Property and Casualty Predictive Analytics (PCPA) FAQ:

General

1. What is the Property and Casualty Predictive Analytics (PCPA) requirement?
   - Property and Casualty Predictive Analytics (PCPA) will be a new, two-part requirement for the ACAS credential focusing on predictive modeling and analytical skills. The first part will be a 2-hour, multiple choice exam. The second part will be a project completed independently over a two-week period.
2. Why is there an exam component to this requirement?
   - The exam component ensures candidates have the foundational skills needed to complete the project.
3. When will the PCPA project and exam be available?
   - A beta of PCPA will be conducted in Fall 2023, with the full launch of the exam and project coming in May 2024. The exam will be available continuously year-round, and the project will be available for several administration periods throughout the year.
4. How does the new PCPA requirement affect travel time?
   - Throughout the process of building and designing PCPA, mitigating the effects on travel time has been a top priority. Thanks to continuous testing for the exam and multiple administration periods for the project, impacts to travel time should not be substantial for most candidates. The CAS is actively exploring other opportunities to reduce travel time.
5. What makes PCPA valuable to my career?
   - Key CAS stakeholders have identified that organizations are increasingly turning to predictive analytics to solve difficult problems. Candidates who pass PCPA will have validated knowledge and skills in predictive modeling and analytics, furthering their contributions to organizations searching for proficient problem solvers.
6. How much will PCPA cost?
   - There will be separate registration fees for each part of PCPA, with more information to come later this year. Consistent with CAS exams, both the project and exam will have student discounts and will be part of the fee discount program for candidates in select countries.
7. How is the content covered on the project different from the content covered in the MAS exams?
   - While there is some content overlap with the MAS exams, the PCPA exam and the project will go further by testing a candidate's ability to apply advanced practical skills in scenarios that are replicative of "real world" conditions.

8. Will there be changes to the Certified Specialist in Predictive Analytics (CSPA) exam syllabus once the PCPA exam is officially released? What would be the benefit of pursuing a CSPA credential after completion of PCPA?

   - The PCPA is designed to be a foundational assessment of predictive analytics knowledge and applied practice. The CSPA is a deeper dive into the topic and would be a great addition for someone who's passed the PCPA and wants to practice at a more advanced

and/or specialist level. The CSPA project features a more advanced business case study and data sets as compared to PCPA.

We don't anticipate changes to the CSPA syllabus next year, but we are looking into building a bridge to guide those who enjoyed the PCPA experience and want to keep progressing and take their PA experience to the next level. The CSPA project also offers the option of working with a mentor for feedback, which adds another layer to the experience.

Here's a chart that highlights key differences:

Project	Business Case and Data Sets	Final Report	Time to Complete	Mentor Option
PCPA	Basic business case and data sets	Up to 750 words	2 weeks	Not available
CSPA	More advanced business case and data sets	Up to 3,000 words	60 days	Available by request. Candidate may also receive feedback and resubmit in additional 30-day period.

9. For members who currently have or expect to get their ACAS before 2025, what does the CAS recommend for those who want to build their predictive analytics skills?
   o While the PCPA is not required for members who attain the ACAS before November 1, 2025, a variation of the offering will be available as a continuing education opportunity. More details are coming soon. Those who want to take a deeper exploration of the topic may also consider the Certified Specialist in Predictive Analytics (CSPA) credential from iCAS. For a full view of CAS materials and content on the topic of Predictive Analytics, please visit our new webpage.
10. Are there volunteer opportunities related to the PCPA?
    o Yes! If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the PCPA initiative, please contact casatp@casact.org with subject line: Interested PA Volunteer.

Requirements

11. Will PCPA be required for the ACAS credential?
    o PCPA will be added to the ACAS pathway and will be required for the ACAS credential starting November 1, 2025. PCPA will be available for current ACAS and FCAS members as an optional continuing education opportunity.
12. What skill level is required?
    o Candidates take the PCPA after Exams MAS-I, MAS-II, and 5 within the ACAS credentialing pathway, and therefore it is assumed that they have foundational knowledge of predictive analytics concepts and applications.

13. Can the two parts of PCPA be taken in any order?
    o No, a candidate must pass the exam before attempting the project.
14. Are there prerequisites or eligibility requirements?
    o There are no prerequisites for the exam, but candidates are highly encouraged to pass MAS-I, MAS-II and Exam 5 before attempting the exam.
15. Will there be a transition period for PCPA?
    o Candidates who complete the current ACAS requirements before November 1, 2025, will not be required to take PCPA. Starting November 1, 2025, both parts of PCPA will be required for all candidates seeking the ACAS credential.

Current ACAS Requirements	ACAS Requirements beginning November 1, 2025
DISC DA, DISC RM, DISC IA	DISC DA, DISC RM, DISC IA
Exams 1, 2, MAS-I, MAS-II, 5, 6	Exams 1, 2, MAS-I, MAS-II, 5, 6
VEE – Economics, Accounting and Finance	**PCPA (Exam and Project)**
CAS Course on Professionalism	VEE – Economics, Accounting and Finance
	CAS Course on Professionalism

Administration

16. Where do I take PCPA?
    o The exam will be administered continuously through Pearson VUE exam centers. The project will be completed by candidates independently, in a setting of their choosing, and will require the use of a computer. For the project, candidates will be sent the materials and given two weeks from when the materials are distributed to submit their final project.
17. Is PCPA project "open book"?
    o Candidates must sign an agreement that the project will be done independently with no hands-on assistance from another person. Candidates may consult with colleagues for general questions and advice; however, the project instructions and the data sets are

proprietary to CAS and should not be shared. The use of online resources, such as, but not limited to, Google, Stack Overflow, Reddit, r-project, and Python.org, is permissible.

18. How long is the estimated completion time of PCPA?
    o The exam will be a 2-hour, multiple choice exam, with an estimated 80 hours of study and preparation time. The project is estimated to take 20 hours to complete over a two-week period, which includes preparing, planning, drafting, revising, and finalizing the submission. Please note that study and preparation times may vary from candidate to candidate.

19. If I fail the exam or project, when can I have another attempt?
    o Candidates who fail the exam can take it again after a certain period of time that will be communicated at a later date. Candidates who fail the project can re-attempt the project during the next administration period. The fee to re-take either part will be the same as the regular registration fee. Additional information regarding the retake policy will be available prior to the first administration.

20. What type of accommodations are available for candidates with disabilities?
    o For the exam, the same accommodations for other CAS exams administered in Pearson VUE centers will be available. Accommodations for the project will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Results

21. How are the exam and project scored?
    o The exam will be computer-scored, with the total score determined by the number of correct responses, with no guessing penalty. The project will be human-scored against a rubric which will evaluate if a candidate meets the requirements to pass.

22. Is PCPA pass/fail?
    o Both the exam and project will be pass/fail. Starting November 1, 2025, each part of PCPA must be passed in order to qualify for the ACAS credential.

23. What is the expected pass ratio?
    o CAS will conduct a standard-setting process to determine the appropriate pass mark for the exam and project, which is a process used for all CAS exams. For more information on how CAS determines a pass mark, please see the *Syllabus of Basic Education*.

24. How long will it take to receive my results?
    o Results for the exam will be available immediately after an attempt. Results for the project will be available 6-8 weeks after the submission deadline.

Preparation

25. How can I prepare for PCPA?
    o The PCPA exam content outline includes the domain and tasks that will be tested in the exam and project, as well as references.
    o Later this year, the CAS will also provide suggested readings and resources for preparation.