The Academic Common Market (ACM) began in 1974 as a collaborative agreement between member states of the 15 states in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). The ACM is a tuition-savings program that allows college students to pursue programs that are not offered by their in-state institutions. Students can enroll at an out-of-state institution that offer their academic program and pay the institution’s in-state tuition rates. According to SREB, “the ACM reduces the unnecessary duplication of academic programs among participating states, recognizing that it is impractical for any institution or single state to develop or maintain degree programs in every field of knowledge.” Participation in the ACM has allowed states to leverage unique academic programs while simultaneously meeting a variety of institutional goals.

As program development occurs at in-state institutions, they may request that state access be removed to similar programs with a reasonable phase-out period. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission ACM coordinator reviews program offerings annually with campuses to ensure the programs available are not duplicative of in-state offerings. Common "export" programs for Tennessee students are: Marine Science and adjacent programs, niche Engineering programs (petroleum, metallurgical, etc.), and Genetics and Genetics-adjacent programs.

**TOP 10 PROGRAMS: STUDENT IMPORT AND EXPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Import</th>
<th>Academic Programs</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio Production</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Analytics</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aerospace</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Industry</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Audiology and Speech Pathology</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology (Forensic Anthropology)</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Recreation</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior Architecture</td>
<td>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Export</th>
<th>Academic Program</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Science</td>
<td>Coastal Carolina University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Studies</td>
<td>University of Mississippi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics and Genomic Science</td>
<td>University of Alabama - Birmingham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Medical Biotechnology</td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Biology</td>
<td>University of Alabama - Birmingham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Communication (Political Communication)</td>
<td>Louisiana State University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Arts and Studies</td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing (Professional Golf Management)</td>
<td>Mississippi State University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Science</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All of the Top 10 Import and Export programs are undergraduate programs.*
FAQ: For Advisors

What is the Academic Common Market?

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program for college students who live in the 15 states that are members of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), a nonprofit education organization. The ACM allows students to pay in-state tuition to study in a program not offered in their home state, provided they have been accepted without conditions into an approved degree program at a participating ACM institution and are certified as residents of a participating state. Eligible universities are four-year public institutions located in one of the 15 SREB states.

What are some of the programs available to Tennessee residents?

Tennessee residents have access to over 250 undergraduate and graduate programs across the 15 states in SREB. Popular programs include Marine Science, Southern Studies, Genetic and Genomic Sciences, and Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology.

If a student’s program of interest is not available at any public Tennessee institution, they can nominate the program to be included. For more on program nomination, see the ACM Quick Reference (on page 3).

What are some restrictions of the program?

Students must be accepted into an eligible program or successfully nominate a program for inclusion (see the ACM Quick Reference) and be able to demonstrate continuous residency in Tennessee for at least one year prior to their certification date.

Institutions and states can also add their own restrictions for accessing the program. For example, some states only allow ACM access for graduate programs, while some institutions have minimum ACT/SAT requirements and/or limit the total number of ACM participants. Please consult with Tennessee’s ACM coordinator or the “ACM Quick Reference” to learn more about these institutional restrictions.

***First professional programs are not eligible for ACM (JD, MD, EdD, PharmD, etc.)

Who can apply?

Any student who has been a Tennessee resident for at least one year prior to certification and has been unconditionally accepted to the ACM-eligible program. Graduate and undergraduate programs are eligible.

How can students apply?

After being accepted to an ACM-eligible program, students can apply for residency certification on THEC’s ACM portal via our website. To complete the application, a student will need:

1. Proof of admission into an eligible program and institution.
2. Proof of continuous Tennessee residency for at least one year (please see the list of acceptable
documents on the website).

Students interested in nominating a program for inclusion in the ACM must successfully complete
the program nomination process prior to applying for residency certification.

Where can I find more information?

THEC’s ACM website (https://www.tn.gov/thec/acm) offers an overview of the residency certification
and program nomination processes. It also provides helpful links (including to the application) and
an FAQ about the program.

SREB’s ACM website (https://www.sreb.org/academic-common-market) has a search screen for
eligible programs, institutional contacts, FAQ, and other information about the ACM program.

These websites should be a starting point for locating eligible programs with students and advising
them of how the program works.

Are there any timelines to be aware of for ACM applications?

THEC does not have internal deadlines for processing ACM applications, but please be aware that
residency certification can take up to four weeks and program nominations can take up to eight
weeks, so budget time prior to the start of a semester accordingly.

Some institutions have internal deadlines for residency certification and/or internal competition, so
please consult the ACM Quick Reference when assisting students.

How does ACM impact other scholarships?

Students who attend an out of state institution are not able to take any Tennessee state
scholarships (such as HOPE, Reconnect, etc.) with them. Seeking in-state tuition through ACM can
also impact institutional scholarships and awards, so students should consult with the institution
prior to applying for the ACM.

Once programs are approved, do they stay eligible indefinitely?

