

# ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION

# ALABAMA SUCCESS

## EDUCATION & CAREER PLANNER

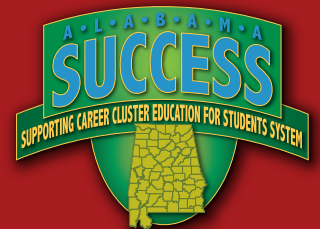
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# Imagine Your World

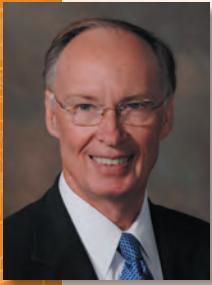
Your guide to careers in  
**ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY  
& COMMUNICATIONS**

Great Career Ideas • Creating Your Plan • College Resources





# A message from . . .



**Robert Bentley,  
Governor of Alabama**

The investments we make in our students today will help shape their futures for years to come. Our students are destined to become high-performing professionals in all sectors of the workforce.

Alabama SUCCESS is an initiative designed to help students access valuable information about current careers, postsecondary learning, and financial literacy resources.

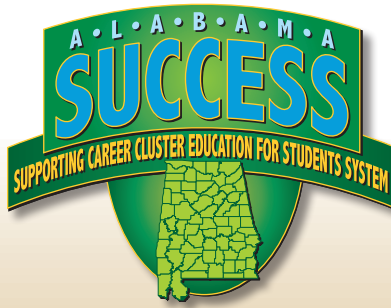
Our goal is to give students the opportunities they need to prepare themselves for success. We want our students to be well-equipped for top careers in Alabama's workforce - which has a growing influence on the global marketplace.

This Alabama SUCCESS guide is a great resource to assist in preparing for a bright and successful future.



**Dr. Thomas R. Bice,  
Alabama State  
Superintendent of  
Education**

Alabama SUCCESS is an invaluable resource designed specifically for students. By learning about actual career fields and the education and experience required for specific jobs, you will be better able to figure out what you want to do after high school and what you need to do to achieve your goals.

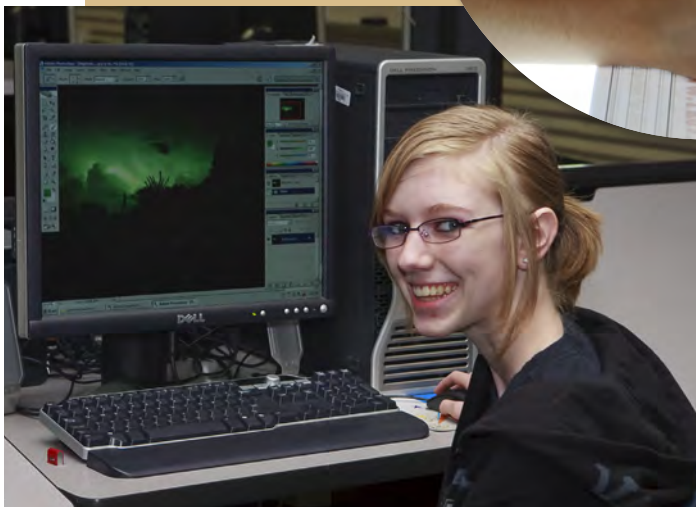


# ATTENTION, PARENTS



**T**his guide is part of a series created to help students in Alabama learn more about careers, salaries, and the steps they need to take to reach their goals. By connecting what they learn in the classroom to real jobs that interest them, Alabama students will graduate better prepared for life and work. You can help your child use this guide by:

- ◆ Talking to your child about what careers interest him or her—and why
- ◆ Sharing your work experiences—pro and con—with your child
- ◆ Asking people in your community who work in jobs that interest your child to talk about their careers or to let your child visit their workplace.





## What Employers Want



**Tim Hamilton, President**  
AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts)—Birmingham

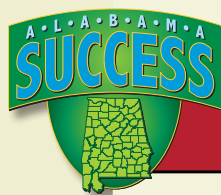
“**E**mployers want designers who are critical thinkers with knowledge and experience in art, marketing, and technology.

Design is now about strategic thinking and building strong client relationships, not just about making artifacts. People in design and other creative fields have to have strong communications skills and be able to work well with others.

