

Professor: David McClendon (2046 ASC, phone x2574 (231-591-2574 off campus), hours MW 2-3 in ASC 2050, TR 9-10 in ASC 2046 or by appointment, email:DavidMcClendon@ferris.edu)

Meetings: Mondays 10-11:50 and Wednesdays 10-10:50 in STR 108.

Web: <http://mcclendonmath.com/417.html>

You need to sign up for my class on [Coaching Actuaries](#) and should have recently received an email with directions on how to do this.

Prerequisites: C- or better in MATH 414.

Text: None required, but I recommend *Actex Study Manual for Exam P* (Spring 2018, 2nd printing) by Sam Broverman, ISBN 978-1635881851.

Lecture notes: We will cover Chapter 7 (and some portions of Chapter 6) in my MATH 414 lecture notes. You should have a copy of these notes from last semester.

Required calculator: TI-30X (this is the only permitted calculator on Exam P, so it will be the only permitted calculator in this course).

Information on Actuarial Exam P:

<https://www.soa.org/education/exam-req/edu-exam-p-detail.aspx>

This page contains sample paper/pencil questions, online exam questions, and information on how to register for the exam.

Learning outcomes: Upon completion of MATH 417, it is my hope and expectation that you will be able to pass Exam P. At the very least, I hope you will improve your chances of passing by:

1. learning to solve probability questions in the context of risk management and insurance (i.e. insurer's risk, deductibles, benefit limits, inflation, etc.)
2. memorizing relevant facts for the exam;
3. developing the ability to recall lists of concepts based on "key words" in exam questions;
4. developing problem-solving techniques and exam strategies; and
5. gaining extensive practice with sample Actuarial Exam P problems.

Grading policy: First, if you can provide documentation to me that you have passed Exam P, you get an A. If you pass the exam by Summer 2025, I will change any grade you earn in this course to an A.

Otherwise, I will use your performance on practice exams, your homework, your attendance and participation in class activities, and what you tell me in your journals to assign a grade to you on this scale:

A: you will almost certainly pass the exam if you take it.

A-: you will probably pass the exam if you take it, but if you have a bad day or are unlucky, you might fail.

B+: you're mostly ready for the exam, and you might pass if you took it, but you'd have to be a bit of a lucky guesser.

B: you probably aren't ready for the exam yet, but you worked really, really hard in the course.

B-: you very likely aren't ready for the exam yet, but you put in a good (not great) amount of work on the course.

C: you almost assuredly aren't ready for the exam yet, and you did some work, but not really a sufficient amount.

F: worse than C.

Practice actuarial exams: There will be six 2-hour, 20 question practice actuarial exams on the dates listed on the course calendar. I am looking for overall strong performance and/or a general trend of improvement from one exam to the next. After each exam, we will have a "post-mortem" session where we discuss some of the problems—you will be required to present solutions to practice exam problems you have solved.

Fact quizzes: These cover facts about common r.v.s on the "blue sheet"; the dates of the first four quizzes are on the attached calendar.

Homework: Some homework sets will be assigned to the entire class; other homework will be individualized for each student based on their results on practice exams. Some homework may be assigned to you through Coaching Actuaries inClass.

Attendance policy: Attendance at every class meeting is expected; part of your grade comes from your presence in class and your participation in group work, activities, games, etc.

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements should register with the [Disability and Accessibility Resource Center](#) office (x3057, DARC@ferris.edu). While DARC will send me a letter outlining the accommodations to make for you, I would appreciate it if you could contact me immediately for assistance with any necessary classroom accommodations.

Academic dishonesty: Issues with academic dishonesty are taken very seriously, will almost always result in an F for the class, and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.