



AMERICAN ACADEMY *of* ACTUARIES

*Objective. Independent. Effective.™*

# MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTUS

<b>The Meaning of Your Membership .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Benefits and Resources .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Webinars, Seminars, and Events.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Professionalism and the Practicing Actuary .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Public Policy</b>	
Advocate on Behalf of the Public Interest.....	10
<b>Volunteer</b>	
Maximize Your Membership.....	11
<b>Public Awareness</b>	
Expertise to Educate the Public .....	12
<b>Academy Membership Profile .....</b>	<b>14</b>

# THE MEANING OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The American Academy of Actuaries was formed in 1965 in order to be the national actuarial association for the United States, with a goal to establish and maintain the essential qualifications for actuarial competency across all practice areas to do work in the U.S. While specialized societies before and after 1965 provided essential basic education and research opportunities, there was no licensing of actuaries similar to doctors, lawyers, or other professionals that exercise a similar degree of responsibility to act consistent with the public interest. The Academy was created to offer actuarial accreditation that would be recognized across practice specialties by state and federal officials. For over 50 years, Academy members have been united in their commitment to advance the actuarial profession and serve the public.



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Through the Academy, the actuarial profession established the structures to become a recognized profession with standards of practice, conduct, qualification, and a disciplinary body to enforce those standards in order to demonstrate that actuaries can and will meet the expectations demanded of professionals to provide benefits to society.

Membership in the American Academy of Actuaries allows you to demonstrate—along with over 18,500 other actuaries—your personal commitment to responsible actuarial practice and professionalism. Membership makes you part of an elite community of professionals who have benefited society by helping to shape public policy at the state, federal, and international levels. You gain the reputational excellence that derives from our unified voice in providing trusted, independent, and effective analysis to policymakers to support the well-being of all Americans.

Membership benefits both individual members and their employers in a variety of valuable ways.

## For Individuals

### Academy membership:

- Enhances your credentials and demonstrates your commitment to the professionalism standards for actuaries, including support for the Actuarial Standards Board (ASB) and Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline (ABCD) and adherence to the Code of Professional Conduct.
- Provides access to informative and insightful membership publications to help you keep up and stay abreast of the latest trends.
- Leverages your technical knowledge by providing insight on its implications for your work.
- Identifies you as a highly qualified actuary so you can do more and go further in your career.
- Provides you with a high-quality, flexible, efficient, and cost-effective means of obtaining and tracking continuing education credits.
- Places you at the forefront of emerging policy issues and keeps you aware of changes in legislation and regulations and their impact on your work.
- Identifies you as an actuary who is committed to high standards, high integrity, and high-quality work.

- Through volunteering gives you access to work with policymakers on the issues that affect the actuarial profession and the general public.
- Connects you to all areas of the actuarial profession—not just the areas in which you practice.
- Offers you an effective way to network with peers and leaders throughout the profession.
- Identifies you as part of an organization that helps protect the accreditation and independence of the actuarial profession.
- Provides you the opportunity to share your knowledge of actuarial science and principles with others who can benefit from your expertise and judgment.
- Offers you volunteer opportunities to showcase your leadership skills and expertise by speaking at conferences and events and contributing to industry and professional publications.
- Supports your career progression, broadens your actuarial experience, and can help put you on a leadership track through volunteer service on a task force, work group, committee, or practice council.

## For Employers

### Academy membership:

- Enhances the reputation of your organization by demonstrating that your actuaries adhere to high standards of professionalism and integrity.
- Provides assurance that your actuaries are properly qualified to offer statements of actuarial opinion.
- Helps your actuaries stay on top of emerging issues, enabling them to help prepare your company for the future.
- Assures your actuaries that you value their accomplishments and the professionalism standards to which they are held.
- Enhances your confidence in readily deploying qualified actuaries into various areas of the company.
- Demonstrates your commitment to supporting the benefits professionals are expected to provide to society.

# BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

## Credentials

Use of the MAAA® credential signifies your commitment and adherence to the highest standards of actuarial practice and professionalism. To employers, clients, regulators, and government leaders, the credential represents professionalism and credibility. All states have laws and regulations that recognize it as the qualification for signing insurance company annual statements of actuarial opinion. The MAAA® credential is also required for actuaries who make actuarial equivalence attestations under the Medicare Part D program, the Mental Health Priority Act, and other relevant federal legislation.

## Volunteerism

Members can join the more than 1,300 Academy members who offer their expertise and time to Academy projects. Volunteering demonstrates your commitment to serving both the profession and its commitment to serve the public. There are more than 100 councils, committees, subcommittees, work groups, and task forces covering a diverse spectrum of actuarial practice areas that rely on the work of our member volunteers. In addition, volunteering on a committee in many instances can assist you greatly in meeting your annual continuing education requirements.

