



# Academic CommonMarket

State Report



## *A message from...*

Mississippi's public universities help students achieve goals and fulfill dreams, which in turn moves the South forward as today's students, both native Mississippians and students from across the region, become the leaders of tomorrow. The SREB Academic Common Market makes more of these dreams possible by meeting the needs of students and providing them with affordable opportunities to pursue whatever path they choose.

Each student is different and has unique talents and gifts, which help lead him or her to a particular course of study. It is impossible for any university to offer every program, particularly during difficult times such as these when resources are stretched thin. The SREB Academic Common Market fills this need by expanding the opportunity to pursue the programs offered at any one university to the programs offered at universities across the region.

This collaborative effort helps all of us improve the retention and graduation rates as we help students learn and grow in their chosen field or specialty. By expanding opportunities for our

The postsecondary community constantly wrestles with the quandary of access without loss of quality. The Academic Common Market (ACM) continues its legacy of providing access to Mississippians without sacrificing quality. Rich in history and strong in structure, the ACM serves as a model to all who seek access to a world of accredited institutions that offer an array of degree programs that they would otherwise not have access to. The ACM provides a waiver that not only provides access, but also relieves students of the financial burden of paying out-of-state tuition costs. The ACM continues to provide access to out-of-state degree programs for Mississippians at an



**Dr. Hank M. Bounds**

*Commissioner of Higher Education  
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning*

students to succeed, we are also expanding our opportunity for success.

Inside this report, you will read how a few of our students have availed themselves of the opportunities provided by the SREB Academic Common Market and what a difference this has made in their lives. All participating states and universities share in this success.

Mississippi is proud to be a part of the Academic Common Market and the difference it has made to students over the years. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board and its member states.



**Pearl Strickland Pennington**

*Director of Student Affairs  
ACM State Coordinator  
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning*

affordable cost. The state of Mississippi believes its participation in the compact provides an avenue for our residents to accomplish their postsecondary dreams, whatever they may be.



# Academic Common Market

Uncommon opportunities. Real savings.

## **Study in a specialized field at an out-of-state college, while paying in-state tuition rates.**

Is the degree program you'd like to pursue not available in your state? Have you found a degree program at an out-of-state institution but the higher tuition is a barrier? Looking for options with lower tuition?

You're in the right place. For more than 35 years, the SREB Academic Common Market has enabled students to pursue out-of-state college degrees at discounted tuition rates through agreements among the states and colleges and universities.

Search from more than 1,900 undergraduate and graduate degree programs available in the 16 SREB states. It's quick and easy.

To qualify you must:

- Be a resident of one of the 16 SREB states;
- Select a program eligible for residents of your home state;
- Complete the admission process at the institution offering the eligible Academic Common Market program; and
- Be certified as a resident of your home state by contacting the ACM coordinator for your state of residence.



# TOP 5 PROGRAMS

## WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE GOING



15

**Nurse Anesthesia**  
■  
*Tennessee and Alabama*



12

**Rehabilitation Counseling**  
■  
*Arkansas*



8

**Petroleum Engineering**  
■  
*Louisiana*



7

**MSN-Clinical Nurse Leader**  
■  
*Tennessee*



3

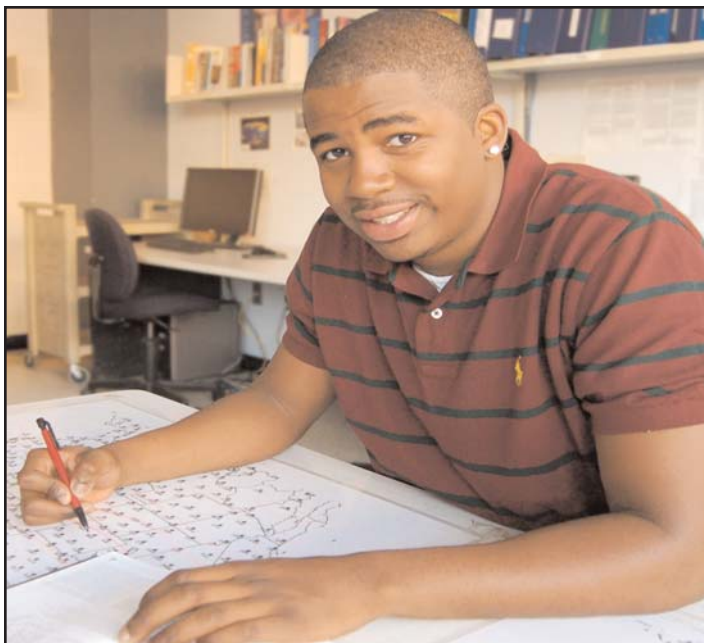
**Radiological Science and  
Accelerated Nursing  
Pathway**  
■  
*Alabama*





**MUW**

® *A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men*



I have always dreamed of attending Jackson State University after I saw the Sonic Boom of the South perform. However, the cost of college alone was a challenge for the family of an aspiring weather forecaster, much less the additional money to cover out-of-state tuition to pursue my education and career goals. The Academic Common Market took a big financial load off of my family - with out-of-state fees, that's about \$4,000 a semester. I plan to stay in Mississippi to attend graduate school and blend broadcast journalism with my meteorology degree. I tell my Mom she's going to see me on CNN one day in the middle of a huge storm.

—**Gabriel D. Houston**  
**Meteorology**  
**Arkansas**

I am grateful for the Academic Common Market program. It would not have been possible for me to matriculate without the Academic Common Market. I am majoring in the Public Policy and Administration program and I am classified as a doctoral candidate planning to graduate no later than August of 2011. As a non-traditional student and father of three when I made this move to pursue my education, my wife was serving in the military in Iraq; without the program, I could not have made the transition. The Academic Common Market program is necessary, needed, and should be continued.

—**Daniel L. Curley**  
**Public Policy and Administration**  
**Arkansas**

The Academic Common Market program has helped me to fulfill my aspirations by making college affordable and giving me the opportunity to carry out my dream of becoming a chef. The ACM program has helped me to reduce my educational expenses, by reducing my student loans, allowing me to focus on my education rather than the expense of going to school. The ACM program is helping me to save \$25,032.20.

—**Gwen Sanders**  
**Culinary Arts Major**  
**Alabama**

Since out-of-state tuition is so high, without the Academic Common Market I would not have been able to attend school here. It has helped take some of the financial burden off my parents. I have saved approximately \$20,000.00 dollars since starting school here. The Academic Common Market has reduced my educational expenses greatly.



