THE ACADEMY: PUBLIC POLICY AND PROFESSIONALISM VOICE OF THE U.S. PROFESSION

THOMAS A. CAMPBELL, MAAA, FSA, CERA ACADEMY PRESIDENT-ELECT



ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF GREATER NEW YORK NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Disclaimer

Please note: The presenter's statements and opinions are his own and do not necessarily represent the official statements or opinions of the American Academy of Actuaries, any boards, councils, or committees of the Academy, nor of his employer.



Academy's Dual Mission

- The Academy has a dual mission:
 - Serve the public
 - Serve the U.S. actuarial profession
- Today's agenda is to provide you with a highlevel update on Academy activities in these key areas

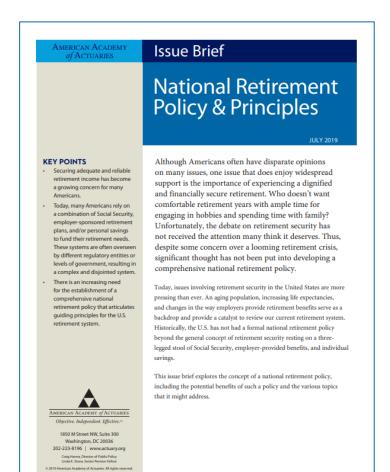


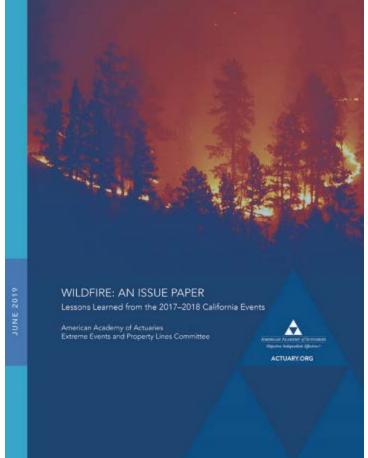
Public Policy

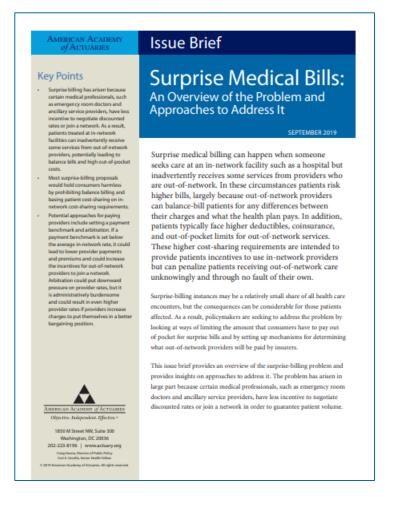


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Providing objective, independent actuarial analysis and education to the public and public policymakers





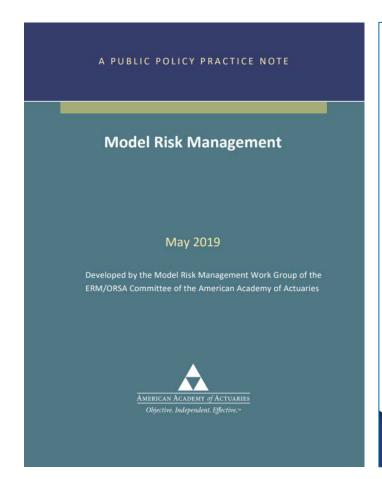


Providing objective actuarial analysis for the formation of sound public policy

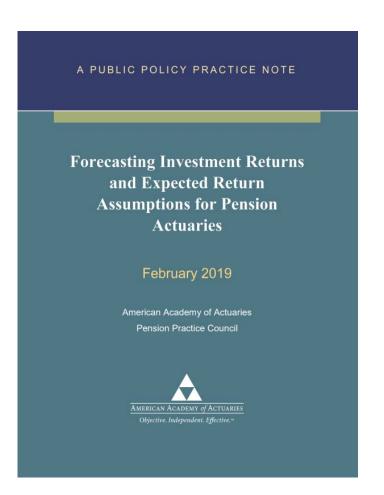




Providing timely, useful resources and information to members







The unique voice of the U.S. actuarial profession internationally







Keeping membership up-to-date on cutting-edge public policy and professionalism issues

LIFE PERSPECTIVES

Checking in on the PBR Checklist



adhere to the principle-based reserving (PBR) requirements under the Valuation Manual Section 20 (VM-20). Most companies are required to comply with VM-20, although companies with small amounts of ordinary life premium are optionally exempt from the requirements.

