

ALABAMA **SUCCESS**  
EDUCATION & CAREER PLANNER

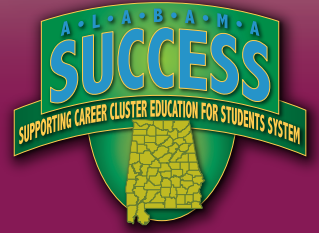
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# Market Yourself

Your guide to careers in  
**MARKETING, SALES  
& SERVICE**

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.

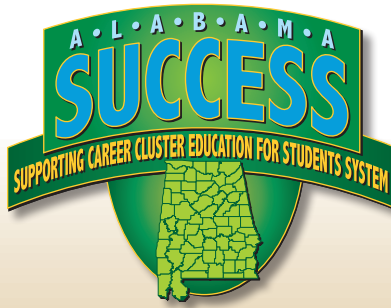
This Alabama SUCCESS guide is a great resource to assist in preparing for a bright and successful future.



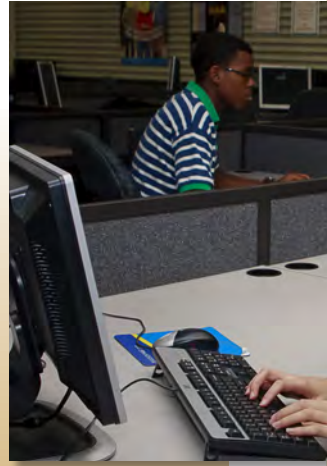
**Dr. Thomas R. Bice,  
Alabama State  
Superintendent of  
Education**

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



**Bill Stoeffhaas, President  
American Marketing Association  
Alabama Chapter, Birmingham  
Owner/Partner, Style Advertising**



“**C**reativity, as well as excellent writing and communications skills, is absolutely essential to Marketing, Sales & Service jobs.

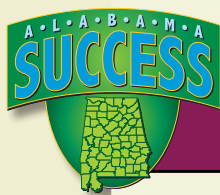
In order to keep up with the fast-paced field, employees must bring a positive and highly adaptable personality to work. For that reason, it helps to start as early as possible. Any kind of sales experience you can earn while still in school will give you a real-world idea of what marketing is all about.

Technology is changing the way we communicate, and good marketers must find ways to adapt their marketing strategies to utilize new technologies. Social networking, for example, has become the hottest topic in marketing. There is a fantastic opportunity for young professionals to capitalize on their experience using social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.



## WHAT'S INSIDE

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**CLUSTER**  
**MARKETING,  
SALES & SERVICE**

### PATHWAY

Professional Sales, Sales Management

Merchandising

Marketing Communication

### SAMPLE OCCUPATION

Real Estate Broker

Counter and Rental Clerk

Market Research Analyst

# Marketing, Sales & Service

Marketing, Sales & Service professionals help promote the goods and services offered by their clients. As a result, professionals in this career cluster help link consumers with businesses, thereby stimulating the entire economy. This is a fast-paced, project-based cluster that is in a constant state of change, creating a giant window of job opportunities.

## CLUSTER PROFILE



## YOU DECIDE

Does the Marketing, Sales & Service career cluster fit you, your talents, and your dreams? Take this quick quiz to find out.

# 1

Do you enjoy art, writing, or public speaking?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Marketing, Sales & Service jobs require employees to combine their creative strengths with strong communications skills.

# 2

Are you good at convincing your friends to follow your lead?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Sales is all about earning your clients' trust.

# 3

Are you friendly and outgoing?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

The ability to work well with others is vital to customer relations—a key element of careers in this cluster.

# 4

Do you enjoy speaking to groups of people?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

The Marketing, Sales & Service career cluster will put your public speaking skills to the test.

# 5

Do you have strong organizational and time management skills?

### WHY IT MATTERS:

To meet client expectations, you must also be well organized.



If you answered “yes” to most of these questions, Marketing Sales & Service could be right for you.



## YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

**NAME:** Emmalee S. Horton

**EDUCATION:** Susan Moore High School, Blountsville; University of North Alabama, Florence

Even though she has yet to enter the workforce, Emmalee S. Horton, a junior at the University of North Alabama (UNA) in Florence, is already well on her way to a successful business career.

