City of San Mateo
Fall 2026 City Services Academy

What is the City Services Academy?

The City of San Mateo's City Services Academy is a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience that gives participants the opportunity to interact with City staff and learn about the challenges facing municipal government today. Interactive activities will give Academy participants a better understanding of the evolving principles of the City of San Mateo's Council/City Manager form of government. [City Departments involved: City Attorney, City Clerk, City Council, City Manager, Community Development Department, Finance Department, Fire Department, Human Resources, Information Technology, Library, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Public Works]

The Purpose of the Academy

The City Services Academy is designed to provide those who work or live in the City with an opportunity to learn firsthand how the City of San Mateo is managed and operated.

Taught by City staff, the Academy will provide an interactive learning experience in which the instructors and students can learn from each other through case studies, site tours, class discussions, and hands-on experience. Participants will learn about challenges the City is facing and investigate how creative management and budgetary solutions have been used to address these challenges.

Academy participants will interact with department heads (such as the City Manager, CDD Director, Police Chief, Public Works Director, City Librarian, Finance Director, Parks and Recreation Director, etc.) and a member of our City Council to learn how new programs or ideas are implemented. City staff will discuss project challenges, and budget and resource limitations. Day-to-day operations will also be explored.

Who Can Participate?

The City Services Academy is open to anyone, sixteen or older, who works or resides in the City of San Mateo and has an interest in City government. Participants must be willing to devote one night (Wednesday) per week, August 19 - November 4.

Cost and Application/Selection Process

The Academy is **FREE** to all participants. To receive an application by mail/email, or for more information, please contact Laurie Strange at 522-7019 (lstrange@cityofsanmateo.org). Applications are due by August 5, 2026. To ensure the quality of instruction and interaction with participants, class size is limited. Those not selected for the current Academy will be considered for subsequent academies. [Please note: Once we are at capacity, we will no longer accept applications for our 2026 City Services Academy].

Please return your completed application to:
San Mateo City Services Academy,
c/o Office of the City Manager, 330 West 20th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403

Meeting Dates and Times

The Academy will begin on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, and continue Wednesday nights through November 4, 2026 [class will not meet on September 30]. Participants who complete the Academy will attend a reception, receive an Academy completion certificate, and be recognized by our City Council. Meetings will be held Wednesday evenings, 6:00-9:00 p.m. The Academy will be held at different locations throughout the course of the program. A meeting schedule will be supplied to participants prior to the first meeting.