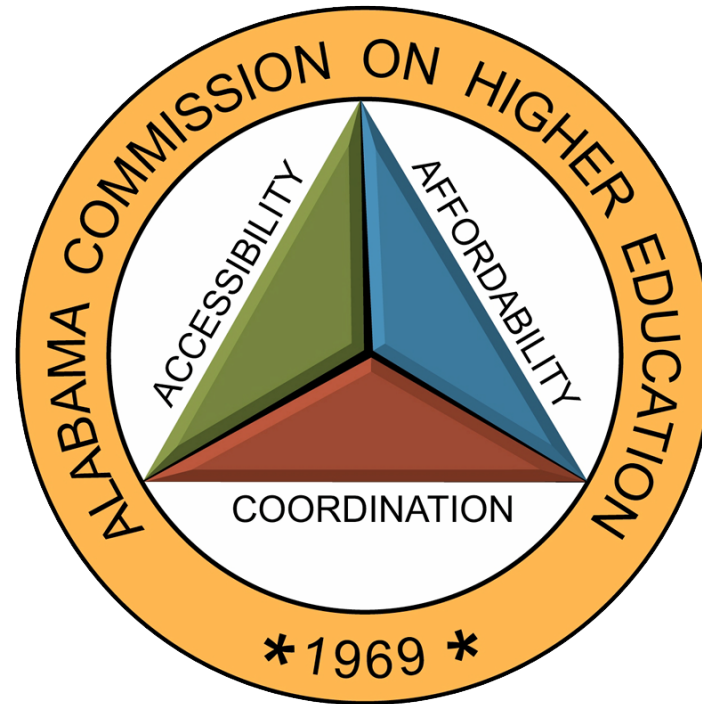


Alabama Commission on Higher Education



Commission Meeting
September 13, 2024



I. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL and QUORUM DETERMINATION



III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA



**Commission Meeting Agenda
of September 13, 2024**

Motion, Item III:

That the Commission accept the agenda for the September 13, 2024 meeting.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES



**Commission Meeting Minutes
of June 14, 2024**

Motion, Item IV:

That the Commission accept the Commission Meeting minutes for the June 14, 2024 meeting.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominating Committee Report

Jody Singleton, Chair

Rod Scott

Terry Welch



VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Travel Representing ACHE and Alabama

- Education Commission of the States, Semi-Annual Meeting (DC)
- State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Annual Meeting (DC)
- SHEEO Student Success Community of Practice, (Alexandria, VA)
- Lumina Foundation's 2024 State Policy Retreat, (Baltimore, MD)



ALIEEP's 2024 Meet & Greet with Consul General of India



Leadership Retreat

Otter Creek Farmstead, Ohatchee, AL

JAX STATE
Jacksonville State University





ALABAMA HIGHER EDUCATION AI EXCHANGE



Alabama Higher Education AI EXCHANGE

October 10-11, 2024

Auburn University, Alabama

Auburn University, in partnership with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, invites you to the **Alabama Higher Education AI Exchange**, an event to supercharge AI literacy, collaboration, and access for the state's higher education community.

This event will take place on the campus of Auburn University on Friday October 11, 2024, with pre-conference professional development events on Thursday October 10. Registration to be announced soon.

The **Alabama Higher Education AI Exchange** will feature three tracks:

- The **Research** track invites presentations and discussions on how artificial intelligence can enhance research, as well as research focused on artificial intelligence and related topics.
- The **Teaching & Learning** track invites presentations and discussions on the opportunities and challenges that artificial intelligence tools present for academic work, both inside and outside the classroom.
- The **Business Operations & Student Services** track invites presentations and discussions on using AI tools to improve efficiency in administrative and managerial functions, with a particular interest in practices that enhance student services.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

Presenter interest forms submitted through August 29, 2024, have been received. The committee reviewing the submissions will contact the presenters between August 30 and September 10.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Employees of academic institutions in the state of Alabama interested in sharing and learning about the impact of AI on research, teaching and learning, business operations, or student services
- Representatives of companies doing business in Alabama using artificial intelligence and related technologies to enhance research, teaching and learning, business operations, or student services
- Professionals interested in uses of artificial intelligence and related technologies in higher education

