



COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** ACSC 531, Loss Distributions and Their Estimations - Winter 2022

Lecture 01 : MWF 13:00 - 13:50 in MS 431

Instructor	Email	Phone	Office	Hours
Dr. Wenjun Jiang	wenjun.jiang@ucalgary.ca	514 572-5290	MS544/VIA ZOOM	TR, 2:30--4:00 PM

This course is accredited under the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (CIA) University Accreditation Program (UAP). Achievement of the minimum required grades in accredited courses may provide credit for preliminary exams. Please note that a combination of courses may be required to achieve exam credit.

To account for any necessary transition to remote learning in the winter 2022 semester, courses with in-person lectures, labs, or tutorials may be shifted to remote delivery for a certain period of time. In addition, adjustments may be made to the modality and format of assessments and deadlines, as well as to other course components and/or requirements, so that all coursework tasks are in line with the necessary and evolving health precautions for all involved (students and staff).

In Person Delivery Details:

Winter term (Jan 10, 2022 ~ Apr 12, 2022), Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 13:00-13:50, Mathematical Science Building 431.

Re-Entry Protocol for Labs and Classrooms:

To limit the spread of COVID-19 on campus, the University of Calgary has implemented safety measures to ensure the campus is a safe and welcoming space for students, faculty and staff. The most current safety information for campus can be found [here](#).

Course Site:

D2L: ACSC 531 L01-(Winter 2022)-Loss Distributions and Their Estimations

Note: Students must use their U of C account for all course correspondence.

Equity Diversity & Inclusion:

The University of Calgary is committed to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive campus, and condemns harm and discrimination of any form. We value all persons regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, age, LGBTQIA2S+ identity and expression, disability, religion, spirituality, and socioeconomic status. The Faculty of Science strives to extend these values in every aspect of our courses, research, and teachings to better promote academic excellence and foster belonging for all.

2. **Requisites:**

See section [3.5.C](#) in the Faculty of Science section of the online Calendar.

Prerequisite(s):

Actuarial Science 327; Statistics 323; and 3 units from Mathematics 311, 313, 367 or 375.

Antirequisite(s):

Credit for Actuarial Science 531 and 533 will not be allowed.

3. **Grading:**

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Course Component	Weight	Due Date (duration for exams)	Modality for exams	Location for exams
Midterm 1	15%	Jan 31 2022 at 07:00 pm (75 Minutes)	online	Remote
Midterm 2	15%	Feb 28 2022 at 01:00 pm (75 Minutes)	online	Remote
Midterm 3	15%	Mar 25 2022 at 01:00 pm (75 Minutes)	online	Remote
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	55%	Will be available when the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar	in person	Will be available when the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar

Each piece of work (reports, assignments, quizzes, midterm exam(s) or final examination) submitted by the student will be assigned a grade. The student's grade for each component listed above will be combined with the indicated weights to produce an overall percentage for the course, which will be used to determine the course letter grade.

The conversion between a percentage grade and letter grade is as follows.

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
Minimum % Required	95 %	90 %	85 %	80%	75%	70 %	65 %	60%	55%	50 %	45 %

This course will have a Registrar Scheduled Final exam that will be delivered in-person and on campus. [The Final Examination Schedule](#) will be published by the Registrar's Office approximately one month after the start of the term. The final exam for this course will be designed to be completed within 2 hours.

The University of Calgary offers a [flexible grade option](#), Credit Granted (CG) to support student's breadth of learning and student wellness. Faculty units may have additional requirements or restrictions for the use of the CG grade at the faculty, degree or program level. To see the full list of Faculty of Science courses where CG is not eligible, please visit the following website: <https://science.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/program-advising/flexible-grading-option-cg-grade>

4. Missed Components Of Term Work:

The university has suspended the requirement for students to provide evidence for absences. Please do not attend medical clinics for medical notes or Commissioners for Oaths for statutory declarations.

In the event that a student legitimately fails to submit any online assessment on time (e.g. due to illness etc...), please contact the course coordinator, or the course instructor if this course does not have a coordinator to arrange for a re-adjustment of a submission date. Absences not reported within 48 hours will not be accommodated. If an excused absence is approved, one possible arrangement is that the percentage weight of the legitimately missed assignment could also be pro-rated among the components of the course. This option is at the discretion of the coordinator and may not be a viable option based on the design of this course.

5. Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

The following out of class activities are scheduled for this course.

Activity	Location	Date and Time	Duration
Midterm Exam 1	online	Monday, January 31, 2022 at 7:00 pm	75 Minutes
Midterm Exam 2	online	Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm	75 Minutes
Midterm Exam 3	online	Friday, March 25, 2022 at 7:00 pm	75 Minutes

REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASSES HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OUT-OF-CLASS-TIME-ACTIVITY. If you have a conflict with the out-of-class-time-activity, please contact your course coordinator/instructor no later than **14 days prior** to the date of the out-of-class activity so that alternative arrangements may be made.

6. Course Materials:

Recommended Textbook(s):

Robert L. Brown and W. Scott, *Introduction to Ratemaking and Loss Reserving*. ACTEX Publications.
 Jacqueline Friedland, *Estimating Unpaid Claims Using Basic Techniques*: Casualty Actuarial Society.
 Geoff Werner and Claudine Modlin, *Basic Ratemaking*: Casualty Actuarial Society.

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

For more information please refer to the UofC [ELearning](#) online website.

7. Examination Policy:

No aids are allowed on tests or examinations.

Students should also read the Calendar, [Section G](#), on Examinations.

As this course is a CIA accredited course, we need to follow two of the preferred practices given in the [CIA UAP](#).

