

**SAMPLE 18 Characteristics of Graduate Program**  
with thanks to the Department of Mathematics

**Appendix K\*: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Data (MA Program)**

**(A) Number of Degrees Conferred Annually.**

2012–2013      4 degrees (Cerini, Duplan, Griest, (Kuelbs) Entzminger)  
2011–2012      3 degrees (Orr, Xu, Zhao)  
2010–2011      6 degrees (Khan, Samuel, Simmons, Wang, Yen, Zhan)

**(B) Graduation Rates.** Percentage of Students Graduating within 3 years of admission:

2012–2013      100%  
2011–2012      100%  
2010–2011      86%<sup>3</sup>

**(C) Student Time to Degree.** Average of graduates' time to degree:

2012–2013      1.875 years<sup>4</sup>  
2011–2012      2 years  
2010–2011      2 years

**(D) Graduate Placement.**

Year	# Employed	% Employed	# Seeking	% Seeking	# Unknown	% Unknown
2012-13	3	75%	0	0%	1	25%
2011-12	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%
2010-11	5	83%	0	0%	1 <sup>5</sup>	17%

**(E) Admissions Criteria.**

<sup>3</sup> Brodersen was admitted into our program as a Fullbright Scholar but returned to his home institution to complete his PhD.

<sup>4</sup> Duplan finished in 3 semesters.

<sup>5</sup> Zhan could not find actuarial employment and returned to pursue an MS in Statistics at UT.

Because our program focuses on the content of the first five of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) and Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) actuarial exams, it is inappropriate for students that have already studied much of the material either for SOA Exam MLC, CAS Course 3L, SOA Exam C, or CAS Course 4; such students will be rejected. All applicants should have completed calculus, a calculus-based probability course, a linear (matrix) algebra course, and preferably a probability-based statistics course. Most of our successful applicants have successfully passed at least one of Course 1, Exam P, Course 2, or Exam FM.

Because all of our admitted graduate students are considered for Teaching Assistantships, we require international students whose native language is not English to have a TOEFL score of at least 113 on the internet-based TOEFL test and pass an oral English assessment examination administered after they arrive at the University of Texas at Austin.

Note that many students are rejected because: (1) they have incomplete applications; (2) do not meet our minimum required scores on the GRE (151 minimum) or TOEFL (113 minimum) exams; or (3) have too much actuarial background (completed an actuarial program elsewhere or passed too many exams).

A committee of actuarial teaching faculty reviews all applications, statements of purpose, letters of recommendation, standardized test scores, GPAs, and other applicant credentials. We each rank applicants individually and then meet and come to a consensus. Our top applicants are admitted with financial support as teaching assistants. Some additional high-quality applicants might be admitted without support. Ideally, we admit 2–6 MA students each year.

**(F) Percentage of Full-Time Students.** 100%.

All students pursuing our MA degree are full-time resident students.

**(G) Average Institutional Financial Support Provided.**

MA students supported with TA appointments earn \$16,600 per year and receive Tuition Reduction Benefits.

**(H) Percentage of Full-time Students with Institutional Support.** 83%

**(I) Number of Core Faculty.** Two core faculty are active in the MA program.

**(J) Core Faculty / Student Ratio.**

Year	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
<b>Student/Faculty Ratio</b>	3.2	3.0	3.2
<b>Faculty/Student Ratio</b>	0.29	0.33	0.29

**(K) Faculty Publications.**

None: this professional degree program does not have a research component.

**(L) Faculty External Grants.** None.

**(M) Faculty Teaching Load.** In 2012–13 (long semesters only), the core faculty taught a total of 1,508 semester credit hours (SCH), for an average of 754 per individual.

**(N) Faculty Diversity.** All of the core faculty are white. Half are women.

**(O) Student Demographics.** 83% of students enrolled in 2012–13 are women. 83% of students enrolled in 2012–13 are white; one (17%) is Asian.

**(P) Date of Last External Review.** 2004

**(Q) External Program Accreditation.** Not applicable.<sup>6</sup>

**(R) Student Publication and Awards.** None in the past 3 years.

**(S) Student Enrollment.** 7 in fall 2013.

**(T) Graduate Licensure Rate.** Not applicable.

**(U) Alignment of Program with Stated Program and Institutional Goals and Purposes.**

The mission of our actuarial MA program is to provide academic preparation for entry-level actuarial employment in the United States. Our actuarial MA degree and coursework, originally designed to cover learning objectives of the major North American professional actuarial organizations, now include increased focus on problem statement and solution, communication, group work, and total student development. We believe that this program is well aligned with the published Mission Statements of the Graduate School and Mathematics Department, reproduced in part (D) of Appendix H, above.

**(V) Program Curriculum and Duration in Comparison to Peer Programs.**

Here we provide three case studies of peer programs: the University of Michigan, the University of Iowa, and Boston University.