Preparing to Become an Actuary

Presented By:
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Swiss Re
Discussion Points

- My Background
- Highlights of Actuarial Profession
- How to Prepare for Becoming an Actuary
My Background

- Grew up and went to high school in Fort Wayne area (Churubusco)
- Graduated from IPFW in 1999 – major of math w/actuarial science option
- Interned with Lincoln Re from May 1998 through December 1999
- Began full-time in January 2000
- Swiss Re bought Lincoln Re in December 2001
- Have worked in the life insurance area my entire career with jobs associated with experience studies, pricing, and client facing roles
- Currently working with non-traditional area that focuses on securitizations and evaluating tail risk
Swiss Re at a glance

- **Swiss Re** is a **leading and highly diversified global reinsurer**, founded in Zurich (Switzerland) in 1863.

- **149 years of experience** in providing wholesale re/insurance and risk management solutions.

- **We deliver both traditional and innovative offerings** in Property & Casualty and Life & Health that meet our clients’ needs.

- **A pioneer in insurance-based capital market solutions**, we combine financial strength and unparalleled expertise for the benefit of our clients.

- **Our financial strength** is currently rated:
  - Standard & Poor’s: AA-/stable
  - Moody’s A1/stable
  - A.M. Best: A+/stable

- **We are ranked 2nd among global reinsurers** in premiums earned (based on 2010 data)*

*Source: Swiss Re, Economic Research & Consulting
Swiss Re is broadly diversified

Premiums earned\(^1\) 2011 (USD 22.2 billion)
by region (in USD bn)

- Americas 9.3
- Europe 8.6
- Asia 4.3

... and by product line:

- Life & Health 46%
- Property & Casualty 54%
- P&C non-traditional 2%
- Specialty 11%
- Property 24%
- Casualty 17%
- Admin Re 7%
- Health 11%

- Swiss Re benefits from geographic and business mix diversification and has the ability to reallocate capital to achieve profitable growth
- Combines accumulated expertise of over 149 years and continuing research with a widely recognised strong track record of innovation

\(^1\) Includes fee income from policyholders
Actuarial Profession – What do actuaries do?

- Daily work can vary drastically depending on company and area of work
  - sales/marketing actuaries – interacting w/clients to help them find solutions
  - technical actuaries
    - programming or modeling business
    - evaluating experience and projecting future results
    - valuing blocks of business or setting premium rates to ensure profitability
  - management positions

- Most actuaries will spend a significant amount of time at a computer

- Key software used includes
  - Microsoft suite of products (especially Excel),
  - programming (SAS, VBA, etc),
  - actuarial modeling software
Actuarial Profession – How much do actuaries make?

- Salaries for being an actuary are highly rewarding!

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<th>0-0.5 yrs (excl. sign-on)</th>
<th>0.5-2.5 yrs</th>
<th>2.5-4.5 yrs</th>
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<td>163-403+</td>
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Salaries include bonus – top and bottom 10% of people surveyed are excluded

Source DW Simpson 2012 Actuarial Salary Survey
http://www.actuaryjobs.com/salary.html
Actuarial Profession – What are other incentives to becoming an actuary?

- From the website beanactuary.org here are a few reason to consider actuarial science
  
  - **Top-Ranked.** Actuary has consistently been rated [one of the top jobs in the United States](#).
  
  - **Head start.** Actuaries [earn great starting salaries](#) that can double within the first five years.
  
  - **Job security.** Actuaries enjoy certainty in uncertain times. We're [always in demand](#) as the world confronts risk.
  
  - **Impressive impact.** Actuaries participate in high-level business decision-making and [solve real problems](#) in every industry.
  
  - **Life in balance.** More than a fulfilling career, being an actuary allows you to maintain a low-stress, [highly sought-after work/life balance](#).
How to Prepare to Get a Job as an Actuary

- Most important thing is to pass actuarial exams
  - requires a significant amount of studying
  - recommended to have at least 2-3 actuarial exams passed when entering job search and 4 would be ideal

- Internship is very important as well

- Take relevant college courses with overall strong GPA
  - statistics & life contingencies
  - business/finance courses
  - programming courses (e.g. SAS, VBA, etc.)

- Develop good communications skill

- Develop good leadership skills

- Learn how to use Excel and other Microsoft applications
Questions?