Carl Vinson Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

PFLA

Public Finance Leadership Academy

The Public Finance Leadership Academy (PFLA), offered in partnership between the UGA Institute of Government and the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association, will equip new and emerging public sector financial management leaders with the knowledge they need to successfully manage and communicate at all levels of government.

Participants in this six-month cohort program will work with a robust slate of experts who bring a range of backgrounds, talents and expertise.

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

PFLA is an innovative professional development program that combines the latest in leadership and financial management training. Program curriculum is both timely and relevant, providing a unique focus on how legal frameworks and human interactions come to play in working across various levels of public organizations.

INNOVATIVE and specialized professional development program

TARGETED for new and developing public leaders

PFLA

TIMELY and relevant curriculum content

COMPREHENSIVE and challenging certificate track

Building on a Foundation of Success

For years, the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association and the UGA Institute of Government have partnered to bring professional development opportunities to finance professionals across the State of Georgia as a means of promoting excellence in public finance.

The Level I and Level II Finance Officer Certification programs provide foundational knowledge and technical skills in a number of areas that are critical to the financial management of local governments or authorities.

Our Public Finance Leadership Academy builds upon these foundational steps, offering a distinguished training experience that combines technical know-how with leadership prowess. The result is the latest expertise in government finance and leadership.

To access and download the PFLA application, scan the QR code or visit https://cviog.uga.edu/_resources/documents/training/pfla-application.pdf

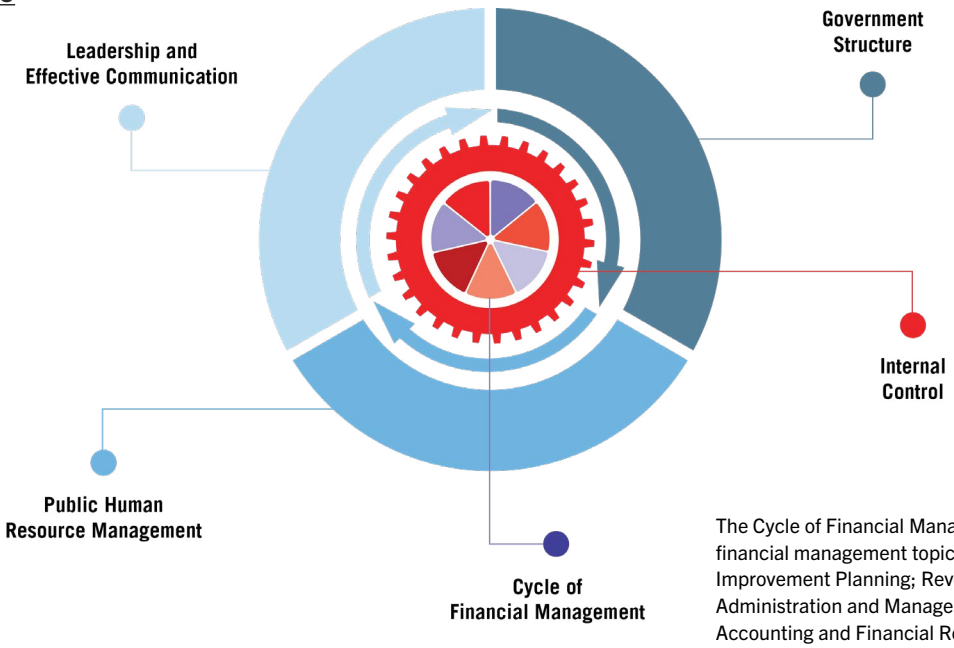
THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS SEPTEMBER 21, 2026!

Please check out our program, the Public Finance Leadership Academy, at https://cviog.uga.edu/pfla

A SPECIALIZED CURRICULUM

Focus Areas emphasize next-level skills in navigating government functions and services and offer participants the opportunity to apply the interrelated components of internal control to mitigate risks inherent in the cycle of financial management. Advanced leadership analysis and training is woven into each piece of the curriculum.

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS



The Cycle of Financial Management encompasses financial management topics that include Budget; Capital Improvement Planning; Revenues and Taxation; Debt Administration and Management; Treasury Management; Accounting and Financial Reporting; and Auditing

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

To earn a Public Finance Leadership Academy certificate, participants must complete 82 program hours through a variety of instructional activities covering the program's core curriculum.

PREREQUISITE: successful completion of the Level II Finance Officer Certification or completion of Level I with progress towards Level II; alternatively, candidates who hold certain financial professional designations: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) will be eligible for consideration without meeting the Level I and Level II requirement.

ASSESSMENTS: pre- and post-assessment; and a Capstone project. The Capstone project is intended to demonstrate the participant's ability to apply the skills and knowledge acquired during the program as well as provide a direct benefit to their government.

CLASS SIZE: a cohort of up to 20 participants

INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY: a blended approach offering virtual-live, face-to-face, and hybrid learning experiences; customize your training experience to meet your needs. Our UGA classrooms are equipped with cameras and technology that will provide remote participants the opportunity to interact with the instructor and their peers as if they were in the classroom on campus. Class meets 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

RECOGNITION: Upon successful completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate of achievement issued by the UGA Institute of Government and the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association.

COST: $2,799

2026–2027 PFLA COHORT SCHEDULE

A detailed list of sessions is available at https://cviog.uga.edu/training/financial-management/pfla-curriculum.html.

October 26	PFLA Kick-Off (UGA-Athens)
October 27–28	Leadership and Effective Communication
November 5	Government Structure and Operations/ Internal Control
December 3	Public Human Resource Management
January 14	Treasury Management and Cash Flow Forecasting
February 3	Advanced Debt Issuance
February 17	Economic Development
March 2	Budgeting for Long-Term Sustainability
March 25	Millage Rate Process
April 8	Data Visualization and Creating Dashboards
April 21–22	Preparing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
May 6	Preparing for the Audit
May 7	PFLA Graduation

Cohort participants will kick off this year's program in Athens with a 3-day/2-night stay at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel; this stay is included in the registration fee of $2,799. On day one, cohort participants will arrive in Athens the afternoon of October 26, 2026, to begin their journey. Later that evening, participants will have an opportunity to network and get to know their peers before enjoying a banquet-style dinner with an action packed agenda and featured keynote speaker. Days two and three will be devoted to a discussion on the topic, "Leadership and Effective Communication." Participants will depart from the Georgia Center at 4:00pm on October 28.