## Awards and Recognition

The Academy presents highly regarded awards each year to recognize members for their commitment to the profession. The Robert J. Myers Public Service Award honors exceptional contributions to the common good by an actuary in public service, and the Jarvis Farley Service Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the actuarial profession through Academy volunteer service. There are also annual Outstanding Volunteerism Awards, honoring Academy volunteers who have made a single, noteworthy volunteerism contribution in the previous year.

## Website

The Academy provides a wealth of information on its website—[actuary.org](http://actuary.org)—about public policy issues, professionalism resources, news, and announcements relevant to actuaries:

- Online access to a vast library of public policy statements supporting issues that actuaries work on;
- Comprehensive access to qualification standards, discussion papers, standards of practice, policies, and guidance;
- Access to online guides to hot-topic issues, such as health reform implementation and public pension plans; and
- Free and unlimited access to the Council on Professionalism's entire—and growing—library of professionalism webinars. Members can earn continuing education (CE) credits by listening to these pre-recorded webinars.

## Online Publications

Members have 24/7 access to the Academy's online publications:

- *This Week*: Weekly compilation of all Academy activities

- *Actuarial Update*: Monthly newsletter for Academy members covering a range of topics, including hot public policy issues, Academy business, and member updates



- *ASB Boxscore*: Quarterly newsletter from the Actuarial Standards Board covering progress reports on the ASB's work developing and updating standards

- *Essential Elements*: A series of concise and informative papers designed to provide a quick and easy-to-understand overview of key public policy issues of interest to Academy members, policymakers, and the general public

- *The Record*: The Academy's annual report to the membership and the public, recapping the work of Academy volunteers over the past year in serving the public and the profession



## Award-Winning Print Magazine

Members receive a complimentary subscription to *Contingencies*—the award-winning bimonthly magazine of the actuarial profession. In addition to the 20,000 actuaries throughout the United States and Canada, *Contingencies* is read by nearly 10,000 legislators, regulators, and corporate executives. It also is available digitally.



- Practice-area-specific publications including *HealthCheck*, *Enrolled Actuaries Report*, *PBA Perspectives*, and *Retirement Account* help members stay up to date with issues affecting their daily practice.

### Members-Only Alerts

Members can subscribe (free of charge) to timely electronic summaries of major legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments. Subscriptions are available for:

- Casualty
- Health
- Life
- Pension
- Cross-Practice, which covers multiple practice areas

### TRACE®

This easy-to-use online recordkeeping tool enables actuaries from all practice areas to quickly, conveniently, and securely self-report continuing education (CE) credits using a single web-based system. TRACE® was developed to work with the CE rules established by the profession's U.S. Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statement of Actuarial Opinions in the U.S. (USQS). So, it provides the appropriately aligned information fields, links to the standards, and helpful FAQs.

### Actuarial eLearning Center

This online education hub provides Academy members with opportunities to earn continuing education (CE) credits as described in the USQS, and obtain certificates illustrating their competency in mastering the subject area.

### Social Media

Members can receive up-to-the-minute updates on actuarial and public policy issues through Twitter, LinkedIn, and the Academy's YouTube channel.

### Lodging Discounts

Members receive hotel discounts at Club Quarters in New York, London, Boston, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, Houston, and San Francisco.

# WEBINARS, SEMINARS, AND EVENTS

Members can participate in numerous educational events, ranging from basic education refresher webinars to in-depth, hands-on seminars for more experienced actuaries. Members expand their knowledge and sharpen their skills while earning continuing education credits. Topics span all practice areas and a wide variety of subjects relating to public policy and professionalism.

## Annual Meeting

The Academy's Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum, typically held in November, allows members to gain insights into the most important public policy and professional issues of our time from distinguished speakers from within and outside the actuarial profession, including Academy leaders, as well as invited executive branch, congressional, and state insurance officials. Attendees earn continuing education (CE) credit and network with fellow members while enjoying world-class entertainment and dining.



## Professionalism Webinars

The Council on Professionalism sponsors quarterly webinars on professionalism issues. These well-attended sessions help members stay current with the latest standards and qualifications while earning valuable professionalism CE credits as described in the U.S. Qualification Standards.



## P/C Loss Reserve Opinions' Seminar

This seminar, held in between October and December, informs preparers and signers of P/C loss reserve opinions about regulations, standards, new requirements, and what users of opinions want.

