



# ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET

*State Report*





## *A message from...*

**A**s children, most of us dreamed about what we wanted to do as “grown-ups.” Some of us fantasized about becoming an award-winning journalist, or a scientist working on a cure for a rare disease or an architect responsible for the design of the skyline’s tallest building.

The Academic Common Market (ACM) helps make these dreams a reality by offering Mississippi students – and students in the other 15 SREB states – more degree program options.

ACM offers our Mississippi students out-of-state tuition waivers at a cooperating public institution in a participating state if our public universities do not offer the degree program they seek. Vice versa, we attract students from other states to Mississippi’s unique degree programs by offering them the resident tuition rate.

**E**very student deserves to have the option to seek a quality degree they are passionate about at an affordable price.

As a native of the Mississippi Delta, a critical region of the state that is chronically underserved in many areas, accessibility to education at all levels is especially important to me.

The Academic Common Market (ACM) plays a vital role in enhancing access to higher education by expanding the availability of select academic programs. Without the opportunities that ACM provides, many Mississippi students, and students in the states we partner with, may choose to compromise on their degree or perhaps forgo a college education completely.

Working together to provide students with more




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**Dr. Hank M. Bounds**  
*Commissioner of Higher Education*

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Accessibility is one of the most important issues we wrestle with in Mississippi’s higher education system. We want a higher degree to be accessible to all of our citizens, and we also want to give our students as many options as possible when it comes to choosing a career. ACM improves our ability to deliver in both of these areas.

Thank you for your hard work with this important program, and thank you for all you do for Mississippi’s students and universities.




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**Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr.**  
*Interim Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs*

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access and more affordable education options through ACM no doubt results in increased enrollment and higher graduation rates at all our institutions, as well as a better-educated citizenry in all our states.

Together, through this important program, we are able to offer students exactly what they deserve—a chance to fulfill their dreams of earning a degree of their choice at a reasonable cost.



# Academic Common Market

Uncommon opportunities. Real savings.

The Academic Common Market (ACM) continues to serve the southeast region as a vehicle to remove roadblocks to access. Students embrace this program with commitment and express gratitude to the postsecondary education institutions that allow them to pursue degrees at in-state rates. Continuing the tradition of providing additional access serves our students well in a time when our country is in a financial slump.

The state of Mississippi is proud to be a member of a collaboration that is focused on providing educational access while keeping costs down for both the students and the participating states. The ACM serves as a medium that allows many students to accomplish




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**Pearl Strickland Pennington**  
*Director of Student Affairs and  
Mississippi Academic Common  
Market State Coordinator*

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their dreams. I am proud to serve as the state coordinator for such an insightful and productive educational collaboration.