While attending Blountsville's Susan Moore High School, Horton enrolled in the Blount County Career Technical Center in Cleveland, where she gained valuable experience in college-level business courses and earned a spot in the National Technical Honor Society. “From day one,” Horton says, “I knew what was going on in my business classes. I had roommates and friends in college who struggled with management and marketing classes. But that was something that came easy for me because I had a business marketing background.”

## LEARN MORE

Explore Marketing, Sales & Service education and career options in Alabama at the website of the Alabama Chapter of the American Marketing Association



# 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.

## SAMPLE\* Alabama Education Plan

**Name:** Jordan Smith  
**School:** Central High School  
**Diploma Option:** Advanced Career and Technical Endorsement  
**Cluster:** Marketing, Sales & Service  
**Pathway:** Marketing Communication  
**Career Goal:** Market Research Analyst  
**Postsecondary Goal:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing



	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 - ½</li> <li>Fine Arts - ½</li> <li>Computer Application - ½</li> <li>Foreign Language I**</li> <li>Foreign Language II**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Technology Application</li> <li>Business Essentials</li> <li>Computer Management and Support</li> <li>Commerce Communication</li> <li>Management Principles</li> <li>Marketing Principles</li> <li>Sales and Promotion Planning</li> <li>Entrepreneurship</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> <li>Math or Science Elective</li> <li>History, Social, or Behavioral Science</li> <li>Orientation for Career Students</li> </ul>			<b>Required and CTE Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Marketing Essentials</li> <li>Entrepreneurship and Management</li> <li>Introduction to Electronic Commerce</li> <li>Logistics Management</li> <li>Marketing Dynamics</li> <li>Marketing Information Systems</li> <li>Measuring Marketing Effectiveness</li> <li>Marketing Research</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal and Business Finance</li> <li>Product Development</li> <li>Promotional Management</li> <li>Retail Management</li> <li>Statistics</li> <li>Strategic Marketing</li> <li>Supply Chain Management</li> </ul>
<b>Higher Education</b>	<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					

**Co-Curricular Experiences:** DECA  
**Extracurricular Experiences:** School Newspaper; Yearbook  
**Service Learning Experiences:** Take customer-service surveys on behalf of nonprofit youth organization

### 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.

\*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.

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.



### 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.



# CAREER IDEAS

**Need-to-know facts and figures about real Alabama jobs, salaries, and education options in Marketing, Sales & Service.**

The 12 careers highlighted on the next page are a sampling of occupations in the **Marketing, Sales & Service** 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.

**For further information on occupations in all career clusters, go to the O\*NET database at [www.online.onetcenter.org](http://www.online.onetcenter.org).**

## 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

### Project Manager

**WHAT:** Organize and arrange all operations related to the carrying out of marketing campaigns for clients. Work with writers and designers to ensure a project is carried out in a timely manner and to the specifications of the client.

**WHO:** Project managers are creative individuals with big ideas, as well as an eye for organization and management. Project managers oversee multiple Marketing, Sales & Service projects at a time by being organized and by articulating their plans to clients.



### Online Marketing Manager

**WHAT:** Maximize sales by increasing and maintaining traffic on a company's website. Work with web designers, copy writers, and sales representatives to create online marketing campaigns. Manage online marketing budget and inform company leadership of online sales trends.

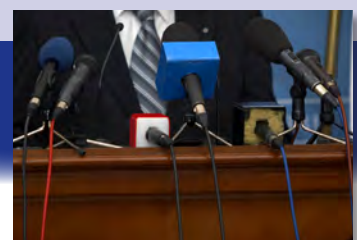
**WHO:** To create successful online marketing campaigns, online marketing managers must be both creative, organized, and able to work with people in teams, particularly in a leadership role. Although a bachelor's degree is generally preferred, some skills can be learned on the job.



### Political Press Secretary

**WHAT:** Handle media interviews, marketing materials, and much more. A press secretary has the inside scoop on breaking political news and keeps the public informed about government agencies and officials.

**WHO:** Press secretaries generally have a college degree combined with some field experience, usually through an internship. Additionally, press secretaries usually have a working knowledge of the politician or organization for which they work.





\$13.98  
\$21.56  
\$36.94

**Real Estate Broker**

**SOC: 41-9021**

Operate a real estate office, or work for a commercial real estate firm, selling or renting real estate, and arranging loans.