—**Brittany Roh**  
**Culinary Arts Major**  
**Alabama**

Without the ACM I would not be able to major in Culinary Arts. The high cost of out-of-state tuition would not have allowed me to attend college at MUW. Because of the help from the ACM, the huge burden of worrying about how I was going to pay the tuition fees has been removed. The ACM has helped me reduce my educational expenses and I have saved over \$5,000.00. When I graduate, I will have a lot less money to pay back.

—**Jakiero Dismuke**  
**Culinary Arts Major**  
**Arkansas**



## The University of Mississippi®

The Academic Common Market has opened doors for me that would not have opened in my home state. In pursuit of my academic and personal goal of a degree in forensic chemistry, my aspirations have been fulfilled ten-fold. The ACM scholarship has greatly reduced my educational expenses by supplying me with over \$33,816 in savings. The most valuable aspect of the financial aid is that it increases with the growing costs of college tuition. No matter what the out-of-state tuition is, my waiver will cover it. This offers me the ability to pursue my dreams and have incredible financial security. My family and I will forever be grateful for what this program has offered us.

—Keely Childress  
Forensic Chemistry  
Louisiana

The Academic Common Market waiver has helped me greatly. It has allowed me to attend the University of Mississippi and pursue the degree that I wanted. If it were not for the ACM waiver, I would not be where I am today, attending this wonderful university.

—Cory Cook  
Forensic Chemistry  
Tennessee

I am a freshman from Georgia. The Academic Common Market has helped me a great deal in my efforts to one day work for a prestigious crime lab and facilitate the solving of intriguing mysteries. When I realized there was not an institution in the state of Georgia that offered the degree I wanted to pursue, I was tremendously excited to discover the University of Mississippi and the Academic Common Market. Now I am here at UM studying forensic chemistry and paying in-state tuition. It is a dream that has come true!

—Sara Dempsey  
Forensic Chemistry  
Georgia

Saying the Academic Common Market program pleased my parents' checking account is common sense, but it did far more for my college career. The ACM provided an extremely helpful incentive for attending an out-of-state college. I was raised, after all, as an Ole Miss Rebel. The Academic Common Market also allowed me to earn a fascinating degree in forensic chemistry, which would have been impossible in my home state.

—Danielle Dykes  
Forensic Chemistry  
Alabama

The Academic Common Market waiver means everything to me, literally. Especially after I discovered it during the middle of my freshman fall semester, when my mother and I were wondering how I would be able to afford the University of Mississippi. I am so relieved and honored to have this waiver. The ACM is a blessing, because it has made a way when there wasn't one for me to get an education at the University of Mississippi.

—Crystal Gomillia  
Forensic Chemistry  
Georgia

The Academic Common Market waiver has helped my studies tremendously by helping me financially and by giving me a chance to attend Ole Miss. I did not know much about forensic chemistry, but through research, I found out about this great opportunity. Being that this program is the top in the country, it made my decision on which college I would attend very easy.

—Jacqueline Gledhill  
Forensic Chemistry  
Georgia

The Academic Common Market waiver has not only provided a means for me to pursue my intended major, but it has also helped me financially by waiving out-of-state tuition.

—William Guyton  
Forensic Chemistry  
Alabama

The Academic Common Market program provided me an opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a Forensic Scientist. Since my parents live in Alabama, the ACM program enabled me to attend the University of Mississippi where I am currently enrolled as a sophomore. The American Academy of Forensic Scientists ranked the UM degree in forensic chemistry among the top five in the country. Without the ACM program, I would not have had this wonderful opportunity to fulfill my dream.

—Jordan Kennedy  
Forensic Chemistry  
Alabama

I am currently a freshman at Ole Miss from Alabama. The ACM program has helped me tremendously this year! It has made my dream of attending the University of Mississippi possible, which would have otherwise been impossible due to out-of-state tuition. I have always been interested in math and science, and forensic chemistry has been the perfect program for me so far!

—Maggie Morgan  
Forensic Chemistry  
Alabama

The Academic Common Market waiver has already made a huge impact on my education. This waiver is allowing me to receive a great education at a reasonable price, and truly enjoy learning here at the University of Mississippi.

—Claudia Penkert  
Forensic Chemistry  
South Carolina



## The University of Mississippi®



(left-right) Sarah Rodriguez-Sawao, Gabrielle Campo, Danielle Nodurft, Paige Sims, Jessica Sherrard, Danielle Dykes, Sara Dempsey, and Crystal Gomillia

**M**y name is Victoria Stanford and I am attending the University of Mississippi as a freshman majoring in forensic chemistry. I am a resident of the state of Alabama, which does not offer forensic chemistry as a major at any of the universities there. The ACM has helped me greatly financially. It has allowed me to attend an amazing college and pursue a degree in a major that I will hopefully one day turn into an aspiring career. It has also allowed me the ability to focus more on my schoolwork, and all of the other necessary things that come along with being a full-time student, by keeping me from having to worry constantly about financial problems. The ACM has saved my family and me around \$8,000 over the fall and spring semesters.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity that this waiver awards me.

—Victoria Stanford  
Forensic Chemistry  
Alabama

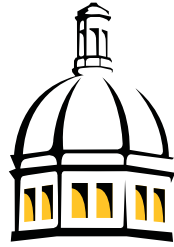
**I**f it were not for Academic Common Market, I can honestly say that I probably would not be at the University of Mississippi today. With the price of college tuition increasing every year, staying in state for college is usually the best financial choice. However, because of ACM, I was able to go out of state and major in forensic chemistry, rather than stay in state and get just a chemistry degree. Before coming for a visit to Ole Miss, I had never even heard of ACM and neither had my parents. At the beginning of my visit, I was informed

of ACM for forensic chemistry and I immediately became intrigued. That was what I wanted to do, and not having to pay out-of-state tuition was a huge plus! Because of ACM, I have saved close to \$10,000 a year and I am able to attend the college I have always wanted to attend.

—Caroline Spencer  
Forensic Chemistry  
Georgia

**T**he Academic Common Market waiver has allowed me to attend school out of state. Without this scholarship, I would not be able to follow my desired course of study.

—Heidi Witteveen  
Forensic Chemistry  
Alabama



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTHERN**  
**MISSISSIPPI**®

The Academic Common Market has helped me to where I haven't had to pay out of state fees. That was a big help to me because the out of state tuition is more than the regular tuition. So I'm glad my major has allowed me to receive this."

—**Jasmine Perkins**  
**Entertainment Industry, Production**  
**Emphasis**  
**Louisiana**

The Academic Common Market has given me the opportunity to study Kinesiotherapy out of state in one of the best programs in the south. It has allowed me to obtain the optimal knowledge that I will need in the clinical setting and it has prepared me for if I choose to go on to a higher level of study such as Physical therapy school.

