

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Student Success Program

Preparing Students Worldwide

- Embark their Actuarial Journey *with*
- Resources, tools & Support *for*
- Strong and Encouraging Start!

In Partnership with Institutions in
undeserved markets, with
significant financial challenges, and
limited academic resources.

By SOA Invitation Only



SOA Student Success Program: Key Information & Workflow

STEP 1



Invitation & Setup

SOA invites selected institutions. Institution confirms, designates a Program Advisor, and signs the SSP Partnership Agreement.

STEP 2

Student Enrollment

PA recruits top math/science students, distributes Student Pledge, and ensures students join SOA Affiliate Membership.



STEP 3



Kickoff & Cohorts

Introductory webinars for Advisors and students. Cohorts start mid-January or mid-July with detailed timelines.

STEP 4

Mock Exams & Registration

PA schedules mock exams. Students scoring 60%+ get SOA exam fee waivers. Register for SOA exams within 6 months.



Society of Actuaries Student Success Program (SSP)

Extended Description

The **Society of Actuaries (SOA) Student Success Program (SSP)** is a global initiative that supports top math and science students in emerging markets who are serious about pursuing actuarial careers. The program provides selected students with robust resources such as **free study materials, exam fee waivers, and mentorship** to jumpstart their SOA actuarial journey, while expecting a high level of **commitment and active participation** in return. Delivered in partnerships with institutions such as universities, local actuarial associations, or actuarial entities the SSP aims to cultivate the next generation of actuaries by reducing barriers and fostering a culture of excellence and dedication.

Targeted Global Outreach

Designed for high-performing students in developing markets, SSP introduces them to the actuarial profession with dedicated support.

Extensive Support & Resources

Participants receive 6 months of free access to a premier study platform, mock exam fee waivers, and mentorship from advisors and peers.

Commitment is Key

Students must demonstrate serious interest through active engagement—those who don't participate early on may be removed from the program.

Program Goals and Benefits

SSP's mission is to inspire and equip aspiring actuaries while building a supportive community. The program's key goals include sparking interest in actuarial careers, strengthening students' foundational knowledge, and increasing the SOA's global reach in the profession. To achieve these goals, SSP offers significant benefits that both **lower financial hurdles and enhance exam preparedness**:

- **Comprehensive Exam Support:** Free access to **The Infinite Actuary (TIA)** online study platform for **6 months** is provided, giving students a wealth of study materials, practice exams, and tutorials. TIA staff are on hand to troubleshoot issues and provide assistance, ensuring students make the most of the platform. This extensive support significantly improves students' preparedness for SOA exams.
- **Exam Fee Waivers:** To reduce financial burden, the program offers **SOA exam P & FM fee waivers** for students who demonstrate readiness by passing a proctored mock exam with a score of **60% or higher**. This means that if a student excels in the practice exam, the SOA will waive the fee for their first actual exam, reinforcing the reward for hard work and serious study.

- **Study Tools and Materials:** Students receive **SOA-approved calculators** (as needed) and other essential study materials at no cost. By ensuring every student has the proper tools required for the exams, the program emphasizes that **no committed student is held back due to lack of resources**.
- **Affiliate Membership:** All participants need to join the FREE membership that provides access to unlimited online resources, webinars, and a global network of actuarial professionals and mentors. The SSP & Membership provides a holistic approach to students new to SOA or who are returning after a break. This early integration into the professional community helps students build industry connections and find guidance. It also signals the student's commitment to the actuarial profession from the outset.
- **Peer and Mentor Community:** The program fosters a strong sense of **belonging and community**. Through increased engagement with faculty advisors, student peers, and professional actuaries, participants form a support network. Regular meetings, webinars, and discussion forums encourage knowledge-sharing and camaraderie.

Seeing others work hard toward the same goal motivates students to stay serious and focused. Past participants have noted that this supportive atmosphere kept them accountable and driven throughout their exam preparation.

- **The SSP removes obstacles (financial or otherwise) and provides a structured environment where committed students can thrive.** By taking care of logistics and resources, the program enables students to concentrate on what really matters: learning the material, practicing consistently, and passing their exams.

Program Structure: Roles and Support System

A strength of the SSP is its built-in support structure. **Dedicated roles are established to guide and motivate students, ensuring no one falls behind:**

- **Program Advisor (PA):** Each participating institution designates a PA who is essentially the backbone of the program. The PA is often a faculty member or Actuary familiar with SOA's education system. **They oversee all program activities and mentor the students directly.** Key responsibilities of the PA include keeping students on track with their study schedules, monitoring progress, and organizing program events (like study sessions and mock exams). They also handle administrative duties such as signing the SSP Partnership Agreement on behalf of the institution and close communicating with the SOA. PA ensure students maintain their commitment and guide them as needed. In

recognition of their time and pivotal role, the SOA provides compensation to the PA for the time spent proctoring exams, supervising study hours, and managing logistics.