The document was put together at the request of the task force's parent group, the PBR Governance Work Group, which wanted a summary of the critical elements of PBR, said Karen

The Life Practice Council's PBR Checklist Task Force released a

new document titled "What is PBR for Life Insurance?," just a few months before the Jan. 1 deadline for companies to

Rudolph, chairperson of the PBR Checklist Task Force. The audience is intended to be people who are not-so-familiar with PBR specifically, and VM-20 and the Valuation Manual in general, she said.

"When an internal actuary who's responsible for valuation or pricing is called up to a senior management meeting to discuss this issue, they can use this document as a primer for the executive set," Rudolph said of the four-page document.

"Actuaries close to the specifics of PBR are going to find this document helpful in bringing others up to speed without slogging through the details," she said. "I think it's a good summary, and if it helps them in their job to communicate up to senior management and/or folks not as close to the topic as they are, then our task force has done its job. I worked with a great team consisting of Nadeem Chowdhury, Jason Kehrberg, Linda Lankowski, Reanna Nicholsen and Benjamin Slutsker,

The document includes a pyramid graphic showing qualified actuaries at its base, going up to senior management, and topped by a board that oversees the entire PBR process.

"This structure is indicative of the responsibilities within a life insurance company," Rudolph said. "Being at the bottom doesn't necessarily mean less important—in fact, the real estate at the bottom covers more ground. The qualified actuaries will spend more time on a day-to-day basis working with VM-20 and its impact than the board members at the top of the pyramid."

Qualified actuaries will report up to senior management in the middle, who in turn have the responsibility to both direct the implementation and communicate up to the board members at the top. Senior managers "need to direct the implementation [of PBR] and the ongoing operations of the valuation, and make sure the qualified actuary has the resources that he or she needs to calculate the new statutory valuation paradigm,"

Fall 2019 Vol 2 | No. 4

In This Issue

Academy Presents at NAIC Summer Meeting

PBR Boot Camp Sessions Set for December

Annual Meeting and Public Policy

Group Comments on VM-51

Life Groups Comment to NAIC

Legislative/Regulatory Update

In the News



Policy Forum, Nov. 5-6 in





Professionalism



U.S. Qualification Standards (USQS)

- Precept 2 of the Code of Professional Conduct states in part that:
 - "An Actuary shall perform Actuarial Services only when the Actuary is qualified to do so on the basis of basic and continuing education and experience, and only when the Actuary satisfies applicable qualification standards." (emphasis added)
- The USQS applies to members of all five U.S.-based actuarial organizations (Academy, ASPPA/ACOPA, CAS, CCA, and SOA)
- The USQS sets forth qualification requirements for actuaries practicing in the U.S.

USQS Structure

- Section 1. Introduction (including definitions)
- Section 2. General Qualification Standard
 - Basic Education and Experience Requirements
 - Continuing Education Requirements
- Section 3. Specific Qualification Standards (when necessary)
- Section 4. Changes in Practice and Application
- Section 5. Acknowledgement of Qualification
- Section 6. Recordkeeping Requirements



U.S. Qualification Standards—SAO

- USQS defines a Statement of Actuarial Opinion (SAO) as having two components:
 - (i) an opinion expressed by an actuary in the course of performing actuarial services; and
 - (ii) an opinion that is intended by the actuary to be relied upon by the person or organization to which it is addressed.

△ PROFESSIONALISM COUNTS

An SAO by Any Other Name

BY ANDREA SWEENY

Chairperson, Committee on Qualifications

AM CERTAIN THAT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE was not thinking about the U.S. Qualification Standards (USQS) or statements of actuarial opinion (SAOs) when he penned addressed. If the actuary does not intend for the actuary's prin-

Juliet's famous line "What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet." Neither was Gertrude Stein, when she declared in 1913 that a "Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose."2 But the principle underlying these famously floral examples of the logical law of identity is one that actuaries can learn from: Whether an opinion expressed by an actuary is an SAO depends on the substance of the opinion, not on what the actuary calls it.

Precept 2 of the Code of Professional Conduct (Code) states that an actuary "shall perform Actuarial Services . . . only when the Actuary satisfies applicable qualification standards." According to the Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opin-

ion in the United States, "Actuaries who issue Statements of Actuarial Opinion when rendering Actuarial Services in the United States are required by the Code... to satisfy these Qualification Standards."3 For this reason, any actuary who is subject to the Code should understand what an SAO is

The USQS provides a two-prong definition of an SAO. It is (i) "an opinion expressed by an actuary in the course of performing Actuarial Services"; and is (ii) "intended by that actuary to be relied upon by the person or organization to which the opinion is addressed."4 The USQS, and the answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) provided by the Academy's Committee on Qualifications (COQ), contain important information on how to identify the elements of the SAO.