\$21.25  
\$38.78  
\$60.04

**Sales Engineer**

**SOC: 41-9031**

Sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers of technical or scientific products.



\$7.97  
\$10.22  
\$13.52

**Demonstrator and Product Promoter**

**SOC: 41-9011**

Demonstrate merchandise and answer questions so as to create public interest in buying the product.



\$10.49  
\$12.05  
\$22.89

**Procurement Clerk**

**SOC: 43-3061**

Process inquiries, prepare purchase orders, keep track of product inventory, and perform other tasks related to ordering supplies.



\$12.45  
\$22.03  
\$30.56

**Sales Representative (Except Technical and Scientific Products)**

**SOC: 41-4012**

Sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers in areas not related to science and technology.

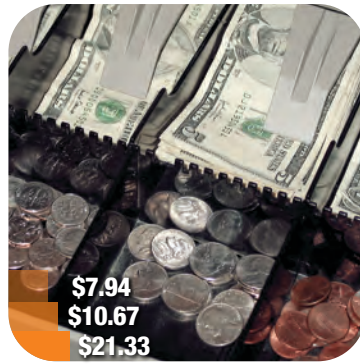


\$12.99  
\$20.48  
\$36.59

**Wholesale and Retail Buyer (Except Farm Products)**

**SOC: 13-1022**

Buy merchandise or commodities for resale to consumers at the wholesale or retail level.



\$7.94  
\$10.67  
\$21.33

**Door-to-Door Sales Worker, News and Street Vendors, and Related Workers**

**SOC: 41-9091**

Sell on the street or door-to-door in neighborhoods. Deliver merchandise, manage customer orders, and collect payment for orders.



\$12.93  
\$25.63  
\$47.23

**Market Research Analyst**

**SOC: 19-3021**

Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service.

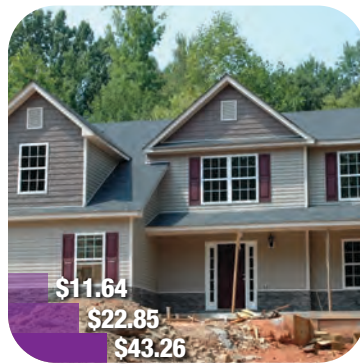


\$8.61  
\$12.94  
\$19.78

**Customer Service Representative**

**SOC: 43-4051**

Provide information to customers in response to inquiries about products and services; handle and resolve complaints.



\$11.64  
\$22.85  
\$43.26

**Real Estate Sales Agent**

**SOC: 41-9022**

Rent, buy, or sell property for clients. Includes agents who represent buyer.



\$7.95  
\$11.70  
\$18.96

**Order Clerk**

**SOC: 43-4151**

Take, process, and receive orders for a company's goods and services.



\$7.83  
\$10.28  
\$14.37

**Telemarketer**

**SOC: 41-9041**

Sell goods and services to businesses and individuals by telephone. Field questions and get information from potential customers.

# Think Again

Now is the time to take a fresh look at Marketing, Sales & Service careers you may not have considered before.



**MYTH:** Marketing is only for large companies.

**FACTS:** Virtually every business needs some form of marketing, which means your career options in marketing are without limits. Contrary to popular perception, most jobs in marketing, especially entry-level jobs, are with small, startup companies looking to gain footing in the advertising and public relations arena.

## 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



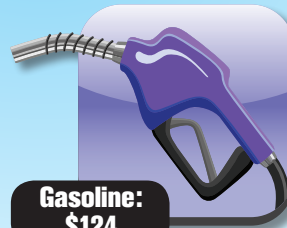
**Rent and utilities:**  
\$700–\$800  
*(1-bedroom)*



**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 **Marketing, Sales & Service** career cluster:



**DECA**  
DECA is an international association of high school and college students studying marketing, management, and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service.