REGISTRATION

Register for Pre-Conference Sessions

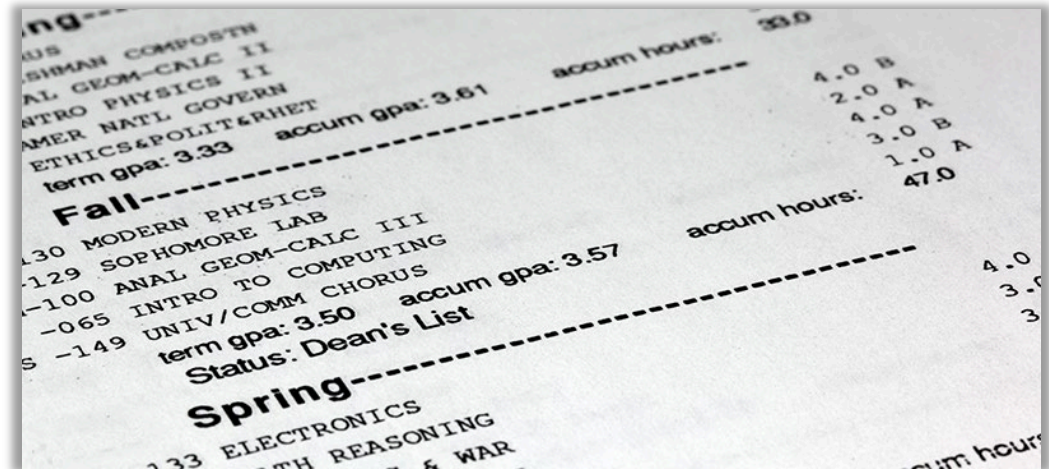
Register for the ACHE AI-Exchange

<https://biggio.auburn.edu/programs/artificial-intelligence/ache-ai-exchange>



Changes to Withholding Transcripts as of July

- Prior to July 1, institutions could withhold complete transcripts from students receiving federal aid (grants, loans, or work-study) who had any outstanding debt.
- As of July 1, new regulations limit the institutions' ability to withhold transcripts. Transcripts for any term (or clock hours) in which a student received **federal aid (grants, loans, or work-study)** and has fully paid all charges to the institutions must be released.



Freedom of Speech

Act 2019-396, §5, Code of Alabama, Section 16-68-5

FOR MORE INFORMATION : 📞 (334) 242 1998

STAFF DIRECTORY

FAQ

CONTACT US

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ACADEMICS ▾

POLICY ▾

EVENTS ▾

DATA

MAKERS

PORTAL

Freedom of Speech

Accountability

4-Year Institutions Monthly Expenditures

Freedom of Speech Policies

Code of Alabama

Annual Compliance Report

Code of Alabama, Section 16-Education, Chapter 68-Free Speech for Students, Faculty and Staff

Public Universities

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alabama A&M University | University of Montevallo |
| Alabama State University | The University of Alabama System |
| Athens State University | Troy University |
| Auburn University | University of North Alabama |
| Auburn University at Montgomery | University of South Alabama |
| Jacksonville State University | University of West Alabama |

+ Two-Year Public Colleges



Freedom of Speech

Act 2019-396, §5, Code of Alabama, Section 16-68-5

Annual Report is due by September 1 for the prior 12-month period ending July 31 to include the following:

1. Date and description of each policy violation adopted pursuant to this chapter.
2. Description of the administrative handling and discipline relating to each violation described.
3. Description of substantial difficulties, controversies, or successes in maintaining a posture of administrative and institutional neutrality.
4. Any assessments, criticism, commendations, or recommendations the board of trustees sees fit to include.

DEI Responses for October 1st Deadline

University of Alabama System Campuses Close DEI Divisions to Comply With Anti-DEI Law

Three universities are replacing their DEI divisions with new divisions to focus on all students and employees.

