



Alabama City/County Management Association

2025-2026 Professional Development Scholarship Program

The Alabama City/County Management Association (ACCMA) is the Alabama Chapter of the ICMA and provides professional development and networking opportunities for current and aspiring local government management professionals. With over 200 members representing cities and counties statewide, the ACCMA strives to strengthen local governments through professional development and networking opportunities designed to connect members with the knowledge, resources, and networks needed to succeed.

ACCMA Professional Development Offerings: With support from the Government and Economic Development Institute (GEDI) at Auburn University, ACCMA offers the Local Government Management Professional certificate program to increase the specialized knowledge and skills of those in local government to master the complexities of the political, social, and economic environment of public administration. Components of this five-course program include leadership, financial management, ethics, communication, personnel management, public service, community development, public policy, strategic planning, and relations with local elected officials. ACCMA also holds two conferences annually, each winter and summer, which provide ample networking opportunities and engaging presentations and workshops to help practitioners stay current with cutting edge management best practices and governing strategies.

About the ACCMA Professional Development Scholarship Opportunity: The ACCMA Professional Development Scholarship program is designed to help current and aspiring local government leaders take advantage of ACCMA's professional development opportunities. The scholarships will pay the tuition costs for the full ACCMA Local Government Management Professional program and one winter or summer conference registration fee. Five total scholarships are available. The scholarship committee will select a combination of up to five MPA students or working professionals to receive the scholarship. Scholarship awardees will receive their scholarship as pre-paid course tuition and conference registration credits managed through Auburn University GEDI. Awardees will have up to two years to utilize their scholarship credits to complete the educational program and to receive a free conference registration.

Eligibility Requirements: To be eligible for consideration, applicants must either be employed by a current Alabama county or municipality or be a current MPA graduate student in good standing enrolled in a public administration (or similar) program based at an Alabama institution of higher education. Each applicant will be evaluated solely based on the information provided in the application materials.

Application Instructions & Requirements: To apply, applicants must provide all of the following by Friday October 3rd, 2025, for full consideration. The application materials required include the following:

1. Completed Application
 - The application form (student OR professional) must be completed in full for consideration.
2. Resume
 - Applicants must provide a resume detailing their work experience, educational background, and other information capable of demonstrating the applicant's interest and commitment to public service.
3. Letters of Reference
 - Applicants must provide one or more letters of support from a supervisor or graduate program director affirming their support of your pursuing these professional development opportunities.
4. Reflective Writing Essay
 - Write a brief essay addressing the following topics:

- i. Why are you interested in a local government career?
- ii. How will the Local Government Professional Management Certification help you achieve your professional goals?

Local Government Management Program Information:

Below is a brief listing of the Local Government Management Program Courses and their 2025-2026 dates. Dates for 2027 will be provided in summer 2026.

Leadership & Effective Public Management - November 6 & 7, 2025

Law & Ethics for Public Management - December 11 & 12, 2025

Economic & Community Development - February 5 & 6, 2026

Human Resource Management & Staff Effectiveness - March 5 & 6, 2026

Public Budgeting & Financial Management - April 9 & 10, 2026.

For more information pertaining to the course descriptions, please visit the ACCMA Local Government Management Program website [Government & Economic Development Website/ ACCMA](#)

The ACCMA Local Government Management Program is offered in a hybrid format. The in-person offerings will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 2555 Hilton Garden Dr, Auburn, AL 36830. Virtual students will be provided Zoom connection information.

Conference Information:

Winter Conference: January 21-23, 2026,

Hyatt Regency – Birmingham The Wynfrey Hotel (1000 Riverchase Galleria Birmingham, AL 35244)

Summer Conference: May 27-29, 2026

Perdido Beach Resort (27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach, AL 36561)

Awardee Expectations:

Awardees who accept the scholarship are expected to complete the educational program, and participate in a conference, within two years of receiving the award. Awardees are expected to be active and engaged participants of the programs and conferences.

Additional Opportunities:

Awardees will be connected to ACCMA Executive Director Dr. Matt Ulmer who will provide 1:1 guidance to help awardees maximize their experiences with the ACCMA. Dr. Ulmer will work with interested awardees to identify possible mentors, internships, informational interviews, etc. with professionals within Alabama local governments.



ACCMA Professional Development Scholarship Application: 2025 – 2026

Graduate Student Application

Name: (Last, First)

Current Street Address:

City, State, and Zip Code:

Hometown:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Expected Graduation Date:

GPA:

ICMA Member: (please circle)

YES or NO

By signing this form, I have read and understand the expectations of participating in the ACCMA Education Certification program and submitted the documents required for consideration of the ACCMA scholarship. I also acknowledge the information provided above is true, and will notify administration if changes occur or issues that prevent attendance in courses:

Signature:

Date:

Please send completed applications with required documents to Dr. Matt Ulmer, Auburn University Government & Economic Development Institute, ulmermj@auburn.edu – Due Date: Friday, October 3rd, 2025.



ACCMA Professional Development Scholarship Application: 2025 – 2026

Professional Application

Name: (Last, First)

Current Street Address:

City, State, and Zip Code:

Employer/Title:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

ACCMA Member: (please circle)

YES or NO

By signing this form, I have read and understand the expectations of participating in the ACCMA Education Certification program and submitted the documents required for consideration of the ACCMA scholarship. I also acknowledge the information provided above is true, and will notify administration if changes occur or issues that prevent attendance in courses:

Signature:

Date:

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