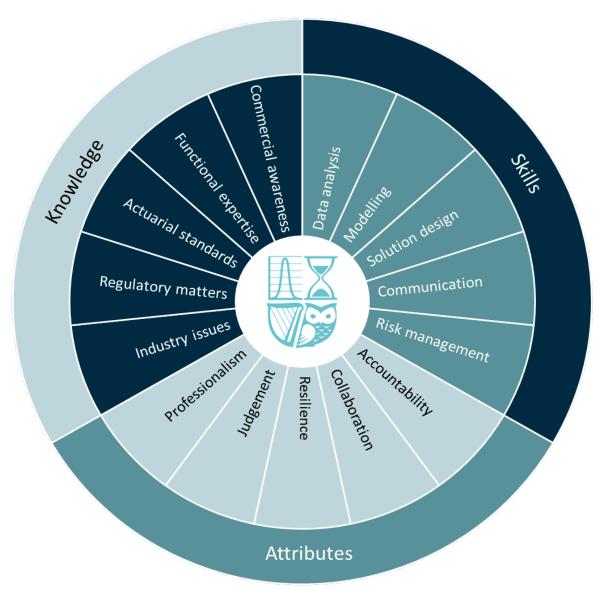
SAI competency framework



Your self-assessment tool

The Society of Actuaries in Ireland has developed a competency framework comprising the knowledge, skills and attributes that actuaries typically draw on in their work.

This framework is aligned to our vision, mission and goals. For each competency definition within the framework there is an indication of appropriate capabilities and behaviours across three competency levels.

The framework is intended to be suitable for use by all members of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland from student through to experienced professionals and regulated roles, and in traditional industry sectors, adjacent sectors and wider fields. However, it is not a mandatory tool and does not enforce any additional compliance requirements on any member.

The purpose of the competency framework is to:

- **Support members** in the identification of their learning and development needs, in relation to both their current role and any future roles to which they aspire. By reviewing the detailed competencies within the framework and considering (together with a line manager, for example) what competencies might typically be expected for a given role, members can identify gaps in their own current competency profile.
- **Facilitate members** in identifying which parts of the Society's Continuing Professional Development programme are relevant to the development and enhancement of specific competencies.
- **Promote the profession** to external stakeholders. In support of this, the competency wheel has a prominent role on the website and in marketing material used to promote the profession.

Click on the wheel for more information.

Return to SAI Homepage

Description of high-level attributes competencies

	Accountability	Taking responsibility for, and demonstrating transparency in, actions and results
	Collaboration	The ability to work with others for the successful delivery of shared objectives
outes	Resilience	The ability to work towards a successful outcome while welcoming and, where necessary, withstanding challenge
Attributes	Judgement	Testing all analysis for objectivity and independence, with a clear identification of any biases
Back to top	Professionalism	Committed to the principles of integrity, competence and care, impartiality, compliance and open communication as described in the Society of Actuaries in Ireland's Code of Professional Conduct

Attributes - Accountability – Competency level detail

Acc	Accountability Back to top						
Tak	ing re	spor	sibility for, and demonstrating transparency in, actions and results				
Aspects to consider: Outcomes, Ownership, Quality, Timeliness, Transparency							
	Expert	Core	 Takes responsibility for the quality of their own work Ensures their work meets the expected standard and consistently delivers to this standard Tests their understanding of others expectations 				
ər			 Takes responsibility for errors and inaccuracies and is accountable for decisions made Clearly articulates and communicates the scope of and standards to which work will be performed Designs, implements, monitors and enforces standards and controls that ensure the quality of work 				
Master			Acts as a role model, promotes high standards and encourages continuous improvement in the standards to which work is performed and the visibility of these				

Core:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to perform tasks in an effective manner whether working on their own or as part of a team.

Expert:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to oversee and take responsibility for their own and others work and to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders

Master:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to demonstrate leadership and adaptability, with a commitment to continuous improvement

Attributes - Collaboration — Competency level detail

Coll	Collaboration Back to top						
The	abilit	ty to	work with others for the successful delivery of shared objectives				
_	ects t sider:		Delegation, Inclusiveness, Influence, Leadership, Peer Review, People Management and Motivation, Relationship Management, Teamwork				
		Core	 Follows procedures and decision making guidelines but questions where appropriate Embraces diversity in all its forms and is approachable, co-operative and respectful of others Shows initiative in helping colleagues to complete tasks Builds trust and is seen as a team player Shares relevant information and asks for help when required 				
	Expert		 Understands and participates actively in relevant governance and decision-making structures Manages resources effectively, clarifies objectives and holds others to account Encourages and motivates others Is effective and constructive when peer reviewing the work of others Develops and maintains productive relationships across multiple internal and external functions 				
Master			 Provides leadership and sets the tone, ensuring clarity of purpose, values and objectives Facilitates debate and consensus gathering when necessary Addresses conflict constructively Adopts a range of influencing styles without being excessively domineering 				

Core:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to perform tasks in an effective manner whether working on their own or as part of a team.

