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**General Information**

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor
Maggie Lee
maggie.lee@mq.edu.au

Lecturer
Bruce Edwards
bruce.edwards@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
ACST831 or ACST8031

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit, in conjunction with ACST8031, develops and applies the actuarial principles and practices underlying the design, assessment, management and control of financial systems in the areas of life insurance, general insurance, and superannuation and other less traditional areas of actuarial practice. The two units together consider the process of actuarial and financial management including: product design; pricing; marketing; monitoring of experience; reserve setting; financing; solvency; determination and distribution of surplus; and its role in enterprise risk management. The overall control process is studied within the constraints imposed by the commercial environment and the actuarial professional code of conduct and standards. This includes a discussion of business ethics and issues of professionalism in actuarial practice. Students gaining a credit average in both ACST8031 (or ACST831) and ACST8032 (or ACST832) (minimum mark of 60 on both units) will satisfy the requirements for exemption from the Actuarial Control Cycle subject of the Actuary program of the Actuaries Institute.

**Important Academic Dates**

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:
ULO1: Show an understanding of how models are used to solve client problems
ULO2: Recognise the importance of capital.
ULO3: Apply relevant approaches and techniques to the valuation of liabilities.
ULO4: Apply appropriate techniques to the pricing of products and contracts.
ULO5: Demonstrate an understanding on the principles of measuring, reporting and managing solvency; measuring and reporting emerging profits and/or costs; monitoring and assessing experience; and responding to emerging experience.
ULO6: Explain and justify decision making to different stakeholders using the Actuarial Control Cycle framework

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty (written assessments)

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of ‘0’ will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Details of the assessments

Details of the assessments, including the task question and rubrics, will be uploaded on iLearn. If there are any discrepancies between the unit guide and the detailed assessment documents on iLearn, the details in the assessment documents on iLearn should be the point of reference. It is the students responsibility to be aware of this and to contact the unit convenor if any clarifications are needed.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessed Coursework</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Various - See iLearn for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 7 - See iLearn for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 8 - See iLearn for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate student task</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Week 10 - See iLearn for details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Assessed Coursework

**Assessment Type** 1: Problem set  
**Indicative Time on Task** 2: 7 hours  
**Due:** Various - See iLearn for details  
**Weighting:** 7%

A range of tasks due throughout the session based on textbook chapters, iLearn discussion and class quizzes.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Show an understanding of how models are used to solve client problems
- Recognise the importance of capital.
- Apply relevant approaches and techniques to the valuation of liabilities.
- Apply appropriate techniques to the pricing of products and contracts.
- Demonstrate an understanding on the principles of measuring, reporting and managing solvency; measuring and reporting emerging profits and/or costs; monitoring and assessing experience; and responding to emerging experience.

### Assignment

**Assessment Type** 1: Report  
**Indicative Time on Task** 2: 5 hours  
**Due:** Week 7 - See iLearn for details  
**Weighting:** 11%

The assignment consists of Powerpoint presentaion and a script of 1000 - 1500 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Show an understanding of how models are used to solve client problems
- Recognise the importance of capital.
- Apply relevant approaches and techniques to the valuation of liabilities.
- Apply appropriate techniques to the pricing of products and contracts.
• Demonstrate an understanding on the principles of measuring, reporting and managing solvency; measuring and reporting emerging profits and/or costs; monitoring and assessing experience; and responding to emerging experience.

Case Study
Assessment Type: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task: 12 hours
Due: Week 8 - See iLearn for details
Weighting: 12%

An individual, written, case study report (word limit of up to 5000 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Show an understanding of how models are used to solve client problems
• Recognise the importance of capital.
• Apply relevant approaches and techniques to the valuation of liabilities.
• Apply appropriate techniques to the pricing of products and contracts.
• Demonstrate an understanding on the principles of measuring, reporting and managing solvency; measuring and reporting emerging profits and/or costs; monitoring and assessing experience; and responding to emerging experience.
• Explain and justify decision making to different stakeholders using the Actuarial Control Cycle framework

Postgraduate student task
Assessment Type: Qualitative analysis task
Indicative Time on Task: 2 hours
Due: Week 10 - See iLearn for details
Weighting: 0%
This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Postgraduate (ACST8032 and ACST8032 External) students are required to complete a postgraduate student task, to be submitted via iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:
Show an understanding of how models are used to solve client problems
Recognise the importance of capital.
Apply relevant approaches and techniques to the valuation of liabilities.
Apply appropriate techniques to the pricing of products and contracts.
Demonstrate an understanding on the principles of measuring, reporting and managing solvency; measuring and reporting emerging profits and/or costs; monitoring and assessing experience; and responding to emerging experience.
Explain and justify decision making to different stakeholders using the Actuarial Control Cycle framework

Final Exam
Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 28 hours
Due: University Examination Period
Weighting: 70%

The final examination will be closed book, a three-hour written paper with ten minutes reading time, to be held during the University Examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Show an understanding of how models are used to solve client problems
- Recognise the importance of capital.
- Apply relevant approaches and techniques to the valuation of liabilities.
- Apply appropriate techniques to the pricing of products and contracts.
- Demonstrate an understanding on the principles of measuring, reporting and managing solvency; measuring and reporting emerging profits and/or costs; monitoring and assessing experience; and responding to emerging experience.

