

The University of Iowa
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

ACTS:1001 Introductory Seminar Actuarial Science - Fall 2018

1:30pm - 2:20 pm Wednesdays, 22 SH

▷ **General Information**

- *Instructor:* Michelle Larson, 221 SH, 335-0814, michelle-larson@uiowa.edu
Office Hours: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Thursdays and by appointment
(also 9:30-11:00am, 3:30-4:30pm Mondays)
- *DEO:* Joseph Lang, 241 SH, 335-0712
- *Course Description:* This course is designed to expose students to the variety of work actuaries do. Students will investigate insurance, finance, health care, ethics, and computing. Information about U.S. actuarial organizations, program requirements, career paths, and tips for success will also be included.
- *Professional Society Web Sites:*
Society of Actuaries (SOA): <https://www.soa.org>
Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS): <https://www.casact.org>
- *Textbook:* There are no required materials for this course
- *ICON/Web:* This course will use ICON powered by Canvas (<http://icon.uiowa.edu>) for announcements and other communications.

▷ **Course Topics**

- We will discuss many of the following (time and interest of students permitting): why actuarial science, financial and insurance vocabulary, resumes, financial instruments, path to actuarial certification (exams and development activities), computer packages (Excel, R), budgeting, what actuaries do, interview skills.

▷ **Grading**

- Student grades will be based on in-class participation, reports and computer projects. Reports will be investigative in nature; students will submit a written summary and share information with their classmates. Computer projects will be used to investigate the effect of different structural features of financial instruments. There are no exams.
- This course will not use +/- grading system.
- Grade cutoffs will be no higher than the usual 90 (A), 80 (B), 70 (C), 60 (D) breakdown.
- Bonus points may be given at any time and may be applied to any part of your grade.

▷ **Extra Help**

- Students are encouraged to seek help from their professor, peers, and/or advisor.

▷ **Notes**

- Do not miss class. You need to attend every day to succeed in this class.
- Please refrain from eating, using your phone, wearing earbuds, and using other electronic devices during class.
- Students are encouraged to work together.
- If you are absent from class, please contact the instructor as early as possible to discuss alternative activities.

▷ *The College of Liberal Arts, Teaching Policies & Resources*

- *Administrative Home:* The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (<http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>).
- *Electronic Communication:* Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11, <http://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/human-resources/professional-ethics-and-academic-responsibility#15.2>).
- *Accommodations for Disabilities:* UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (<http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>).
- *Nondiscrimination in the Classroom:* UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at diversity@uiowa.edu or <https://diversity.uiowa.edu/office/equal-opportunity-and-diversity>.
- *Academic Integrity:* All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>). Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address.
- *CLAS Final Examination Policies:* The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. **No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals.** (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-examination-policies>)
- *Making a Complaint:* Students with a complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chair. Students may then bring the concern to CLAS (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>).
- *Understanding Sexual Harassment:* Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy, see <http://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>.