—**Mallory Barnes**  
**Human Performance, Kinesiotherapy**  
**Louisiana**

The Academic Common Market has helped give me the opportunity to go to school in Mississippi for Computer Engineering Technology."

—**Amber Hollins**  
**Computer Engineering Technology**  
**Louisiana**

The Academic Common Market has allowed me to pursue a degree in Deaf Education. Without the waiver of the out-of-state tuition, I would not have been able to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and study in/or be part of this unique program that only USM offers. I am very thankful for what the ACM has done for me!"

—**Malone Thornton**  
**Deaf Education**  
**Georgia**

The Academic Common Market is a wonderful program. It has allowed me to pursue a degree not offered at a Louisiana College without having to pay out of state fees. This opportunity to study at the University of Southern



(left-right) Zacchari Draper, Malone Thornton, Amber Hollins, and Marcus Weems

Mississippi is something I probably wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise. Thank you Academic Common Market, this is a great program.

—**Laney Simmons**  
**Entertainment Industry Management**  
**Louisiana**

The Academic Common Market has given me the opportunity to remain at the school that I chose, the University of Southern Mississippi. The ACM has also allowed me stay with the major of my choice which is not offered in many other schools - Entertainment Industry (Management).

—**Andrew Bautista**  
**Entertainment Industry**  
**Louisiana**

The Academic Common Market has allowed me to go out of my home state and seek the degree that I really wanted.

—**Zacchari Draper**  
**Architectural Engineering**  
**Alabama**

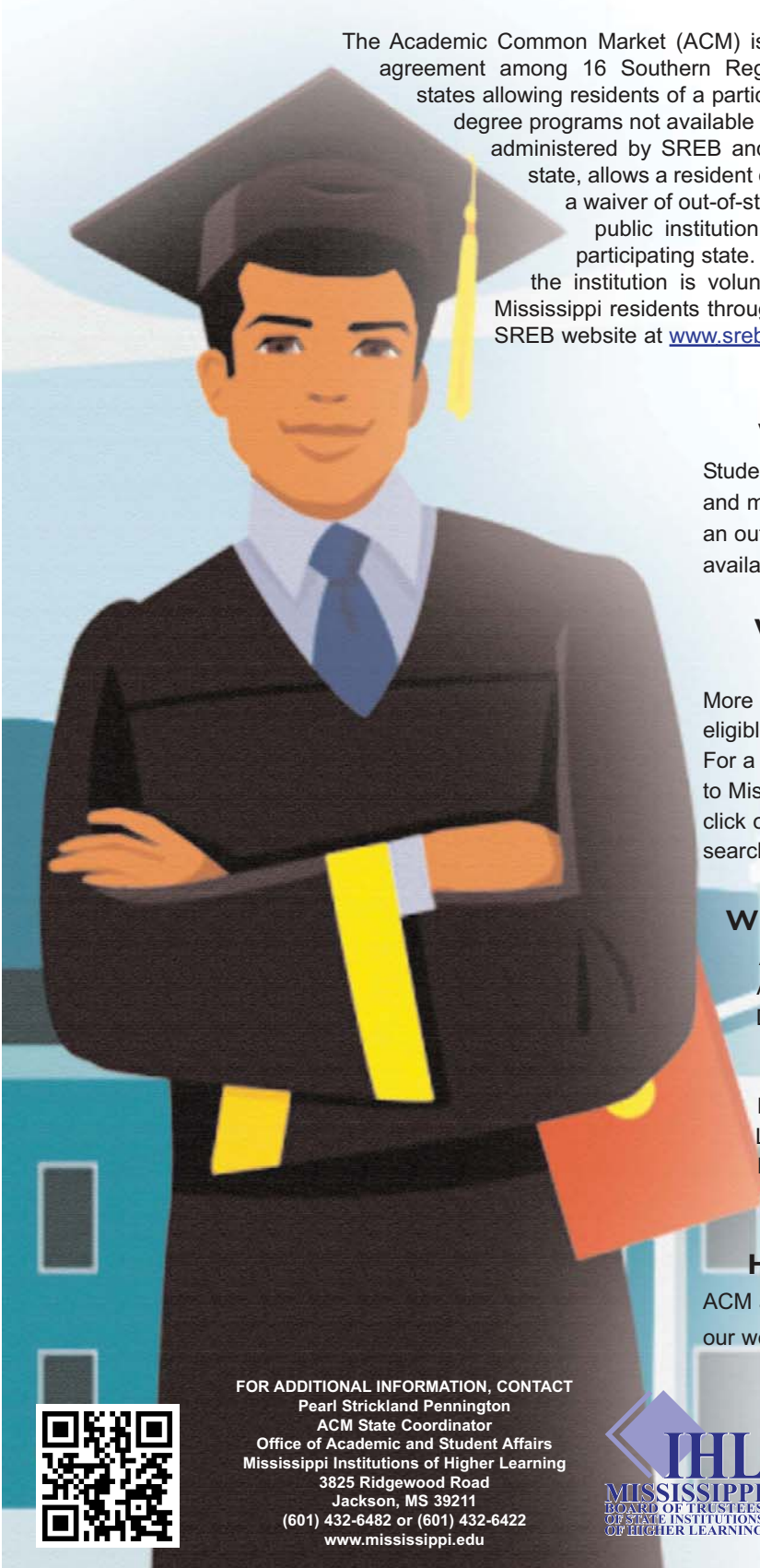
The Academic Common Market has done so much for me because I can now afford to attend my choice of university where my major is being offered. Without this I wouldn't be able to attend an out-of-state institution or even study within my area of focus. I am very thankful that this program even exists.

—**Marcus Weems**  
**Human Performance, Kinesiotherapy**  
**Louisiana**



# What is the Academic Common Market?

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a cooperative, tuition-reduction agreement among 16 Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states allowing residents of a participating state to pursue academic degree programs not available in their home state. The program, administered by SREB and coordinated by each individual state, allows a resident of a participating state to apply for a waiver of out-of-state tuition to attend a cooperating public institution of higher education in another participating state. The participation by the state and the institution is voluntary. The programs available to Mississippi residents through the ACM can be found on the SREB website at [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org).



## WHO QUALIFIES?

Students must be residents of Mississippi and must be admitted unconditionally into an out-of-state degree program that is not available in Mississippi.

## WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?

More than 1,800 programs are available to eligible students at in-state tuition rates. For a complete list of programs available to Mississippi residents, visit [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org), click on "Academic Common Market" and search for Mississippi.

