

Society of Actuaries Centers of Actuarial Excellence
A-Level Criteria
Appendix A: Facts and Circumstances

Schools may ask for a facts and circumstances determination for any A criteria. We have included, in each A criteria, examples of how facts and circumstances could, or could not, be applied for that criteria. The following principles apply across facts and circumstances applications:

- Facts and circumstances are not a way around a criterion. They are a way for a university to show that it meets the spirit of the criterion if it doesn't meet the letter of that criterion.
- Facts and circumstances demonstrations are most effective if they show how the "usual and customary" practice at that university is such that the criteria cannot be met, or an act of God (an economic, social, biological, geological or environmental event outside the university's control) has diverted the university (as a whole) from its normal course of business.
- Facts and circumstances demonstrations are unacceptable when they are used to justify a less than equal status (relative to similarly situated disciplines) with regards to resources, recognition, faculty, promotion and/or marketing. This is the case even if there are other departments who have less than equal status at the university. However, if departments whose studies are related to or seen as sister disciplines to actuarial science are treated similarly (e.g. business, finance, accounting, risk management), this demonstrates a consistent treatment for these disciplines (including actuarial science).