

THE ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET

What is it?

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a cooperative tuition-reduction agreement among 16 Southern Regional Education Board states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. If the public/state-funded institutions in Kentucky do not offer the degree program you wish to study, it may be possible to arrange for a waiver of out-of state tuition at a **cooperating** public/state-funded college or university in one of the ACM participating states.

Which programs are eligible?

There are more than 200 out-of-state programs currently available to Kentucky residents at in-state tuition through the ACM. Additional programs may be added on request; however, they must be programs that are not available at a public/state-funded institution in Kentucky and are offered by a public/state-funded institution in one of the participating states. Auburn University (AL), the University of Georgia, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University have additional requirements in place for the ACM application process. Georgia State University, Clemson University (SC), the College of William and Mary (VA), and all institutions in the states of Florida, North Carolina, and Texas participate in the ACM only at the graduate program level. The University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, James Madison University (VA), Mary Washington College (VA), University of Texas at Austin, and College of Charleston (SC) do not participate. The list of eligible programs and institutions are **subject to change**.

How can I get my program added to the ACM?

ACM policy requires that the requested program must be clearly unlike degree programs offered in state. To meet this requirement, at least 50 percent of the courses in the requested program must be different from courses available in a similar program offered in Kentucky. To request that a program be added to the ACM, send a copy of the program description, course list *with descriptions*, and program web site address to the state coordinator. If it is determined that a similar program is not available in Kentucky, the state coordinator will request that the program be added to the ACM. The university offering the program decides whether or not to make it available through the ACM.

What do I have to do to participate in the ACM?

First, you must apply to the university for admission through the school's regular admissions process. After you have been accepted, you must send a copy of your acceptance letter from the university and a completed ACM residency application with appropriate supporting documents to the state coordinator.

What happens then?

When these items are received and approved, the state coordinator will notify the appropriate university official that you have been approved by Kentucky for ACM participation. You will receive a copy of that notice. From that point on, you will be charged in-state tuition as long as you are enrolled each fall and spring semester, do not change majors, and maintain your Kentucky residency. If one of these changes takes place, contact the state coordinator for determination of re-certification. Otherwise, no further action is needed after the initial certification.

The [Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship \(KEES\)](#) Program:

ACM participation is the **only** way KEES awards can be used out of state. Once approved for the ACM, payment of your KEES award will be coordinated by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority with your institution each semester.

For more information or to ask a specific question, visit the [CPE Online Support Center](#).