A designer should prove his or her worth by arguing for long-term relationships [rather than] single projects done without scope, strategy, or context. Successful design work results from a collaborative process between a client and the designer with the intention of developing a clear sense of the client's objectives, competitive situation, and needs.”

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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### CLUSTER

**ARTS,  
A/V TECHNOLOGY  
& COMMUNICATIONS**

### PATHWAY

Audio & Video Broadcasting

Printing Techniques

Visual Arts

### SAMPLE OCCUPATION

Reporter and Correspondent

Graphic Designer

Fashion Designer



# Arts, A/V Technology & Communications

Arts, A/V Technology & Communications professionals create art in all mediums, use high-tech tools to connect artists to audiences, and help the public stay up-to-date on important events by reporting, filming, and broadcasting the news. This is a fast-paced, creative cluster where the career options stretch as far and wide as your imagination.

## CLUSTER PROFILE



## YOU DECIDE

Does the Arts, A/V Technology & Communications career cluster fit you, your talents, and your dreams? Take this quick quiz to find out.

# 1

Do you like to write, act, sing, or create visual art?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Many careers in this cluster require creativity, artistic flair, or an ability to perform onstage or on-camera.

# 2

Are you good at fixing things or figuring out why something isn't working?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Professionals in this cluster are creative thinkers who use technical knowledge, high-tech tools, and hands-on skills.

# 3

Can you complete multiple assignments on time and on your own without reminders?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Many people in arts-related fields are self-employed. They work for several different clients instead of for a single company.

# 4

How do you react when others suggest ways to improve your work performance?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Creative work gets judged by audiences, critics, editors, and clients, so dealing with criticism is part of most jobs.

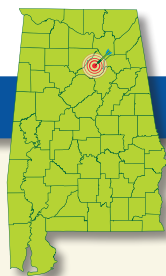
# 5

Do you enjoy working on projects as part of a team?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Arts & communications professionals combine talents to create a final product. No matter how talented you are, you have to be able to work well on a team to succeed.

If you answered "yes" to most of these questions, Arts, A/V Technology & Communications could be right for you.



## YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

**NAME:** Sara Adamson

**EDUCATION:** Oneonta High School, Oneonta; Wallace State Community College, Hanceville—Visual Communication, Associate's Degree in Applied Science



Sara Adamson has always enjoyed drawing and writing stories, so she chose high school classes, electives, and clubs that would help prepare her for college coursework and, eventually, a career in a creative field. At Wallace State, Adamson developed interests in photography and video editing, and discovered that she enjoyed graphic design. Adamson has options after she completes her two-year visual arts program and graduates with an associate's degree in applied science.

"I could go on to a four-year college and earn a bachelor's degree as a college media specialist/librarian. If I choose not to go on to a four-year college, I'd probably look for a job in advertising. I already know I'd enjoy it, because I've designed a real logo for a local business and I haven't even graduated yet."

## LEARN MORE

Explore Arts, A/V Technology & Communications education and career options at the Bureau of Labor Statistics student career information website.





# MAKE A PLAN

## Sit down with your parents and counselor and create a plan.

Map out an Alabama Education Plan (sample at right) based on your interests, strengths, and possible career goals.

Your plan outlines the courses and electives you'll take in high school, plus related clubs and career preparation. Your counselor will work with you to determine the learning experiences needed for you to complete your plan, such as using distance learning or earning college credit from your local community college.

Here's a sample Alabama Education Plan for you to use as a guide.

**ARTICULATION AGREEMENT** is a fancy term for a simple education agreement that can streamline your road to a successful career.

Statewide articulation agreements link all high schools and two-year colleges in Alabama. They provide credit at two-year colleges for coursework mastered at the high school level.

Articulation agreements can take you down your career pathway as well. In many cases, students transferring from two-year to four-year colleges and universities can complete four-year general studies core course requirements before they transfer.