By [Evan Castillo](#)

Edited by [Darlene Earnest](#)
Learn more about our editorial process



Lance King / Replay Photos / Getty Images

abc 33/40 NEWS NEWS WEATHER SPORTS I-TEAM GAME CENTER WATCH LIVE

Auburn University to dissolve DEI offices

by Sumner Harrell | Mon, July 29th 2024 at 9:06 PM
Updated Mon, July 29th 2024 at 9:11 PM

AL.COM Alabama

EDUCATION LAB

Alabama's anti-DEI law kicks in: College offices close, websites scrubbed

Updated: Aug. 26, 2024, 12:03 p.m. | Published: Aug. 26, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

(Photo by John Karduner/Replay Photos via Getty Images)

TOPICS: [AUBURN UNIVERSITY](#) [DEI OFFICES](#) [ALABAMA ACT 2024-34](#) [DISSOLVED](#) [STA](#) >

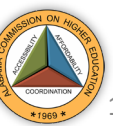


AUBURN, Ala. (WBMA) — Auburn University announced Monday its office of Inclusion and Diversity will be dissolved by Thursday, August 15.

The university said the decision was made in relation to [Alabama Act 2024-34 \(SB129\)](#), a state law that will go into effect on October 1.

Alabama at t
have all clo
of Access, C
e replaced b
ccess, whil
, according to the AP;
mer head of DEI.

- Alabama's anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion law goes into effect Oct. 1.
- The University of Alabama says its new Division of Opportunities, Connections, and Success will host programs and events for students from various backgrounds, educate the community on free speech and civil discourse, and help students succeed in a diverse workforce.



Top 10 Challenges in Higher Education Management and How Full Fabric Addresses Them

📅 Last updated: August 7, 2024



1. Enrollment management and student retention
2. Students have higher standards
3. More competition
4. Focus shifting from degrees to 'experiences'
5. Embracing technology and digital transformation
6. Building relationships with students
7. Decreased public funding
8. Rising costs of education
9. Faculty recruitment and workload
10. Inclusion and diversity

<https://www.fullfabric.com/articles/challenges-in-higher-education-management>

1. Enrollment management and student retention
2. Students have higher standards
3. **More competition**

You are now competing with bootcamps, micro-credentials, professional certifications, and a huge swathe of online training providers.



SOFTWARE ENGINEERING BOOTCAMP

Get career-ready to land your dream tech job with hands-on software engineering skills. And make it happen with 0% interest financing. Our Software Engineering Bootcamp gives you next-level instruction, exclusive career coaching, and the right connections to get hired.

Micro-Credentials

Defined as “a short, competency-based recognition that allows an educator to demonstrate mastery in a particular area,” micro-credentials show that a person has a capability or a skill without undergoing formal long-form education. The massive influx of people post-pandemic will balloon the micro-credentialing industry from a \$9.9 billion market in 2019 to an estimated \$20 billion by 2025.

Professional Certifications



1. Enrollment management and student retention
2. Students have higher standards
3. More competition
4. **Focus shifting from degrees to ‘experiences’**

This is a huge shift, creating pressure for universities to change not just how they run their institutions but also how they market them.



WSJ

LSU's 'Lazy River' and the Student-Fee Sham

By Naomi Schaefer Riley Dec. 15, 2017

THE COLLEGE FIX

George Washington U. student government demands termination of two professors

DAVE HUBER - ASSOCIATE EDITOR • FEBRUARY 12, 2022



1. Enrollment management and student retention
2. Students have higher standards
3. More competition
4. Focus shifting from degrees to ‘experiences’
5. **Embracing technology and digital transformation**
6. **Building relationships with students**



- ... infrastructure is plagued with ancient tools...
- limiting what [colleges] can offer.
 - puts them at a disadvantage... [in offering] online programs.
 - limitations effect how you communicate with students.
 - harder to stay in touch and foster relationships with both prospective and existing students.

1. Enrollment management and student retention
2. Students have higher standards
3. More competition
4. Focus shifting from degrees to 'experiences'
5. Embracing technology and digital transformation
6. Building relationships with students
- 7. Decreased public funding**
- 8. Rising costs of education**
9. Faculty recruitment and workload
10. Inclusion and diversity

Universities struggle to offer quality education at affordable prices.
... burdening students and exacerbating social inequalities.

Adopting new and varied business models... could be in the form of new pricing structures, offering micro-credentials and online learning.



1. Enrollment management and student retention
2. Students have higher standards
3. More competition
4. Focus shifting from degrees to 'experiences'
5. Embracing technology and digital transformation
6. Building relationships with students
7. Decreased public funding
8. Rising costs of education
- 9. Faculty recruitment and workload**
10. Inclusion and diversity

Top faculty are in high demand...
The key to attracting the best talent...
is to make your current employees' work lives as good as possible.
Removing as much friction from your process as possible can make their lives much easier.



