

Protecting the SOA Credentials

LESLIE FAUSER
E-Learning Manager

STUART KLUGMAN, FSA, CERA
Staff Fellow, Education

GENA LONG
Manager of Stakeholder Relations

RICHARD VEYS
General Counsel



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Agenda

Importance of the Discipline Process

Discipline Statistics

Improper Behavior

Discipline Process

Importance of the Discipline Process

3

High ethical standards

A hallmark of the actuarial
profession

4

Code of Conduct for Members

An Actuary shall...

- Act honestly, with integrity and competence
- Fulfill the profession's responsibility to the public
- Uphold reputation of actuarial profession

5

Code of Conduct for Candidates

An Actuarial Candidate shall...

- Act honestly, with integrity and competence
- Uphold reputation of actuarial profession
- Comply with the letter/spirit of:
 - SOA Rules and Regulations for Exams
 - Terms and Conditions for e-Learning

6

Value of your designation

Our credentials require candidates to...

- Learn a large volume of material
- Demonstrate mastery at a high level
- Obtaining credentials by any means other than **demonstrated competence** *devalues* it for everyone.

Discipline statistics

2010 Plagiarism Counts

§ 146 e-Learning Discipline Cases

Final Assessment		Interim Assessment		Exercises	
19		16		104	
Final Assessment + Exercises	Interim Assessment + Exercises	Final + Interim Assessments	Final + Interim Assessment + Exercises	DMAC	
1	4	2	0	0	

9

Plagiarism Stats - 2010

146 Confirmed e-Learning Cases

- 50 Appeals Received
- 13 Appeals Granted/Bans Overturned
- 6 Appeals Pending
- 52 Warnings Issued
- 7 Bans with Designation Withdrawn

10

Plagiarism Through the Years

§ 399 confirmed e-Learning discipline cases since rollout of e-Learning system

§ 1% of all e-Learning assessments

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
• 4	• 2	• 37	• 210	• 146

11

Conclusions

Plagiarism occurrences are decreasing

SOA plagiarism efforts will continue

12

Improper Behavior

13

What's OK? What's not?

Plagiarism

- To steal and pass off as one's own
- To use without crediting the source
- **Always wrong**

Citations

- Providing a reference to the source of the copied material
- **Important to do**

Collaboration

- To work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor
- **Sometimes ok**

Collusion

- A secret agreement or cooperation for an illegal or deceitful purpose
- **Always wrong**

14

Plagiarism Definition

“To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own: use (a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.”

Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition.

Citations

Providing a reference to the source of the copied material

- If you copy material from a published source, a citation makes the origin clear.

Collaboration

“To work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor”

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition.

- Allowed to some extent on:
 - End-of-module (EOM) exercises
 - DMAC project/assignment
 - FAP final assessment
- Not allowed on FAP interim assessment
- In all cases, work must be submitted in own words.

17

Collusion

“A secret agreement or cooperation especially for an illegal or deceitful purpose.”

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition.

- Sharing work product with others
- Using the work product of others
- Collusion is not allowed.

18

Control of work product

There have been cases where assessment materials have been stolen.

You are expected to take reasonable precautions to protect your work.

- Password-protect documents, before and after submitting for grading.
- Avoid use of shared or public network drives.
- If a remote printer is used, supervise the printing process.

19

Examples of improper conduct

Copying or relying upon model solutions

Disclosing, publishing or posting the contents of an assessment or model solution

Submitting unrelated documents for EOM exercises

Attempting to or actually purchasing or selling e-Learning materials

Obtaining another candidate's solution or working files

20

Discipline Process

21

Discovery stage

SOA becomes aware that there may have been improper behavior

Specifics are checked by SOA staff

If sufficient evidence of a violation, the discipline process begins

22

Reporting infractions

Infractions may be reported on the SOA website at:

<http://www.soa.org/education/general-info/discipline/education-infract-report.aspx>

Education

General Information

Discipline

- Code of Conduct for Candidates
- Rules and Regulations for Examinations
- Terms and Conditions for e-Learning Candidates
- Disciplinary Action
- Process to Report Rule Infractions
- Integrity of the Education System, Professionalism and Disciplinary Action
- SOA e-Learning Discipline Information

23

What do we check?

End-of-module exercises

- Checked against model solutions
- Checked against other candidates' work

Assessments

- Checked against other candidates' work

24

How do we check?

All relevant pairs are checked using anti-plagiarism software.

Papers where the software indicates a high likelihood of plagiarism enter the discipline process.

25

Staff review

The software is a mechanism for screening out the vast majority of pairs that have nothing in common.

Papers that copy extensively from the problem statement or that cite commonly used sources may score high.

A manual staff review eliminates common material that might appear by means other than violating the terms and conditions.

26

Key question in staff review

Did the author of the second submission use the specific words, tables or presentations used by the author of the first submission?

If the answer is yes, the materials are sent to the Education General Chair.

27

Review by General Chair

If the General Chair decides the evidence is not sufficient, the case is ended with no further action.

If the General Chair decides that the terms and conditions have been violated

Letter sent to the candidate(s) by the General Chair

Letter indicates nature of the violation and the penalty to be imposed.

28

Appeal Process

The candidate has 35 days in which to file an appeal

Candidate may supply information to establish that there was no violation

29

Appeal Process

If candidate appeals, the original case materials and candidate's appeal are sent to the Board Partner for Education.

Board Partner may:

Reverse the decision

Uphold the decision

Uphold the decision, with a reduction in the penalty.

30

Hearing

If an appeal is denied, the candidate may request a hearing.

If the penalty is a lifetime ban, the candidate is entitled to a hearing.

Otherwise, a hearing is in the discretion of the Board Partner.

Still have questions?

Please send your questions to:

- education@soa.org

Please remember to complete the
webcast evaluation:

http://soa.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8CllqUxGVgwulAs



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Thank You!



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES