



ACST3060

Quantitative Methods for Risk Analysis

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Lecturer

Colin Zhang

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

ACST3058

Corequisites

Co-badged status

ACST8085

Unit description

This unit explores the use of statistical models in insurance: loss distributions with and without risk sharing, compound distributions and their applications in risk modelling, introduction to copulas, extreme value theory. The concepts underlying time series models and actuarial applications of time series models are also studied. Students gaining a weighted average of credit across all of ACST3058, ACST3060 and the CS2-related components of the assessment in ACST3059 (minimum mark of 60% on all three components) will satisfy the requirements for exemption from the professional subject CS2 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>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Model insurance claims using loss distributions.

ULO2: Construct risk models with frequency and severity distributions.

ULO3: Use premium principles to price insurance products.

ULO4: Model dependence and extreme events by copulas and extreme value theory.

ULO5: Apply time series models to financial and economic variables.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalties

If you submit your assessment late, 5% of the total possible marks will be deducted for each day (including weekends), up to 7 days. Submissions more than 7 days late will receive a mark of 0.

Example 1 (out of 100):

If you score 85/100 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **5 marks** and receive **80/100**.

Example 2 (out of 30):

If you score 27/30 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **1.5 marks** and receive **25.5/30**.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Formal examination: Test</u>	20%	No	16/09/2026	Individual	No	Observed
<u>Professional practice: Risk analysis by using R</u>	20%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI
<u>Formal examination</u>	60%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed

Formal examination: Test

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **16/09/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your ability to model insurance claims using loss distributions and to construct risk models incorporating frequency and severity distributions.

You will complete an individual in-class test to assess your understanding and application of these concepts.

Skills in focus:

- Discipline knowledge

Deliverable(s): Class test (approximately 90 minutes, including 10 mins reading time) during class time.

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Model insurance claims using loss distributions.
- Construct risk models with frequency and severity distributions.
- Use premium principles to price insurance products.
- Model dependence and extreme events by copulas and extreme value theory.

Professional practice: Risk analysis by using R

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your problem-solving skills in R statistical computing software by modelling insurance claims, building risk models, pricing using premium principles, and addressing dependence or extreme by enhancing your professional readiness

You will solve a set of questions available on iLearn using R software.

Skills in focus :

- Discipline knowledge
- Digital skills
- Critical thinking and problem solving

Deliverable(s): Written report including supporting documents, results of the analyses and R code. Only the written report will be marked.

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Model insurance claims using loss distributions.
- Construct risk models with frequency and severity distributions.
- Use premium principles to price insurance products.
- Model dependence and extreme events by copulas and extreme value theory.

Formal examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 28 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **60%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this assessment is for you to formally demonstrate the expertise you have gained in this unit.

You will participate in a 2-hour exam held during the University Examination period. Important information about the exam will be made available on the unit iLearn page. You should also review the [MQ Exams website](#) for general tips.

Deliverable(s): Formal exam

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Model insurance claims using loss distributions.
- Construct risk models with frequency and severity distributions.
- Use premium principles to price insurance products.
- Model dependence and extreme events by copulas and extreme value theory.
- Apply time series models to financial and economic variables.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

The unit will be delivered by weekly lectures and tutorials.

Resources

The unit material will be available for download from iLearn. Some references or recommended reading materials will be introduced whenever appropriate. Please refer to iLearn for details. Students will be required to use iLearn, R, PDF, Excel, Word, a non-programmable calculator and other resources to be mentioned on iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the **Handbook**