



Office of Enrollment Services

Frequently Asked Questions about the Academic Common Market

What is the Academic Common Market (ACM)?

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition savings program for college students from selected states in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) who want to pursue degrees that are not offered by their home state institutions. If approved, students can enroll in out-of-state institutions that offer their degree programs and pay only the in-state tuition rates. The ACM program is not competitive or merit-based, but applicants must meet home state residency requirements and college program admissions requirements. To qualify for the Academic Common Market, a student must be a resident of an SREB member state, be admitted unconditionally into the institution and program that is approved by the home state, and be certified by the home state to participate.

How do I apply for the Academic Common Market for an approved degree program?

You must apply to Coastal Carolina University and be granted full admission into the academic program that is sponsored by Coastal Carolina University for the ACM. (See list of academic programs and approved states below.) You must:

- complete and submit an ACM certification application to your state's designated agency,
- be certified by your home state to participate in the ACM,
- confirm that the desired degree program is not offered by a college or university within your home state, and
- submit the required documentation to verify state residency.

What is my state's certification process?

Acceptance into the Academic Common Market will be determined by degree program availability and verification of residency. Generally, you will be required to provide evidence of your residency by submitting documents such as a driver's license, voter registration card, state tax return or other instruments that the state may require. Individual state application deadlines may exist. Please allow up to two months for processing. To avoid the last minute flood of applications (particularly in July and August) and to avoid late tuition adjustments, it is wise to start the application process approximately two months prior to the beginning of the semester.

You will be billed out-of-state tuition at Coastal Carolina University, but once documentation of your ACM approval is received from your state representative, you will receive a reduction in tuition equal to the in-state tuition rate. This reduction in tuition is called a "tuition waiver" (difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition). The student must remain in the approved ACM degree program to be eligible to receive the tuition waiver. Further, if the University removes a sponsored program from the ACM, the University will allow enrolled students who have been granted the ACM a reasonable period of time to complete a program at in-state tuition rates.

What are the approved Academic Common Market Programs and home sponsored states for Coastal Carolina University?

Bachelor of Arts in Middle Level Education with content specializations in:

Mathematics/science/social studies or English/language arts

This program is available for residents of Maryland only.

Program Description: Middle Level Education is a program of study that leads to initial South Carolina teacher licensure for grades five through eight in two content areas. This program includes: 1) foundation courses that provide the framework for teaching adolescents in the 21st century, 2) major requirement courses that focus on the art and science of teaching in the middle grades, and 3) content specialization courses that are defined according to two chosen areas. The content specialization choices are mathematics/science/social studies, or English/language arts. Since a number of these courses have prerequisites and are limited to specific semesters, students should take the time to plan carefully with their assigned advisors.

As a college junior, you will apply for admission to the professional program in teacher education. Candidates apply for admission to the professional program of teacher education when they have completed at least 60 cumulative hours of coursework and have at least a 2.5 GPA. The following evidence is required and reviewed by the college's Office of Admissions and Program Quality and a standing faculty committee of the Spadoni College of Education: minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 2.5; grade of "C" or above in designated core courses; grade of "C" or above in all required education courses; Praxis I or score of at least 1100 on OLD SAT, or 1650 or higher on the NEW SAT (verbal, math, writing), or 24 or higher on the ACT; criminal background disclosure statement; and Professional Behavior and Dispositions Self-Evaluation.

Bachelor of Science in Marine Science

This program is available for residents of Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia only.

Program Description: Marine Science at Coastal Carolina is an interdisciplinary field that employs aspects of biology, chemistry, geology, and physics toward the study of the ocean environment. Lecture, laboratory, and field experiences are integrated to provide an outstanding and well-rounded academic program. Students may choose to concentrate their studies in one of the following areas: marine biology, coastal geology, marine chemistry, atmosphere/ocean dynamics or marine analytical technology.

Does Coastal Carolina University require me to enroll as a full-time student in order to qualify for the ACM tuition waiver?

Yes, Coastal Carolina University requires students receiving the ACM tuition waiver to enroll full-time each eligible term. Full-time enrollment requires students to register for a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours per semester. The ACM tuition waiver is prorated for students enrolled less than full-time in the summer terms *only* (except for students from the states of Maryland and Tennessee which require fulltime enrollment in all terms including summer).

Are other scholarships available for out-of-state students who receive the ACM tuition waiver?

The ACM tuition waiver is sponsored by Coastal Carolina University and is not paid by the home state. Because of the significant reduction in tuition for approved students, ACM students are not eligible for some of Coastal Carolina University's merit-based scholarships. When new students are admitted to the University and qualify for both the ACM tuition waiver and a merit scholarship, the student will be required to select which scholarship s/he will accept. Merit-based scholarships allow the student to change majors, whereas the ACM program requires that students remain in the ACM major in order to continue to receive the tuition waiver each semester and summer term. The student must choose one option at the point of matriculation.

Students who accept the ACM tuition waiver are not eligible for other scholarship, stipend, or athletic tuition waivers. The restricted scholarships include, but are not limited to, the President's Scholarship, Provost's Scholarship, Coastal Scholar Award, Admissions Award, Visual & Performing Arts Scholarship, and Professional Golf Management Program Scholarships. For continuing students who apply for or accept a student services stipend position (SGA, etc.) that includes a tuition waiver/stipend and monetary award, only the monetary award will be granted for the service position because the student already receives a tuition waiver from the ACM program. Athletes who accept the ACM waiver may not receive an athletic tuition waiver. Continuing students who are approved for the ACM are eligible to apply for Coastal Carolina University's application-based scholarships. Only the monetary portion of the application-based scholarship will be awarded. Students who are granted the ACM waiver are eligible for the Honors Program.

How can I obtain additional information? For more information, contact your state representative listed below.

ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET – SREB PARTNER STATES

ARKANSAS

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114 E Capitol Ave.
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501-371-2038 (P); 501-371-2002 (F)
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<http://www.arkansashighered.com/AcademicAffairs/ACM.htm>

MARYLAND

(Marine Science & Middle Level Edu)
Genny Segura
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410-260-4536 (P); 410-260-3201 (F)
Email: gsegura@mhec.state.md.us
<http://www.mhec.state.md.us/higherEd/acadAff/AcademicCommonMarket/commonmarket.asp>

DELAWARE

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MISSISSIPPI

Pearl Pennington
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WEST VIRGINIA

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Each participating SREB state has a coordinator for the Academic Common Market. For the most accurate listing of state coordinators' names and addresses, please visit the SREB Web site at www.sreb.org or call the SREB in Atlanta at (404) 875-9211.

(updated 10/07/09—information is subject to change without notification)