## 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?

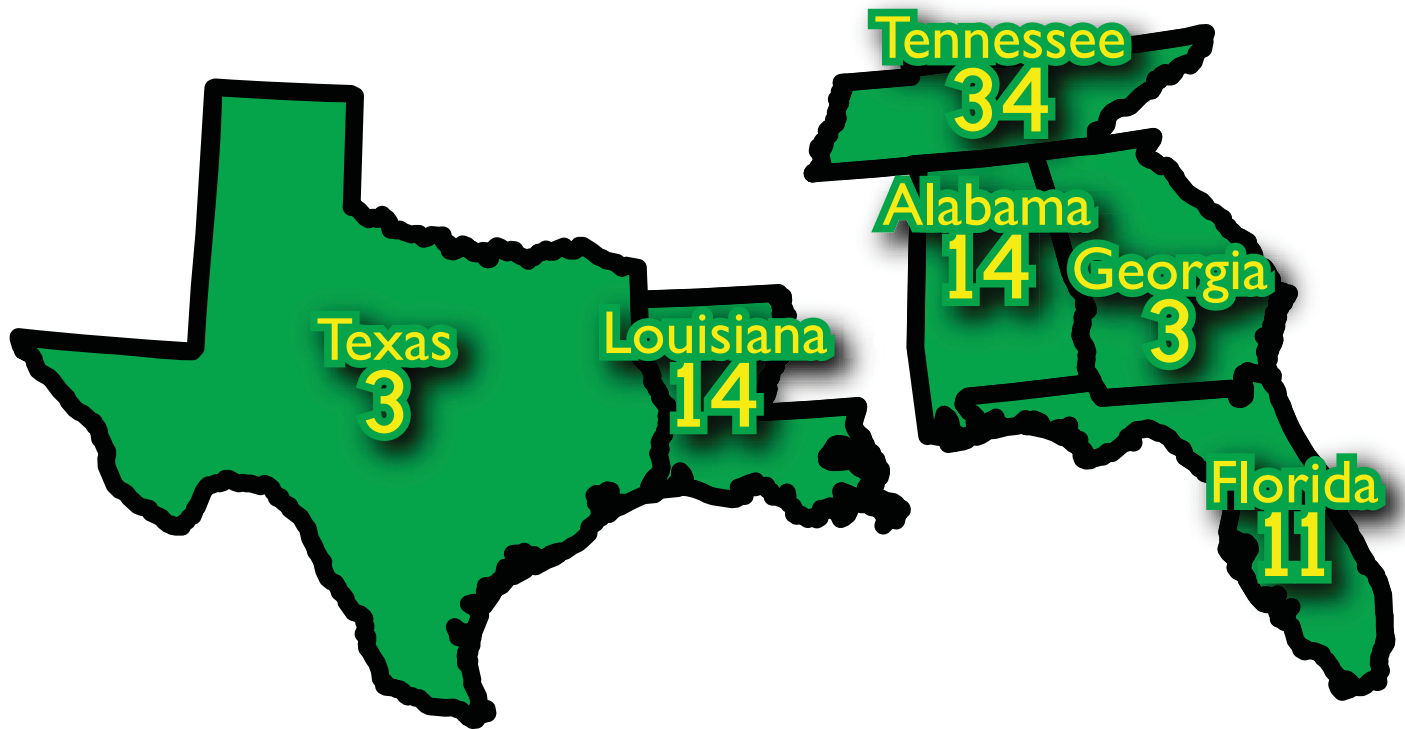
You're in the right place. For more than 35 years, the SREB Academic Common Market has enabled students to pursue out-of-state college degrees at discounted tuition rates through agreements among the states and colleges and universities.

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.

# Where are our students going?



## TOP PROGRAMS



**Nurse Anesthesia**

**Clinical Nurse Leader**

**Naval Architecture and  
Marine Engineering**

**Radiological Sciences**

**Taxation–LLM**





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



“The University of Southern Mississippi appreciates and benefits greatly from the SREB Academic Common Market scholarships. These scholarships enable bright, talented students to attend the university who would not otherwise be able to attend. Having students from Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, and Texas enriches the diversity of our student body. Our sports management program attracts the largest number of ACM students.”

—Dr. Susan Siltanen  
*ACM Institutional Coordinator*

“The Academic Common Market program has allowed students in Alabama and Louisiana to study in the academic area of Sport Management at the University of Southern Mississippi. This program has opened the door of opportunity for young men and women, some from Katrina-ravaged areas, to develop business skills that will enable them to pursue their dreams of a successful career in the sport industry.”

—Dr. Dennis Phillips  
*Sport Management Program Coordinator*



## *The University of Mississippi®*



**Steven Fox** (from Dothan, Alabama); B.S. Geological Engineering 2009. Steven (in center) examines samples during a site visit with his classmates from the Geological Engineering Design course in March 2009. Steven noted that “the money that the Academic Common Market helped me save enabled me to purchase books and computing equipment I needed for my engineering classes. More importantly, it gave me the opportunity to get a degree that fit my interests.”



**Katie Knight** (from Cordova, Tennessee, left) and **Lyndsey Freeny** (from Vicksburg, Mississippi, right) take a break after climbing to Lakota Peak, South Dakota, as part of a mapping and site investigation assignment in the Geological Engineering Field course during May 2009. Both students expect to complete the B.S. Geological Engineering degree in 2010. Katie said “the Academic Common Market made it affordable to attend the university of my choice. It pulled me into engineering, and helped me keep my grades up and achieve my scholastic goals.”



# MUW

® *A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men*

■ The MUW Culinary Arts Institute provides culinary training using classic cooking techniques in small quantity food preparation.

■ Students have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science degree, become a culinary specialist, and enhance their career options with a minor in the following emphasis areas: entrepreneurship/small business development; food journalism; food art (food styling and photography); and nutrition wellness.