## SAMPLE\* Alabama Education Plan

**Name:** Jordan Smith  
**School:** Central High School  
**Diploma Option:** Advanced Career and Technical Endorsement  
**Cluster:** Arts, A/V Technology & Communications  
**Pathway:** Audio/Video and Broadcasting  
**Career Goal:** Broadcast Engineer  
**Postsecondary Goal:** Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering



	Math	English	Science	Social Studies	Other Optional Courses	Sampling of Career and Technical Education Courses in Pathway	
<b>9th Grade</b>	Algebra I	English 9	Physical Science	World History 1500–Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Education -1</li> <li>Health - 1/2</li> <li>Fine Arts - 1/2</li> <li>Computer Application - 1/2</li> <li>Foreign Language I**</li> <li>Foreign Language II**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundation of Arts, Audio-Video Technology, and Communication</li> <li>Introduction to Television Production</li> <li>Television Production—Writing, Producing, and Performing</li> <li>Television Production—Studio Operations</li> <li>Television Production—Photography and Editing</li> <li>Advanced Television Production</li> <li>Introduction to Graphic Arts</li> <li>Digital File Preparation</li> <li>Advanced Digital File Preparation and Output</li> <li>Camera, Image Assembly, and Platemaking</li> <li>Offset Press Operations</li> <li>Binding and Finishing***</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Advertising Design</li> <li>Digital Design</li> <li>Graphic Illustration</li> <li>Studio and Portfolio</li> <li>Introduction to Animation and Visual Communication</li> <li>Animation Layout</li> <li>Animation Character Development and Design</li> <li>Storyboarding</li> <li>Character Animation</li> <li>Animated Filmmaking</li> <li>Advanced Animation Portfolio</li> <li>Introduction to Commercial Photography</li> <li>Medium Format Photography</li> <li>Large Format Photography</li> </ul>
<b>10th Grade</b>	Geometry	English 10	Biology	United States History to 1877			
<b>11th Grade</b>	Algebra II with Trigonometry	English 11	Chemistry	United States History to Present			
<b>12th Grade</b>	Pre-Calculus or Calculus	English 12	Physics	Government and Economics			
<b>Community College</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Composition I</li> <li>English Composition II or SPH 106</li> <li>Humanities Elective</li> <li>Intermediate College Math</li> <li>Microcomputer Applications</li> </ul>		<b>Required and CTE Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographic and Media Problems</li> <li>Supervised Study in Studio Art</li> <li>Graphic Design</li> <li>Basic Technical Drawing*</li> <li>Fundamentals of Drafting and Design Technology*</li> <li>Basic Computer Aided Drafting and Design</li> <li>Surface Development</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate Computer Aided Drafting and Design</li> <li>Intermediate Technical Drawing</li> <li>3D Graphics and Animation</li> <li>Specialized CAD</li> <li>Structural Concrete Drafting</li> <li>Advanced Technical Writing</li> <li>Fundamentals of Drafting for Related Trades</li> <li>Theory of Commercial Drawing and Design</li> </ul>		
<b>Higher Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math or Science Elective</li> <li>History, Social, or Behavioral Science</li> <li>Orientation for Career Students</li> </ul>		<b>Education and Career Assessments:</b> 8th Grade: Interest inventory and education plan initiated for all learners 11th Grade: College placement assessment <b>Career Learning Experiences:</b> Career preparation—paid and unpaid, internships, job shadowing		<b>Co-Curricular Experiences:</b> Technology Student Association (TSA) <b>Extracurricular Experiences:</b> Art Club <b>Service Learning Experiences:</b> Work with local artists, community groups and your local government to create and install community art.		

\*This is a sample plan and should not be considered a definitive plan for any student interested in this career cluster.  
 \*\*Alabama First Choice diploma requires 2 years of the same foreign language. \*\*\*Statewide articulated course



## Get Career Credentials

If you're a student in a career and technical education (CTE) program, you may have the option of earning a Career Readiness Certificate along with your high school diploma. The nationally recognized certificate shows you're proficient in applied math, reading for information, and locating information—skills employers highly value. Ask your school counselor about the statewide program; if it's not in your high school now, it will be implemented soon.

## Need-to-know facts and figures about real Alabama jobs, salaries, and education options in Arts, A/V Technology & Communications.

The 12 careers highlighted on the next page are a sampling of occupations in the **Arts, A/V Technology & Communications** cluster in Alabama. The charts include occupation name, description, plus wages for workers just starting out in the profession, average wages for those in the occupation, and the wages earned by experienced workers in the job (see “How to Read Job Charts”). The bar below the occupation’s name contains the Standard Occupational Code (SOC); use the SOC to look up more information about the career in online databases such as O\*NET (see below). The bars are also color-coded to indicate the minimum level of education required for each profession.

