

Matthew R. Thornton

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EDUCATION

Auburn University, Auburn, AL **August 2024—December 2025**

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

GPA: 4.0

Honors: Pi Sigma Alpha

Auburn University, Auburn, AL **August 2024—December 2025**

Graduate Certificate, Economic Development

GPA: 4.0

Auburn University, Auburn, AL **August 2020—May 2024**

Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Aviation Management

GPA: 3.23

WORK EXPERIENCE

Auburn Fire Department, Auburn, AL **May 2022—December 2025**

Firefighter (~50 hours per week)

- Responded to fires, vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents, and all other emergencies during 24-hour shifts.
- Conduct over 75+ building inspections and 30+ fire drills annually to encourage fire safety.
- Educated the public about fire safety, evacuation, and emergency medicine at 20+ events annually.

Gulf Shores International Airport, Gulf Shores, AL **May 2025—August 2025**

Operations Officer (Seasonal, ~40 hours per week)

- Oversaw the opening of the commercial service terminal and the introduction of scheduled airline service to the airport.
- Conducted inspections of the airfield to ensure compliance with federal regulations.
- Implemented the airport's security plan per TSA guidelines and trained all airport workers on proper security protocols.
- Drafted significant portions of the operations handbook and SOPs/SOGs.

Auburn University Regional Airport, Auburn, AL **April 2021—May 2024**

Lead Line Service Technician (~15 hours per week)

- Led a crew of ~10 LSTs in the delivery of line services like aircraft refueling, towing, and marshaling.
- Monitored fuel inventory and quality control systems and coordinated delivery of Jet A, Avgas, and FSII.
- Trained new LSTs to safely perform the core skills of the position while following all mandated procedures.

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

More Than Auburn, Auburn, AL

August 2025—December 2025

Student Member

- Grew the organization from 4 to 20+ MPA students in one semester.
- Assisted in the planning of the annual fundraising event for the Hope Alliance Academy in Liberia.
- Updated organization bylaws, selected the executive board, and attended monthly meetings.

Campus Kitchen, Auburn, AL

January 2025—December 2025

Packaging Volunteer

- Packaged excess food from campus dining facilities into nutritious meals for those struggling with food insecurity in Lee County.

American Association of Airport Executives, Auburn, AL

January 2024—May 2024

Student Member

- Represented the organization at Auburn University career fairs and student events.
- Helped organize guest speaker events for professional development in airport management.
- Attended tours of airport and air traffic control facilities.

INTERESTS

Classic literature, trivia, tennis, hiking, and cooking.