April 07, 2023

Historic Faculty Pay Increase Still Beaten by Inflation

Continued inflation consumed even the largest average salary increase in more than 30 years, the AAUP reports.

By [Ryan Quinn](#)



April 11, 2024

Full-time Faculty Raises Finally Beat Inflation ... Just Barely

With the dollar's declining value taken into account, new data shows that real wages grew by half a percent. But pay remains well below pre-pandemic levels, and full-time women and part-timers continue to receive less than others.

By [Ryan Quinn](#)

1. Enrollment management and student retention
2. Students have higher standards
3. More competition
4. Focus shifting from degrees to ‘experiences’
5. Embracing technology and digital transformation
6. Building relationships with students
7. Decreased public funding
8. Rising costs of education
9. Faculty recruitment and workload
- 10. Inclusion and diversity**

Socioeconomic barriers, lack of support systems, and unconscious biases create obstacles... must address these challenges systematically... analyze existing student data to identify areas that need improvement.

EDUCATION LAB

Alabama’s anti-DEI law kicks in: College offices close, websites scrubbed •By [Rebecca Griesbach | rgriesbach@al.com](#)

Updated: Aug. 26, 2024, 12:03 p.m. | Published: Aug. 26, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

U of Alabama Requires Black and LGBTQ+ Groups to Relocate From Student Center By [Jessica Blake](#)



Strong Start, Strong Finish: An Education-to-Workforce Vision for Alabama



Governor Ivey established a strategic vision for aligning Alabama's education and workforce programs from Pre-K to the workforce to provide for a seamless education-to-workforce continuum for all Alabamians in 2018.

Governor Ivey set a postsecondary education attainment goal of adding 500,000 credential holders to Alabama's workforce by 2025.



Based on latest available data, the Credential Attainment across Alabama for 2021 was **214,922** with projections of **365,000** for 2023.



A STRONGER NATION

LEARNING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL BUILDS AMERICAN TALENT

We're tracking America's progress toward the **60%** attainment goal.



<https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/#/progress>

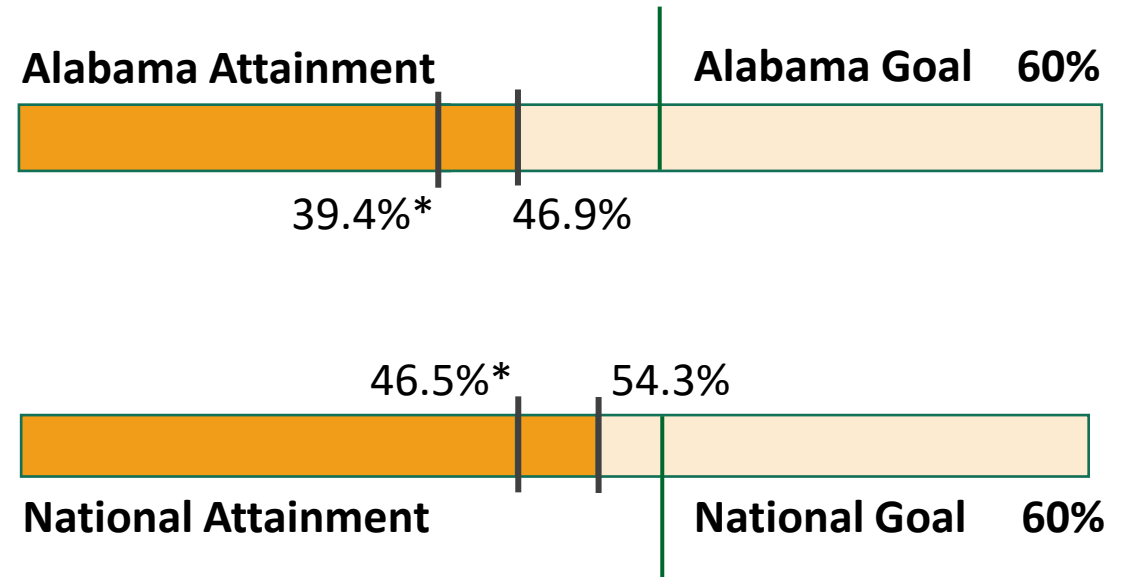


We are tracking Alabama's progress.

