



# Property and Casualty Predictive Analytics (PCPA) FAQ *(Updated 3/12/2025)*

*Note: The date in which PCPA will be required for the ACAS Credential has been moved to January 1, 2026. In addition to adding new questions, the FAQ has been revised to reflect the new date.*

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## General

- 1. What is the Property and Casualty Predictive Analytics (PCPA) requirement?**
  - Property and Casualty Predictive Analytics (PCPA) is a new, two-part requirement for the ACAS credential focusing on predictive modeling and analytical skills. The first part will be a 2-hour exam. The second part will be a project completed independently over a two-week period. PCPA will be added to the ACAS pathway and will be required for the ACAS credential starting January 1, 2026.
- 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?**
  - The exam launches in May 2024 and the project in June 2024. The exam will be available continuously year-round, and the project will be available for four administration periods throughout the year.
- 4. How does the new PCPA requirement affect travel time to the ACAS credential?**
  - 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.
- Feedback from those who completed the initial beta offering highlights the value of this experience. By actually building a model, you'll have the opportunity to “flex different muscles” and put what you've read about into practice. You'll also learn how to improve your presentation skills and tailor communication to your audience.

**6. How much does PCPA cost?**

- There are separate registration fees for each part of PCPA. The exam will cost \$300, and the Project will cost \$700. 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. There will be a \$100 no-show fee for the exam. There is also a \$100 no-show fee for not turning in the project.

**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. How is PCPA different from other exams offered by the CAS?**

- Because PCPA includes a project-based assessment, it offers a hands-on practical experience that is not available through other CAS exams. The CAS has developed the PCPA exam and project to be applicable to predictive analytics practice in property and casualty insurance. CAS recognizes that modern actuaries use a variety of software and programming languages to conduct analyses involving predictive analytics. The references included in the content outline were selected because the content is relevant to the knowledge and skills assessed on the PCPA exam, not to communicate a preferred or recommended programming language that may be used in the examples. Sources on the reference list are cited as part of the exam and project development process. The best way to know what is covered on the exam and project is to understand the domains and tasks and success criteria found within the content outline. The references contain information the exam and project task force found helpful and informative. However, there is not a requirement to purchase or study these texts. A candidate may have enough knowledge to pass the exam and project without these texts, or by using publicly available materials.

**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?**

- While the PCPA is not required for members who attain the ACAS before January 1, 2026, a variation of the offering will be available as a continuing education opportunity. More details are coming soon. Those who want a deeper exploration of the topic may also consider the [CSPA credential](#) from The CAS Institute (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 [admissions-volunteer@casact.org](mailto:admissions-volunteer@casact.org) with subject line: Interested PA Volunteer.

**Requirements**

**11. When 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 January 1, 2026. PCPA will be available for current ACAS and FCAS members as an optional continuing education opportunity.

**12. What skill level is required?**

- o It is recommended that candidates take PCPA after completing 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 January 1, 2026 will not be required to take PCPA. Starting January 1, 2026, both parts of PCPA will be required for all candidates seeking the ACAS credential.

**Current ACAS Requirements**

**ACAS Requirements beginning January 1, 2026**

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

**16. Are there any waivers for the PCPA? (Added 3/12/2025)**

- Yes. Candidates who pass CSPA Course 3 Predictive Modeling – Methods and Techniques and the Case Study Project are eligible for a waiver for the PCPA exam and project. In order to be eligible for this waiver, candidates must pass CSPA Course 3 and not obtain credit through an exam waiver. A waiver will not be given for candidates that passed IFM.

## Administration

**17. Where do I take PCPA?**

- The exam will be administered continuously through Pearson VUE exam centers. After passing the exam, candidates will have one year to complete the project before needing to sit for the examination again. 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.

**18. Is the PCPA project “open book”?**

- 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. Candidates are not allowed to share project instructions or datasets with any AI system. They should refer to the project instructions before entering any data about the project.

