2024
STUDENT RESEARCH
Case Study Challenge

Official Rules
January 19, 2024

These are the tentative Official Rules that will govern the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Research Institute 2024 Student Research Case Study Challenge ("Challenge"). These tentative rules will be superseded by final rules posted on the 2024 Challenge web page, URL: https://www.soa.org/research/opportunities/2024-student-research-case-study-challenge/ on www.soa.org at the time that the case study is released. In these rules, "You" and "Your" refer to an eligible team ("Team"). By providing a submission in response to this Challenge, Teams acknowledge compliance with these Official Rules.

Entering The Challenge

The case study will be released by 5:00 p.m. U.S. Central Standard Time on Friday, January 19, 2024. The SOA Research Institute prefers Teams provide notice of their intention to participate by completing the online intention form, URL: https://soa.wufoo.com/forms/z1eojtcg0du2rem/, Intention forms should be submitted by end of day Sunday, March 10, 2024.

To enter the Challenge, final submissions must be attached to a completed online submission form, prior to 5:00 p.m. U.S. Central Daylight Time on Friday, March 22, 2024, ("Entry Due Date And Time"). The online submission form may be accessed directly here, URL: https://soa.wufoo.com/forms/zworvny1s0mck9/, or from the 2024 Challenge web page, URL: https://www.soa.org/research/opportunities/2024-student-research-case-study-challenge/, on www.soa.org starting approximately March 11, 2024. Submissions received after the Entry Due Date And Time are ineligible for participation in the Challenge.

Challenge Submissions

Recommendations regarding submissions:
- Teams are encouraged to consult with a university faculty advisor. However, the work and submission must be completed solely by the Team.
- Show the Team name and brief description of file content in the filename of the submitted files for quick identification; for example, "Team ABC Report."
- Do not show email addresses on or in the report.

Submissions must meet the following requirements:
- Teams must be comprised of two to five students who are enrolled at the same university ("Team"). There is no limit on the number of Teams that may participate from a university.
- Submissions will be accepted via the online submission form, which will become available approximately March 11, 2024, and may be accessed directly here, https://soa.wufoo.com/forms/zworvny1s0mck9/, or from the 2024 Challenge web page, URL: https://www.soa.org/research/opportunities/2024-student-research-case-study-challenge/.

- Each Team is allowed to submit only one Entry in this Challenge. In the event that a Team submits more than one Entry in this Challenge, the latest submission received prior to the Entry Due Date And Time will be judged.
- A Team's submission and all supporting work must be completed solely by the Team. All submissions must be the original work of the Team and created in response to this Challenge. Submissions found in part or entirety to be other than original work created for this Challenge will be disqualified.
- The cover of the submitted report must state the Team's name, university affiliation, and names of each Team member.
- Submissions must be in English and follow all specifications and requirements set forth in the section of the case study that is titled "Submission Requirements". Adherence to the specifications and requirements, including length, will be considered during judging.
- The submitted report for a Team's Entry must be a single document in a file that is a maximum of 25,000 kilobytes or 25 megabytes. The report file must be in Adobe (.pdf) or Microsoft Word without macros (.docx or .doc) format. Appendices and supporting documents are optional; up to three are allowed. Appendices, if any, and any supporting documents, if any, must be submitted in one or more separate documents or files. Appendices and supporting documents, if any, must be in either Adobe (.pdf), Microsoft Word without macros (.docx or .doc), or Microsoft Excel without macros.pdf (.xlsx or .xls).
- Each Entry will be comprised of the online submission form plus a maximum of four files, with each file being a maximum of 25,000 kilobytes or 25 megabytes. The online submission form will accept neither larger files nor more than four files.
- Any generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools used in developing a submission shall be acknowledged and documented responsibly and appropriately. The Team is accountable for the originality and integrity of the content of the Team's research and work and for ensuring any AI-generated output, citations, or references have been validated.

By submitting Your work to this Challenge, You are agreeing to provide the SOA Research Institute with a license to use Your submission, in accordance with Section 5 of these Official Rules. Teams of submissions selected as one of the top three submissions will receive a prize and a grant for Your university, and such Teams agree to transfer copyright in their submissions to the SOA Research Institute.

