

## **Master's Degree Program in Public Administration Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) Program Fact Sheet (Fall 2024)**

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/>

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.

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

The primary mode of delivery for the program's courses is face-to-face. However, several core courses are offered in hybrid format (a combination of classroom meetings and online sessions) and fully 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 ten students. The small class size enables students to work closely with faculty and other students. In addition, our small classes offer students numerous opportunities to ask questions and receive individualized attention and feedback from faculty. In Fall 2024, the program included eleven students and four full-time faculty members.

### **Scholarships**

Incoming MPA students are eligible for the university's Graduate Focus Scholarship which provides a tuition scholarship. It reduces tuition by about twenty-five percent. Opportunities for additional merit-based scholarships are available from various units at Auburn University at Montgomery and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. These merit scholarships are generally offered to continuing students. All enrolled students are invited to apply.

## 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
- Mayor'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 Placements

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 to the Commissioner, Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries
- Budget Analyst, City of Novi, Michigan
- Case Manager, Central Alabama Aging Consortium, Montgomery, AL
- Community Supervisor, Wellness Coalition, Montgomery, AL
- 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
- Marketing Specialist, Lighting Associates, Suwanee, GA
- Operations Specialist, Montgomery Regional Airport
- Research Associate, WestEd, San Francisco, CA
- Retail Manager, Montgomery Zoo
- Youth Development Director, YMCA of Greater Birmingham

### Placement Statistics for Graduates from the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Seven students earned the MPA degree from Auburn University at Montgomery during the 2022-2023 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 seven graduates within six months of their graduation in the various categories NASPAA identifies.

National government:	0 graduates
State government (Alabama):	0 graduates
City or County government:	2 graduates
Government (foreign):	0 graduates
Nonprofit (local organizations):	2 graduates
Private sector (research or consulting):	0 graduates
Private sector (not research or consulting):	3 graduates
Obtaining further education:	0 graduates
Unemployed (seeking employment):	0 graduates
Unemployed (not seeking employment):	0 graduates
Status Unknown	0 graduate
Total:	7 graduates

### Graduation Rates

The following reports the graduation rate for students entering the MPA Program during the 2018-2019 academic year, the current reporting year for data submitted to NASPAA, the MPA Program's accrediting body.

9 students initially enrolled during that academic year:

- 2 or 22% graduated within two years
- 4 or 44 graduated within three years
- 7 or 78% graduated within four years
- 7 or 78% total students graduated and persisting to graduation

### Tuition and Fees

The tuition charge for graduate courses for the 2024-2025 academic year for Alabama residents is \$465 per credit hour and \$1044 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>

## Application Materials

Applicants are required to have an undergraduate degree and submit official transcripts, two letters of reference, a resume, and a 500-word statement of purpose. GRE 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. GRE scores are currently 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 combined GRE quantitative and verbal score for all admitted students since January 2014 is 291. Standardized tests are currently waived for all applicants.

## 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](mailto:politicalscience@aum.edu).

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