## Life & Health Qualifications Seminar

This seminar is designed to help actuaries meet the eligibility requirements for issuing annual statement reserve opinions for life and health insurers. Held in November, the seminar also serves as a basic education refresher or a continuing education component for more experienced actuaries.



## Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar

The Academy and the Casualty Actuarial Society jointly sponsor an annual seminar on casualty reserve opinions, which helps casualty actuaries stay current with industry developments and learn from expert analysis of innovation in reserving.

### Enrolled Actuaries Meeting

The Academy and the Conference of Consulting Actuaries jointly sponsor the annual Enrolled Actuaries Meeting. The meeting offers a variety of panels and workshops, covering a wide range of topics and issues relevant to Enrolled Actuaries and other pension professionals.

### JBEA Credit

Since 2008, the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries (JBEA) has continuously approved the Academy as a qualifying sponsor of continuing professional education (CPE) programs for enrolled actuaries. The JBEA reviews each applicant's status as a qualifying sponsor each enrollment cycle, and the Academy continues to be approved for the current enrollment cycle. Various webinars the Academy sponsors may be eligible for JBEA credit.



Frank Todisco of the Actuarial Standards Board addresses attendees of the 2015 Enrolled Actuaries Meeting.

# PROFESSIONALISM AND THE PRACTICING ACTUARY

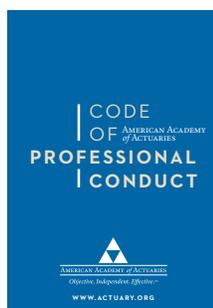
Actuaries have a hard-earned and well-deserved reputation for high standards of practice and ethics—it's one of the actuarial profession's most valuable assets. To maintain this reputation in a self-regulated profession requires constant vigilance and a commitment to excellence.

The Academy encourages actuaries to achieve and maintain a high level of professionalism in their practice. The Academy sets qualification, practice, and professionalism standards for actuaries credentialed by the five U.S.-based actuarial associations. This is done through the activities of two boards that were created under the Academy Bylaws to serve the U.S. actuarial profession: the Actuarial Standards Board and the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline. The Academy also establishes qualification standards for actuaries issuing statements of opinion in the U.S. through its Committee on Qualifications.

To facilitate coordination of professionalism activities and issues, the Academy's Council on Professionalism includes liaisons with each of the five U.S.-based actuarial organizations (the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries/ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries, the Casualty Actuarial Society, the Conference of Consulting Actuaries, and the Society of Actuaries) and each of the Academy's councils and professionalism committees.

Academy membership gives you access to resources and support in maintaining a high level of professionalism through the:

- Code of Professional Conduct
- U.S. Qualification Standards
- Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs)
- Applicability Guidelines for Actuarial Standards of Practice
- Requests for Guidance and investigation of potential violations of the Code through the ABCD
- Other professionalism resources, such as discussion papers



## Professionalism Outreach

As the home for U.S. actuarial professionalism, the Academy is dedicated to promoting the profession's ideals of qualification, objectivity, trustworthiness, and independence. It accomplishes this mission in a variety of ways.

**Engagement With Regulators:** The Academy regularly conducts outreach at the meetings of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners with its popular dialogues and breakfasts with regulators. These interactive sessions provide an in-person forum for regulators around the United States to have candid discussions about their actuarial professionalism concerns with representatives from the Academy's professionalism bodies including the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline, the Actuarial Standards Board, and the Committee on Qualifications.

**Speakers Bureau:** The Academy maintains a speakers bureau of experienced and knowledgeable individuals who have volunteered to share their expertise on professionalism topics through speaking engagements at actuarial clubs serving U.S. actuaries. The primary purpose guiding placement of speakers is to deepen the understanding of professionalism issues among credentialed actuaries practicing in the United States at little or no cost.

## Actuarial Standards Board



The Actuarial Standards Board (ASB) establishes and improves actuarial standards of practice (ASOPs). These ASOPs identify what the actuary should consider, document, and disclose when performing an actuarial assignment. The ASB's goal is to set standards for appropriate practice in the United States.

[www.actuarialstandardsboard.org](http://www.actuarialstandardsboard.org)

## Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline



The Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline (ABCD) was established by the U.S. actuarial organizations to strengthen members' adherence to the recognized standards of ethical and professional conduct. The ABCD responds to actuaries' requests for guidance on professional issues and considers complaints about possible violations of the actuarial Code of Professional Conduct.

The ABCD's members also conduct educational outreach efforts, which include making oral presentations and writing magazine articles to help actuaries, regulators, and other stakeholders become more familiar with the ABCD's work and with the Code of Professional Conduct.

