



The Casualty Actuarial Society Establishes an Online Scoring Partnership with MZD

Press Release

Background

The Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) is the world's only actuarial organization focused exclusively on property and casualty risks and a premier international organization for credentialing and education. Its more than 9,000 members reflect worldwide leadership and expertise in property and casualty insurance, reinsurance, finance, risk management, and enterprise risk management. The credentials issued by CAS are highly respected throughout the insurance industry and beyond, and actuarial professionals educated by CAS empower business and government to make well-informed strategic, financial, and operational decisions.

In August of 2020, the Society began a partnership with MZD to help with its transition from traditional paper-based exams to a more modern computer-based design. As an industry leader in assessment scoring solutions, MZD is benefitting CAS credentialing programs by providing robust and secure exam scoring technology through its Online Scoring and Reporting platform, OSCAR.



Rapid Response to Global Pandemic:

In addition to unveiling a new computer-based assessment experience for its members, CAS needed a solution to address in person scoring challenges imposed by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Traditionally the CAS exams have been scored by CAS members over a span of weeks, first individually, followed by an in-person gathering of all graders at a single location for a second round of assessments. As travel restrictions and distancing requirements impacted the business landscape at all levels last year, CAS engaged MZD to rapidly deploy an online distributed scoring solution that would allow scorers to be at different locations, yet work together to coordinate the scoring process without compromising rigor or security. As part of this rapid roll-out, the distributed scoring solution also had to perform a seamless technical integration with the CAS test delivery platform operated by Pearson VUE.

Because OSCAR was engineered as a flexible Software as a Service solution, MZD was able to configure OSCAR to meet and exceed the rigorous requirements for accuracy, security, and technical performance that are expected for high-stakes certification exams. Drawing upon its track-record of success with other large-scale deployments, and its unique scoring technology expertise, MZD was able to support CAS with great efficiency, and as a result, fully operational exam scoring was being completed without incident within weeks of initializing the partnership.

Member Participation

During the Fall 2020 exam sitting, more than 300 CAS members participated in the online scoring, using the OSCAR marking system for the first time. The overall response to the shift from traditional, in-person grading to online distributed scoring was very positive, with CAS members praising the ease of use, the benefits of automation, and improved efficiency.

“As a result of the pandemic, we had to pivot very quickly to a virtual grading platform. Having to train 300 graders in such a short amount of time seemed like a daunting task, but our success is a testament to how intuitive the software was. Our graders were very happy with the experience and excited to discuss how this partnership could grow.”

– Ashley Zamperini, CAE, CAS Director of Admissions



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The screenshot shows the OSCAR interface with a balance sheet and calculation results. The balance sheet is as follows:

	C	D	E	F	G
Cash in bank	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$1,000
Accounts receivable	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$1,000
Inventory	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$1,000
Prepaid expenses	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$1,000
Other current assets	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$1,000
Total Current Assets	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,000
Fixed Assets					
Machinery & equipment	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$1,000

The calculation results on the right show:

Calculation	0	1	2	3	4
Formulas	0	1	2	3	4
Knowledge	0	1	2	3	4

OSCAR Configuration

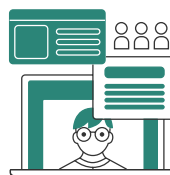
CAS exams have been essential to the property and casualty insurance industry for over a century and have become a trusted component of the profession. As a result, the exam grading process demands a very high level of reliability and accuracy. Through collaboration between CAS and MZD, the online grading platform, OSCAR, was configured and implemented to ensure the same rigor was carried through the transition to online grading.

By implementing the OSCAR platform solution, the CAS team was able to successfully emulate the in-person grading experience while maintaining the safety of distanced interactions and the convenience of a distributed process that allowed graders to work from any location.

“The MZD team is extremely excited about our partnership with CAS. The collaborative work that was accomplished in a short period of time is a great example of a true partnership. Working with the CAS team and the 300+ members completing the scoring of the assessments has been a great experience and we look forward to supporting their important work for years to come. The MZD team is committed to continued scoring innovation that results in efficiency while maintaining the quality and rigor that has been a staple of the CAS process.”

- Zac Henrich, CEO

Early Results



The first CAS exams using online test delivery and grading were completed in late 2020. In total 3100+ candidates sat for the constructed response exams, which included over 71,000 candidate responses that were scored through OSCAR.



Grading happened over a three-week period with zero technical difficulties and an overall positive response from the 300+ graders. The average grader spent 13.2 hours in the software.

About the Casualty Actuarial Society

The Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) is a leading international organization for credentialing and professional education. Founded in 1914, the CAS is the world's only actuarial organization focused exclusively on property and casualty risks and serves over 9,000 members worldwide. Professionals educated by the CAS empower business and government to make well-informed strategic, financial and operational decisions.

Learn more at www.casact.org

About MZD, Inc.

With a mission to enable more meaningful and actionable educational measurement, MZ Development, Inc. (MZD) is a testing technology innovation company focused on building better tools for assessment scoring, reporting, authoring, and delivery. MZD provides state departments of education, test publishers, school districts, and credentialing organizations with cutting edge technology solutions that emphasize practical designs, enjoyable user experiences, and richer results with greater efficiency. Founded in 2015, MZD has quickly established a strong reputation as a trusted technical partner building powerful tools that meet the unique needs of large-scale assessment programs and has aggregated the experience necessary to skillfully address evolving assessment technology requirements with practical, cost-effective solutions.

If you are interested in learning more about MZD or seeing our platform in action email us at contact@mzdevinc.com or call 319.855.7694.