### How to Read Job Charts

- Starting Hourly Wage
- Average Hourly Wage
- Experienced Hourly Wage
- Occupation Name
- SOC Number
- Minimum Education Level (indicated by color bar)
- Occupation Description

#### EDUCATION LEVELS

- On-the-Job Training
- Work Experience in a Related Occupation
- Postsecondary Vocational Training
- Associate’s Degree
- Bachelor’s Degree
- Master’s Degree
- Doctoral Degree

Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



## Check Out These Three COOL CAREERS

### Theme Park Performer

**WHAT:** Perform in live, onstage theatrical and musical entertainment productions at seasonal and year-round theme parks, casinos, cruise ships, and other entertainment venues. Some performers also work as costumed characters who meet and greet guests.

**WHO:** Theme park performers are multitalented artists who can typically act, dance, sing, and play at least one instrument. This is a high-energy, people-oriented field offering opportunities to travel, meet new people, and work in the entertainment industry.



### Fashion Designer

**WHAT:** Create dresses, suits, shoes, and other clothing and accessories. The job involves studying fashion trends, sketching and sewing designs of clothing and accessories, selecting colors and fabrics, and supervising final production.

**WHO:** Fashion designers have an eye for color and detail, a sense of balance and proportion, and an appreciation for beauty. They need excellent communication and problem-solving skills, sketching ability, and computer-aided design experience.



### Fine Art Conservator

**WHAT:** Manage, care for, preserve, treat, and document works of art and artifacts for museums, galleries, and cultural preservation organizations. The work requires technical skills as well as historical, scientific, and archaeological research.

**WHO:** Art conservators are passionate about art history. They use x-rays, chemical testing, microscopes, special lights, and other laboratory equipment and techniques to examine objects, determine their condition, and then figure out the appropriate method for preserving them.







\$18.72  
\$22.43  
\$53.58

**Broadcast News Analyst**

**SOC: 27-3021**

Analyze, interpret, and broadcast news received from various sources.

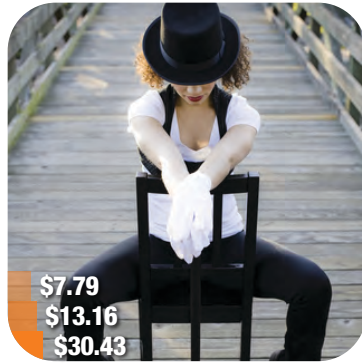


\$9.15  
\$14.31  
\$22.28

**Desktop Publisher**

**SOC: 43-9031**

Format words and graphics using computer software to produce publication-ready materials.



\$7.79  
\$13.16  
\$30.43

**Dancer**

**SOC: 27-2031**

Perform dances. May also sing or act.



\$13.08  
\$26.80  
\$43.71

**Writer and Author**

**SOC: 27-3043**

Create and prepare written material, such as scripts, stories, advertisements, and other material.



\$11.51  
\$18.14  
\$28.93

**Telecommunications Line Installer and Repairer**

**SOC: 49-9052**

Set up, arrange, remove, and repair cable, Internet, phone, and other telecommunications lines.



\$9.81  
\$20.25  
\$51.34

**Fine Artist**

**SOC: 27-1013**

Create original artwork using any of a wide variety of mediums and techniques, such as painting and sculpture.



\$14.44  
\$19.89  
\$33.69

**Multimedia Artist and Animator**

**SOC: 27-1014**

Create special effects, animation, or other images using film, video, computers, or other electronic tools and media.



\$9.49  
\$19.70  
\$35.38

**Editor**

**SOC: 27-3041**

Perform editorial duties such as coming up with story ideas, working with writers, and revising content for publication.



\$12.92  
\$23.94  
\$43.17

**Producer and Director**

**SOC: 27-2012**

Produce or direct stage, television, radio, video, or motion picture productions for entertainment, information, or instruction.



\$11.94  
\$19.36  
\$35.95

**Graphic Designer**

**SOC: 27-1024**

Design or create graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs, such as packaging, displays, or logos.



\$10.80  
\$18.81  
\$30.27

**Camera Operator (Television, Video, and Motion Picture)**

**SOC: 27-4031**

Produce images that tell a story, that inform or entertain an audience, or that record an event.