Expert:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to oversee and take responsibility for their own and others work and to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders

Master:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to demonstrate leadership and adaptability, with a commitment to continuous improvement

Attributes - Resilience – Competency level detail

Res	Resilience Back to top					
The	The ability to work towards a successful outcome while welcoming and, where necessary, withstanding challenge					
Aspects to consider:			Consistent, Receptive, Rationalising, Resourceful, Robust, Self Management			
		Core	 Accepts challenge and is open to and respectful of differences in opinion Grows and develops skills by coping with and learning from adverse situations Develops trusting relationships that facilitate open discussion of contentious issues 			
	Expert		 Demonstrates self-regulation and self-control when under pressure Maintains a positive, solution-focussed, outlook when dealing with difficult situations Maintains relationships to ensure on-going effectiveness in the face of adverse pressures Is prepared to work towards a compromise where there is a difference of opinion, but remains alert to and avoids any breach of professional obligations 			
Master			 Continuously demonstrates adaptability and resourcefulness when dealing with external pressures Promotes a supportive working environment and provides personal support to others facing adverse situations 			

Core:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to perform tasks in an effective manner whether working on their own or as part of a team.

Expert:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to oversee and take responsibility for their own and others work and to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders

Master:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to demonstrate leadership and adaptability, with a commitment to continuous improvement

Attributes - Judgement — Competency level detail

Jud	Judgement Back to top					
Tes	ting a	II ana	alysis for objectivity and independence, with a clear identification of any biases			
Aspects to consider: Decision Making, Holistic, Open-Minded, Sceptical, Strategic						
		Core	 Identifies areas of potential bias Identifies the core information required to make sound, evidence based decisions 			
ي	Expert		 Applies critical thinking to the available information and makes rational, well-argued decisions Explores a range of relevant scenarios to support decision making where there is uncertainty Explains the areas where expert judgement has been applied and the key reliances. 			
Master			 Committed to objectivity and professional scepticism Considers decisions using a holistic approach, reconciling the dissective analysis with the big picture 			

Core:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to perform tasks in an effective manner whether working on their own or as part of a team.

Expert:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to oversee and take responsibility for their own and others work and to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders

Master:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to demonstrate leadership and adaptability, with a commitment to continuous improvement

Attributes - Professionalism – Competency level detail

Pro	Professionalism Back to top				
	Committed to the principles of integrity, competence and care, impartiality, compliance and open communication as described in the Society of Actuaries in Ireland's Code of Professional Conduct				
•	ects : sider		Competence and Care, Compliance, Impartiality, Open Communication, Self-Development		
			Aware and complies with the integrity requirements of the code of professional conduct Aware and complies with the competence and care requirements of the code of professional conduct Aware and complies with the compliance requirements of the code of professional conduct		
		Core	 Aware and complies with the compliance requirements of the code of professional conduct Aware and complies with the communication requirements of the code of professional conduct 		
ər	Expert		 Consistent honest and open performance of professional services Refers to other experts where the member has lacked the relevant knowledge/skill Proactively considers and pursues the CPD requirements and opportunities relevant to their current and potential future roles Consistently provides objective, independent and unbiased advice Actively highlights actual and potential conflicts of interest and records how these have been reconciled Actively highlights unlawful, unethical or improper actions and escalates concerns internally or externally when required Communications are consistently clear, timely and accurate and sufficiently comprehensive 		
Master			Acts as a role model, promotes high standards and seeks to advance the profession's reputation for integrity, competence and care, impartiality, compliance and open communication.		

Core:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to perform tasks in an effective manner whether working on their own or as part of a team.