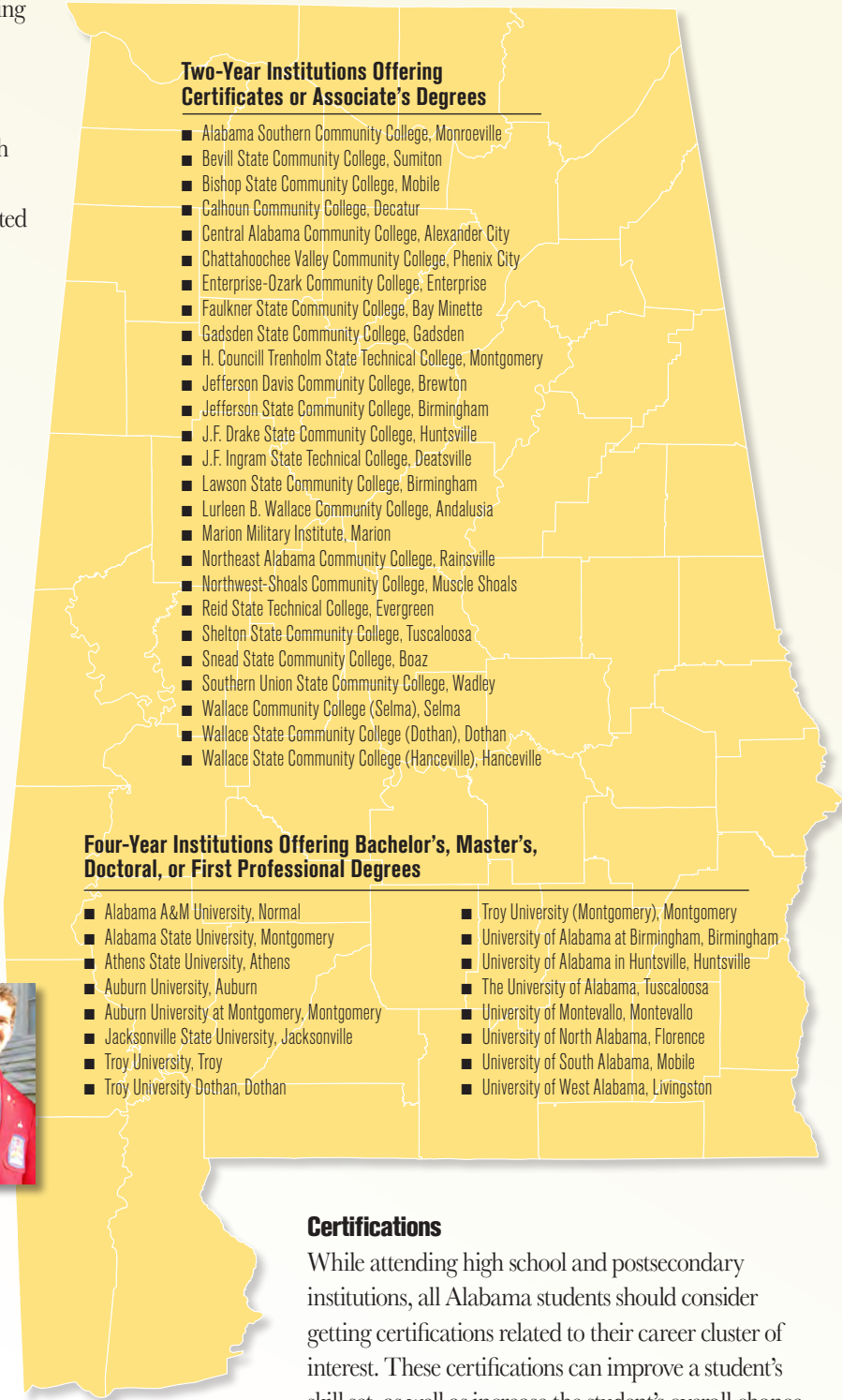
**SkillsUSA (TSA)**  
SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working to ensure American has a skilled workforce. Programs include student competitions and employer-driven training in all career and technical education areas.



**Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** FBLA is a great opportunity for Alabama students to learn about various business relationships in the state. The organization gives students in this cluster a first glance at basic business operations, as well as a great opportunity to network with other students and professionals in the field.

## 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.



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

- Alabama Southern Community College, Monroeville
- Beville 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.

## 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.

### 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.

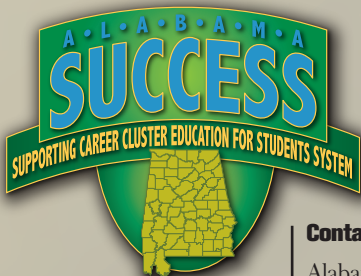
**Master's degree:** a degree awarded by universities for study beyond a bachelor's degree.

**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**