To: Year 2 or above BSc (ActuarSc) Students

Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong

Notes on Course Selection
for Year 2 or above BSc(ActuarSc) Students (2020-21)

---

**New course** STAT1005 Essential skills for undergraduates: Foundations of Data Science
(Everything you wanted to know about data science)

HKU is offering an university-wide course STAT1005. The teaching is designed at a level appropriate for all undergraduate students with various backgrounds and without pre-requisites to supplement their major study. Students will engage in a full data work-flow including collaborative data science projects. They will study a large spectrum of data science topics, from initial investigation and data acquisition to the communication of final results.

The course is open to all HKU junior undergraduate students (with restrictions applying to students with a major in the area of Statistics, Computer Science or Actuarial Science). Seats are limited! Enrol now!

---

1. A number of existing syllabuses have been modified. Please check the latest syllabuses of your admission year on the Science Faculty’s website: [https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry](https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry) (N.B. Inside the link you can type STAT in the “Course Code” box in order to view the list of all STAT courses). In particular, please note that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change of course offering semester</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
<th>2021-2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT2604 Introduction to R Programming and</td>
<td>Sem 2</td>
<td>Sem 1</td>
<td>Sem 1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Data Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT3604 Design and Analysis of Experiments</td>
<td>Not offered</td>
<td>Sem 1</td>
<td>Not offered*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT3608 Statistical Genetics</td>
<td>Not offered</td>
<td>Sem 2</td>
<td>Not offered*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT3956 Pension Funds and Pension Mathematics</td>
<td>Sem 1</td>
<td>Sem 2</td>
<td>Sem 1*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Tentative, subject to changes

- New course: STAT1005 Essential Skills for Undergraduates: Foundations of Data Science
- STAT4902 Selected Topics in Actuarial Science

2. You should select your core courses/disciplinary electives before the suspension period (where class balloting will take place and most seats will be given out), especially if the course has a quota.

3. Check the concerned STAT courses' enrolment status from time to time, and have a second plan for immediate action (before the system closes) in case of an unsuccessful balloting result, e.g. disapproved enrolment. Although there will be a final class balloting act after the course selection system closes, you will not be able to adjust your course selection until add/drop period.

4. In case of overloading or uneven course load, or should you have the even slightest chance of exceeding the maximum course limit or normal semester course load before deadline. (To students under the Science Faculty: Applications are not accepted during the add/drop period in September, whilst you will not be able to submit applications until the second semester.)

Please be reminded that STAT4767 Actuarial science internship is registered via paper form, i.e. not through online system, this means the credits will not be shown in your course selection until a later stage. Enrolment in the internship course may be withdrawn if you do not have the prior approval for taking more than 72 credits in the year, even if you have completed the coursework requirements at the end.

5. Accreditation with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) is to be amended. Updates will be announced soon but in the meantime the existing agreement can be viewed at: [https://saasweb.hku.hk/current/as-ac-exemptions.php](https://saasweb.hku.hk/current/as-ac-exemptions.php)

6. Approved HKU courses for claiming Validation by Educational Experience (VEE) credits of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) can be reviewed here: [https://saasweb.hku.hk/current/as/vee.php](https://saasweb.hku.hk/current/as/vee.php)
Further Information: **(Mainly for First Major Students)**

d. Academic Advising Office of the Registry: [https://aao.hku.hk](https://aao.hku.hk)
e. University Bus Service, Estates Office homepage: [https://www.estates.hku.hk/shuttle](https://www.estates.hku.hk/shuttle)

---

**Course Selection Exercise and Procedures for Applying Special Approval for BSc(ActuarSc) Students**

2020-21 (1st Semester) | 5 - 11 August (4:00pm), 2020

**Suspension period: 6 August (9:00am – 2:30pm) | Final Course Selection Status Available: 19 August (10:00am)**

All the forms below are downloadable on the Science Faculty’s website (click [here](https://www.saasweb.hku.hk/teaching/internship-details.php)). Students should double check the details/dates on the Faculty’s website. In the event of discrepancies, the ones stated by the Faculty shall prevail. Please also note that the course schedule and venue may be subject to changes. You are strongly advised to double check the course schedule and venue on SIS before going to the lectures.

**A. Uneven semester course load (outside the range of 24-36 credits) and/or over 72 credits of courses yearly***:

- Fill in the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) for **Application for Taking Course Load Deviating From Normal Load** with all the required supporting documents attached;
- Submit the application online via OASS for Dr KC Cheung, Chief CSA’s consideration by **11 August (4:00pm)**.

*Students normally are NOT allowed to take more than (72 credits x 4 years) 288 credits in total. Please be reminded that STAT4767 Actuarial science internship is registered via paper form, i.e. not through online system, this means the credits will not be shown in your course selection until a later stage. Enrolment in the internship course may be withdrawn if you do not have the prior approval for taking more than 72 credits in the year, even if you have completed the coursework requirements at the end.*

**B. Timetable clashes and/or failure to meet the pre-requisite requirements of STAT courses**

- Fill in the **Course Approval Form** with the following documents attached:
  (i) course selection report (list of courses you have selected for the current academic year)
  (ii) individual timetable
  (iii) past enrolment records (with results)
- Submit the form by email ([ug_enquiry@saas.hku.hk](mailto:ug_enquiry@saas.hku.hk)) or submit to the Department's General Office (Room 303, Run Run Shaw Building) for CSA’s consideration;
- If the form is submitted before lunch, please collect it from the General Office at 5:00pm on the same day; whereas if the form is submitted after lunch, please collect it the next day;
- Submit the endorsed Email / signed form to the Science Faculty by **11 August (4:00pm)**.

**C. For enquiries on course selection procedures:** Mr K.L. Ng (3917-8147; [ug_enquiry@saas.hku.hk](mailto:ug_enquiry@saas.hku.hk))

**D. For advice on course matters, please consult the following CSAs:**

- Dr K.C. Cheung in Room 219 (Chief CSA), Run Run Shaw Building ([kccg@hku.hk](mailto:kccg@hku.hk))
- Dr David Lee in Room 120, Run Run Shaw Building ([leedav@hku.hk](mailto:leedav@hku.hk))
- Dr K.P. Wat in Room 235, Run Run Shaw Building ([watkp@hku.hk](mailto:watkp@hku.hk))

---

**Note:** Pre-requisite Requirements of STAT Courses:

It has come to our attention that some students have taken courses which are **impermissible** to their required courses listed in the syllabus, e.g. STAT3904 vs FINA1310. This disallows them from enrolling into the required courses, especially the actuarial core ones yet to be completed for fulfilling the programme requirement.

It is understood that there are many different courses which allow students to earn VEE credits for SOA whilst students may wish to take other electives which are not listed in the syllabus. However, we would like to stress that the ultimate responsibility of ensuring all the graduation requirements fulfilled rests with students, including carefully looking into the pre-requisites of the courses, including both STAT and non-STAT courses, and ensuring that there are not any possible conflicts with the required courses.

Please note that any enrolments to courses which are mutually exclusive to their required courses will be seen as a deliberate act. In this regard, there are NO any special arrangements for pre-requisite waiver or course replacement, should they fail to enroll into the concerned required courses because of having taken a mutually exclusive course. **This implies that the student will put himself/herself at grave risk from not being able to graduate.** Students are also advised to read the Student Handbook on the Faculty’s website (click [here](https://www.saasweb.hku.hk/current/cap.php)) carefully.