- **Student Ambassador:** This is a **new peer mentor role** introduced to bolster student-to-student support. A Student Ambassador is a standout student (often a senior or a previous participant) chosen by the PA to assist with the program. **Ambassadors are exemplary in their own commitment:** they are highly engaged in their actuarial education, have shown leadership qualities, and are *fully committed to following the SOA exam pathway*. They often are sitting for the same exams alongside their peers, which puts them in an ideal position to understand and motivate others. Student Ambassadors help organize group study sessions, share tips on tackling difficult topics, and encourage classmates when the workload intensifies. They essentially act as **role models**, demonstrating the level of dedication expected. By clarifying doubts and sharing their own study strategies, Ambassadors help fellow students stay confident and on track.
- **SOA Staff and Resources:** In addition to the on-campus support, participants can lean on resources from the SOA and TIA. For instance, TIA's staff can be contacted for technical help or tutoring, and SOA's international support team regularly checks in. This multi-layered support system means that at any given point, a student has someone to turn to be a technical question about the curriculum or advice on balancing study with other commitments.

The strong support that is provided with the PA, Student Ambassador and other helpers create a strong engaging environment for students to thrive. They celebrate students' progress and address any slumps in participation early. The clear message to students is that while *support is abundant, each individual's commitment drives their own success*. The presence of mentors and peers investing time in the program also underscores that this is a serious endeavor; it encourages students to reciprocate that investment with equal seriousness.

Student Commitment and Expectations

Being admitted into the Student Success Program is both an honor and a responsibility. To make the most of the opportunity, participants are expected to demonstrate genuine commitment and professionalism. The program explicitly communicates "**What We Expect from You**" to every student at the outset, setting a tone of accountability and serious engagement. Here are the core expectations for students:

- **Active Engagement from Day One:** Students must begin using the TIA study platform immediately and continue to use it consistently. **Active participation is mandatory**, if a participant does not utilize the study platform within the first two weeks of the program, they **will be removed** for lack of engagement. This

policy underscores how crucial steady effort is. *To put it bluntly, procrastination or half-hearted involvement is not compatible with this program.* Successful past participants scheduled regular weekly study hours and stuck to them, treating them like mandatory classes.

- **Professional Conduct and Respect:** The SOA and partner institutions invest significant resources and time into each SSP cohort. Students are expected to respect the opportunity by **being punctual, responsive, and courteous** in all program activities. This means attending all webinars and meetings on time, responding to communications from the PA or SOA promptly, and adhering to any deadlines. Participants should remain **mindful that the PA, Student Ambassador, and additional instructors are volunteering their time and expertise**. Respecting their efforts by being prepared and attentive in sessions is a must. *This level of professionalism not only helps the student get more out of the program but also prepares them for the etiquette of the working world.*
- **Affiliate Membership--** students must enroll in this free program which compliments the SSP. Joining the affiliate membership isn't just a formality but it signals the student's intent to join the actuarial community and gives them access to additional resources. It's another indicator of serious interest. Additionally, students sign a **Student Pledge** agreeing to fully participate and uphold the program's standards.
- **Complete Assignments and Study Tasks:** The program include periodic assignments, such as finishing certain modules on the TIA platform or participating in scheduled **study hours** organized by the PA. Students are expected to complete **all such tasks diligently**. For instance, **practicing exam-style questions is strongly encouraged**. In fact, experience shows that *students who conscientiously completed around 240+ practice questions and several mock exams before the actual mock test achieved the best results*. This level of practice requires dedication beyond normal coursework. The SSP expects students to invest that extra effort. By logging practice hours and completing sample exams, students prove their serious intent to pass the SOA exams on the first attempt.
- **Treat the Mock Exam Like the Real Thing:** The mock exam is not just a practice run; it's a **qualifier for the fee waiver**. Students should prepare for the mock with the same seriousness they would for an official exam. **"Mock exams must be given the same importance as actual SOA exams,"** as the program guidelines state. On exam day, professionalism is expected: arrive on time, follow all exam rules, and put forth your best effort. Performing well (scoring $\geq 60\%$) not only earns the exam fee waiver but also demonstrates that the student is ready for the high stakes of professional exams. Even if a student does not pass the mock, the expectation is that they will use detailed feedback to study harder and attempt the next exam sitting with renewed commitment. TIA