\$8.63  
\$17.59  
\$35.95

**Film and Video Editor**

**SOC: 27-4032**

Edit motion picture soundtrack, film, and video.



# Think Again

Now is the time to take a fresh look at Arts, A/V Technology & Communications careers you may not have considered before.



**MYTH:** You can't make a living being an artist.

**FACTS:** According to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), there are nearly 2 million working artists in the U.S. who collectively earn about \$70 billion a year. Making a living as an artist requires talent, passion, and a strong work ethic, so it's true that not everyone has what it takes to succeed in this field. If you are willing to think and work creatively, you can find plenty of ways to turn your talent into a career.

## Reality Check

### What It Costs to Live on Your Own in Alabama

Estimated 2009–2010 monthly expenses for a 22-year-old living in Birmingham.

Note: Keep in mind that your paycheck will be reduced by about 30 percent to cover taxes, retirement, and insurance. What's left is known as your "take-home pay." Subtract 30 percent from the salaries shown on page 5 to get a more accurate take-home amount.



**Cable and Internet:**  
\$90



**Rent and utilities:**  
\$700–\$800

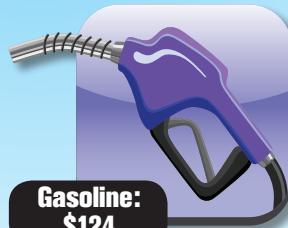
(1-bedroom)



**Cell phone:**  
\$70



**Groceries:**  
\$200–\$250



**Gasoline:**  
\$124

(1,000 miles @ \$3.10 per gallon, 25 MPG)



**Car insurance:**  
\$30–\$95

(6-month policy)

**Monthly total:**  
\$1,310–\$1,654

**Yearly total:**  
\$15,742–\$19,851



**Car payment:**  
\$350–\$450

(Used 2010/2011 4-door)





# POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS

## Check It OUT

Most Alabama schools offer these student organizations related to the **Arts, A/V Technology & Communications** career cluster:



**SkillsUSA** ▪ [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working to ensure American has a skilled workforce. Programs include student competitions and employer-driven training in all career and technical education areas.



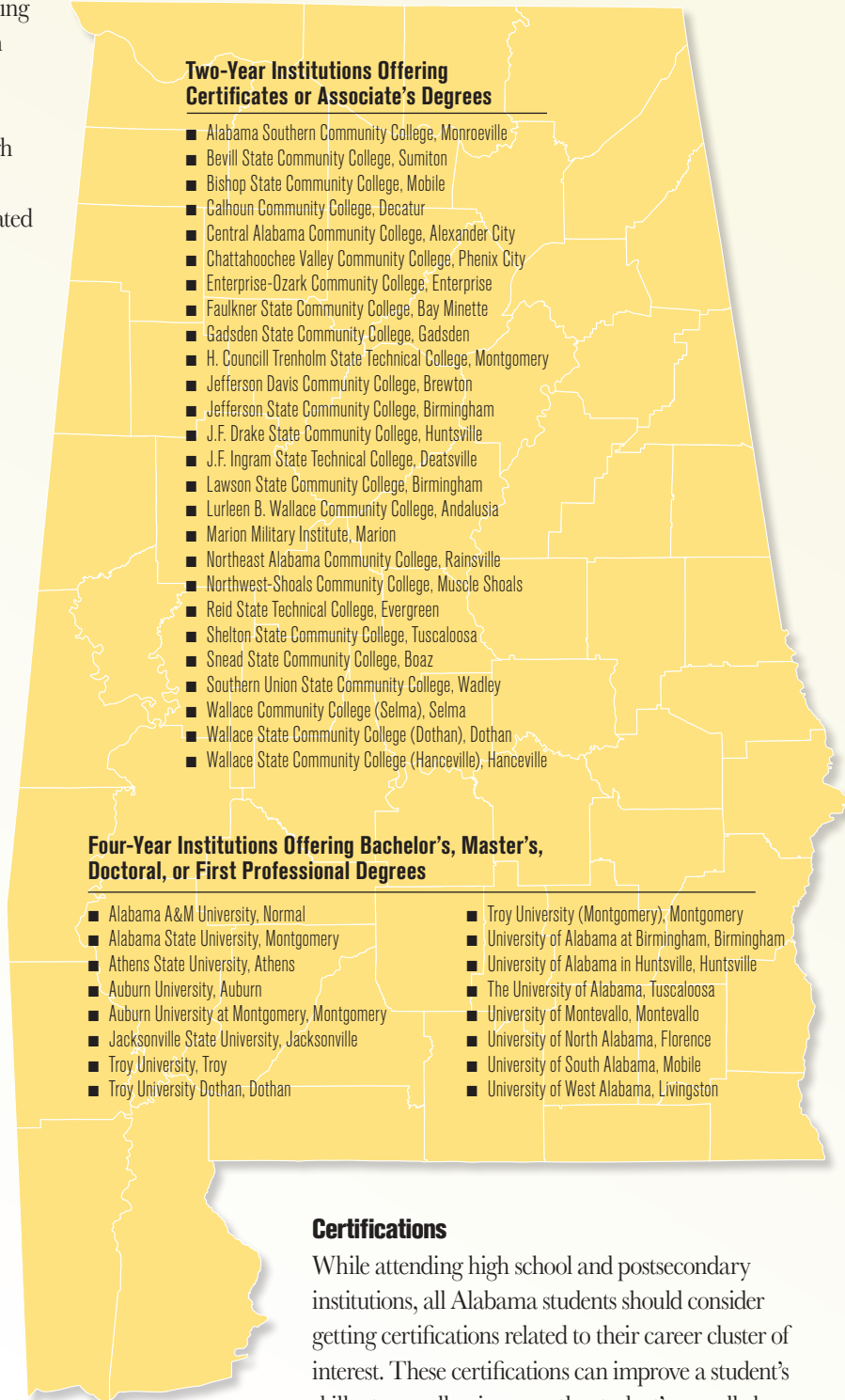
### Technology Student Association (TSA)