■ A Wise Investment... MUW is ranked for the fifth straight year by U.S. News & World Report, and this year as the best value among all Southern Master's universities.

■ Currently 20 students from five states (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Tennessee) are enrolled in MUW's Culinary Arts Institute.

Source: <http://www.muw.edu/culinary/>





**Question: What is your role with the ACM?**

**Answer:** I serve as the Jackson State University coordinator and contact person for the Academic Common Market. Some of my activities include providing prospective ACM participants program-related information, verifying that students have been approved by their home state for enrollment at JSU, assisting ACM participants with matriculation-related matters, identifying and recommending JSU programs for inclusion in the common market.

**Question: How can Jackson State University take ACM to the next level?**

**Answer:** I think JSU has many programs that are attractive to students and professionals in the southern region. One of my responsibilities is to ensure that these programs are listed in the common market

and that prospective students are aware of the ACM program and its benefits. We are working to enhance our presence in the ACM.



**Dr. Debra A. Buchanan**  
*Associate Vice President,  
Office of Academic Affairs and  
Student Life  
Academic Common Market  
Institutional Coordinator*

**Question: How can we increase the number of students in ACM?**

**Answer:** We can increase the number of ACM participants at JSU with help from the current enrollees. Word-of-mouth is an effective recruitment tool. However, having attractive and high demand programs is the most useful recruitment tool. Attracting students using these two methods is what we plan to do continuously to increase the number of ACM students at JSU.

We have observed that our meteorology, public policy and administration and healthcare

administration programs are attractive to students in the southern region.

**Question: As an Administrator do you feel that ACM impacts student life?**

**Answer:** Yes. The ACM offers another form of diversity to the university. Having students from other states or those who have earned degrees from other universities provides opportunities for students to learn about different institutional cultures, organizational structures, and instructional methods. Learning about different universities and sharing life or educational experiences enhances student life.



I became aware of the ACM program through my high school - Little Rock Central High School of Little Rock, Arkansas. They provided me with a list of schools and majors. Jackson State offered my desired major and that is how I ended up here. ACM helped me to further my education. I don't know how I would have been able to accomplish that without the financial assistance ACM provided. The ACM program staff has also been good about checking up on me and seeing if there was anything further they could do to assist me. I also believe that the program should be better publicized. I have already encouraged others to participate. I also wish there were more majors offered through the ACM program that are attractive to the students in the Arkansas area.

—Cinderella Walls, Little Rock, AR



I was looking for avenues for pursuing this Ph.D. I had already been working in the field and received both my B.S. and Master's in Criminal Justice from the University of Louisiana in Monroe. I wanted to diversify my education and pursue a degree from another university. I discovered Jackson State's offerings through the information I researched about the ACM program. The key determining factor for which school I chose was funding to complete my education.

ACM has granted me the opportunity to diversify my education and pursue a degree from another university. After having a combination of work and educational experience in the field of criminal justice, I thought it important to expand my knowledge and experience in Public Policy and Administration.

I am currently a detective at the Monroe, Louisiana police department.

—**Quentin D. Holmes, Sr., Monroe, LA**

Quentin Holmes, Ph.D. student in Public Policy & Administration at JSU, makes a presentation at the Global Awareness Society International Conference, May 2009, in Washington, D.C.



I was introduced to the program through the Southern Regional Education Board. I was told that the ACM program offered students the opportunity to attend out-of-state programs but pay in-state tuition.

My home state did not offer a Ph.D. in my concentration area (program management); however, I have been able to pursue my education in the program area of my choice because an ACM network state (Mississippi) offered the program.

This program is wonderful! The financial benefit is greatly appreciated in this era of economic uncertainty.

I am currently conducting research and co-authoring a paper with Professor Jungbu Kim, associate professor of Public Policy and Administration, on Mississippi's Fair Housing Policy. We hope to publish during fall 2010.

—**Daniel Curley, El Dorado, AR**

Daniel Curley (far right) and fellow JSU students debate issues pertaining to Homeland Security. The students were in Washington, D.C. for a Transportation Research Conference in January 2010.





# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



The ACM program really lifted some of the burden of the financial costs of attending grad school at Mississippi State University. I am a Graduate Student earning a Master's Degree in Geosciences with an emphasis in Broadcast Meteorology. The ACM program reduced my student loans by \$6,000. Sadly, I was only aware of this awesome program during the last year of my studies at MSU. Had I been aware of the benefits of this program upon applying to the university, I would have saved over \$12,000. Any out-of-state applicant should be made aware of this program during the application process. The process of getting into this program was very simple once I was aware of it. Everyone that I spoke to during the process worked swiftly to ensure I was qualified for admittance and received the in-state tuition. The ACM is truly a great program and gives students a fair way to attain goals they might not have been capable of accomplishing without the help of the ACM.

—Alan Holt, Texas



The Academic Common Market tuition waiver is a great program. Without it I would not be able to achieve my goals of becoming a forester. This program is saving my family \$7,869.50 a year. Without this I would not be able to attend Mississippi State University and receive my degree as a forester. I hope this will help keep the program going. It is a great opportunity for students like me so that we can achieve our goals in life.

—Dillon Hopper, Alabama



The Academic Common Market here at Mississippi State has inspired me to learn more about furniture management. Management itself has given me an insight on various topics and opportunities while I have been attending MSU. Not only has the ACM here at MSU helped educate me in furniture management, it has also reduced my educational expenses tremendously. On average, I have saved around \$16,000 total in the past two years here. Therefore, ACM should be considered while attending MSU.

—Brandon Wilson, Alabama

# What ACM Means to Me...

ACM has been without a doubt tremendously beneficial to the continuous achievement of my educational goals. I began my undergraduate studies majoring in Sociology/Social Work and soon realized that I wanted to pursue a career in which I could serve the community in a much broader capacity. I then began to focus my attention on nursing. The problem that I faced was that I was only three semesters away from receiving a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Tougaloo College. Because I had received a Full Tuition Scholarship to Tougaloo College, I decided to finish my coursework in Sociology and apply to an accelerated nursing program after I received my degree. I believed that I could incorporate my knowledge of sociology into nursing and care for those in the community. I then began to research different nursing programs and found that there were programs that offered an entry-level Master of Science in Nursing degree for graduates who held a non-nursing degree. This type of program was perfect for me because of my desire to become a nurse; but no programs of this type existed in my home state of Mississippi. This meant that I would have to apply for a program outside of Mississippi, and I would have been forced to pay expensive out-of-state tuition fees.

That's when I found a wonderful opportunity to attend nursing school without having to pay the expensive out-of-state fees by participating in the ACM program. I was accepted into the MSN-CNL program at University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Out-of-state tuition at UTHSC is \$6,290 every twenty weeks and \$3,813 for every summer semester. The MSN-CNL program is a total of 22 months (four twenty-week semesters and two summer semesters), which is a total of \$32,786 in out-of state tuition fees. I definitely had no way of paying for these because my student loans are only enough to cover basic tuition fees. If it had not been for ACM I would not have been able to attend this program or possibly any other program.

I am extremely thankful for ACM and the wonderful opportunity to further my education and work towards my goal of helping the community as a nurse; an opportunity that otherwise would not have been possible.



The Clinical Nurse Leader or CNL is a nursing role developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in collaboration with leaders from the education and practice arenas to improve the quality of patient care. The CNL works in conjunction with other nurses and hospital medical staff members helping to put innovation and changes in place to address care quality and safety.

In practice, the CNL oversees the care coordination of a distinct group of patients and actively provides direct patient care in complex situations. This master's degree-prepared clinician puts

evidence-based practice into action to ensure that patients benefit from the latest innovations in care delivery. The CNL evaluates patient outcomes, assesses cohort risk, and has the decision-making authority to change nursing care plans when necessary. The CNL is a leader in the health care delivery system, and the implementation of this role will vary across settings.

The CNL is an advanced generalist clinician with education at the master's level. The CNL brings a high level of clinical competence and knowledge to patient care and serves as a resource for the nursing team.

In order to become a CNL a student must pursue a CNL track as part of a nationally accredited Master's of Science Nursing program and pass the CNL Certification Examination. Over 100 universities and over 200 clinical sites offer the CNL degree.

SREB states that offer accredited CNL programs are: Alabama, Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The average salary for a CNL is in the \$55,000 to \$60,000 range.

