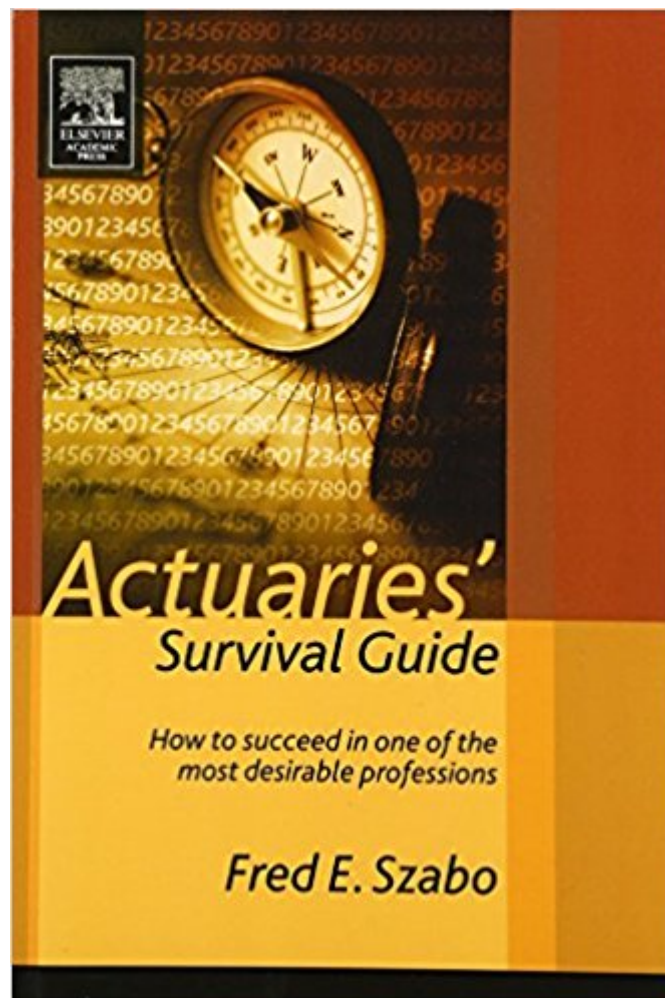


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Actuaries' Survival Guide: How To Succeed In One Of The Most Desirable Professions



Synopsis

This unique book is a guide for students and graduates of mathematics, statistics, economics, finance, and other number-based disciplines contemplating a career in actuarial science. Given the comprehensive range of the cases that are analyzed in the book, the Actuaries' Survival Guide can serve as a companion to existing study material for all courses designed to prepare students for actuarial examinations. * Based on the curricula and examinations of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) and the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS)* Presents an overview of career options and details on employment in different industries* Provides a link between theory and practice; helps readers gain the qualitative and quantitative skills and knowledge required to succeed in actuarial exams* Includes insights from over 50 actuaries and actuarial students* Written by Fred Szabo, who has directed the actuarial co-op program at Concordia University for over ten years

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I found this material to be the most helpful thing for anyone contemplating an actuarial profession. The early material motivates and familiarizes a person with the profession in a casual but real way. The middle material gives a person the tools to plan and attack a program to pass the exams. The latter part of the book gives great guidance on job opportunities...Bravo to both the book's concept and realization." — Murray Lieb, New Jersey Institute of Technology
"The book is extremely well written. Actuaries need good communication skills and this book provides an excellent example of such skills at work." — Charles Moore, Kansas State University

The first career guide for actuarial students and beginning professionals

Pluses> Good overview of the profession> Excellent explanation of career paths - valuation, pricing, consulting, pension, financial> Lots of examples of "a typical day in an actuary"> Explains math skills needed.> Nice example problems that actuary solves
Minus> Book is 7 years old.

This book really helped me understand what I needed to do in order to become an Actuary. The resources for exam section is marvelous. Also take a look at all of the companies at the end. This is a great way to start networking.