How have these two prongs been interpreted?

First, an SAO "must be based on actuarial considerations,"5 and not merely involve numbers or calculations. FAQ 17, for example, explains that if an actuary states "the health care trend you have experienced is 10 percent," based on compiled data alone without any actuarial considerations, the statement is not an SAO. By contrast, if an actuary states that "the expected health care trend for your commercial business for next year is 10 percent," the statement would likely be an SAO because it involves actuarial considerations.

Second, the actuary must intend for the opinion to be relied upon by the person or organization to which the opinion is

> cipal to rely upon the opinion, the actuary must clearly state this. However, even labeling an opinion "not to be relied upon" or a "draft" does not prevent reliance. Appendix 1 states, "if there is a reasonable likelihood that the Principal will rely on the draft regardless of intent, that is an indication that the draft is an SAO.706 If an actuary holds a position that is "non-actuarial in nature" or has "non-actuarial aspects," the USQS are not intended to apply to oral or written statements issued "by virtue of the positions they hold and not because they

As the parsing of the elements of an SAO illustrates, the definition of an SAO in the USQS is very broad. SAOs can be written or

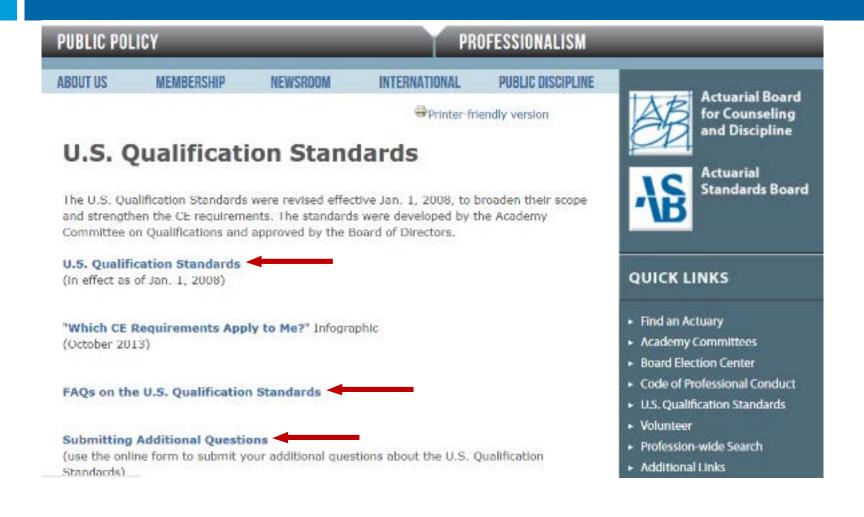
oral. They can include internal or external company communications. They can be provided for compensation or gratis. They do not depend upon the status of the actuary as "working" or "retired." Appendix 1 of the USQS describes SAOs and lists some examples of commonly issued opinions and work products and whether they are likely to be considered SAOs. Appendix 1 also describes generally what types of actuarial work involving government or other public sector actuaries may be considered SAOs

As former Academy President Tom Wildsmith summarized: "Some might misunderstand this term [SAO] to be limited to a formal statement filed with a regulator—nothing could be further from the truth. A simple rule of thumb is that if I perform work that someone else relies on because I am an actuary, then the

Given the breadth of the definition and the fact that issuing even a single SAO requires compliance with the USQS, actuaries should ensure that they meet the USQS requirements. As the COQ stated in FAQ 15 regarding the interpretation of "gray areas," "the Committee recommends that practicing actuaries endeavor to meet the USQS rather than expending time and energy trying to find interpretations that support exemption from the USQS." An SAO is an SAO is an SAO is an SAO. A

- Romeo and Juliet, Act II, Scene 2.
- 2 From the poem "Sacred Emily." 5 Appendix 1, 1(d)
- 4 USOS, Section 1 7 USOS, Section 1.
 - ⁹ Contingencies, September/October 2016, p. 24.

U.S. Qualification Standards and Tools



- □ CE Infographic
- ☐ 53 FAQs
- SubmitQuestions



Attestation Form

- http://attest.actuary.org
- Show how you meet
 - General Requirements
 - Specific Requirements
- Printable



Welcome To The U.S. Qualification Standards
Attestation Form

Please log in above with your username and password to create or update your current and past attestations.