TSA prepares students to meet the challenges of a high-tech world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem-solving skills. Members have opportunities to develop and showcase their technology skills through individual and team competitions.



## Take It to the Next Level

In Alabama, the learning doesn't stop with high school graduation. Here is a list of public postsecondary (after high school) institutions that may offer programs related to this cluster. For Web links to these two- and four-year institutions.



### Two-Year Institutions Offering Certificates or Associate's Degrees

- Alabama Southern Community College, Monroeville
- Bevill State Community College, Sumiton
- Bishop State Community College, Mobile
- Calhoun Community College, Decatur
- Central Alabama Community College, Alexander City
- Chattahoochee Valley Community College, Phenix City
- Enterprise-Ozark Community College, Enterprise
- Faulkner State Community College, Bay Minette
- Gadsden State Community College, Gadsden
- H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College, Montgomery
- Jefferson Davis Community College, Brewton
- Jefferson State Community College, Birmingham
- J.F. Drake State Community College, Huntsville
- J.F. Ingram State Technical College, Deatsville
- Lawson State Community College, Birmingham
- Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, Andalusia
- Marion Military Institute, Marion
- Northeast Alabama Community College, Rainsville
- Northwest-Shoals Community College, Muscle Shoals
- Reid State Technical College, Evergreen
- Shelton State Community College, Tuscaloosa
- Snead State Community College, Boaz
- Southern Union State Community College, Wadley
- Wallace Community College (Selma), Selma
- Wallace State Community College (Dothan), Dothan
- Wallace State Community College (Hanceville), Hanceville

### Four-Year Institutions Offering Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, or First Professional Degrees

- Alabama A&M University, Normal
- Alabama State University, Montgomery
- Athens State University, Athens
- Auburn University, Auburn
- Auburn University at Montgomery, Montgomery
- Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville
- Troy University, Troy
- Troy University Dothan, Dothan
- Troy University (Montgomery), Montgomery
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham
- University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville
- The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- University of Montevallo, Montevallo
- University of North Alabama, Florence
- University of South Alabama, Mobile
- University of West Alabama, Livingston

### Certifications

While attending high school and postsecondary institutions, all Alabama students should consider getting certifications related to their career cluster of interest. These certifications can improve a student's skill set, as well as increase the student's overall chance of gaining employment in the field.



