

通过学习共同体和研究经验激发 精算教育的灵感



学习共同体(Learning Communities, LC's)是由一群有共同学术兴趣或专业的学生组成的群体。学 习共同体内的学生通常一起上课、一起住宿。近年来,学习共同体模式在高等教育中的重要性和普及 程度都在不断提高。

尽管存在大量的学习共同体,但作者还未发现任何专门针对精算科学教育的模式。精算教育的独特性 表明,需要发展可能与许多现有的模式有很大不同的精算科学专门的学习共同体。在 2013 年由普渡 大学精算学专业主办的第一届中西部精算学生大会上,作者对来自 18 所大学的学生进行了调查,内 容是 "你觉得在学校里学到的最有用的是什么"?对学生最有吸引力的三个要素是证书考试的准备,实 习或工作机会,以及专业技能的发展,如沟通、领导力和人际关系网。因此,作者认为一个成功的精 算培养模式应该包括以下内容:

1. 深入的课程作业,涵盖必要的经济学、数学和统计学概念;

 2. 理想化商业环境中理论内容的直接应用(如解决 SOA 考试中的问题)和现实世界专业实践中面临 的"更复杂的"应用之间的适当互动交融;

3. 专业发展的机会,强调口头和书面沟通以及团队工作。

在精算教育课程中融入上述三个部分,以便学生未来在实习、研究经历、研究生就读和长期就业时受 益更多。

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该项目开发了新型精算科学学习共同体模式,涉及学生参与的四类活动:学术课程、住宿生活、研究 和职业发展。该模式为学生提供了沉浸式的数据科学与精算学的学科交融,从而使精算学生大大扩展 其技能和未来的工作机会。

在普渡大学实施该模式三年后,该项目得出的结论如下:

1. 精算学生热衷于参与学习共同体;

2. 精算科学和数据科学之间的融合激发了学生的浓厚兴趣;

3. 学术和产业的合作研究适合二年级学生,前提是有适当水平的教师进行监督;

4. 如何更好地设计课程:

- 。 鼓励所有学生参与学习小组;
- 。 通过设置适当的学习节奏并提供足够的技术支持,在课堂上使用 R 语言;
- 实施翻转课堂,以及了解该方法在高度技术课程中何时可能不适用;
- 。 通过提前计划和灵活的时间安排促进学生的研究。

为了强化新一代精算师的教育体系并扩大精算师在当今社会的作用,作者致力于为主修精算科学或对 精算领域感兴趣的学生,量身开发一个精算科学学习共同体(Actuarial Science Learning Community, AS-LC)模式。虽然 AS-LC 模式是在普渡大学实施的,但在这份报告中,作者全面地记 录了教育目标、所使用的方法以及在实施过程中的经验教训。作者希望其他校园也着手实施 AS-LC 模 式,将 AS-LC 模式的应用范围扩大到普渡大学之外更多的学校。

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> Society of Actuaries Research Institute 475 N. Martingale Road, Suite 600 Schaumburg, Illinois 60173 www.SOA.org