Sources:

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNL/FAQ.htm>

<http://www.bestnursingdegree.com/programs/clinical-nurse-leader>

## So what does ACM mean to me? It means:

*Advancing my educational goals and possibilities,*

*Continuity of excellent care for those in the community, and*

*More educational opportunities made possible for students.*

—Shamitre T. Crudup

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

MSN-CNL c/o 2011

# What ACM Means to Me...

Going to college during my lifetime has always been presented as a necessity, not an option. Since beginning my college experience six years ago, one door after another has opened for me in more ways than one. Choosing to go to a community college my first two years of undergraduate studies alleviated money related stresses during the beginning of my college career. However, the student loans I incurred while earning my Bachelor's of Science in Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi made up for any money saved those first years. I knew that I wanted to further my education, but I knew that the path I had chosen would be both extremely difficult and extremely expensive.

The Academic Common Market has helped me begin the path to achieve my educational goals. My initial excitement when finding out that I had been accepted to The University of South Carolina's Nurse Anesthesia Program was overshadowed by the colossal financial sacrifice that I would have to make. I heard about the ACM through a Nurse Anesthetist who had been in a similar situation that I was now facing. My goal of becoming a Nurse Anesthetist is now within my reach thanks in part to the ACM.

I have worked extremely hard to get to this place in my life. Nurse Anesthesia School is highly competitive. Most schools review hundreds of applications and only accept about twenty to twenty-five students each year. I have been taking steps in order to



fulfill my personal aspirations of finishing graduate school to become an Advanced Practice Nurse since becoming a Registered Nurse in 2008. I received national certifications, was involved in several committees and associations, and studied hard for graduate school testing while working full-time in the Adult Intensive Care Unit. I was also able to save money after paying off my undergraduate student loans by living with my parents and putting in overtime at the hospital. I have taken all the steps I could in order to make this possible and the ACM has taken it that much further.

Nurse Anesthesia School presents a unique challenge. Not only will I have to quit my full time job, commit all my time to school, somehow pay for it and support myself, but I will also have to move out of state approximately nine hours from home. Essentially, I will have to pay for both educational expenses and living expenses. I have reduced my living expenses as much as possible, but the ACM has drastically reduced my educational expenses. The total cost of out-of-state tuition for USC is \$10,540. My total cost for tuition with the assistance of the ACM is \$4,894. I will still have to take out student loans, but this takes a huge burden off my shoulders and makes it possible for me to survive while continuing my education.

Thank you again for all of your help.

—Heather B. Kyzar

Nurse Anesthetists are specialty trained registered nurses who administer anesthetics to patients undergoing medical, dental, and obstetrical procedures. They serve as a valuable part of the surgical team administering oxygen, inserting artificial airways, and attempting to prevent surgical shock. Nurse anesthetists work in hospital operating rooms but can also because of their nursing skills and knowledge work in birthing centers/obstetrics departments, dental offices, emergency rooms, plastic surgery centers, and outpatient surgery facilities.

Individuals interested in this career must first obtain a B.S. degree in nursing, be a licensed registered nurse (RN), and have a year of critical-care nursing experience. Most Nurse Anesthetist programs last 24 to 36 months and include demanding graduate level course-work in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and pharmacology. In order to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) an individual must complete an accredited program and pass a national certification exam. Bi-annual recertification is also required.

The average annual salary is \$103,200 with a range of



\$99,400 to \$148,500. Since 2008 a demand for an additional 30,000 CRNAs has caused more and more focus on this particular occupation. The state of Mississippi has ACM access to Nurse Anesthesia programs in five SREB states (Alabama, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and South Carolina) in an effort to meet the needs of its citizens.

Source: <http://www.mshealthcareers.com/careers/nurseanesthetist.htm>

# What ACM Means to Me...

The experience at Mississippi State University that the Academic Common Market program has provided me with has been nothing short of amazing. Because of the ACM, I can say that I attend one of the premier engineering and research universities in the South in a field that I have always held interest in. Since I was eight years old, I have been fascinated with



anything related to aircraft, and when the time came to choose I knew I wanted to enter the field of Aerospace Engineering. However, due to financial constraints at home, choosing an institution to suit my needs complicated the matter. The ACM program not only gave me a vessel to attend a large institution of higher learning but it gave me a chance to pursue my interests and also become one of the first males in my family to enter college. I believe that through the ACM, I've saved at least \$8,000 per year by not having to owe out-of-state and other non-resident fees.