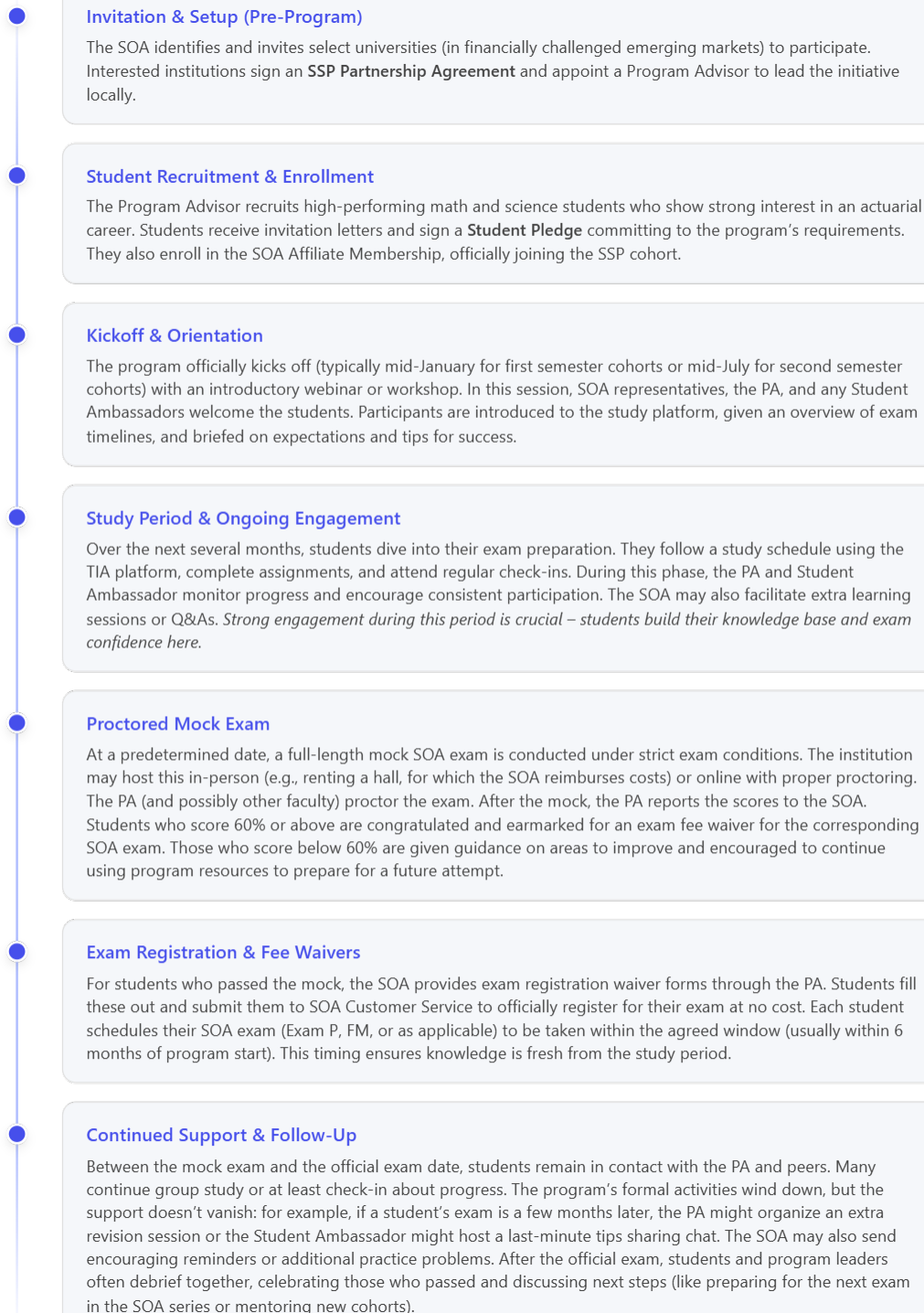
platform access is for 6 months, regardless of whether the student passed or not the mock exam they will have access for the entire 6 months.

- **Maintain Ongoing Communication:** Students should **stay in regular contact** with their PA. If challenges arise, maybe difficulty with certain topics or personal circumstances affecting study, students should proactively reach out for help rather than disengaging. There are many adjustments and resources the program can provide (like extra tutoring sessions, or motivational check-ins), but only if the PA knows there's an issue. Silence or withdrawal is counter to the spirit of the program. *Ask for help when needed and offer help to peers when you can. This two-way engagement creates a thriving learning environment.*

By meeting these expectations, students demonstrate serious intent and increase their profile at the institution and/or peers. The reward for this hard work give students tangible benefits (calculator, study platform, fee waivers) but also teaches important habits and skills that will be of great benefit as they advance in their actuarial journey.