## WHO PARTICIPATES?

Alabama	Mississippi
Arkansas	North Carolina*
Delaware	Oklahoma
Florida*	South Carolina
Georgia	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas*
Louisiana	Virginia
Maryland	West Virginia

\*Participates at the graduate level only.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

ACM applications are available online. Visit our website at [www.mississippi.edu/ihl](http://www.mississippi.edu/ihl).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT  
Pearl Strickland Pennington  
ACM State Coordinator  
Office of Academic and Student Affairs  
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
3825 Ridgewood Road  
Jackson, MS 39211  
(601) 432-6482 or (601) 432-6422  
[www.mississippi.edu](http://www.mississippi.edu)





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The Academic Common Market (ACM) is enabling many talented out-of-state students to enjoy the benefit of an excellent education at Mississippi State University while easing the financial burden on their families. Almost every week we receive phone calls from, or welcome in person, high school students and their parents who are visiting from Arkansas, Kentucky, or Louisiana - states which do not offer programs in Aerospace Engineering. The significant financial incentive provided by the ACM allows many of these prospective students



to enroll at MSU instead of choosing a different career path or foregoing college altogether. During a four-year period at MSU, a full-time student taking advantage of the ACM can save in excess of \$33,000 in tuition charges.

—Pasquale "PC" Cinnella  
Interim Department Head  
Aerospace Engineering Department

My name is Eric Robertson, and I am a third-year student at Mississippi State University. In my home state of Louisiana, there are currently no schools of higher learning that offer an aerospace engineering program. Because of the Academic Common Market, I was able to pursue an education that suited my aviation-related interests without having to deal with costs associated with out-of-state residents such as myself. The ACM has saved me nearly \$40,000 in potential fees over the course of the five semesters I have been enrolled at MSU. Without this program, I would not have been able to cost-effectively work towards a potentially rewarding degree alongside others who share common interests.



program, I can say that I attend one of the most renowned schools in the South when it comes to Engineering. Since I was eight years old I have been fascinated with anything related to aircraft, and when it came time to make the choice I knew I wanted to study in the field of Aerospace Engineering. However, when the financial element was introduced into discussion, my choice became less easy. The ACM program not only gave me a vessel to attend a large institution of higher learning, it gave me a chance to pursue my interests and also become one of the first males in my family to enter college.

—Eric Robertson  
Aerospace Engineering  
Louisiana

The experience at Mississippi State University that the Academic Common Market program has provided me with has been amazing. Because of the ACM

As a resident of Arkansas, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Academic Common Market (ACM) program. I have known that I have wanted to major in aerospace for many years, mainly stemming from several trips to NASA to see shuttle launchings and from years of building rockets.

My parents allowed me to select a college based on my desire to become an aerospace engineer. My mom works in the University of Arkansas System and by my attending a school not in that system, we are forfeiting a 40% tuition discount!

When deciding upon where I wanted to obtain my degree in Aerospace Engineering,

my research resulted in identifying only two schools that were geographically close me: Mississippi State University and the University of Alabama. After visiting MSU, I knew that I wanted to be a bulldog!

If the ACM program was not available, I would not be able to major in this field. The cost difference of in-state and out-of-state student tuition is \$8,340/year! My parents have two children in college, and I am already getting loans to pay for tuition and the other expenses related to attending college. There would be no way I could financially make my dream of becoming an aerospace engineer a reality.

—Joseph St. Columbia  
Aerospace Engineering  
Arkansas



I went to high school in a suburb outside Louisville, Kentucky, and I had lived in that town since I was five years old. When it came time for me to look at colleges, I was not as eager and excited as my peers were. As I visited each Kentucky college, I became more and more discouraged. None of them seemed to fit me; none of them felt right. I always thought about out-of-state schools, but as I discussed them with friends, teachers, and my parents, the same words kept reappearing: money, debt, and loans.

Since the eighth grade, I had planned on majoring in Aerospace Engineering, but it wasn't even offered in any Kentucky school. I was backed into a corner. If I wanted to pursue the career I had planned on for the majority of my life, I would have to get out of Kentucky, but that would mean racking up debt and loans. I had two

# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



During my last year of high school, I discovered that I would have to pay for my education. My father found out about the Academic Common Market. I am from Redfield, Arkansas. The Academic Common Market is allowing me to pursue a degree in aerospace engineering at Mississippi State University and waive the out-of state tuition. This makes attending school out-of-state affordable.

During my time at Mississippi State, I have made several friends and have become very involved in several organizations. They are the Design/Build/Fly (DBF) design team, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and Sky Dawgs RC and Rocketry Club.

One of my dreams has come true while here at Mississippi State; I learned how to fly RC airplanes.

—Zachary McCool  
Aerospace Engineering  
Arkansas

The Academic Common Market allows me to pursue my goal to become an Aerospace Engineer by significantly reducing the costs to me for being an out-of-state student. It is unlikely that I would be able to continue here at MSU without the help of the ACM. If my math is correct, the ACM has saved me \$31,838 so far, and I am grateful for every penny saved. It means I don't have to worry so much about loans and finances and whether or not I'll be able to pay things back, which means I have more time and energy to spend on academics. Without the ACM I would not have the opportunity to partake in the great educational opportunities offered by MSU. I would never have gained the valuable experience of working on a design team with other engineers. The Academic Common Market has been a great help to me, and I am thankful that the program exists and is willing to help students like me.

—Kaled Mustafa – Junior  
Aerospace Engineering  
Louisiana

options: switch majors or find a scholarship.

I tried the first option first. I applied to the University of Kentucky for admittance into their engineering school for Mechanical Engineering and into their journalism school. I was accepted into both, but it still did not feel right. As my classmates talked about dorms and college, it just did not excite me, and I was not looking forward to it.

As graduation grew closer, I realized that most of the scholarships were already gone, and if they weren't they would go to students with higher GPAs and ACT scores than me. Desperation kicked in. For hours, my mom and I hunched over the computer searching for options. Then, we found one.

My mom gets the credit for finding the Academic Common Market for me. We typed in

Aerospace, and Mississippi State University was the first on the list, so I applied. I know it is the unconventional way of picking a school, but I was set on going before I even visited for the first time. While some people see that as being set up for failure, I could not be happier with choosing Mississippi State University.

I have fallen in love with State, and I am thankful every day that I am here. The ACM saved me \$4,170 this semester so that I could branch out of my hometown in Kentucky and find what I had been searching for. It has let me experience a new state, new friends, new atmosphere, and the ability to work toward my dreams.

—Courtney Harris  
Aerospace Engineering  
Kentucky



# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Being able to attend Mississippi State University on the Academic Common Market Program is helping me reach my aspiration of becoming a Landscape Architect. This profession is something that I have become passionate about over the past few years and it has taught me what it means to become a steward of the land. There are no programs for a bachelor in Landscape architecture in the state of Alabama and I am proud to call myself a Mississippi State student. Receiving this help with my out-of-state tuition has relieved a heavy burden from my family and me, especially since I have two sisters who are also in college that my parents are helping out as well. I am ecstatic that I will be able to finish a degree that interests me on many levels and that I will be able to get it through Mississippi State University and with the help of the Academic Common Market.

