What we offer for Pre-Actuaries

The Hope College Department of Mathematics offers

- Actuarial exam preparation courses
- Internship opportunities
- All of the Society of Actuaries certified Validation by Educational Experience (VEE) courses
- Funding opportunities for exam costs and study materials

Recommended Courses

Strongly recommended
- Econ 211/212 - Macro- and Micro-Economics
- Mgmt 371 - Corporate Finance
- Econ 306 - Econometrics

Recommended
- Math 231/232 - Multivariable Calculus

More questions?

Talk with Professor Airat Bekmetjev of the Hope College Mathematics Department.

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Recommendations for the Pre-Actuary

What is Actuarial Science?
Actuarial science is a field of study that uses mathematical models to put a present dollar value on future risky events. Historically, most actuaries have worked in the insurance and pensions industries. Today, actuaries are also involved in financial decision making for both individuals and companies. In its last five issues, the Jobs Rated Almanac has rated actuary as one of the top four professions based on work environment, income, outlook, job security, stress and other factors. In particular, the actuarial profession is often called the “zero-unemployment” profession because typically the demand for actuaries has outpaced supply. Visit www.beanactuary.org for more information about the actuarial profession.

Recommendations
Students must have passed the first of a series of certification exams before graduating in order to be competitive for jobs after graduation. Additionally, students who have completed Society of Actuaries certified Validation by Educational Experience (VEE) college courses, have had an internship in the actuarial field, and/or have completed subsequent actuarial certification exams are even more competitive for actuarial positions upon graduation.

First Exam
Students should take Probability (Math 361) after taking at least the first two semesters of calculus. At the end of the course, students are ready to take the first actuarial certification examination.

Who becomes an actuary?
Actuaries are people who have very strong quantitative abilities, enjoy working in the business world, and who want to start their careers immediately after they attain their undergraduate degree (no post-graduate degree required). Again, visit www.beanactuary.org for more information.

VEE Courses
Through the Department of Economics, Management and Accounting, we offer all of the Society of Actuaries VEE courses. These include Macro Economics (Econ 211), Micro Economics (Econ 212), Corporate Finance (Mgmt 371), and Econometrics (Econ 306).

Internships
The Career Services Office offers connections to summer internships with firms in Grand Rapids, Chicago, Detroit and beyond. Students may also obtain semester long internships as part of the Chicago or Philadelphia semester programs. Students that pass their first exam will be competitive for most summer internships.

Preparation for Subsequent Exams
The Hope College Mathematics Department offers independent study opportunities for students who have completed their first exam and are preparing for the second, third or fourth exams.

Further Mathematics Study
While not required, pre-actuary students should also plan to take courses in applied statistics (Math 311/312) and multivariable calculus (Math 231/232).

Funding
The Mathematics Department offers competitive awards to cover the cost of exam registration and study materials.