- Can complete multiple attestations for multiple SAOs
- Can download complete attestation package (form and attachments)

Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs)

Precept 3 of the Code of Professional Conduct states in part that:

"An Actuary shall ensure that Actuarial Services performed by or under the direction of the Actuary satisfy applicable standards of practice." (emphasis added)

- ASOPs provide:
 - Guidance to practicing U.S. actuaries when they do the work; and
 - Documentation of then-current practice in the event of a later dispute

Structure of ASOPs

Cross-Practice ASOPs

ASOP 1 Introductory ASOP

ASOP 41 Actuarial Communication

ASOP 12	Risk Classification
ASOP 17	Expert Testimony by Actuaries
ASOP 21	Responding to or Assisting Auditors
ASOP 32	Social Insurance

ASOP 23	Data Quality
ASOP 25	Credibility Procedures
Exposure	Modeling
Exposure	Setting Assumptions

Practice-Specific ASOPs

Casualty

ASOP 13, 19, 20, 29, 30, 36, 38, 39, 43, 53

ERM

ASOP 46, 47, 55

Health

ASOP 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 18, 19, 22, 26, 28, 42, 45, 49, 50

Life

ASOP 2, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 22, 24, 33, 37, 40, 48, 52, 54

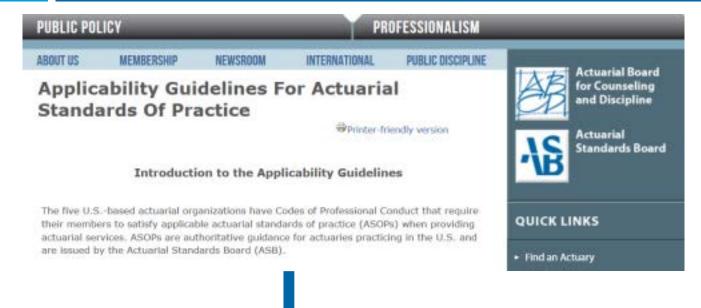
Pension

ASOP 4, 6, 27, 34, 35, 44, 51



AMERICAN ACADEMY of ACTUARIES

Applicability Guidelines



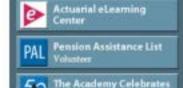
- Suggest which ASOPs might apply to common tasks
- Listed by practice area
- Nonbinding
- Access downloadable file at bottom of page



ApplicabilityGuidelines@actuary.org.

For the current Applicability Guidelines, click here.





The Social Security Game

Recent Exposure Drafts

- ASOP No. 32, Social Insurance
 - Comment deadline was Feb. 1, 2019
- Modeling (fourth exposure)
 - Comment deadline was May 15, 2019
- ASOP No. 22, Statements of Actuarial Opinion Based on Asset Adequacy Analysis for Life or Health Liabilities
 - Comment deadline was June 1, 2019
- ASOP No. 2, Nonguaranteed Elements for Life Insurance and Annuity Products
 - Comment deadline: July 15, 2019
- Setting Assumptions (second exposure)
 - Comment deadline: July 31, 2019



Recent Exposure Drafts

- ASOP No. 35, Selection of Demographic and Other Noneconomic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations (second exposure)
 - Comment deadline was Sept. 15, 2019
- ASOP No. 27, Selection of Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations (second exposure)
 - Comment deadline was Sept. 15, 2019



Recently Effective ASOPs

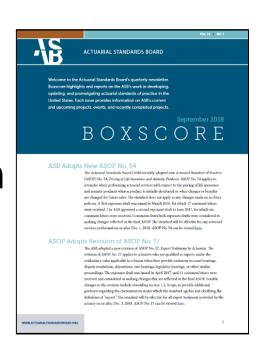
- ASOP No. 54, Pricing of Life Insurance and Annuity Products
 - Effective Date: Dec. 1, 2018
 - October 2014, ASB Life Committee distributed a Request for Comments regarding an ASOP focused on life insurance and annuity pricing
 - Sixteen comment letters were received; most supported the drafting of such an ASOP
 - Due to the pricing of products being one of the most important functions actuaries perform, ASB Life Committee and ASB believed the profession would be well served by an ASOP providing guidance regarding life insurance and annuity product pricing

Recently Effective ASOPs

- ASOP No. 55, Capital Adequacy Assessment
 - Effective Date: Nov. 1, 2019
 - Provides guidance to actuaries when performing professional services with respect to an evaluation of the resiliency of an insurer through a capital adequacy assessment
 - Applies to actuaries involved in capital adequacy assessment work for life or health insurers (including fraternal benefit societies and health benefit plans), property and casualty insurers, mortgage and title insurers, financial guaranty insurance companies, risk retention groups, public entity pools, captive insurers, and similar entities or a combination of such entities, when affiliated