Expert:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to oversee and take responsibility for their own and others work and to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders

Master:

At this level, the attribute competencies enable the member to demonstrate leadership and adaptability, with a commitment to continuous improvement

Description of high-level knowledge competencies

	Industry issues	Recognising and exploring the existing and emerging issues facing both the wider industry and within specific markets or segments
	Regulatory matters	Awareness and understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory regime(s) and forthcoming changes to relevant regulations
Knowledge	Actuarial standards	Familiarity with the technical guidance and standards applicable to the task at hand
Know	Functional expertise	Knowledge of the functional requirements for the individual's job area
Back to top	Commercial awareness	An ability to analyse, understand and prioritise stakeholder needs

Knowledge – Industry issues – Competency level detail

Industry issues Back to to								
	Recognising and exploring the existing and emerging issues facing both the wider industry and within specific markets or segments							
•	ects t sider:		Dependant on the industry/role, e.g. Banking, Financial Markets, Health, Insurance, Investment Funds, Life Assurance, Pensions, Public Affairs, Reinsurance, Technology, Wealth Management, Wider Fields					
	Core		Basic awareness of the relevant industry environment and any hot topics specific to the market segment(s) i which they are active					
	Expert		 Comprehensive knowledge of the relevant market segment(s) and industry environment and the potential impact of current developments Awareness of developments in related fields or markets and the potential industry impact 					
Master			 Deep specialist knowledge and understanding of issues facing specific markets Maintains a comprehensive knowledge of emerging trends in the wider environment that may be of relevance, as well as those in the specific markets, and demonstrates thought leadership in predicting the impact of these Active involvement in industry or market activities 					

Core:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is aware of the context within which they are working.

Expert:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is skilled in all aspects of the function they perform and has a comprehensive understanding of the environment relevant to their work.

Master:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member has deep technical knowledge specific to their role and is to the fore in understanding the nature and impact of emerging trends in the environment relevant to their work.

Knowledge – Regulatory matters – Competency level detail

Regulatory matters Awareness and understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory regime(s) and forthcoming changes to relevant laws or regulations Legislation, Regulations, Codes and Guidelines applicable to the specific Industry Sector and Country, Aspects to Other generally applicable requirements, e.g. Data Protection, Employment Law, where relevant to the consider: role Core Awareness of laws and regulations applicable to their practice area and role Thorough knowledge and understanding of laws and regulations applicable to their practice area and role, Expert and any imminent changes to these Takes responsibility for compliance with those laws and regulations relevant to their role Master Actively maintains a comprehensive knowledge of emerging trends in the legal and regulatory environment relevant to their practice area and role and demonstrates thought leadership in predicting the impact of these

Core:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is aware of the context within which they are working.

Expert:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is skilled in all aspects of the function they perform and has a comprehensive understanding of the environment relevant to their work.

Master:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member has deep technical knowledge specific to their role and is to the fore in understanding the nature and impact of emerging trends in the environment relevant to their work.

Knowledge – Actuarial standards – Competency level detail

Act	Actuarial standards Back to top					
Fan	niliari	ty wi	th the technical guidance and standards applicable to the task at hand			
			SAI Actuarial Standards of Practice (Cross-Practice and specific to the relevant Industry Sector), SAI Prescribed Guidance, Actuarial Standards set by other Bodies where relevant to the role			
		Core	 Understands and complies with the Code of Professional Conduct and relevant cross-practice actuarial standards Awareness of the actuarial standards relevant to their practice area, and knowledge of where to find them When in doubt, seeks advice on the application of actuarial standards 			
ڀ	Expert		> Strong knowledge of and compliance with all applicable actuarial standards and guidance			
Master			 Actively participates in shaping actuarial standards and guidance Viewed as a role model in the application of actuarial standards 			

Core:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is aware of the context within which they are working.

Expert:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is skilled in all aspects of the function they perform and has a comprehensive understanding of the environment relevant to their work.

Master:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member has deep technical knowledge specific to their role and is to the fore in understanding the nature and impact of emerging trends in the environment relevant to their work.

Knowledge – Functional expertise – Competency level detail

Fun	Functional expertise Back to top						
Knc	wled	ge of	the functional requirements for the individual's job area				
Aspects to consider: Dependant on the role, e.g. Audit, Capital, Computing, Consultancy, Governance, Liquidity Management, Modelling, Operations, Pension Funding, Pricing, Product, Project Management, Regulation, Reporting, Reserving, Risk, Sales, Strategy, Valuation							
		Core	Undergraduate level knowledge of mathematical, statistical, economic and financial concepts that are relevant to the function performed				
je	Expert		 Comprehensive knowledge of and responsibility for all aspects of the function(s) being performed (pricing, valuation, modelling etc) Clear understanding and appreciation of the role of other functions who depend on their work or on who their work depends (individuals, teams, external providers) 				
Master			Deep technical knowledge and promotes continuous improvement and innovation in how the function is performed				

Core:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is aware of the context within which they are working.

Expert:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is skilled in all aspects of the function they perform and has a comprehensive understanding of the environment relevant to their work.

