

2009-2010 Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award

These awards are presented to students in the major/honor program with high academic standing.

Roger Yang

I am currently in my fourth year in the Actuarial Science major program here at Simon Fraser University with a minor in Business Administration. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience here in the Statistics and Actuarial Science department and have learned a lot from both my actuarial science courses and through interaction with peers and professors.

I first came across the Actuarial profession during my last year in high school as I was looking for a career for myself. I had always enjoyed math but did not know which career would best utilize this affinity. I also wanted to find a career that was not just one dimensional but would involve a variety of disciplines. I eventually discovered that being an actuary involves aspects of finance, business, statistics, computer science with a strong emphasis on math. This immediately got my attention and I started to seriously think about a career as an actuary. I started to probe into the actuarial profession and this led to Simon Fraser University as I heard about its rigorous and challenging actuarial science program through a friend. The actuarial majors program at SFU has definitely been challenging and rewarding.

Through the help of the co-operative education program at Simon Fraser University, I was able to apply the concepts and ideas I had learned in class into the workplace in the form of two co-op terms at Manulife Financial in Toronto. My first work term was in the NAIC valuation division of Manulife and my second work term was in the product risk management division. Both have enhanced my knowledge of the practical applications of actuarial science as well as reinforced my desire to pursue an actuarial career. Towards that end, I have also passed the first three SOA preliminary exams and plan to write another one this coming May.