—**Jenifer L. Coogler**  
Landscape Architecture  
Alabama



The Academic Common Market has offered me the opportunity to attend Mississippi State University and major in Floral Management at a great savings to myself and my parents. I have always aspired to major in a creative field that would allow me to enhance my love of flowers and support myself financially in a fulfilling career. Floral Management encompasses knowledge from the schools of Horticulture, Business, and Art. I am confident with an educational background of this caliber I can accomplish my life goals. It has also allowed me to participate in the MSU student chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers (SAIFD), where I network with other fellow Floral Management students and grow and learn. The \$4700 in tuition relief each semester really was the deciding factor in allowing me to go out of state.

—**Mary Frances Bennett**  
Horticulture  
Alabama



My name is Courtney McHendry and I am a student at Mississippi State University. I graduated high school in Kentucky but through the Academic Common Market I was able to go to school in Mississippi. Majoring in Horticulture, Floral Management has opened many doors and has provided me with the skills and knowledge other programs could not give me. With organizations like MSU student chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers (SAIFD), I have been able to compete each year and network with florist and wholesalers all over the south. Each academic year, I have saved \$8,340, for a total of \$33,360. Without that exemption I am not sure I would have had the opportunity to be a Dawg. Being able to have classes fit my needs with a University that is so helpful in finding internships and job opportunities, I will never forget my time here or the help of the Academic Common Market.

—**Courtney McHendry**  
Horticulture  
Kentucky





# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

The Academic Common Market program gave me a chance to find a career I am passionate about. I had never heard or thought about floral management as a future, until I found and researched it on the Mississippi State University website. After finding out about ACM through family and my admissions advisor, I realized that I could major in floral management at Mississippi State and have out of state fees waived. I became even more excited and interested in the major! I have always loved flowers and aspects of design, but never thought of the two together until now. I was recently inducted into MSU student chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers (SAIFD), which will give me many career opportunities in the future. The ACM program has given me the chance to participate in floral management and SAIFD to better my future, without the burden of all the extra money for out of state students. I chose MSU because of ACM and the Floral Management program.

—Genna Flowers  
Horticulture  
Alabama



Being able to attend Mississippi State on the Academic Common Market Program has helped me to realize my aspirations by allowing me to attend this great university. Attending Mississippi State University has allowed me to meet new people and made me realize that I can achieve my life goals. Not having to pay out-of-state tuition has meant the world to me. Without this program I seriously doubt that I would still be attending Mississippi State. Participating in the Academic Common Market Program saves me close to 4,000 dollars a semester. I am so thankful for this program and hope that it is available for many years to come for future students from surrounding states.

—Adam House  
Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business  
Alabama

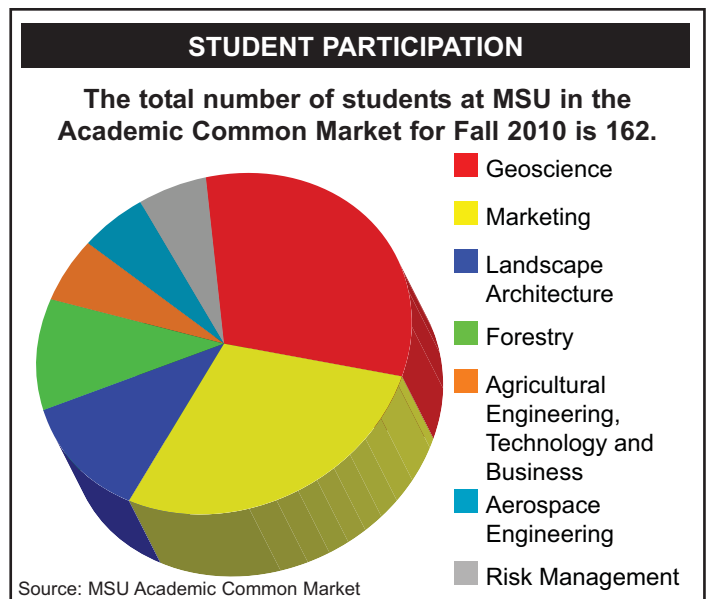


The Academic Common Market will allow me to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry and hopefully continue to pursue a Master's Degree at Mississippi State University. My career goal is to someday start my own land natural resources consulting firm. The ACM will save my family approximately \$25,000 to \$33,000 depending on the length of time it takes me to complete a Bachelors Degree."

—Shane Howington  
Forestry  
Alabama

The Academic Common Market is enabling me to fulfill my goals by allowing me to come to Mississippi State University on in-state tuition. In addition, the ACM is letting me pursue my veterinary career through the forestry and wildlife field. I am saving a little over eight thousand dollars a year by participating in the Academic Common Market."

—Trey Peel  
Forestry  
Alabama





# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

I cannot emphasize enough how much the Academic Common Market (ACM) Exemption program has helped me during the pursuit of my doctoral degree at Mississippi State University. During the time frame of completing my degree, the ACM saved me \$14,392.00. I was already in my third semester before I learned about the ACM. If I would have been in the program since the start of my degree, I could have saved an additional \$4,909.50 for a total savings of \$19,301.50. Completing an advanced degree has been a financial strain but, without the assistance of the ACM, it could have been much worse.



I'm currently employed with The University of West Alabama (UWA) located in Livingston, Alabama, as an Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Technology. I have been employed with UWA for the past nineteen years since I left industrial employment with a Division of Gulf States Paper Corporation, where I worked as chief draftsman in the engineering department for six years. Since I have been employed with UWA, my primary responsibility has been teaching undergraduate courses in Computer Networking, Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD), and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

I realized many years ago that if I planned on continuing a career in education, completing the doctorate was imperative. However, pursuing the degree had its challenges. I could not afford to take a sabbatical to pursue the degree, so I continued to work full time for UWA. I've also served in the music ministry for the past twenty-five years as a bi-vocational minister. Both of these positions are very demanding but rewarding. However, nothing has been more rewarding than my family. My wife, Allison, and our two sons, Tyler and Lane, have truly been a blessing to me. Without their encouragement and support, I don't think I would have ever finished this degree.



Now that I've completed my doctoral degree, I look forward to continuing my career in education, hopefully with a little less stress. I want to thank Mississippi State University faculty and staff in Instructional Systems and Workforce Development curriculum for their continued support, encouragement, and instruction. It's because of their guidance that I've completed this degree. Also, thanks to those who are a part of the Academic Common Market program. This is a great program for people such as me who pursue a degree that is not offered in their state of residence.