Master:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member has deep technical knowledge specific to their role and is to the fore in understanding the nature and impact of emerging trends in the environment relevant to their work.

Knowledge – Commercial awareness – Competency level detail

Commercial awareness An ability to analyse, understand and prioritise stakeholder needs Dependant on the role, e.g. Board, Direct Client, Employee, End Customer, Public Interest, Regulator, Aspects to consider: Shareholder, Sponsor, Trustee Awareness of the context within which their employer/service recipient operates and the key stakeholders Comprehensive understanding of all stakeholders, their objectives and expectations, and the criteria by which they each measure success Awareness of current developments within and outside their practice area that are likely to influence stakeholder requirements in the future Adopts a realistic approach to the conflicting needs and priorities of different stakeholders and makes clear recommendations to address these Master Actively maintains a comprehensive knowledge of emerging trends in the wider environment that are relevant to all stakeholders and demonstrates thought leadership in predicting the impact of these

Core:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is aware of the context within which they are working.

Expert:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member is skilled in all aspects of the function they perform and has a comprehensive understanding of the environment relevant to their work.

Master:

At this level, the knowledge competencies ensure that the member has deep technical knowledge specific to their role and is to the fore in understanding the nature and impact of emerging trends in the environment relevant to their work.

Description of high-level skills competencies

	Data analysis	The ability to interrogate, understand and assess complex matters through the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data sources
	Modelling	The replication and forecasting of outcomes by applying quantitative techniques to the relevant data, using appropriate assumptions
Skills	Solution design	The design and delivery of suitable solutions, in a well-controlled environment
SK	Communication	The ability to communicate and engage effectively with a range of different audiences
Back to top	Risk management	The ability to recognise, understand and take account of uncertainty

Skills – Data analysis – Competency level detail

The	ta ana e abili antita	ty to	Core: At this level, the skills competencies result in work being appropriately controlled and documented.	
=	oects i nsider		Analysis, Aggregation, Summarisation, Statistical Inference, Visualisation	
	Core		 Maintains control over data processes Manipulates, aggregates and explores data Checks the integrity of data Documents findings from the analysis of data Summarises data appropriately Applies basic scripting and statistical language tools Sets data governance standards 	Expert: At this level, the skills competencies result in work for which the member is responsible being carried out to a high standard and fully validated, based on applying appropriate techniques to the relevant data. Communication is clear and sufficiently comprehensive for the purpose, with any limitations
Master	Expert		 Ensures that the data sources and analysis are relevant and comprehensive Anticipates and addresses competing explanations Determines how to measure and validate the results Presents the results in an accessible format Selects appropriate statistical tools and computer packages Proficient in the analysis of complex data, multiple data sources and big data Uses advanced data visualisation tools Applies complex algorithms or machine learning tools 	Master: At this level, the skills competencies require the use of advanced and specialist techniques. Communication is engaging while also meeting any prescribed standards.

Skills – Modelling – Competency level detail

Modelling Back to to							
The replication and forecasting of outcomes by applying quantitative techniques to the relevant data, using appropriate assumptions							
Aspects to consider:			Мс	odel Design, Model Management, Model Validation, Parameter Setting, Scenario Testing			
			AA	Understands commonly used modelling structures and techniques Maintains control over modelling processes			
			>	Builds, tests and operates the model			
		Core	A	Validates the model output by checking against known outcomes or outcome variances Documents and summarises the modelling process, inputs and outputs			
			>	Designs or selects a model that will adequately replicate real world processes for the specified purpose			
			>	Ensures that the development and operation of the model is suitably controlled			
			>	Ensures that the model inputs (data and assumptions) are appropriate for use in the model			
	4		>	Understands and discloses the limitations of the model, taking account of the data and assumptions used and the modelling time horizon			
	Expert		>	Interprets and explains the model results			
			>	Can estimate the scale of the model's potential error			
ir			>	Proficient in the design, selection and operation of dynamic models incorporating relevant scenario generators			
Master			>	Calibrates complex models and tests their suitability for predicting likely and extreme outcomes			
Ž				Presents the key assumptions and results from a complex model in a comprehensive but accessible format			

Core:

At this level, the skills competencies result in work being appropriately controlled and documented.

Expert:

At this level, the skills competencies result in work for which the member is responsible being carried out to a high standard and fully validated, based on applying appropriate techniques to the relevant data. Communication is clear and sufficiently comprehensive for the purpose, with any limitations identified.

Master:

At this level, the skills competencies require the use of advanced and specialist techniques. Communication is engaging while also meeting any prescribed standards.