[www.abcdboard.org](http://www.abcdboard.org)

## Professional Objectivity at the Academy

Serving the public and the U.S. actuarial profession requires a steadfast commitment to the highest level of professional objectivity. To produce independent, unbiased, and reliable actuarial information and insights, the Academy employs processes and controls to govern its work.

All Academy volunteers and interested parties are required to sign a conflict-of-interest acknowledgment and attest to compliance with continuing education requirements. And all public statements by the Academy go through a review process that's unmatched by any other actuarial organization, including not only peer review, but policy review, legal review, and communications review. Legislators, regulators, and journalists turn to the Academy as a trusted, reliable source of independent, objective insights on critical public policy issues—and our commitment to objectivity is a major driver of that trust.

Many of today's most pressing public policy issues call for the sound application of actuarial principles. The Academy provides actuarial expertise and advice to public policy decision-makers on a broad range of issues that require the special set of skills and qualifications that actuaries possess. The Academy also advocates on behalf of the profession and promotes the use of actuaries in non-traditional industries.

As an Academy member, you can help develop public policy and address important issues that are shaping the nation and the world we consider questions such as:

- How can we improve property/casualty insurance to protect our people, infrastructure, and economy from the effects of terrorism and natural disasters?
- Can we sustain Social Security and Medicare and provide these vital social insurance programs with long-term solvency and actuarial balance?
- How do we reform private pension laws to ensure a secure retirement for future generations?
- Can we make health care insurance affordable and accessible for all Americans?
- How can U.S. corporations manage their risks to protect themselves against insolvency and other systemic risks?

Finding the answers to these questions—and many others—requires serious, thoughtful, unbiased actuarial analysis.

### Testimony

Academy members regularly are invited to testify before congressional committees and state and federal regulatory bodies.

### Law Manuals

The Academy publishes two manuals annually that are available in a variety of media so that subscribers can choose the one that best meets their needs.

The Life and Health Valuation Law Manual is designed to help appointed actuaries comply with the requirements of the NAIC model Standard Valuation Law and the Model Actuarial Opinion and Memorandum Regulation.

The Property/Casualty Loss Reserve Law Manual is designed to help appointed actuaries comply with NAIC annual statement requirements for statements of actuarial opinion.

### Capitol Hill Briefings

The Academy's Capitol Hill briefings introduce congressional staff, regulators, and the media to the actuarial perspective on crucial issues, such as pension funding, Social Security, Medicare, health care reform implementation, and the principles of risk management.

### International

The Academy serves as the international voice of the U.S. actuarial profession, coordinating activities among the five U.S.-based actuarial organizations to identify existing and emerging international issues affecting U.S. actuaries and, where possible, to seek consensus on positions before international organizations. Academy members are involved heavily in the international arena, working with the International Association of Actuaries, the North American Actuarial Council, the International Accounting Standards Board, and other organizations on matters with global implications.

## VOLUNTEER

# MAXIMIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As a volunteer-driven organization of more than 18,500 members, the American Academy of Actuaries provides a wide variety of opportunities for actuaries in every practice area to get the most from their membership. By having a voice in the development of vital public policy issues and in all aspects of professionalism affecting actuaries in the United States, your Academy membership can help you build and advance a rewarding, enriching career.

### Public Policy Statements

Annually, the Academy publishes more than 100 public statements on diverse issues at the state and federal levels. These statements include issue briefs, monographs, discussion papers, technical analyses, practice notes, comment letters, and reports. These statements are directed to a large variety of institutions, including Congress, federal agencies, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators, and related agencies.

### Pension Assistance List

The Pension Assistance List (PAL) is an American Academy of Actuaries program that serves the public. It is intended to provide professional services to consumers who have questions about their pension plans.

When a request is received, the PAL coordinator selects an actuary from the PAL volunteer list who has appropriate expertise. The PAL actuary contacts the individual and offers up to four hours of free help.

How can you maximize that Academy membership? How can you personalize what the Academy does and means to you?

Think about contributing your time and expertise to the Academy and your profession. Are you interested in helping shape the agenda for your practice area? Or broadening your horizon beyond your practice area?

Volunteering for the Academy offers the benefits of professional growth, career development, networking opportunities, developing relationships with leaders within the profession, and expanding your knowledge of issues that affect your work and practice. Your participation on Academy committees and projects is vital to the profession. It even enables the Academy to identify future leaders of the actuarial profession.

As an added benefit, service on a committee, task force, or work group also may qualify you for continuing education credits under the U.S. Qualification Standards.

As a member of the Academy, you'll be invited to participate in an annual volunteer survey designed to match you with opportunities for hands-on work within the Academy committee structure that reflects your interests and areas of expertise.

