

## **The Auburn University at Montgomery MPA Program Fact Sheet**

The Auburn University at Montgomery Master's Degree Program in Public Administration 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. The twelve required courses include six core (required) courses, five elective courses, and a capstone seminar taken in the student's final semester. The program offers specialized courses in nonprofit management and leadership, state and local administration, and data analysis and policy evaluation. The plan of study – available on the program website <http://cas.aum.edu/academic-programs/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-public-administration> – identifies current offerings.

### **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 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 to eight semesters.

### **Number of Students and Faculty**

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the program included thirty-seven students and six full-time faculty members. In August 2019, a seventh full-time faculty member joined the program.

### **Student Group**

The program hosts an active Student Chapter of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA). The student-led ICMA chapter hosts guest speakers and coordinates a service-learning project.

### **Class Format and Meeting Times**

The primary presentation format for courses offered by the program is face-to-face. Most courses are classroom based. Two required courses are offered in a hybrid format (a combination of classroom meetings and online sessions). Some electives are offered in a hybrid format or online.

Classes are offered in the evenings from 6:20 p.m. to 8:55 p.m. and meet one evening per week on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Courses are also offered during the summer.

All classes offered by the program are small, ranging from five to twenty 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.

### **Internships**

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

- 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
- City Clerk's Office, City of Montgomery, AL
- City Manager, City of Mountain Brook, AL
- City Manager, City of Novi, Michigan
- District Office, Farmers Insurance Group, Montgomery, AL
- SAYNO (the Substance Abuse Youth Networking Organization), Montgomery, AL
- State Auditor's Office, State of Alabama, Montgomery, AL
- Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, Montgomery, AL
- Children's Harbor, Birmingham, AL

### **Graduate Placement**

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

- Communications Coordinator, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools
- Communications and Development Associate, Arise Citizens' Policy Project
- Executive Assistant, Alabama Partnership for Children
- Project Manager, Alabama Interactive
- Budget Analyst, City of Novi, Michigan
- Revenue Compliance Officer, Alabama Department of Revenue
- Medicaid Administrator, Alabama State Medicaid Agency
- Advising & Recruiting Manager, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Auburn University at Montgomery
- ICMA Local Government Management Fellowship, City of Evanston, Illinois
- Youth Development Director, YMCA of Greater Birmingham
- Recreation Therapist, Department of Veterans Affairs

### **Placement Statistics for Recent Graduates**

Sixteen students earned the MPA degree from Auburn University at Montgomery during the 2015-2016 academic year, seven earned the degree in 2016-2017, nine earned the

degree in 2017-2018, and thirteen earned the degree during the 2018-2019 academic year. The following reports these forty-five students' employment status within six months of graduation according to the sectors identified by the MPA Program's accrediting body, NASPAA – the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration:

National government:	1 graduate
State government (Alabama):	10 graduates
City government:	2 graduates
Government (foreign):	1 graduate
Nonprofit (local organizations):	12 graduates
Private sector (not research or consulting):	9 graduates
Private sector (research or consulting):	1 graduate
Obtaining further education:	3 graduates
Unemployed (seeking employment):	3 graduates
Unemployed (not seeking employment):	1 graduate
Status unknown:	2 graduates

The employment status within six months of graduation for the nine graduates from the 2017-2018 academic year is as follows:

City government:	1 graduate
Government (foreign):	1 graduate
Nonprofit (local organizations):	1 graduate
Private sector (not research or consulting):	3 graduates
Obtaining further education:	1 graduate
Unemployed (seeking employment):	2 graduates
Status unknown:	0 graduates

### Graduation Rates

The graduation rate for all students entering the MPA Program during the 2013-2014 academic year is as follows:

14 students initially enrolled during that academic year:

- 7 or 50% graduated within two years
- 9 or 64% graduated within three years
- 9 or 64% graduated within four years

Students entering the program prior to the Fall 2015 semester were required to pass a comprehensive exam after completing the 36 credit hours of required course work. Students now complete a capstone project in their final semester.

### Tuition and Fees

The tuition charge for the 2019-2020 academic year for Alabama residents is \$409 per credit hour and \$919 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/admissions/costs/tuition-and-fees>.

For information on the criteria for the determination of Alabama residency status see: <http://www.aum.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/residency-requirements>

Opportunities for merit-based scholarships are available from various units in the University and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. These 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 or MAT 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.

The program uses a rolling admissions process with no set application deadline; we admit new students to start the program in the fall and spring semesters. All application materials should be received at least three weeks 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 and the step-by-step guide on the Office of Graduate Studies page: <http://www.aum.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/step-by-step-guide-to-apply>

### **Test Scores**

The mean MAT score for all admitted students since January 2014 is 390; the mean combined GRE quantitative and verbal score for all admitted students during that period is 292.

### **MPA Program Office**

The program office is located in the Department of Political Science and Administration, which is on the second floor of Goodwyn Hall in suite 209. We can be reached by phone at 334-244-3698 or by email at [politicalscience@aum.edu](mailto:politicalscience@aum.edu).

Application questions and application materials can be directed to [politicalscience@aum.edu](mailto:politicalscience@aum.edu).