1. If this course is being offered online, exams will be published online at the same time for all candidates, with a total publication and completion time limit corresponding to the exam duration plus a limited period of about 15 minutes for upload if paper answers are to be uploaded. Exceptions will be made only to students who have SAS accommodations and/or students who are living in different time zones; these will be handled on a case by case basis.
2. You will be required to sign the following statement based on honor on each assessment:
"I understand that this assessment is part of an accredited course under the University Accreditation Program of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (CIA). In addition to the University rules governing academic integrity, I understand that I am subject to the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Candidates in the CIA Education System and related policy. I swear on my honor to have completed the work on my own and in accordance with the assessment's rules and instructions."

8. Approved Mandatory And Optional Course Supplemental Fees:

There are no mandatory or optional course supplemental fees for this course.

9. Writing Across The Curriculum Statement:

For all components of the course, in any written work, the quality of the student's writing (language, spelling, grammar, presentation etc.) can be a factor in the evaluation of the work. See also [Section E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

10. Human Studies Statement:

Students will not participate as subjects or researchers in human studies.

See also [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.

11. Reappraisal Of Grades:

A student wishing a reappraisal, should first attempt to review the graded work with the Course coordinator/instructor or department offering the course. Students with sufficient academic grounds may request a reappraisal. Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals. Students should be aware that the grade being reappraised may be raised, lowered or remain the same. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

- a. **Term Work:** The student should present their rationale as effectively and as fully as possible to the Course coordinator/instructor within **ten business days** of either being notified about the mark, or of the item's return to the class. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student shall submit the Reappraisal of Graded Term work form to the department in which the course is offered within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor. The Department will arrange for a reappraisal of the work within the next ten business days. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected. See sections [I.1](#) and [I.2](#) of the University Calendar
- b. **Final Exam:** The student shall submit the request to Enrolment Services. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

12. Other Important Information For Students:

- a. **Mental Health** The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university

community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, [Mental Health Services Website](#)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website ([Mental Health](#)).

- b. **SU Wellness Services:** For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre or call [403-210-9355](tel:403-210-9355).
- c. **Sexual Violence:** The Sexual Violence Support Advocate, Carla Bertsch, can provide confidential support and information regarding sexual violence to all members of the university community. Carla can be reached by email (syva@ucalgary.ca) or phone at [403-220-2208](tel:403-220-2208). The complete University of Calgary policy on sexual violence can be viewed at (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Violence-Policy.pdf>)
- d. **Misconduct:** Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional [Code of Conduct](#) and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. Some examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: posting course material to online platforms or file sharing without the course instructor's consent; submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work; submitting or presenting work in one course which has also been submitted in another course without the instructor's permission; borrowing experimental values from others without the instructor's approval; falsification/fabrication of experimental values in a report. Please read the following to inform yourself more on academic integrity:

[Student Handbook on Academic Integrity](#)
Student Academic Misconduct [Policy](#) and [Procedure](#)
[Research Integrity Policy](#)

Additional information is available on the [Student Success Centre Academic Integrity page](#)

e. **Academic Accommodation Policy:**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>.

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, by filling out the [Request for Academic Accommodation Form](#) and sending it to Mark Bauer by email bauerm@ucalgary.ca preferably 10 business days before the due date of an assessment or scheduled absence.

- f. **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information, see [Legal Services](#) website.
- g. **Student Union Information:** [VP Academic](#), Phone: [403-220-3911](tel:403-220-3911) Email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. SU Faculty Rep., Phone: [403-220-3913](tel:403-220-3913) Email: sciencerep@su.ucalgary.ca. [Student Ombudsman](#), Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca.
- h. **Copyright of Course Materials:** All course materials (including those posted on the course D2L site, a course website, or used in any teaching activity such as (but not limited to) examinations, quizzes, assignments, laboratory manuals, lecture slides or lecture materials and other course notes) are protected by law. These materials are for the sole use of students registered in this course and must not be redistributed. Sharing these materials with anyone else would be a breach of the terms and conditions governing student access to D2L, as well as a violation of the copyright in these materials, and may be pursued as a case of student academic or [non-academic misconduct](#), in addition to any other remedies available at law.
- i. **Canadian Institute of Actuaries Ethics:** In addition to the university's internal policies on conduct, including academic misconduct ([Section K of the online calendar](#)), candidates pursuing credits for writing professional examinations shall also be subject to the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Candidates in the CIA Education System and the associated Policy on Conduct and Ethics for Candidates in the CIA Education

System. For more information, please visit [Obtaining UAP Credits and the CIA FAQ](#).

Course Outcomes:

- Construct empirical models for failure time and loss distributions using the Kalpan-Meyer, NelsonAalen and kernel density estimators. Estimate the variance of these estimators and construct confidence intervals for failure times and loss distributions.
- Construct estimators for decrement probabilities using parametric and non-parametric methods, for both individual and grouped data. Compute the variance of these estimators.
- Estimate the parameters for failure time and loss distributions using the following parametric techniques: method of moments, percentile matching, maximum likelihood and Bayesian estimation
- Estimate the parameters of failure time and loss distributions with censored and/or truncated data using the method of moments and the maximum likelihood estimation technique. Estimate the variance of estimators and construct confidence intervals for the model parameters
- Determine the acceptability of a fitted model and/or compare models using graphical approaches and several statistical tests, such as the likelihood ratio, Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Anderson-Darling and the Chi-Square goodness-of-fit tests. Simulate from various discrete and continuous random variables and apply these simulation techniques in the context of actuarial models

Electronically Approved - Jan 04 2022 17:05

Department Approval

Electronically Approved - Jan 10 2022 11:06

Associate Dean's Approval