ASB Annual Report and Boxscore

- ASB Annual Report
- Boxscore: ASB Quarterly Newsletter
 - Announcements of
 - Exposure drafts
 - Final standards
 - Status of ASOPs under revision
 - Meeting dates
 - Other ASB news







American Academy of Actuaries

The Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline (ABCD)



- Two primary functions
 - Respond to requests for guidance (RFGs) on professionalism issues
 - Consider complaints about possible violations of the Code



Disposition of Matters Brought Before the ABCD

Since its inception in 1992, the ABCD has completed cases as follows*				
Dismissed	339			
Dismissed with Guidance	90			
Counseled	73			
Mediated	12			
Recommended Private Reprimand	6			
Recommended Public Discipline	43			
Request for Guidance	1,284			
Total	1,847			

*As of summer 2019



ABCD Cases by Practice Area

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
	Casualty	3	4	3	5	1	
>	Health	1	4	0	5	5	
New	Pension	30	8	12	10	3	
Z	Life	1	3	4	2	4	
	Total	35	19	19	22	13	
ठ	Casualty	5	3	6	0	1	
S	Health	1	2	2	2	7	
O	Pension	31	7	6	8	11	
Resolved	Life	0	3	0	5	3	
~	Total	37	15	14	15	22	



Major Issues by Precept (2018)

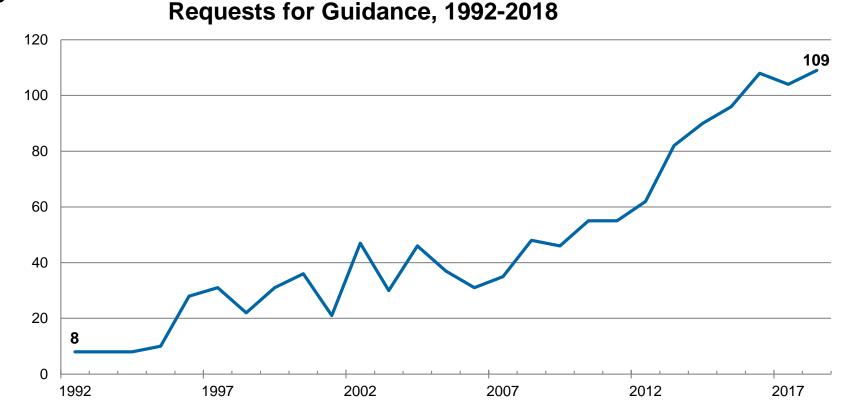
Major Issue Alleged	Discipline	Counsel	Dismiss	Total
Precept 1: Failure to act with integrity	1	4	2	7
Failure to perform services with competence	1		1	2
Calculation or data errors	1		1	2
Other errors in work	1			1
Failure to uphold reputation of profession	1	4	1	6
Precept 2: Performing work when not qualified				
Precept 3: Work fails to satisfy an ASOP		4	5	9
Use of unreasonable assumptions		4	2	6
Precept 4: Inadequate actuarial communication	1	4	5	10
Precept 5: Failure to identify Principal				

Major Issues by Precept (2018)

Major Issue Alleged	Discipline	Counsel	Dismiss	Total
Precept 6: Failure to disclose				
Precept 7: Conflict of interest				
Precept 8: Failure to take reasonable steps to prevent misuse of work product			2	2
Precept 9: Disclosure of confidential information				
Precept 10: Failure to cooperate with other actuary			1	1
Precept 11: Improper advertising		3		3
Precept 12: Improper use of designation				
Precept 13: Failure to report violation				
Precept 14: Failure to cooperate with the ABCD				

ABCD Requests for Guidance

There has been a significant increase in RFGs over the years.