—Eric Robertson, Louisiana

Engineers apply the principles of science and mathematics to develop economical solutions to technical problems. Engineers should be creative, inquisitive, analytical and detail-oriented. They should be able to work as part of a team and to communicate well, both orally and in writing. Aerospace engineers design, test, and supervise the manufacture of aircraft, spacecraft, and missiles. Aerospace engineers develop new technologies for use in aviation, defense systems, and space exploration, often specializing in areas such as structural design, guidance, navigation and control, instrumentation and communication, and production methods. Those who work with aircraft are called aeronautical engineers and those working specifically with spacecraft are astronautical engineers.

A strong background in mathematics and science is needed if a degree in engineering is the chosen field of study. A bachelor's degree in engineering is required for almost all entry-level engineering jobs. College graduates with a degree in a natural science or mathematics occasionally may qualify for some engineering jobs, especially in specialties that are in high demand. Continuing education to keep current with rapidly changing technology is important for engineers.

In 2008, engineers held about 1.6 million jobs. Overall employment of Aerospace Engineers is expected to grow by 10 percent over the 2008-18 decade. New technologies and



new designs for commercial and military aircraft and spacecraft produced during the next decade should spur demand for aerospace engineers. Although the number of degrees granted in aerospace engineering has begun to increase after many years of decline, new graduates continue to be needed to replace aerospace engineers who retire or leave the occupation for other reasons.

As a group, engineers earn some of the highest average starting salaries among those holding bachelor's degrees. The median salary for an Aerospace Engineer is \$114,530 with a range of \$58,130 to \$134,570.

Source: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos027.htm>

# What ACM Means to Me...

My name is Chad Marlar and I am a resident of Corinth, Mississippi. I have been a nurse for 12 years practicing in my hometown. From the start of my practice as a registered nurse, I planned on pursuing advanced education and becoming a nurse anesthetist. I wish I had done it before I began a family, because once the application process for graduate school started, I was going to have to make some tough decisions regarding how I was going to complete my professional goals. From uprooting my family relocating to a school that I gained acceptance too having to make commitments for employment to an out-of-state hospital that offered to stipend my education to help pay for educational expenses, or figuring out how I could live away from my family as a graduate student and try to still be an active member in the family were some of the tough decisions I was facing.



We had prepared ourselves for part of the financial burden of my being in graduate school including the loss of my monthly income while in school. However, several other non-expected financial demands came into the picture such as having to pay high COBRA insurance premiums, an additional child, and the progressive rise in living expenses was going to be a task for my wife to have to budget.

We also knew there was not a graduate CRNA program in the state of Mississippi. We knew that student loans would also be a large expense after school was complete because at most universities the cost of in-state vs. out-of-state tuition is almost double. The Academic Common Market has given me the opportunity to not have to worry about the additional expense related to out-of-state tuition. It is saving me approximately \$6,300 a semester. In addition, I will not have to commit to an out-of-state health organization after school is complete and uproot my family. I will be able to practice in Mississippi (most likely my hometown hospital) and not have to relocate just to pay back assistance I may have had to obtain from hospitals that need these services.

I am very thankful for the assistance the Academic Common Market has given me. ACM took a large part of the financial burden off my family and me while I pursue my educational goals.

Thanks again for the opportunity to participate in this program.

—Chad Marlar R.N., BSN  
CRNA class of 2011 at UT Memphis



I chose to attend school in Mississippi because most of the schools were affordable and close to home. I also decided to attend school in Mississippi because I wanted to have some independence to attend school out-of-state but not too far from home. JSU was my main reason for going to school in Mississippi.

I chose to attend JSU because my dream after high school was to attend an HBCU close to home. JSU was the nearest, affordable school that had a meteorology program. After I graduated from JSU I decided to go for another degree at Mississippi State because I wanted to get more experience in broadcasting and operational meteorology. The Geosciences program at MSU was regarded as the best and it inspired me to obtain another degree, plus it was much closer to home.

I am totally thankful for the ACM grant because if it weren't for the grant, I would not have been able to afford to attend school at JSU or MSU. The grant helped with expenses and, although I had to take out loans, the grant took care of tuition so it wouldn't be a financial burden on me and I would be able to concentrate on my work instead of my finances. I can't tell you the number of students I've met from both institutions that wish for programs that would do that for them. I say again that I am very thankful for the ACM.

