

**Master's Degree Program in Public Administration
Auburn University at Montgomery
Program Fact Sheet (Fall 2023)**

The Auburn University at Montgomery Master's Degree Program in Public Administration (MPA) offers a curriculum that provides students with the training essential for understanding and solving today's complex policy problems, thereby positioning students for opportunities across the public, non-profit, and private sectors.

The program requires completion of twelve courses (36 credit hours) at a 3.0 GPA or higher. Program requirements include six core courses, five electives, and a capstone seminar that is taken in the student's final semester. A current plan of study is available on the program's webpage: <https://www.aum.edu/degree/public-administration-master/>

Full- and Part-time Students

The program welcomes full-time and part-time students. Full-time students, those who take at least three courses in both the fall and spring semesters, can complete the program in four semesters. Most students opt to take fewer courses per semester and complete the program within six or seven semesters.

In Fall 2023, the program included sixteen students and five full-time faculty members.

The program hosts a Student Chapter of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA). The student-led chapter develops program events featuring speakers from the local practitioner community.

Class Format and Meeting Times

The primary mode of delivery for the program's core courses is face-to-face and thus most courses are classroom based. However, several core courses are offered in hybrid (a combination of classroom meetings and online sessions) or online formats. Electives are offered in all formats.

Face-to-face classes are offered in the evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the AUM campus and each class meets one evening per week on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Courses are also available during the summer semesters.

Program classes are small, ranging from five to fifteen students. The small class size enables students to work closely with faculty and other students. In addition, the small classes offer students numerous opportunities to ask questions and receive individualized attention and feedback.

Internships

Students can receive up to six credit hours (equivalent to two elective courses) for internships with a relevant public, non-profit, or private-sector entity so long as the student fulfills the program's internship requirements. Recent internships were held with the following organizations:

- Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, Montgomery, AL
- Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division, Montgomery, AL
- Alabama Partnership for Children, Montgomery, AL
- Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project, Auburn, AL
- Children's Harbor, Birmingham, AL
- City Clerk's Office, City of Montgomery, AL
- City Manager, City of Mountain Brook, AL
- City Manager, City of Novi, Michigan
- City Manager, City of Vestavia Hills, AL
- Development Division, City of Montgomery, Montgomery, AL
- District Office, Farmers Insurance Group, Montgomery, AL
- State Auditor's Office, State of Alabama, Montgomery, AL
- Substance Abuse Youth Networking Organization, Montgomery, AL

Graduate Placement

The Auburn University at Montgomery MPA Program positions its graduates to work in a variety of areas. Some recent examples include:

- Administrator, Proposal Services and Faculty Support, Auburn University
- Advising and Recruiting Manager, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Auburn University at Montgomery
- Assistant Director of Public Relations, Alabama Association of School Boards
- Budget Analyst, City of Novi, Michigan
- Doctoral Candidate, Joint Ph.D. Program in Public Administration and Public Policy, Auburn University/Auburn University at Montgomery
- General Supervisor of Administrative Affairs, Government of Saudi Arabia
- ICMA Local Government Management Fellowship, City of Evanston, Illinois
- Legislative Analyst, Alabama Department of Education
- Marketing Specialist, Lighting Associates, Suwanee, GA
- Medicaid Administrator, Alabama Medicaid Agency
- Personnel Analyst, Alabama Department of Personnel
- Research Associate, WestEd, San Francisco, CA
- Retail Manager, Montgomery Zoo
- Youth Development Director, YMCA of Greater Birmingham

Placement Statistics for Graduates from the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Nine students earned the MPA degree from Auburn University at Montgomery during the 2021-2022 academic year, the current reporting year for data submitted to the MPA Program's accrediting body, NASPAA – the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. The following reports the employment status of the nine graduates within six months of their graduation in the various categories NASPAA identifies.

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| National government: | 0 graduates |
| State government (Alabama): | 3 graduates |
| City government: | 1 graduate |
| Government (foreign): | 0 graduates |
| Nonprofit (local organizations): | 3 graduates |
| Private sector (research or consulting): | 0 graduates |
| Private sector (not research or consulting): | 1 graduate |
| Obtaining further education: | 0 graduates |
| Unemployed (seeking employment): | 0 graduates |
| Unemployed (not seeking employment): | 0 graduates |
| Status Unknown | 1 graduate |
| Total: | 9 graduates |

Graduation Rates

The following reports the graduation rate for students entering the MPA Program during the 2017-2018 academic year, the current reporting year for data submitted to NASPAA, the MPA Program's accrediting body.

16 students initially enrolled during that academic year:

- 6 or 38% graduated within two years
- 12 or 75% graduated within three years
- 13 or 81% graduated within four years
- 13 or 81% total students graduated and persisting to graduation

Tuition and Fees

The tuition charge for graduate courses for the 2023-2024 academic year for Alabama residents is \$451 per credit hour and \$1014 per credit hour for non-Alabama residents. Several fees are also required. Alabama residents and non-Alabama residents pay similar fees. For detailed tuition and fee information see: <http://www.aum.edu/tuition-and-fees>

For information on the criteria for residency determination see:

<https://www.aum.edu/admissions/undergraduate-student-admissions/#residency-requirements>

Scholarships

Incoming MPA students are eligible for the university's Graduate Focus Scholarship which provides a tuition scholarship. In addition, opportunities for merit-based scholarships are available from various units at Auburn University at Montgomery and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. These scholarships are generally offered to continuing students. All enrolled students are invited to apply.

Application Materials

Applicants are required to have an undergraduate degree and submit official transcripts, official GRE scores, two letters of reference, a resume, and a 500-word statement of purpose. Test scores are waived for applicants who have earned a master's degree or have five or more years of professional work experience and an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. *Standardized tests are currently being waived for all applicants.*

New students can start the program in the fall and spring semesters. There is no set application deadline. All application materials nonetheless should be received at least one month prior to the start of the semester in which the prospective student would like to begin the program. For details on the application process, see the "Application Instructions" link on the MPA Program's website (<https://www.aum.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AUM-Application-Instructions-oct-2023.pdf>) and the Graduate Student Admissions page (<https://www.aum.edu/graduate-admissions/>).

Test Scores

The mean MAT score for all admitted students since January 2014 is 391. The mean combined GRE quantitative and verbal score for all admitted students during that same period is 291.

MPA Program Office

The program office is on the second floor of Goodwyn Hall in suite 209. Staff members can be reached by phone at 334-244-3698 or by email at politicalscience@aum.edu.

Application questions and application materials can be directed to politicalscience@aum.edu.