Great Book and Easy Read

Great product!

This wasn't a bad book, but it's hardly worth its cost... or any cost. I downloaded a free PDF online. I learned more about the field from simply browsing the actuarial forums (AO, Reddit etc.), beanactuary.com, and the SOA website with choice keywords.

As someone interested in making a possible career change into the actuarial profession, I purchased this book hoping to get a feel for the day-to-day job experience of an actuary, as well as get some basic information about career paths and professional organizations. A large portion of the book consists of responses a survey the author undertook; daily tasks, salaries, opportunities and such. These are very useful and are presented without "analysis" by the author, leaving the reader to draw their own conclusions. However, the book really has very little background information - differences (textbook at least) between different business areas actuaries are employed, or information about what distinguishes an associate from a fellow, etc. Upon further research I also discovered that some of the information has become out of date, as the professional organizations have recently added some additional requirements for advancement. Overall I did find this book of some use in understanding more about the "daily life" of an actuary, but with the lack of background info and some information becoming outdated I cannot recommend it at the \$40 price tag it currently carries.

I have been searching with my students for a good book explaining challenges of the actuaries' job and the way to it. I could not find anything that would guide my students and help them in making an informed decision. Finally, I got Actuaries' Survival Guide by Fred Szabo. I wish to share some of my thoughts with potential readers. The book should be considered as good guide for people who want to pursue their career as actuaries. It shows step by step challenges as well as opportunities of this job. Most of my students after reading this book were able to say if this is really the job they want or not. For all of them it was quite clear what are the demands and if they are able to fulfill them. Let me comment on the selection of topics. The content of the book is organized in a very logical way. It is as complete as it could be possible. We learn what is the actuarial job, what skills we need for it, types of accreditation, what education we must go through, how to start and continue an actuarial professional career. It would be important to mention the style of the book. At first sight it is very unusual. Large parts of the book are written in Q&A style. I have been thinking a while why Fred Szabo decided to choose just this style instead of something more conventional. Finally, I understood that this book written in traditional style of narration could be very difficult to read. Writing it in the form of questions and answers Fred is taking away this difficulty and forces his readers to concentrate on one topic at a time. There is another advantage to this approach. I guess, some of my students could never even think about problems that are mentioned in Fred's questions. For most of them reading these questions was quite a good lesson. Finally, we should look into answers. Who replied to these questions and how? It is evident that most of the answers were given by experienced actuaries. This book is not the knowledge of a single person; it is the wisdom of many top level professionals. As a scientist and author I admire the amount of work done in researching and writing this book. I admire the professionalism of Fred Szabo. In conclusion I would like to say that this is a wonderful book written in a professional way for the people who wish to be professionals in one of the most difficult professions.

As a second year actuarial mathematics student, several questions boggle my mind as to how the actuarial profession really is, what actuaries do exactly, how the SOA tests are, and what to do to achieve all of my actuarial goals. Through this book, I was able to get an answer to all of my questions that were circulating in my head. This book is an essential reference guide to anyone who is in the process of becoming an actuary or who is thinking about the actuarial profession as a future career. This book includes, in detail, typical questions that any student may have while approaching his/her career. Instead of getting the opinion of only one author, the book delivers the answers of hundreds of present actuaries, giving in specific detail, how they approached their careers and what

they did to resolve the common problems that erupt while striving for this challenging career. This book also includes a comprehensive description of each Actuarial exam, so I know what to expect and what to study, to give me the confidence to pass a course on my first attempt. The last few chapters give information about the typical employer and other sources of information for when I graduate from University. This is one of the most demanding and hard professions present in our world today. How can a person achieve all of their goals if some unanswered questions still boggle the mind? If you are a student thinking about the actuarial profession, or a student already involved in actuarial studies, or even a graduate looking for a job, this book is a MUST to have. I now know what to expect from this profession and where I am headed. Thank you for answering all of my questions.

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