No, programs can become ineligible if a similar program becomes available in the state or if a
campus completes a curricular review demonstrating that 51% of the curriculum or more is the
same as the eligible program.

A review of eligible programs will occur annually in early spring, but programs will be on phase out
until the following year.

Do students have to be certified each year?

No, students only have to be certified once unless they stop out or change their major.

What happens if a student changes their major or adds an ineligible second major?

If a student changes their major to another ACM-eligible major, they should contact the state
coordinator to be recertified. If a student switches to an ineligible major or adds a second major that
is not ACM-eligible, they can lose their ACM benefits.
ACM Quick Reference

Required Documents
All students are required to submit proof of admission to the ACM-eligible program and proof of Tennessee residency for at least one year. Below are some quick tips to ensure a timely and successful application:

1. Be sure the college acceptance letter states program acceptance and not just institutional acceptance. If the letter does not state the student is accepted to an eligible program, encourage them to reach out to their advisor, program director, or the institutional ACM coordinator to secure the letter.

2. Check the list of acceptable documents for residency certification on THEC's website. Always redact any sensitive information (including social security numbers, bank routing numbers, etc.) and check that the date meets the one-year threshold.

3. Always check institutional restrictions prior to applying for ACM. This ensures that students have the necessary documentation to be certified successfully.

4. If you or a student isn't sure if they have the right documents or if a program is eligible, reach out to the ACM coordinators prior to applying. It is easier to answer questions in advance than to amend an application.

Tennessee ACM Co-Coordinator Contact Information
Katherine Brackett
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Academic Affairs Coordinator, THEC
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c: (615) 906-0329

Program Nomination
If a student is interested in a program that is not offered at any public institution in Tennessee, they can nominate the program to be added to the Academic Common Market. This process takes 4-8 weeks to complete and involves a curricular review of the nominated program by faculty and administrators at Tennessee's public universities. To be approved for ACM inclusion, the program must meet a curricular threshold of being at least 51% different than existing programs in the state. Please refer to the course catalogs at the respective institutions for this assessment.

A program will not gain admittance if there is a current program offered at any Tennessee public university. Further, if a nominated program is denied inclusion, the denial will remain valid for five years, at which time the program will be eligible for review again.

Please Note: the modality of delivery, co-curricular opportunities (e.g., travel away, internships, etc.), and speed of the program are not considerations for ACM inclusion. First professional programs are not eligible for ACM.

If you are working with a student interested in nominating a program, please ask them to reach out to the state ACM coordinators prior to nominating the program to ensure they understand the process and that the program can be nominated.
Institutional and State Restrictions

Alabama
Auburn University limits ACM access to undergraduate programs. Only 25 new ACM participants are accepted each year, and students must be at either the junior or senior level to participate in the ACM. Auburn selects applicants on a competitive basis; for which the deadline is March 15th. Applicants should contact the institutional coordinator’s office prior to contacting his/her state coordinator.

The University of Alabama limits ACM access to the programs that are currently listed in the ACM inventory. Further, UA applies the following two new conditions for eligibility for approved ACM programs:
1) The annual ACM Deadline for fall admissions is May 1st.
2) Only first-time, incoming freshman are eligible for the ACM program.
3) For first-time ACM certification, an undergraduate student must have at least a 27 ACT composite score or 1260 SAT composite score (math and verbal only) and at least a 3.50 overall high school GPA.
4) For continuing participation after the initial semester of ACM support, each UA ACM student must maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA on all UA course work attempted. This GPA standard is in addition to the longstanding requirements for maintaining residency and major.
5) UA ACM does not provide a probation semester. The ACM award is lost if student fall below 3.0 overall GPA.
6) ACM award is only approved for 8 academic semesters – summers are not included.
7) ACM students are not allowed to double major under the ACM program. Adding a second major, regardless of ACM-eligibility, will result in the loss of ACM award. ACM students are prohibited from a minor unless required for major. Also, undergraduate students are prohibited from enrollment in graduate school courses.
8) ACM students must maintain full-time status. Dropping below full-time will result in loss of ACM award.
9) ACM award does not post to student account until grades are verified each semester.

Delaware
The University of Delaware limits ACM access to the programs that are currently listed in the ACM inventory.

Florida
The state of Florida limits ACM access to graduate programs only.

The University of Florida requires that student certifications be submitted to the ACM Institutional Coordinator at the University of Florida prior to the payment deadline for the upcoming semester’s tuition and fees. Any certifications received by the institution on or after the payment deadline, will not be processed until the following semester. Students should be directed to the academic calendar for the University of Florida to view the upcoming tuition and fee payment deadlines.

Georgia
The state of Georgia does not accept and will not review program inclusion requests (to add new degrees to the ACM). Therefore, Georgia residents are limited to choose only from the ACM-eligible degrees already activated in the program inventories of eligible out-of-state institutions. Also, the state of Georgia does not include "mode of delivery" as a determinant for program eligibility for state residents.

Georgia Institute of Technology limits ACM access to graduate programs that are currently listed in the ACM inventory.