Skills – Solution design – Competency level detail

Solution design Back to to						
The design and delivery of suitable solutions, in a well-controlled environment						
Aspects to consider:			Critical Thinking, Delivery, Governance, Innovation, Needs Analysis, Planning, Research, Resource Management			
		Core	 Maintains control over design and delivery processes Checks the integrity of relevant market and client data Documents findings from the analysis of market and client data Summarises data appropriately 			
	Expert		 Understands the client objectives and the context within which they operate Identifies relevant stakeholders and considers their requirements Plans the design and delivery process and manages resources efficiently Proposes the criteria for decision making and assesses the available options against these Presents the recommended solution(s) with a clear rationale, explaining key assumptions and next steps Assesses client and other stakeholder feedback where available and manages an iterative process if required 			
Master			 Applies critical thinking and innovative solutions to optimise design and delivery outcomes Applies clearly defined project management tools and processes to support the delivery of complex projects Embeds appropriate governance, risk management and communication procedures within the design and delivery processes 			

Core:

At this level, the skills competencies result in work being appropriately controlled and documented.

Expert:

At this level, the skills competencies result in work for which the member is responsible being carried out to a high standard and fully validated, based on applying appropriate techniques to the relevant data. Communication is clear and sufficiently comprehensive for the purpose, with any limitations identified.

Master:

At this level, the skills competencies require the use of advanced and specialist techniques. Communication is engaging while also meeting any prescribed standards.

Skills – Communication – Competency level detail

Communication Back to t							
The ability to communicate and engage effectively with a range of different audiences							
•	oects t nsider		Channel Selection, Clarity, Coherence, Context, Listening, Pro-active Engagement, Presenting, Rappo Report Writing, Summarising, Message Verification				
			 Selects an appropriate communication method for the situation Maintains adequate documentation on work processes. Listens attentively and checks their own understanding 				
		Core	 Composes clear and well-structured written communications Explains technical concepts in simple language where necessary 	E: A: re			
	Expert		 Adapts their communication style to the recipient(s) Ensures that written communications are sufficiently comprehensive and not misleading Ensures that complex data is presented clearly Summarises the key messages and understands their impact Tests the recipient understanding and remains alert to the need to provide clarification Does not shy away from difficult conversations Reflects on the effectiveness of their communications approach 	re st ap re ai p			
Master			 Provides comprehensive written reports that meet professional and regulatory requirements Summarises detailed reports both verbally and in writing, ensuring that all salient information is clearly articulated Facilitates debate and consensus gathering when necessary Delivers engaging presentations 	A co a te e p			

Core:

At this level, the skills competencies result in work being appropriately controlled and documented.

Expert:

At this level, the skills competencies result in work for which the member is responsible being carried out to a high standard and fully validated, based on applying appropriate techniques to the relevant data. Communication is clear and sufficiently comprehensive for the purpose, with any limitations identified.

Master:

At this level, the skills competencies require the use of advanced and specialist techniques. Communication is engaging while also meeting any prescribed standards.

Skills – Risk management – Competency level detail

Ris	Risk management Back to top						
The	The ability to recognise, understand and take account of uncertainty						
Aspects to consider:			Identify, Manage, Measure, Mitigate, Monitor				
		Core	 Understands and manages the sources of risk relevant to their role Adheres to prescribed risk management procedures Identifies actual and near miss risk events 				
	Expert		 Seeks clarity from stakeholders on risk appetite Assesses risk exposures on an inherent and residual risk basis Monitors key risk drivers Understands risk treatment options and their effectiveness Identifies potential stresses and scenarios Develops contingency plans Remains alert to new and emerging risks Escalates risk management concerns internally or externally when required 	Experior At this result responsive standa applying relevation and supurposidentifications.			
Master			 Oversees the risk management framework and embeds appropriate governance and communication processes to ensure its effectiveness Facilitates the setting of risk appetite Monitors the internal and external environment to ensure that the risk register is sufficiently comprehensive Effectively communicates their assessment of residual risks and recommends changes to the risk treatment approach Assesses an entity's own solvency needs from a capital and liquidity perspective 	Masto At thi comp advar techn engag presc			

is level, the skills competencies t in work being appropriately olled and documented.

s level, the skills competencies in work for which the member is nsible being carried out to a high ard and fully validated, based on ing appropriate techniques to the ant data. Communication is clear ufficiently comprehensive for the ose, with any limitations fied.

is level, the skills etencies require the use of nced and specialist iques. Communication is ging while also meeting any ribed standards.