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation
Delivery and Resources

Classes
ACST8032 is offered via classes on campus (at Macquarie University, in Sydney CBD) and via distance education throughout the world. Students share lecture classes and a common teaching website with the units ACST4003 and ACST7032, which are also offered via classes at Macquarie University and in the Sydney CBD.

Style of classes
We believe that the best way we can help you to master the Actuarial Control Cycle subject is not by giving traditional lectures where your role is basically to listen, think and take notes. We have planned the face-to-face classes to be like workshops: a mixture of short "micropresentations", small group work, discussions involving the whole class, and individual activities.

Most weeks, we will ask you to do some preparatory work - reading, research, writing or just thinking. If you want to get the most out of the classes, do the preparation, and get involved in the classroom work.

Downloadable lecture recordings
In all weeks, standard recordings of campus lectures using the University's lecture recording facility (ECHO360 or zoom) will be available. The recordings capture audio and screenshot. Since the classes in this unit are not traditional lectures but contain periods of group discussion, the recordings will contain some stretches of background noise which you will need to fast forward through. The recordings will either be provided via the ECHO360 link which is located on the right hand side of the webpage or via a zoom link.

Timetable
The timetable for classes can be found on the Macquarie University website at: Timetable 2022
Alterations to the class times or locations will be advised in class and on the teaching website.

Teaching staff
Maggie Lee is the unit convenor and will be taking four weeks of classes. Maggie can be contacted via Dialogue on the website, or during her consultation hours.

Bruce Edwards will be conducting other classes and supervision of presentations. Bruce is an industry practitioner with a wide range of knowledge across many areas in which actuaries practice. Outside of classes, the forum for interaction with Bruce will be the website Discussion forums.

Hong Xie is the teaching administrator, and can deal with any administrative queries related to the unit. Hong can be contacted via Dialogue on the website.

Assumed knowledge
We assume from the start of the Actuarial Control Cycle that you have acquired the knowledge
and skills in subjects from the Foundation Program (Part 1s) of the Actuaries Institute education program.

**Required and recommended texts and materials**

**Textbook**


You should buy the book immediately, if you haven't already, as assessment tasks based on the book are due at the beginning of the second week of classes. Other useful articles will be set out at the beginning of each Learning Guide, and made available on the teaching website.

**Learning Guide**

There is a Learning Guide for each section of work. You should read the Learning Guide in advance of the lectures, and bring a copy with you to classes.

**Technology Used and Required**

In this unit, you will need to have access to and to be able to use software to produce overhead slides, .pdf documents, and word-processing software to produce reports.

**Teaching Website**

Course material is available on the online learning management system (iLearn). The teaching website is integral to this unit. Passive involvement in this unit greatly reduces the likelihood of achieving the exemption standard of understanding. Interaction with other students and with teachers is very important, and the website is the forum for that interaction. You will need to be accessing the website regularly to see announcements, read postings and stay informed - at least every couple of days. This is your responsibility and we cannot make any allowances for students who miss important information due to not checking the website regularly. The website entry page is at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

**Teaching and Learning Activities**

The unit is taught as set out in the Classes section. The Unit Schedule sets out the assessment and the topics covered in each week of the semester.

**Exemptions**

The Macquarie University units ACST4002/7031/8031 (Control Cycle 1) and ACST4003/7032/8032 (Control Cycle 2) together will satisfy the requirements for exemption from the Actuarial Control Cycle subject of the Actuary program of the Actuaries Institute. You will be recommended for exemption if you attain grades of Credit or better in these two units. If you attain a Pass in one of these units, then the exemption will be recommended if and only if a Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG) of at least 60 is achieved in both units, and the average SNG is at least 65. For students who have completed part of Actuarial Control Cycle at a different university, each case is considered individually based on the exemption requirements at
those universities. It is the responsibility of the student to apply to Macquarie University to recommend them to the Actuaries Institute for professional exemptions. For information about this process please contact Hong Xie via iLearn.

## Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>UAM Chapter</th>
<th>Assessment task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25-Jul</td>
<td>Valuation of Liabilities</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>01-Aug</td>
<td>Measuring Profits</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>TCT1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>08-Aug</td>
<td>Regulation and Ethics</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td>7,3 (Parts)</td>
<td>TCT2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>Big Data/Data Analytics</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>22-Aug</td>
<td>Solvency</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>TCT3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>Managing an Insolvent Insurer Regal / Occidental Case study</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>TCT4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>05-Sep</td>
<td>Presentation week</td>
<td>ML and BE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>12-Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>Stress Testing</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Case Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>03-Oct</td>
<td>Monitoring Experience 1</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>TCT5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>Monitoring Experience 2</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Post Grad Task</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>Responding to Experience 1</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>TCT6</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>Responding to Experience 2</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>31-Oct</td>
<td>Revision</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
• Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

• Subject and Research Guides
• Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

• IT Support
• Accessibility and disability support with study
• Mental health support
• Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
• Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.