After I obtain my Geosciences degree from MSU, I plan to go into the workforce for the National Weather Service or television/radio. The education I will receive here at MSU will definitely prepare me for broadcasting or operational meteorology. I recently applied for a SCEP position at several NWS sites across the southeast to obtain more experience in operational meteorology. At the same time, I hope to intern for a local television station to obtain more broadcasting experience.

—Christopher Luckett, Tennessee

The Academic Common Market has allowed me to enroll in a Graduate Digital Forensics program that would not otherwise be available to me. Because of this program, I am able to attend the University of Central Florida at in-state tuition rates. This will save me approximately \$5,300 in tuition per semester for a total of \$26,500 overall. Without this program, I would not have been able to afford graduate tuition or pursue a degree that is not offered in my home state. Although I would love to keep my money and education in Mississippi, I feel like this program is



still a benefit to Mississippi because this is where I work and this is where my expertise will be put to use. I hope to eventually teach at a university in Mississippi and share the knowledge that I have learned. I am so grateful for the opportunity that the ACM program has given me. I

truly would not be able to do it without you. I hope this program and the cooperation among out-of-state universities continues to grow. Thank you ACM and UCF for working together to help me achieve my goals!  
**—Patricia McHann**

The Academic Common Market (ACM) has helped me tremendously in the advancement of my educational goals. I have wanted to be a CRNA from the first day of nursing school and was beginning to wonder if it was going to be possible. Mississippi has no stand-alone CRNA programs and the cost of going to an out-of-state school was prohibitive. I applied to the University of Alabama Birmingham not realizing that the ACM even existed. When I was accepted, my wife and I discussed whether it was possible for me to attend. We knew if it was possible it would only



be by a razor-thin margin. I then received the letter from Ms. Pennington that explained all that the ACM would do for us. That helped us make the final decision to accept UAB's invitation.

Without the ACM, I may not have been able to fulfill my desire to become a CRNA and my wife and I both thank you for that. The ACM will save us approximately \$50,000 for the 27 months of the program. This is the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. Thank you for what you do.  
**—Robert L. Summers**

The ACM program has been a wonderful source of inspiration about my education. I knew that without financial assistance, the outrageous cost of graduate school would be so great that I could simply not go, as graduate programs in my field of study only exist outside the borders of the state. Thanks in part to the ACM program, I have completed a semester



of very difficult graduate education with straight A's and aim to continue the tradition of excellence with which I was instilled in Mississippi. I graduated from Delta State University and now study Musicology at Louisiana State University. I have saved about \$9,000 so far.

**—Andrew Owen**

My name is Kristen Robinson, and I am a first year graduate student in the Advertising and Public Relations (APR)



program at the University of Alabama. I am from Jackson, Mississippi, and I received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing Communications from the University of Mississippi in May of 2009.

I am originally from the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and I have also lived in New Jersey, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and then Mississippi. When applying for college, I was interested in many schools out of state, but realized that there was no way that I could afford out-of-state tuition. I happily attended the University of Mississippi on a full scholarship.

After studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland, during the spring of 2008, I knew that I wanted to have the opportunity to go to graduate school and continue my studies in communication. I had heard of the APR program while I was in school at Ole Miss. In fact, the APR program at the University of Alabama is ranked #2 in the nation. The only setback about attending the University of Alabama was the cost of tuition. After talking to the APR Program Coordinator about my concerns, I learned about the ACM scholarship. I immediately began researching and contacting people to find out how to apply.

The ACM scholarship has allowed me to get out of my comfort zone and attend a larger university out of state that has a renowned program specifically in the field of study that I am passionate about. Also, after all of my family moved away from Mississippi, attending the University of Alabama has given me the chance to live closer to my family in Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida.

**—Kristen Robinson**



**Alcorn**  
State University

**DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Join in. Stand out.

**JSU**  
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**



**MUW**  
A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

Mississippi Valley State University



*The University of Mississippi*



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Under the leadership of the Board of Trustees, IHL governs the public universities in Mississippi, including Alcorn State University; Delta State University; Jackson State University; Mississippi State University including the Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; Mississippi University for Women; Mississippi Valley State University; the University of Mississippi including the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and the University of Southern Mississippi.

## ***SREB Academic Common Market “Meeting the Needs of Students”***

**Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning ■ Office of Academic and Student Affairs  
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