You can volunteer, of course, at any time. Learn more by visiting the Academy website: [www.actuary.org](http://www.actuary.org).



Darrell Knapp, Laurel Kastrop, and Cathy Murphy-Barron of the Health Practice Council (HPC) stop in front of the Treasury building during the HPC's Capitol Hill visits in March 2015.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

# EXPERTISE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

The Academy is the primary voice of the actuarial profession to policymakers, business leaders, and the public. As an Academy member, you are an integral part of the effort to educate non-actuaries about the actuarial profession. Each year the Academy responds to numerous calls from reporters about a wide array of topics, resulting in hundreds of interviews with members. These generate stories in newspapers and magazines, and on radio and television.

The Academy periodically holds news conferences and events about current issues for policymakers, regulators, and media. The Academy also distributes news releases that provide the actuarial perspective on significant issues, proposed legislation, and regulations.

The Academy works collaboratively with the other U.S. actuarial organizations to present a positive image of the profession to its

key audiences. These programs collectively succeed in raising the profile of the profession and in elevating the reputation of actuaries among policymakers, business leaders, and the public.

Whether as a member or as an active volunteer, your support increases the profession's influence and enhances its image and thus ultimately benefits you as an individual professional.



Academy volunteers regularly present before the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC); Karl Volkmar provides an update here at the summer 2014 NAIC national meeting.



Donald Feurst, then senior pension fellow for the Academy, discusses the "Retirement for the AGES" initiative at the 2015 Enrolled Actuaries Meeting.



Actuarial Standards Board (ASB) Chairperson Patricia Matson speaks during the ASB's public hearing on public pension plans in July 2015.



Shawna Ackerman, the Academy's vice president for casualty issues, participates in a debate during a professionalism webinar, "The Great Modeling Debate: Which Standards Should Apply?"



Cori Uccello, the Academy's senior health fellow, provides testimony before Congress in 2014 on the risk-sharing programs incorporated in the Affordable Care Act.

# ACADEMY MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Based on total membership of 18,965

## By Practice Area

CASUALTY	3,954	20.8%
HEALTH	4,660	24.6%
LIFE	4,597	24.2%
PENSION	3,507	18.5%
RMFRC	896	4.7%
OTHER/NO ANSWER	1,351	7.1%

## By Age

34 AND YOUNGER	3,776	19.9%
35-49	6,795	35.8%
50-64	5,799	30.6%
65 AND OLDER	2,555	13.5%
DECLINED TO ANSWER	40	0.2%

## By Employment Type

INSURANCE & RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	10,520	55.5%
CONSULTING PRACTICE	6,160	32.5%
RETIRED	1,159	6.1%
UNAFFILIATED/OTHER	726	3.8%
GOVERNMENT	351	1.9%
ACADEMIC	49	0.3%

Source: American Academy of Actuaries Membership Data, July 31, 2015



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The American Academy of Actuaries is an 18,500+ member professional association whose mission is to serve the public and the U.S. actuarial profession. The Academy assists public policymakers on all levels by providing leadership, objective expertise, and actuarial advice on risk and financial security issues. The Academy also sets qualification, practice, and professionalism standards for actuaries in the United States.

## VISION

The vision of the American Academy of Actuaries is that financial security systems in the United States be sound and sustainable, and that actuaries be recognized as preeminent experts in risk and financial security.

## MISSION

The American Academy of Actuaries' mission is to serve the public and the United States actuarial profession.

### To accomplish this:

- As the public voice for the United States actuarial profession, the Academy provides independent and objective actuarial information, analysis, and education for the formation of sound public policy;
- The Academy provides for the establishment, maintenance, and enforcement of high professional standards of actuarial qualification, practice, and conduct;
- The Academy advances actuarial practice by informing and educating its members on public policy and professionalism issues and current and emerging practices;
- The Academy identifies and addresses issues on behalf of the public interest on matters in which actuarial science provides a unique understanding;
- The Academy increases the public's understanding and recognition of the value of the actuarial profession;
- The Academy provides opportunities for professional development of its members through volunteerism and service to the profession;
- The Academy facilitates and coordinates response to issues of common interest among the U.S.-based actuarial associations; and
- The Academy coordinates the representation of the U.S. profession globally.



From the halls of Congress and state capitols to regulatory and professional bodies such as the NAIC, FASB, and the IAA, the Academy represents the interests of all U.S. actuaries. As a member of the Academy, you are demonstrating a personal commitment to responsible actuarial practice, professionalism, and sound public policy.

—Daniel J. McCarthy

Academy President, 2001–2002, Posthumous winner of the Jarvis Farley Service Award, 2010



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