staff can only correspond with UI email addresses.

Where to Get Academic Support for this Course

Please reach out directly to the instructor or see

Mental Health Resources and Student Support

Students are encouraged to be mindful of their mental health and seek help as a preventive measure or if feeling overwhelmed and/or struggling to meet course expectations. Students are encouraged to talk to their instructor for assistance with

course-related concerns. For additional mental health support, please see the guidance and resources at mentalhealth.uiowa.edu, including the 24-7 [UI Support and Crisis Line](#).

Additionally, the Office of the Dean of Students can help students navigate personal crisis situations. They can provide one-on-one support, help with identifying options, and access to [basic needs resources \(such as food, rent, childcare, etc.\)](#). Student Care and Assistance: 132 IMU, dos-assistance@uiowa.edu, or 319-335-1162 and more info: dos.uiowa.edu/assistance

[University Policies](#)

[Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)

The University is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. If a student has a diagnosed disability or other disabling condition that may impact the student's ability to complete the course requirements as stated in the syllabus, the student may seek accommodations through [Student Disability Services](#) (SDS). SDS is responsible for making [Letters of Accommodation \(LOA\)](#) available to the student. **The student must provide an LOA to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, but requests not made at least two weeks prior to the scheduled activity for which an accommodation is sought may not be accommodated.** The LOA will specify what reasonable course accommodations the student is eligible for and those the instructor should provide.

[Free Speech and Expression](#)

[Absences for Religious Holy Days](#)

[Classroom Expectations](#)

[Non-discrimination](#)

[Sexual Harassment/Misconduct and Supportive Measures](#)

[Sharing of Class Recordings](#) (if appropriate)