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Ball Ground chosen to participate in 2009 UGA Local Government Practicum

The city of Ball Ground has been selected to participate in the University of Georgia Local Government Practicum. The Practicum is a partnership between the University Of Georgia School Of Public and International Affairs and the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). This year, a Masters in Public Administration graduate student at UGA has chosen to work with the city of Ball Ground on the development of a downtown business plan. The plan will promote commerce, business, and tourism in Ball Ground's historic downtown. Through the assistance of the UGA program, Ball Ground plans to increase commerce and tourism while at the same time preserving the historic fabric of its downtown. In the coming weeks, meetings will be held between the city of Ball Ground staff and UGA program participants to define the scope of the project, to describe what the city wants to achieve, to discuss expected deliverables that will be due to the city at the end of the project, and to schedule site visits to Ball Ground.

The UGA Local Government Practicum provides second-year Masters in Public Administration students a chance to obtain real-world experience as part of their graduate school course work. GMA partnered with UGA in 2007 on the program, and since its inception, a total of 13 graduate students have worked with 10 cities on a variety of projects ranging from budget analysis, performance measurement for city services, capital improvement budgeting, personnel, affordable housing/ redevelopment plans, and downtown development. At the end of the semester, each student makes a formal presentation to client cities and to the GMA staff at GMA's headquarters in Atlanta. Many of these students have gone on to graduate and find jobs in city management, building upon the skills they learned through their experience in the UGA Local Government Practicum.

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