



The **Arkansas** Certified Public Manager[®] (CPM) program began in 1985, and the first Arkansas Certified Public Managers[®] were recognized in 1987. The Arkansas CPM program is an ongoing collaborative effort of the **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**, the **University of Arkansas, Fayetteville**, and **Arkansas State University in Jonesboro**, to provide leading-edge curriculum for public managers and help them reach their highest potential. The program is a nationally-accredited training and development program for public sector managers and supervisors.

The governing body for the Certified Public Manager[®] program is the National Certified Public Manager[®] Consortium (<http://www.cpmconsortium.org/mambo/>); and it is comprised of representatives from member states (<http://www.cpmacademy.org/governance/societies.htm>). The Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC) program is reviewed by the Consortium for reaccreditation every five (5) years. Courses include diverse topics relevant to public management taught by college professors or senior public service administrators.

The Arkansas CPM program is made up of two levels, the Arkansas Governmental Manager (AGM), which is a state level certification, and the Certified Public Manager[®] (CPM), which is a **national** level certification. Management in the public sector is very different from management in the business sector, and the CPM program is designed to add skills to the toolboxes of our public sector managers. AGM course work focuses on leadership skills, program management, and the further development of management skills of program participants. CPM coursework is designed to further advance and refine the participant's management skills and augment their professional development. CPM graduates may be eligible for six (6) hours of college credit towards a Masters Degree in Public Administration through UALR.

To be eligible for the CPM program, applicants are recommended by their supervisors and/or agency directors. Applicants' credentials and essays are reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Managers[®] who provide their assessment of the applicant's preparedness for the program.

Graduates of the Certified Public Manager[®] programs came together to form state alumni societies, and the state societies in turn came together to form the American Academy of Certified Public Managers[®] (AACPM) (<http://www.cpmacademy.org/>). The state CPM societies, the academy (AACPM), and the National CPM Consortium work together to encourage recognition of public management, establish and promote high standards of performance, improve communication, cooperation and coordination among public entities, foster leadership through example and innovation, and facilitate positive changes which enhance the delivery of public services. New societies are admitted to the Academy through an application process which ensures certain admission criteria are met, as well as compliance with ongoing requirements related to dues, assessments, reports, participation and professionalism.

Through 2007, there have been approximately 500 AGM graduates, and 150 Certified Public Manager[®] graduates. Those who have completed the AGM and CPM programs participate in various state and local projects, and many serve on state and local boards, commissions, committees and advisory councils for public, private and nonprofit entities throughout Arkansas.

The web site for UALR-APAC program is: www.ualr.edu/apac

The web site for the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Managers[®] is: www.arcpm.org

