

Remote Learning Solutions for APC and FAC

The challenging environment brought about by the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings and social distancing has prompted the SOA to consider alternative solutions for our traditionally in-person professionalism courses. We are pleased to announce that we will be offering the Associateship Professionalism Course (APC) and the Fellowship Admissions Course (FAC) by remote learning so that candidates may continue their progress toward their designations in the coming months, while still observing social distancing and possible travel restrictions.

Each remote course will include two components – an online e-Learning component and a virtual meeting session component. While the APC remote solution is likely a permanent change, the virtual meeting sessions for FAC will be offered only while restrictions on travel and social distancing remain in place.

APC Remote Solution

- APC Component #1 – Online e-Learning module(s) that candidates complete individually.
 - Module(s) will include materials from APC full-group presentations and some ethics case studies
- APC Component #2 – Virtual Case Discussions – Groups of eight candidates and one facilitator meet via a designated virtual meeting platform (half-day in length)
 - Sessions will include discussion of the remaining ethics case studies

FAC Remote Solution

- FAC Component #1 – Online e-Learning module(s) that candidates complete individually.
 - Module(s) will include content from FAC general sessions
- FAC Component #2 – One-day Virtual Meeting – (temporary offering) Groups of eight candidates and one facilitator meet via a designated virtual meeting platform.
 - Sessions will include discussions of ethics case studies and individual candidate presentations
- Diplomas will be mailed to candidates after the completion of both components.

Why Return to In-person FAC After Restrictions are Lifted?

The SOA highly values an in-person format for FAC and therefore will only offer component #2 temporarily while the pandemic's effects restrict travel and gathering in large groups. The FAC e-Learning component #1 will likely be retained in some form to allow for a shorter in-person component when restrictions have been lifted.

While the new remote course components will provide quality learning for candidates, the in-person discussion of the FAC ethics case studies, and the live candidate presentations are elements of the course that were designed to work best face to face. The in-person format provides candidates with the ability to network, engage and learn from each other as well as from experienced facilitator actuaries about ethical dilemmas that they may face in the workplace. The in-person candidate presentations ensure a setting that closely approximates

that of a work environment without the pressure that might be felt in an actual workplace. Candidates also have the benefit of seeing fellow candidates present and giving and receiving constructive feedback.

For 30 years, the FAC's celebratory banquet with invited guests and the distribution of diplomas has evolved into a cherished tradition. The banquet provides a memorable evening, giving new FSAs the opportunity to come together with their peers and family members to recognize the considerable accomplishment of earning an FSA. When it is safe, we plan to continue this tradition.

Timeline:

- June 29, 2020 – Both FAC remote components will be available for those candidates who are eligible to attend. Candidates will receive invitations to register for the remote components when they become eligible. Candidates already invited to the July FAC will receive new instructions regarding the remote components.
- August 31, 2020 – Both APC remote components will be available for eligible candidates. Candidates already registered for an in-person APC may request a transfer to the remote APC by writing to the APC email box provided below. **We ask that candidates make requests to transfer by May 6, or as soon as possible**, so that we have a sense of the participation numbers at the June, July and August in-person APCs.

Currently Scheduled APCs and FACs

Due to the pandemic, we were forced to cancel some of the APCs planned for this year. The in-person APCs scheduled for June, July and August are currently anticipated to be held with adjustments to limit session size to groups of 10 and to follow social distancing guidelines. We offer these in-person APCs to avoid inconveniencing additional candidates waiting to attend the course. However, any candidate may choose to transfer to the remote APC when available. Again, we ask that candidates make requests to transfer to a remote APC by May 6 or as soon as possible.

The in-person FACs currently scheduled for 2020 will not be held. As stated above candidates already invited to attend the July FAC will receive new instructions. Other candidates will receive invitations as they become eligible.

Please send related questions to the appropriate email address below:

APC@soa.org

FAC@soa.org

Thank you for your understanding through this challenging time. We hope you and your families are staying safe and well.

Jill Carpenter
Education General Chairperson