—W. Donnie Cobb, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor Department of CIS/Technology  
Alabama

The Academic Common Market (ACM) program has helped me tremendously. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to pursue my degree at Mississippi State. Financially, I wouldn't have been able to afford to pay out-of-state tuition and fees and cover all the expenses. I saved almost \$9,000 by being able to participate in the ACM program. If I wasn't able to participate in ACM program, I wouldn't have been able to attend MSU and finish my degree. I set goals for myself when I started

college, and through this program, I have had the chance to obtain my biological engineering degree and possibly attend medical or graduate school afterwards. The ACM program has financially afforded me the opportunity to pursue my academic goals and I would say that is the greatest advantage.

—Oluwaseun Ajayi  
Biological Engineering  
Alabama

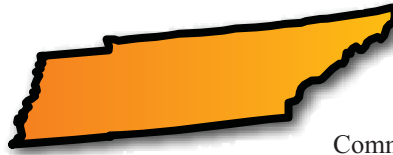
Without the Academic Common Market program, my daughter Emily would not have been able to attend MSU. The ACM allowed for her out-of-state tuition to be waived, decreasing her tuition cost by approximately \$5,400 per year. The ACM MSU "BS in Biological engineering with a concentration in Biomedical Engineering" Program offers Emily the opportunity to both graduate in approximately four years with a degree and enter the work force or also pursue graduate

studies in Engineering or Medical School.

As a parent I am very grateful for this program and both the current and future opportunities for my daughter, associated with this program. Thank you.

—Patricia L Headley  
MAED, CNMT, NCT, RVS  
Alabama

The ACM was a wonderful opportunity that allowed me to obtain a graduate degree in Nursing. If it wasn't for ACM, I wouldn't have been able to attend graduate school. I am now able to fulfill my personal aspirations by finishing graduate school with a Master's degree in Nursing, which will then allow me to become an Advanced Practice Nurse as a Nurse Practitioner. I look forward to using my education by giving back to my wonderful state of Mississippi. The ACM allowed me to achieve my educational goals by lowering my tuition, which made living expenses less strenuous on my pocketbook. I don't know the exact numbers, but I do know ACM helped me by saving \$10,000 a year. I am so very grateful to ACM for giving me the best gift of all, an education.



—Lauren Cannon  
**Clinical Nurse Leader MSN CNL**  
**University of Tennessee Health Science Center**

My name is Graham Gardner and I have recently received the ACM waiver, which will be used to help me reduce the cost of my tuition at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. I am going to be starting CRNA School in May of 2011. The reduction of cost for tuition was substantial and the ACM will be saving me roughly \$32,000. This makes it much more affordable for me and my family. It also will keep me from having so much money tied up in student loans, and I can actually be ahead of the game when I get out of school. Thank you for helping me in my educational endeavors.



—Graham Gardner  
**Nurse Anesthesia CRNA**  
**University of Tennessee Chattanooga**

I would like to express my appreciation regarding the Academic Common Market. It has truly been a blessing to my family. I attend the University of Tennessee and I am expected to graduate May 31, 2013, from the Nurse Anesthesia Program. The Academic Common Market has already cut my expenses down tremendously and will save me thousands of dollars on my tuition by the time of graduation. It is also playing a major role in helping me reach my future lifelong goal of becoming a nurse anesthetist and for that, I am truly grateful. I would also like to thank the staff for the dedication and efforts that they put forth to make this possible for the Mississippi residents. Once again, I am very appreciative and grateful for the Academic Common Market.



—Lori Gray  
**Nurse Anesthesia CRNA**  
**University of Tennessee**

First of all, thank you for your help with the Academic Common Market (ACM). It has been a godsend for my family and me as I attend graduate school in Tennessee at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Without the benefits afforded through the ACM and your help, I would not have been able to have this wonderful opportunity to further my education and career.



I have already saved almost seven thousand dollars this year alone, and I will save another seven thousand dollars next semester in tuition expense. This savings has allowed me to provide more comfort for my family during this time. We are still very frugal and live on a strict budget due to limited income and loans, but the ACM has given us some "wiggle room" in our budget. My wife and three small children are also very thankful.

An additional benefit provided by the ACM is that I will likely have a lesser amount of student loans to pay off after graduation. I definitely plan to seek future employment in the state of Mississippi upon graduation in an attempt to humbly return the favor this program has afforded me.

Once again, thank you all for your hard work and patience in dealing with us stressed out students. Without your efforts and dedication, many like me would not have the excellent education opportunities and potential career benefits that this program has permitted.

—Jason E. Griffin  
**Nurse Anesthesia DNP**  
**University of Tennessee Health Science Center**

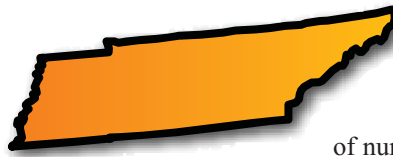
I am elated to be a recipient of the 2010 Academic Common Market waiver.

Receiving adequate funds for graduate school is an issue that many Americans face in today's society. With this scholarship, I will be able to focus more on my school work and family life, instead of stressing about how my schooling will be paid for. I plan to finish my graduate career with a superior grade point average, and this scholarship is just another incentive for me to accomplish that goal. Without this scholarship, I would be troubled by the thought of repaying so much money and being in enormous debt upon completion of my degree. This is the reality that many students face daily and, many times, it hinders their performance in school. There should be more programs such as this one that create financial relief for students and increase their enrollment in programs that they might have initially strayed away from due to the out of state fees.



—Y'Esha Weeks  
**Clinical Nurse Leader MSN-CNL**  
**University of Tennessee Health Science Center**

The Academic Common Market is a great program that gives students like me the opportunity to go out of state to achieve their goal and pay in-state tuition. I am personally thankful to the Academic Common Market for giving me this option to do the study of my interest away from my home state, and not worry about the out-of-state fees. As we all know, out-of-state fees are almost twice as much as the in-state fees and this program was a big help in the reduction of my educational expenses. I was able to save almost six thousand dollars a semester. Thank you very much Academic Common Market for your great help - I appreciate it a lot.



—Anam Mian  
Clinical Nurse Leader MSN-CNL  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Thanks to Academic Common Market (ACM) help I was able to apply for the Clinical Nurse Leader Program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Without the help of the ACM, this program would not have been affordable for me. Because of the ACM program, I can realize my dream of becoming a Clinical Nurse Leader. The ACM is a great program that is helping lots of Mississippians to advance in life. The ACM program helped me to save about six thousand dollars per semester and my family is very happy about it. Long live the Mississippi ACM program.