# GETTING READY



## GRADE 9 FRESHMAN YEAR

- ◆ Research your career options based on your interests, talents, and goals.
- ◆ Choose a career cluster.
- ◆ Create an Alabama Education Plan (see page 3).
- ◆ Do your best work in all your classes. Course selection and grades really do count when you are applying to colleges and training programs.
- ◆ Keep a folder or portfolio of your activities, awards, accomplishments, and work experience, and add to it during your high school career.

## GRADE 10 SOPHOMORE YEAR

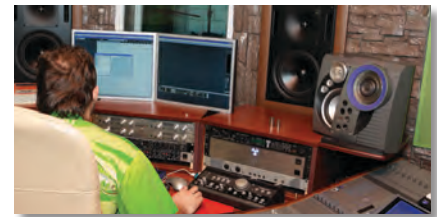
- ◆ Continue building the strongest possible academic record.
- ◆ Consider taking the PLAN (pre-ACT) if you plan to apply to a two-year college or university in the future.
- ◆ Consider taking the PSAT (preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Test) if you plan to apply to a two-year college or university in the future.
- ◆ Use the information in your portfolio to create a resume.
- ◆ Apply for summer jobs, internships, or volunteer activities related to your career cluster.

## GRADE 11 JUNIOR YEAR

- ◆ Take the PSAT/NMSQT.
- ◆ Use resources available at your school (books, online tools, college fairs, etc.) to research postsecondary education options related to your career goals.
- ◆ Register to take either the ACT or the SAT I and SAT II Subject Tests. There are testing dates every month from January through June. Registration deadlines are approximately four weeks before each testing date.
- ◆ Apply for summer jobs, internships, and volunteer activities related to your career goals.
- ◆ to determine your financial aid eligibility.

## GRADE 12 SENIOR YEAR

- ◆ In the fall, apply to postsecondary programs and retake any standardized college admissions tests if you would like to improve your score.
- ◆ Beginning in November, complete college financial aid forms. Deadlines and required data differ from school to school, so read the instructions carefully.
- ◆ In the spring, choose your postsecondary program on the basis of where you have been accepted, costs, etc.
- ◆ Continue doing your best work. Most schools require a final transcript before making your acceptance official.



## COLLEGE PREP: Getting Accepted

The college admissions process can be stressful and a bit scary, especially if you are the first in your family to apply. Give yourself the best shot at getting into a college program that matches your goals by following these five steps:

### 1. Make the Grade

Your grade point average really does count, so do your best work on every assignment, pay attention in class, and participate in group discussions.

### 2. Get Involved

Build teamwork and leadership skills by joining clubs and teams at your school, volunteering for service projects, and participating in church or community activities.

### 3. Make a List

Before you can apply to college, you have to figure out what you would like to study and what matters most to you (like location, size, or religious affiliation). Use the college guides in your local library, school library, or counselor's office to start making a list of colleges that interest you. Use online tools like to learn more about each school and take virtual campus tours.

### 4. Plan for Tests

Most colleges want scores from the ACT, SAT, or SAT II tests. See what tests the schools on your list require, sign up to take them in time to include the scores on your application, and then practice the free SAT sample questions.

### 5. Be Neat and Complete

Before you send in a college application, double-check your spelling, make sure nothing is missing, and save a copy just in case you have to submit it again.

## PAYING YOUR WAY: Financial Aid

Every Alabama student can afford to go to college. It just takes a little planning. Put your college dreams within financial reach by taking these five steps:

### 1. Consider a Community College

Alabama's public and private two-year colleges offer an affordable way to earn an associate's degree or complete enough credits to transfer into a four-year school as a junior.

### 2. Weigh Your Options

Attending one of Alabama's four-year public or private schools cuts travel costs and other living expenses, as compared to attending schools out of state. In addition, public schools offer reduced in-state tuition, and, if there's a college nearby, you can save even more by living at home.

### 3. Rise to the Top

Apply to a couple of schools at which your grades and accomplishments put you near the top of the typical applicant pool. Since your application will stand out, you'll be more likely to qualify for scholarships and other merit aid.

### 4. Do a Little Digging

More than one million local, national, and college-specific scholarships are available each year. Ask your school librarian and counselor for help finding printed scholarship resource guides. To find and apply for scholarships online, sign up for the free college scholarship search source FastWeb.

### 5. Apply for Aid

Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1 of the year you'll be starting college. FAFSA forms and instruction booklets are available in your guidance counselor's office and online. Some schools also require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile form and others have their own financial aid forms. Carefully read each college's application to figure out what forms you need to submit and when.