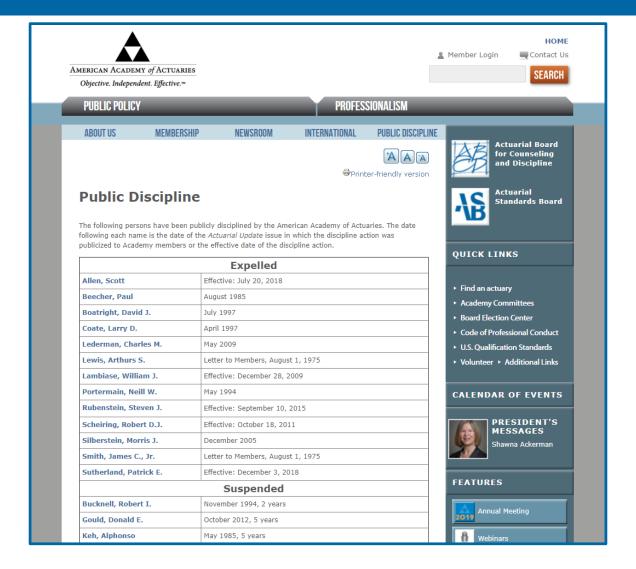




ABCD Requests for Guidance

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pension	30	27	26	28	24
Health	19	22	25	35	32
Life	17	19	23	13	15
Casualty	20	23	28	24	27
Other	4	5	6	4	11
Total	90	96	108	104	109

Academy Public Discipline Notices





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HOME

ABOUT US

Actuarial Board for

Counseling and Discipline

STANDARDS & GUIDANCE

COMPLAINTS

PRESENTATIONS

RESOURCES

Resources

Resources

The Rules of Procedure

Annual reports

Up to Code

Other articles

Links

This section contains an online library of ABCD publications and documents and related external material.

ABCD publications and documents

- Rules of Procedure (a guide to how the Board handles requests for guidance and complaints about actuarial conduct)
- · Annual reports published by the Board
- "Up to Code" columns written by ABCD members for Contingencies magazine
- Flow Chart of the ABCD's Investigation Process Target Timeline
- · Published Guidance by the ABCD
 - Pension-related guidance provided December 29, 2010, in response to a request for guidance from the Academy's Pension Practice Council
 - ASOP 6 guidance provided November 24, 2015



Academy Professionalism Speakers Bureau

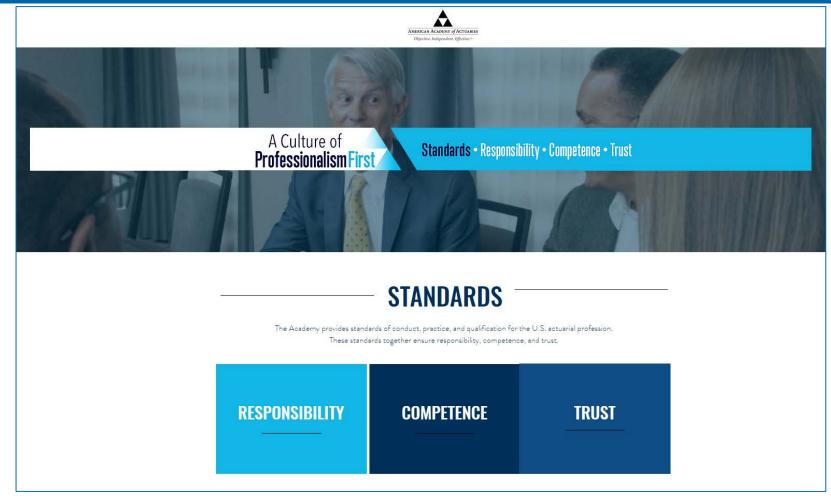
- So far in 2019, the Academy's professionalism speakers bureau placed speakers at 30 meetings, reaching approximately 4,700 meeting attendees
- This will be a record year for speakers bureau outreach efforts



Professionalism Resources

- Academy Professionalism webpage
 - www.actuary.org/content/professionalism
 - * Code of Professional Conduct * U.S. Qualification Standards
 - * Standards of practice (ASB) * Applicability Guidelines
- Academy's Professionalism First webpage
 - www.professionalism.actuary.org
 - * Access "Professionalism Perspectives" blog and Academy's recently launched podcast series, "Actuary Voices"

Professionalism Resources

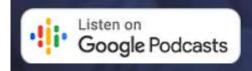




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- Brings thoughtful conversations on the role of professionalism in our day jobs and the Academy's public policy work.
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Professionalism Webinar

"Friday the 13th: More Tales from the Dark Side"

Dec. 13, 2019

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EST

Registration: actuary.org

1.8 professionalism CE credits/1.8 JBEA core ethics CPE credits

In the course of performing their work, actuaries are sometimes confronted with ethical issues that are difficult to resolve. Our presenters—both of whom are ABCD members—describe the reference points actuaries should look to in each case to stay on the right side of the Code of Professional Conduct. They also discuss the information and guidance the ABCD has provided to practicing actuaries in such situations through the ABCD's request for guidance process.

Questions?



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