Market Yourself

Your guide to careers in MARKETING, SALES & SERVICE

Great Career Ideas • Creating Your Plan • College Resources
This 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.
Creativity, 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.
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**

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.”

**YOU DECIDE**

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, Blountville; University of North Alabama, Florence

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**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.

**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: Marketing, Sales & Service
Pathway: Marketing Communication
Career Goal: Market Research Analyst
Postsecondary Goal: Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing

### Math
- 9th Grade: Algebra I
- 10th Grade: Geometry
- 11th Grade: Algebra II
- 12th Grade: Pre-Calculus

### English
- 9th Grade: English 9
- 10th Grade: English 10
- 11th Grade: English 11
- 12th Grade: English 12

### Science
- 9th Grade: Physical Science
- 10th Grade: Biology
- 11th Grade: Chemistry
- 12th Grade: Physics

### Social Studies
- 9th Grade: World History 1500-Present
- 10th Grade: United States History to 1877
- 11th Grade: United States History to Present

### Other Optional Courses
- Physical Education
- Health
- Fine Arts
- Computer Applications
- History
- Social Studies

### Sampling of Career and Technical Education Courses in Pathway
- Business Technology Application
- Personal and Business Finance
- Product Development
- Promotional Management
- Retail Management
- Statistics
- Strategic Marketing
- Supply Chain Management

**Required and CTE Courses**
- Business and Marketing Essentials
- Entrepreneurship and Management
- Introduction to Electronic Commerce
- Logistics Management
- Marketing Dynamics
- Marketing Information Systems
- Measuring Marketing Effectiveness
- Marketing Research

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

**Education and Career Assessments:**
- 8th Grade: Interest inventory and education plan initiated for all learners
- 10th Grade: College placement assessment

**Career Learning Experiences:**
- Career preparation—paid and unpaid, internships, job shadowing

*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.**

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.

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.

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

**Sales Engineer**
SOC: 41-9031
Sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers of technical or scientific products.

**Demonstrator and Product Promoter**
SOC: 41-9011
Demonstrate merchandise and answer questions so as to create public interest in buying the product.

**Procurement Clerk**
SOC: 43-3061
Process inquiries, prepare purchase orders, keep track of product inventory, and perform other tasks related to ordering supplies.

**Order Clerk**
SOC: 43-4151
Take, process, and receive orders for a company's goods and services.

**Telemarketer**
SOC: 41-9041
Sell goods and services to businesses and individuals by telephone. Field questions and get information from potential customers.
**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.

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

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**Reality Check**

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


- **Car payment:** $350–$450 (Best 2010/2011 4-door)
- **Cell phone:** $70
- **Cable and Internet:** $90
- **Gasoline:** $124 (1,000 miles @ $3.10 per gallon, 25 MPG)
- **Rent and utilities:** $700–$800 (1-bedroom)
- **Groceries:** $200–$250
- **Gasoline:** $30–$95 (6-month policy)
- **Rent and utilities:** $700–$800 (1-bedroom)
- **Car insurance:** $30–$95 (6-month policy)

**Monthly total:** $1,310–$1,654  
**Yearly total:** $15,742–$19,851

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.
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.
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.
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 bachelor’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.

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.
Alabama Career Clusters and Pathways

Foundation and Knowledge Skills for Career and Technical Education

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.

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