# Tool Box



## Resource Shelf

Use these websites and other resources available from your school counselor to learn more about careers, career clusters, and educational and job opportunities in high school and beyond.

### ACCESS

ACCESS (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide) Distance Learning provides opportunities and options for Alabama public high school students to engage in advanced placement (AP), elective, and other courses to which they may not otherwise have access.

### Alabama Career Information Network

This new Web portal increases Alabama students' and families' access to valuable career exploration activities and college financial aid information.

### Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Click on "Colleges & Universities" within this website for a list of four-year institutions in Alabama.

### The Alabama Community College System

Learn all about the public and private two-year colleges in Alabama. Connect directly to each school's website to see the courses, majors, degrees, and scholarships it offers to Alabama students.

### Alabama Tech Prep

This booklet is sponsored by Alabama Tech Prep. The goal of Tech Prep is to create a smooth transition from high school to college and to a career.

### Alabama Virtual Library

This Alabama Legislature-funded site provides all students, teachers, and citizens of the State of Alabama with online access to essential library and information resources.

### America's Career InfoNet

Use this site to search for occupational information, industry information, and state-specific labor market information.

### Career Voyages

This career planning resource helps students, parents, career changers, and career advisors.

### O\*NET (Occupational Information Network)

O\*NET provides full information on occupations, including state-by-state salary data, employment prospects, and skill matching for students.

### U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook

A valuable resource for both counselors and students, this federal website offers updated information on careers, job responsibilities and working conditions, salaries, and what jobs will be available in the future.

**Articulation agreements:** formal agreements between or among educational organizations (high schools, community colleges, and universities) that allow students to receive college credit for courses taken in high school.

**Associate's degree:** a two-year degree awarded by a community college.

**Bachelor's degree:** a four-year degree awarded by a college or university.

**Career and technical student organizations (CTSOs):** co-curricular organizations for students that offer activities and competitions related to particular careers.

**Career Clusters:** identifies pathways from high schools to two- and four-year colleges, technical schools, graduate schools, apprenticeship programs, and workplace so that learners can recognize the relationship between what they learn in school and what they can do in the future.

**Career Pathways:** pathways are sub-groupings of occupations/career specialties. Occupations/Career specialties are grouped into Pathways based on the fact that they require a set of common knowledge and skills for career success.

**Doctoral degree:** a degree awarded by universities for study beyond a master's degree. May also be called a Ph.D. or a first professional degree.

**Dual enrollment:** a program between Alabama public colleges and universities and local boards of education that allows high school students to enroll in certain approved college-level courses to receive both high school and college credit.

**ECEP (Early College Enrollment Program):** a program that allows juniors and seniors to have full-time enrollment at an Alabama public college or university while still graduating with their class and staying involved with high school activities.

**Extended learning experiences:** participation in career and technical student organizations, co-curricular activities, job shadowing, internships, or community service.

**Internship:** an extended learning experience that gives students an opportunity to work temporarily at an entry-level job in a career that interests them.

**Job shadowing:** an extended learning experience in which students observe professionals in particular careers as they go through a day on the job.

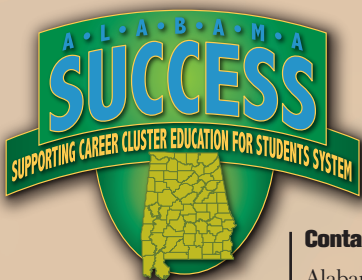
**Master's degree:** a degree awarded by universities for study beyond a bachelor's degree.

**Postsecondary education:** education beyond high school. Middle and high school are referred to as *secondary education*, so *postsecondary* means after high school.

**STARS (State Transfer & Articulation Reporting System):** STARS System allows public two-year students in Alabama to obtain a Transfer Guide/Agreement for the major of their choice. This guide/agreement, if used correctly, guides the student through their first two years of coursework and prevents loss of credit hours upon transfer to the appropriate public four-year university in Alabama.



# Alabama Career Clusters and Pathways



## Contact Information

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## Non-discrimination Statement

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334)242-8444.

**STATE OF ALABAMA • DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION •**  
**THOMAS R. BICE, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION 9/12**