—Robina Mian  
Clinical Nurse Leader MSN-CNL  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

I would like to express my gratitude for the ACM program. It has really benefited me in seeking my degree in Petroleum Engineering. Without this program, it would not be possible for me to succeed in this field. I could not afford the out-of-state tuition. I am very thankful for the people I have come in contact with who are associated with the ACM. They all have been very helpful.

—Matt Lee Cook  
Petroleum Engineering  
Louisiana State University



The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is a very new position of nursing on the master's level. More quality, efficient and goal oriented nurses are trained and sent out into the work force to help reduce the number of "hospital related injuries" and hospital expenses due to these injuries. The CNL master's level program is a rarity, but I luckily found a program only 94 miles from my hometown of Oxford, Mississippi, in Memphis, Tennessee. I immediately applied upon my discovery of the program, but I was not fortunate enough to get the out-of-state tuition waived. I was devastated. I knew that I would not be able to afford the program without help. Both my parents lost their jobs at Whirlpool Corporation which closed in 2009 and I was without assistance. I called the director of recruitment, Justin Casey, and told him that I would have to decline my acceptance due to finances and out-of-state tuition was too high, and he told me about the ACM. I was filled with hope. I prayed to the Lord that my application would be accepted and as soon as I got off my knees God answered my prayers. I jumped for joy and thanked Him because I knew with this giant boost of help, I would be able to make American hospitals a safer place to be with extensive master's training, proper equipment and extensive use of new technologies that I had to purchase. The ACM made it all possible. The difference between out-of-state tuition and in-state tuition is about \$12,360. I would like to say to the people of the ACM, THANK YOU! With the waiver and your efforts, healthcare in America can do nothing but improve.



—Brittney D. Smith  
Clinical Nurse Leader MSN CNL  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

I would like to thank you and the state for the Academic Common Market program. I would have to say that there are no words to describe how I have benefited from this program. I am a student at Louisiana State University majoring in Petroleum Engineering. I have to pay a good bit of my college tuition and expenses on my own from my summer job. The out-of-state tuition at LSU is over \$5,000 per semester. Without this program, I would not be able afford to go to LSU and to pursue my dream (I would not want to be saddled with a \$50,000 student loan.)

I am really enjoying the curriculum and all the experiences associated with it. I hope this program continues in the future so other Mississippi students can go forward with their life's ambitions. Thank you so much.

—Bryce Penny  
Petroleum Engineering  
Louisiana State University



Furthering my education has been a personal career goal I'm striving to achieve. I plan to continue to achieve my goals through talent, academic, and work experience. With the help of the Academic Common Market; I can fulfill my educational goals as a rehabilitation counselor. The Academic Common Market has provided me with assistance to further my education. Out-of-state tuition fees are very expensive. The Academic Common Market saved me an average of \$2,000.00 per semester in out-of-state tuition fees. The Academic Common Market has given me the opportunity not only to further my career but to enjoy the thrill of applying my talents and knowledge to become successful and productive in my field of study and even to enjoy some of the superficial thrills and benefits it may provide. Furthermore, the Academic Common Market has helped me reconcile those goals with more meaningful aspects of my professional success. At the end of the day, I enjoy the intellectual thrill of applying my talents to the complex analyses for which I have been trained, knowing that the same efforts will also enable me to benefit mankind. Receiving my master's degree is only the beginning.



—April Hammond  
Rehabilitation Counseling  
University of Arkansas-Little Rock



I am a Transition Counselor with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) and have been working towards a Master of Arts in Counseling with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). This is a 54-hour online graduate degree program, of which I have completed 30 hours as of the spring semester of 2010. During the spring semester of 2010, other staff and I were advised that UALR would begin requiring out-of-state tuition to be paid starting in the fall semester of 2010. This was and has been very disheartening news as I only had three courses (9 hours), a Practicum (3 hours) and an Internship (12 hours) left to complete. My plan, prior to becoming aware of the out-of-state tuition increase, was to complete one course in the summer semester of 2010, then the two other courses in the fall semester of 2010, and continue with the Practicum and Internship in 2011. Due to the out-of-state tuition increase, I had no other choice but to cease continuing my graduate program. Although MDRS would have been able to reimburse me the regular tuition amount, the additional cost would not have been reimbursable.



—Jason A. Shankle  
Rehabilitative Counseling  
University of Arkansas - Little Rock

I am a recent graduate in the Master of Arts in Counseling Program with emphasis in Rehabilitation Counseling. I am currently employed with the State of Mississippi as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I enjoy being a part of the community that assists individuals with disabilities. The ACM helped me to continue on to reach this goal in my final semester of graduate school. It was a surprise to me that tuition expenses would suddenly increase as a result of out-of-state fees applied to online students. Without the ACM, I cannot begin to imagine how I would pay the excessive out-of-state fees totaling \$3,378.00. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to be a participant of the program and I look forward to giving back to the residents of my state with disabilities.



—Shameka Holmes  
Rehabilitation Counseling  
University of Arkansas - Little Rock

This has been an exciting beginning to my new career in Radiation Therapy, and ultimately, Medical Dosimetry. I am an older student and have wanted to pursue a career in cancer treatment for a very long time. The two biggest obstacles have been the absence of a therapy school in Mississippi, and the expense of out-of-state tuition. The Academic Common Market has provided relief for both of these hindrances.



Currently, I am enrolled in the Radiation Therapy B.S. program at Arkansas State University. I will complete this study in one year and have just finished my first semester with all A's. Participating in the Common Market will save me in excess of \$10,000 in out-of-state tuition fees. This amount of savings allows me to get the education that otherwise I could not afford.

Following graduation in August 2011, I will return to Mississippi to continue my education in Dosimetry. Medical dosimetrists use computers to plan radiation therapy treatments for cancer patients. This is a specialized field and is only entered by learning radiation therapy first, so it is necessary that I complete my B.S. degree.

Thank you for your quick response in determining my eligibility and certifying my acceptance into the ACM. This is life changing for my family and me.

—Craig A. Stasny  
Radiation Therapy  
Arkansas State University

The Academic Common Market program was very beneficial in that the additional educational expense will not be a heavy burden for me. The program will allow me to complete my degree at the institution in which I began my studies, which is not only an important career goal but personal goal and achievement as well.