Georgia State University limits ACM access to graduate programs only.

The University of Georgia grants ACM access after students have completed at least 60 credit hours and have been formally admitted to the ACM degree program. ACM eligibility at UGA is limited to four
academic semesters for undergraduate students and continues through ACM degree program completion for graduate students.

Louisiana
The state of Louisiana does not include “mode of delivery” as a determinant of program eligibility for state residents.

Maryland
The State of Maryland has a strict ACM application deadline policy. The following ACM deadlines are firm and cannot be appealed:
- Fall semester – March 1st through June 30th
- Spring semester – September 1st through November 15th
- Summer semester – January 2nd through February 28th
NOTE: These deadlines are subject to change without prior notice. For certainty, please always check the state’s ACM webpage at https://mhec.maryland.gov/institutions_training/Pages/acadaff/commonmarket.aspx for accurate deadlines.
The University of Maryland, Eastern Shore does not participate in the ACM.
The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) does not participate in the ACM.
Towson University does not participate in the ACM.

Mississippi
The state of Mississippi limits the eligibility of Mississippi residents participating in the ACM program to those enrolled in degree programs on a full-time basis. Full-time enrollment status will be based on the host institution’s definition. The state of Mississippi does not include "mode of delivery" as a determinant of program eligibility for state residents.

Mississippi State University limits ACM access to the programs that are currently listed in the ACM inventory.
- To be eligible to receive the Academic Common Market tuition remission for approved programs, an entering student must have an ACT composite score of 22 or better (minimum ACT sub-score of 19 for Math and English) and a core GPA of 2.75 on the high school transcripts.
- Transfer students (4-year college, community college, and internal program transfers) must have a GPA of 2.75 on the college transcripts.
- To be admitted into ACM-approved graduate programs, applicants must meet minimum university requirements, as well as any specific departmental requirements that may apply.
- As part of the Academic Common Market application student must secure a letter from the home department confirming that:
  - The student has been admitted into the appropriate ACM-eligible major at Mississippi State University.
  - The student meets the Mississippi State University Academic Common Market criteria as stated above.
NOTE: This letter is critical as it informs the Academic Common Market Coordinator of the student’s home state, that the student meets the criteria to access the desired major through the Academic Common Market at Mississippi State University.
- Please be advised that Mississippi State University ACM has deadlines to submit all ACM paperwork to Mississippi State University’s ACM Office by the following dates:
  - Fall Semester June 30th
  - Spring Semester October 31st
  - Summer Semester(s) March 31st
The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) limits ACM access to the programs that are currently listed in the ACM inventory.

The Provost for the University of Southern Mississippi will review additions to the institution’s ACM inventory on a case-by-case basis.

Mississippi State University, The University of Mississippi and The University of Southern Mississippi are not adding any new programs to the ACM.

North Carolina
Effective of the General Assembly of North Carolina’s Appropriations Act of 2011, North Carolina’s participation in the ACM, as both a sender and a receiver of students, ended.

Oklahoma
The University of Oklahoma limits ACM access to the programs that are currently listed in the ACM inventory and is not considering additional programs.

South Carolina
The state of South Carolina limits the eligibility of South Carolina residents participating in the ACM program to those enrolled in degree programs on a full-time basis. Full-time enrollment status will be based on the host institution’s definition. The state of South Carolina does not include "mode of delivery" as a determinant of program eligibility for state residents.

Clemson University
Students must be approved for the ACM their first semester at Clemson: first-time freshmen or first-time graduate student. Students will lose their ACM tuition rate if they change their majors.
- Clemson limits ACM access to 35 new ACM participants each year.
- Applicants should first contact their state coordinator. Clemson will notify the South Carolina State Coordinator when our limit has been reached on new student participation.
- Receipt of the ACM waiver may affect eligibility for other scholarships.
- Students who seek approval for ACM in engineering (except for Biosystems Engineering) and business majors are not eligible for consideration for ACM until their sophomore year; at which time they have declared a major and the major has been approved for ACM.

The following institutions do not participate in the ACM program:
- The Citadel
- College of Charleston
- Francis Marion University

Coastal Carolina University will not add the BSBA in Marketing (Professional Golf Management) to the ACM. This restriction will remain in effect until further notice.

Texas
The state of Texas limits ACM access to graduate programs only.

The University of Texas at Austin does not participate in the ACM.

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston currently does not participate in the ACM.
Virginia
The state of Virginia reviews **program inclusion requests once a year**. The deadline for submitting program inclusion requests is February of each year. This process may take up to one (1) year to complete and there is no guarantee that the request will be approved.

The **College of William and Mary** limits ACM access to the program that is currently listed in the ACM inventory.

The following institutions do not participate in the ACM program:
- Christopher Newport University
- George Mason University
- James Madison University
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Military Institute
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)

West Virginia
**West Virginia University** participates in the ACM at the graduate degree level only

**West Virginia University Institute of Technology** participates in the ACM at the graduate degree level only