Judging

Submissions will be graded by the judges. The judging criteria for the submissions will be located in the Case Study, which is scheduled for release by 5:00 pm U.S. Central Standard Time on January 19, 2024. The submissions will be judged by a panel of judges considered to be qualified by the SOA Research Institute. The teams with the top submissions ("Finalist Teams") will be notified by 5:00 pm U.S. Central Daylight Time on April 12, 2024. The Finalist Teams will be invited to present their submissions to the judges for the final round of judging via video conference during the approximate timeframe of April 18–19, 22–24, 2024. The judges' decision is final and binding. The judges reserve the right to select fewer than three winners, including no winners, or to disqualify a Team.

Prizes, Grants, and Recognition

Up to four Teams will be selected as the winners, with one Team selected as the first-place winner, one Team as the second-place winner, and up to two Teams as the third-place winner(s). Each member of the winning Teams will receive $500.00 USD. The winning Teams' universities will receive grants according to how their Teams placed. The first-place grant will be $5,000.00 USD, the second-place grant will be $3,000.00 USD, and the third-place grant will be $2,000.00 USD. All taxes on the prizes and grants and other expenses related to accepting and/or using the prizes or grants are the sole responsibility of the winners and universities.

Winning and finalist submissions will likely be posted on the SOA Research Institute website; semifinalist submissions may be posted on the SOA Research website. By entering this Challenge, Teams agree that if their submission is selected as a place winner, finalist, or semifinalist, Teams agree that their submission may be posted on the SOA website.

The winning submissions will be determined on or about May 3, 2024. The winners will be notified by email. Winning submissions will be available on the 2024 Challenge web page on www.soa.org. By entering this Challenge, Teams agree that if their submission is selected as first, second, or third place winner, they may be considered for an invitation to present at an SOA meeting during 2024.

Participant Obligations

a. By entering this Challenge, Teams consent to the use of their names, email addresses, submission, biographical information, photographs, and/or likenesses for advertising and publicity purposes without additional compensation (except where prohibited) by the SOA Research Institute for purposes concerning this Challenge or any succeeding case study/grant opportunities and for publicity, special events, and advertising purposes in connection with promoting the Society of Actuaries.

b. By entering this Challenge, Teams grant the SOA Research Institute a perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-revocable license to publish, display, and reproduce their submission in any and all media, in whole or in part, throughout the world for any purpose including commercial purposes. Teams hereby grant the SOA Research Institute permission to format their submissions for the SOA Research Institute's purposes at the SOA Research Institute's sole discretion.

c. By entering this Challenge, each individual on a Team agrees to defend, indemnify, release, and hold harmless the SOA Research Institute from and against any and all losses, demands, damages, rights, claims, injuries, actions, and liabilities of any kind arising out of or related to Entrant's participation in the Challenge. Any disputes that may arise hereunder shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Illinois without regard to the conflicts of laws principles of any jurisdiction. Venue with respect to any such disputes shall be had in the state and federal courts of the State of Illinois. SOA Research Institute's failure to enforce any term of these rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. In any cause of action, the SOA Research Institute's liability will be limited to five hundred dollars ($500.00 USD), and in no event shall the SOA Research Institute be liable for attorneys' fees and/or experts' fees and costs. By participating in the Challenge, each individual on a Team waives the right to claim any additional damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, incidental, or indirect damages.

Personal Information

Personal information submitted in relation to submissions will only be used in the event You are selected as a winner, if there is a question or issue regarding Your submission or its content, if there is an issue or news to communicate to You pertaining to the Challenge, or as otherwise permitted in accordance with the terms of the Official Rules. We will not disclose, give, sell, or transfer any personal information about You, unless required by law or with Your consent. Notwithstanding the forgoing, the winning Teams' personal information will be used in accordance with Section 5.

Additional Terms

Neither the SOA Research Institute, its respective officers, directors, and employees (collectively "Releasees") are responsible for incorrect or inaccurate transcription of entry information, or for any human or other error, technical malfunctions, lost/delayed data transmission, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, line failures of any telephone network, computer equipment, software, inability to access any online service or website, or any other error or malfunction, or any injury or damage to Team's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in this Challenge, or for any injury to person or property. Releasees are not responsible for lost, late, illegible, or misdirected entries. If, for any reason, the Challenge is not capable of being executed as planned, and/or the Challenge is adversely affected by actions/technical failures/events beyond the control of SOA Research Institute that may corrupt, affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of Challenge, the SOA Research Institute reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any suspect entry and/or to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Challenge, as the SOA Research Institute determines in its sole discretion. Entries not complying with all rules are subject to disqualification. The SOA Research Institute is not responsible for any unauthorized use of Your submission by third parties.

Questions/Comments

Any questions or clarifications on these rules should be directed to the SOA Research Institute via email to research@soa.org.

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