—Roshanda Daniel  
Rehabilitation Counseling  
University of Arkansas-Little Rock

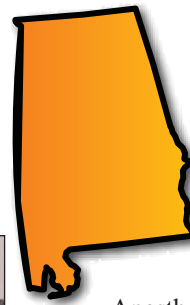
As a participant of the Academic Common Market, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program. I currently attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing. I am a second semester student in the Accelerated Master's in Nursing Program. In these two semesters, I have learned so much about nursing and I am assured that a career in nursing is my calling. I could not have done this without the Academic Common Market program. As a School of Nursing out-of-state graduate student, I would have been subject to \$794 per semester hour. As a participant of the Academic Common Market, I only pay \$338 per semester hour. Since the program I am enrolled in is a 50-semester hour program, this has saved me a tremendous amount of money. I have truly enjoyed my educational experience at UAB and I sincerely thank the Academic Common Market program for affording me the opportunity to attend an out-of-state college without paying the out-of-state tuition. Again, thanks to the ACM for making my dreams come true.



—Alisia Hankins  
Accelerated Master's Nursing Program (AMNP)  
University of Alabama - Birmingham

The Academic Common Market benefits I received have been a tremendous help for me. I have officially begun my educational goal of earning a Master of Nurse Anesthesia degree from the University of Alabama Birmingham. Through the Academic Common Market, I am able to focus more on the educational and professional tasks at hand, with much of the financial stress removed. While my professional goal is to become a nurse anesthetist, I am personally hoping to do this without acquiring a tremendous amount of student loan debt. The Academic Common Market has definitely helped make this a reality, by making my graduate program, which is not available in Mississippi, affordable for me. Currently, I am paying \$170.00 per graduate credit hour, whereas, without the Academic Common Market opportunity, I would be paying the non-resident fee of \$425.00 per graduate credit hour. This is a tremendous help to my academic endeavor and I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity.

—Mary Ryals  
Nurse Anesthesia MNA  
University of Alabama Birmingham



I am currently a Graduate student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The Academic Common Market (ACM) has allowed me to pursue becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist without enduring the



increased tuition cost of being an out-of-state student. Out-of-state tuition is currently \$475 per graduate credit hour; with ACM my tuition is \$170 per graduate credit hour. My family and I are very appreciative for the Academic Common Market. It would be very difficult for me to afford school expenses, living expenses, and financial obligations without the ACM. I hope that ACM is available for many years to come so that others can increase their knowledge and pursue their dreams in life as I am. I am very grateful. Thank you!

—Joshua Fuqua  
Nurse Anesthesia MNA  
University of Alabama Birmingham

I am writing this letter to acknowledge the Academic Common Market for helping me advance my education. I would not be able to finish school without the help of ACM. Since starting my studies in graduate nursing school, I have had to take out extra loans for supplies, books, uniforms, and online programs. We are not allowed to work in my program so I live from my loan refunds and my family to pay my tuition. It has been hard for me to balance those extra costs alone and with ACM help with out-of-state tuition; it has taken much of the stress away. I am very thankful for the contribution as the ACM primarily provides much of the funding towards my scholarly endeavors. Again, thank you for the help. I hope that I will continue to receive the benefits from ACM as I work towards completing school. I am glad I found out about ACM. It is fantastic that this program is open to help with educational needs. Thank you.

—Kamara Harper  
Clinical Nurse Leader MSN-CNL  
University of Alabama Birmingham

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The Academic Common Market is opening another dimension of possibilities with my education and enhancing the likelihood that I will be able to find gainful employment when I complete my studies. Without the ACM, I would not be able to be studying taxation at the University of Florida, Levin College of Law. While the tuition per credit is more than double this amount, I am able to pay in-state tuition of \$546 per credit.

I am very thankful to have the opportunity that I currently have and I am trying to make the most of it. I was already quite debt-ridden graduating law school, so I am very grateful to have had part of the expenses for my graduate degree defrayed. I do not believe I could have been able to undertake this step without the help of ACM. Thank you again for helping me through this journey.

—James Joshua Collum  
Taxation  
University of Florida College of Law



The Academic Common Market has enabled me to proceed with my dream/career path. After completing my dietetic internship to become a Registered Dietitian, I realized a master's degree would provide better employment opportunities as well as establish a tailored knowledge base essential to my concentration. Florida State was my first choice to pursue an advanced degree, but I was not going to be able to afford it being an out-of-state resident. A friend of mine recommended looking into the Academic Common Market to see if there was any possibility of affording school. This advice was golden. I was thrilled to learn that both Mississippi and Florida State University participated. I was able to save over \$5,000 (\$4,000 as opposed to around \$9,000) just for the first semester. Once again, I would not be able to obtain my degree and fulfill my dream without the support of the Academic Common Market. I am extremely grateful for it and the people who support it.

—Jon Lox  
Master Student of Sports Nutrition  
Florida State University

—Jon Lox

I first heard about the Academic Common Market when I was in high school in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. I remember my guidance counselor telling another student what a great opportunity the program provided for southern students. I, however, was a little disappointed that I could not partake in the program pursuing an undergraduate in fine arts at the University of Texas at Austin. Little did I know, five years later the Academic Common Market program would allow me to study art therapy in Tallahassee, Florida.

Since I completed my undergraduate studies in Texas, I paid costly out-of-state tuition. Without the Academic Common Market program, it would have been a huge financial strain to pursue a master's degree directly out of school. For each credit hour at Florida State University, the cost is \$1,002.58. For twelve hours, or full-time study, the tuition would come to around \$12,030.96. Through the Academic Common Market, I was able to attend Florida State University at the in-state tuition rate of \$371.18. My tuition for last semester totaled \$4,845.34. For one semester at Florida State University, I was able to save approximately \$7,185.62. Over the course of a year, these savings came to around \$14,371.24.

The Academic Common Market has been fundamental for me in reaching my educational goals. Without the program, I am not sure if I would have been confident enough financially to pursue a master's degree at this time. I believe the reduction of financial stress has allowed me to focus more on my studies and focus a little less on my financial situation.

—Nola Freeman  
Art Therapy  
Florida State University



The Academic Common Market (ACM) program has greatly helped me achieve my educational goals from a financial and academic standpoint. I am currently enrolled at George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia, studying for my Master's in International Commerce and Policy. Being a resident from Mississippi, the programs available for a master's degree involving international policy were very limited. Therefore, the ACM has allowed me to further my education in a diverse environment, perfect for my future field. The resources available in Washington, DC have been invaluable to my education thus far, and these are resources I would not have received if I stayed in state.

My personal career goals include working to improve international development in a way that benefits developing nations. I realized that in order to achieve these career goals, I needed to pursue a master's degree focusing on international development. The prime location to obtain the best education for my interest in development would be at the center of diplomatic decisions, in Washington, DC. With ACM, I was able to choose this location for furthering my education with little conflict concerning price.

—Kimberly Vinci  
International Commerce and Policy  
George Mason University





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