

Success in the Actuarial Concentration: A College Timeline

(August 2018)

Freshman

Fall

1. Join the Actuary Club
2. Register for **CSC 1253: Introduction to Computer Science with C++**
3. Start taking supplementary courses in Excel
 - a. You have free access to Lynda Campus at LSU; they have good excel courses that you can take
 - b. Udemy is another great resource; Kyle Pew has excel courses for around \$12 that are exceptional
4. Go to the Olinde Career Center and begin working on your resume

Spring

1. Begin looking at material for exam 2/FM; if you are able to schedule **Math 3050: Interest Theory** at this point, do so
2. Register for **CSC 1254: Introduction to Computer Science II with C++**
3. Submit applications for summer internships; you do not need an exam passed for an introductory position although it helps; talk to Dr. Smolinsky for up-to-date information on local internships hiring rising sophomores
4. Schedule mock interviews through the career center; also, mock phone interviews are available through Winnie Sloan at Travelers
5. If you are unable to find an internship, consider talking to Dr. Shipman or Dr. Wolenski for summer research opportunities

Summer

1. Register for exam 2/FM
 - a. Deadline for June sitting is **May 1**
 - b. Deadline for August sitting is **June 26**
2. Study!!! The SOA recommends 100 hours study time per hour of exam time. 2/FM is a 3-hour exam so that means 300 hours
3. Continue to update your resume
4. Begin looking for internships for the following summer; actuarial recruiting is very early

Sophomore

Fall

1. Register for **CSC 2730: Data Science and Analytics (Fall only)**
2. Continue searching for internships; you should be sending out applications no later than the end of September; early September is better
3. Schedule more mock interviews
4. If you are able, take **Math 3355: Probability** and start preparing for exam 1/P
 - a. Deadline for January sitting is **December 5**
 - b. Deadline for July sitting is **June 5**

Spring

1. Register for **Finance 3440: Risk and Insurance**; you will need the Finance department to waive the prerequisites; Dr. Smolinsky will have more information
2. Register for **CSC 4740: Big Data Tech (Spring only)**
3. If you did not pass exam 1/P or are now able to take **Math 3355: Probability**, do so and begin preparing for the summer sitting
 - a. Deadline for July sitting is **June 5**
4. Continue with your excel training
5. Continue to update your resume
6. Consider undergraduate research opportunities if you are unable to secure an internship

Summer

1. Register for exam 1/P if you have not already done so
2. Study!!!
3. Update your resume
4. Start looking for internships for the following summer

Junior

Fall

1. Update your resume and submit applications for your last internship; remember, applications should be out no later than the end of September
2. Schedule more mock interviews
3. Register for **FIN 4850: Financial Derivatives**; this will give you a broad overview of derivatives, one of the main topics for exam 3/IFM
 - a. This is by no means a prep class for 3/IFM; you will need supplementary resources as well
 - b. Talk to Dr. Smolinsky about a Math 4999 reading course, an opportunity to study together with other students
 - c. Deadline for March Sitting is **February 6**
 - d. Deadline for July sitting is **May 30**

Spring

1. Register for **FIN 4850: Financial Derivatives** if you were unable to last semester
2. Register for **EXST 4025: SAS Programming**
3. Begin studying for 3/IFM
 - a. Deadline for July sitting is **May 30**
4. Continue supplementary excel courses
5. Consider summer research opportunities if you are unable to secure an internship

Summer

1. Study!!!
2. Update your resume
3. Begin looking for full-time employment towards the end of your summer
 - a. Ideally, you will get an offer from one of your internships; however, do not panic if you do not; you have all the experience and exams that you need to secure a job anywhere

Senior

Fall

1. Update your resume and send out applications for full-time employment
2. Continue scheduling more mock interviews
3. If you did not pass 3/IFM then this is the perfect opportunity to do so
 - a. Register for **FIN 4850: Financial Derivatives** if you have not already done so
 - b. Deadline for March sitting is **February 6**
4. If you know which actuarial pathway you are pursuing, then you can begin studying for your fourth exam
 - a. Consult Dr. Smolinsky on which exam will be right for you

Spring

1. Update your resume and continue searching for full-time employment
2. Continue with mock interviews
3. It is not recommended that you take a summer sitting of an exam in your final semester of your senior year; you will have a lot going on with graduation
 - a. If you are anxious to take an exam anyway, talk to Dr. Smolinsky about your options