**19. How long is the estimated completion time of PCPA?**

- The exam will be a 2-hour 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.

**20. If I fail the exam or project, when can I have another attempt?**

- Candidates who fail the exam can take it again after a two-week waiting period. A candidate is eligible to sit for the examination a maximum of three times in one year. 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.

**21. What type of accommodations are available for candidates with disabilities?**

- The same accommodations for other CAS exams administered in Pearson VUE centers will be available for the PCPA exam. Accommodations for the project will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**22. Will a formula sheet be available for the PCPA Exam? (Added 3/12/2025)**

- No, there is not a formula sheet given for the PCPA Exam.

## Results

**23. How are the exam and project scored?**

- 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 that will evaluate if a candidate meets the requirements to pass.

**24. Is PCPA pass/fail?**

- Both the exam and project will be pass/fail. Starting January 1, 2026, each part of PCPA must be passed in order to qualify for the ACAS credential.

**25. What is the expected pass ratio?**

- CAS conducts 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.

**26. How long will it take to receive my results?**

- Preliminary exam results will be available directly after completing the exam. Final exam results will be available up to two weeks after completing the exam. Results for the project will be available 6-8 weeks after the submission deadline (see content outline for more details).

**27. Is there an appeals or grievances process for the examination and project?**

- If a candidate would like to make an appeal on their exam or project grade, they should email [grievances@casact.org](mailto:grievances@casact.org).

## Preparation

**28. How can I prepare for PCPA?**

- The PCPA exam content outline includes the domain and tasks that will be tested in the exam and project, as well as references.

## PCPA vs. CSPA

**29. 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 predictive analytics 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. (continued on next page)

- Here is a chart that highlights the 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.<br>Candidate may also receive feedback and resubmit in additional 30-day period. |

## Deadlines for Earning ACAS Without PCPA (Section Added 3/12/2025)

### 30. When is the last opportunity to pass Exams MAS-I, MAS-II, 5, and 6, and achieve ACAS without PCPA?

- The last opportunity to pass Exams MAS-I, MAS-II, 5, and 6 is October 2025 to obtain the ACAS designation without the PCPA requirement. Starting January 1, 2026, the PCPA will be mandatory for the ACAS credential, which means all ACAS requirements must be completed prior to January 1, 2026. For all other non-CAS administered requirements, (Exam 1/P, 2/FM, VEEs, DISC RM, DISC IA, DISC DA) the transcript credit date must be prior to January 1, 2026.

### 31. When is the last opportunity to complete the DISCs before the PCPA requirement is needed for ACAS?

- The last chance to pass the DISCs to meet all ACAS requirements prior to the January 1, 2026 deadline is the October 15 - December 15, 2025 window.

### 32. When can I apply for membership if a DISC is my last outstanding ACAS requirement?

- If a DISC is a candidate's last outstanding requirement, they can apply for ACAS as soon as they receive their preliminary DISC pass. For instance, if a candidate takes a DISC on November 30, 2025 and receives a preliminary pass, they can apply for ACAS on December 1, even though the DISC sitting doesn't end until mid-December.

### 33. When is the last opportunity to take the Course on Professionalism before the PCPA is required?

- The December 2025 COP sessions will be the last scheduled opportunity for candidates to bypass the PCPA requirement. Candidates who are attempting to complete the ACAS credential by December 31, 2025 should submit their VEEs and preliminary exam credits (Exams 1, 2, and 3F if applicable) ASAP to ensure processing ahead of COP registration.
- Should there be demand, the CAS will accommodate as many candidates as possible to meet the January 1, 2026 deadline. The CAS evaluates upcoming demand for COPs by monitoring the volume of near-ACAS candidates.

**34. Do candidates have to fill out the Associateship Membership application before January 1, 2026?**

- To bypass the PCPA requirement, candidates must fulfill all ACAS requirements before January 1, 2026. Candidates who have all ACAS requirements before January 1, 2026 can submit the application anytime they'd like. The CAS will be reviewing the date that credits were issued.