Program Workflow and Timeline

The SSP follows a structured timeline from start to finish of the engagement (6 months). This helps everyone stay on track and provides the SOA with a structure to monitor the programs. Below is an overview of the key stages in the SSP lifecycle, from the initial invitation of an institution to the point where students sit for their official actuarial exams.



The program runs two cohorts a year: First semester (Jan-Jun) and Second semester (Jul-Dec). See *Appendix A for details*. This means if a student or school misses one window, there might be another opportunity later in the year. However, once a cohort is underway, all participants progress together through these stages, sharing the experience as a group. Each semester, the PA in coordination with the students will choose the exams to pursue.

Institutional Support and Financial Considerations

The Society of Actuaries understands that successful execution of the program requires support not just for students, but also for the institutions and individuals who facilitate it. To that end, **the SSP includes financial support for certain program aspects** so that partner schools can fully participate without undue burden:

- **Exam Venue & Equipment:** If the institution needs to rent a venue to administer the mock exam (for example, a large classroom or hall to accommodate all students in a quiet environment), the SOA will reimburse this expense, provided it's approved in advance and proper invoices are submitted. Similarly, if the institution purchases **SOA-approved calculators** or other necessary supplies for students, those costs will be reimbursed (prior approval required).
- **PA recognition:** The PA's role, while rewarding, demands a significant amount of time from them. They willingly volunteer while juggling their job, family commitments and personal time. As a token of appreciation, the SOA provides a **stipend or honorarium to compensate** for these efforts.

These financial components underscore SOA's commitment to making the program a sustainable partnership. The goal is to minimize any out-of-pocket costs for participating institutions and volunteers.

Commitment to Actuarial Excellence

The SSP offers a win-win proposition to students, institutions and local markets by providing a comprehensive structured program that remove barriers for students in underserved regions.

For aspiring actuaries, SSP is more than a scholarship or tutoring program. It's a comprehensive initiation into the profession's rigor and rewards. Participants come away not only having passed exams or learned new concepts, but also having developed the work ethic, accountability, and professional networking skills that will serve them throughout their careers. **The emphasis on commitment is intentional:** the actuarial profession demands perseverance, strong ethics, and commitment which will be perceived from day one. The SSP aims to **build a pipeline of qualified, passionate actuaries** who might not have had this chance otherwise. It stands as a testament to the idea that given the right support and held to high expectations, emerging talent can and will rise to meet challenges.

Probability Exam (P)

Exam P	Faculty Commitment	Student Recruitment	Start Program	Mock Exam	SOA Exam Deadline	Exam Date
2025 November	20-Jun	27-Jun	Jul 7	Sep 24-27	8-Oct	Nov 3-14 (CBT)
2026 January	29-Aug	5-Sep	Sep 15	Dec 3-6	17-Dec	Jan 15-26
2026 March	24-Oct	31-Oct	Nov 10	Jan 28-31	11-Feb	Mar 9-20
2026 May	19-Dec	26-Dec	Jan 5	Mar 25-28	8-Apr	May 8-19
2026 July	20-Feb	27-Feb	Mar 9	May 27- 30	10-Jun	Jul 8-19
2026 September	24-Apr	1-May	May 11	July 29- Aug 1	12-Aug	Sep 10-21
2026 November	20- Jun	27 - Jun	Jul 7	Sep 16-19	Sep 30	Nov 4-15

Financial Mathematics (FM)

Exam FM	Faculty Commitment	Students Confirmed	Start Program	Mock Exam	SOA Exam Deadline	Exam Date
2025 December	18-Jul	25-Jul	4-Aug	Oct 22-25	5-Nov	Dec 1-12 (CBT)
2026 February	19-Sep	26-Sep	6-Oct	Feb 24-27	7-Jan	Feb 5-16
2026 April	14-Nov	21-Nov	1-Dec	Feb 18-21	4-Mar	Apr 2-13
2026 June	16-Jan	23-Jan	2-Feb	Apr 22-25	6-May	Jun 11-22
2026 August	20-Mar	27-Mar	6-Apr	Jun 24- 27	8-Jul	Aug 6-17
2026 October	1-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr	Aug 19-22	Sep 2	Oct 1-12
2026 December	3-Jul	10- Jul	17-Jul	Oct 21-24	Nov-4	Dec 3-14