How Alabama compares to the nation

Alabama is making progress in increasing educational attainment but still lags when compared to the national average of 54.3 percent.

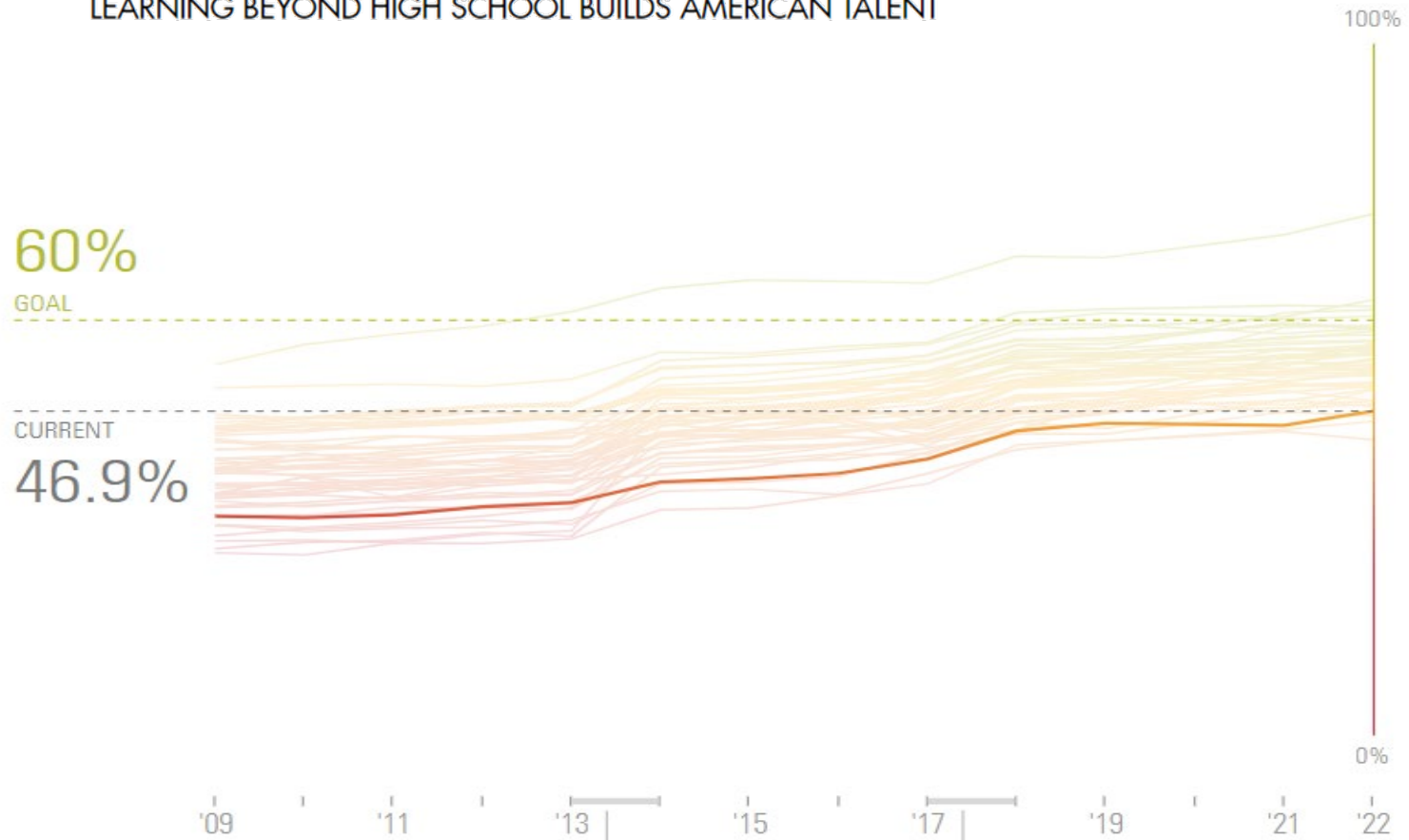
Alabama's attainment rate is 46.9 percent, and the state is working toward its attainment goal of 60 percent by 2025.



***without short-term credentials**

A STRONGER NATION

LEARNING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL BUILDS AMERICAN TALENT

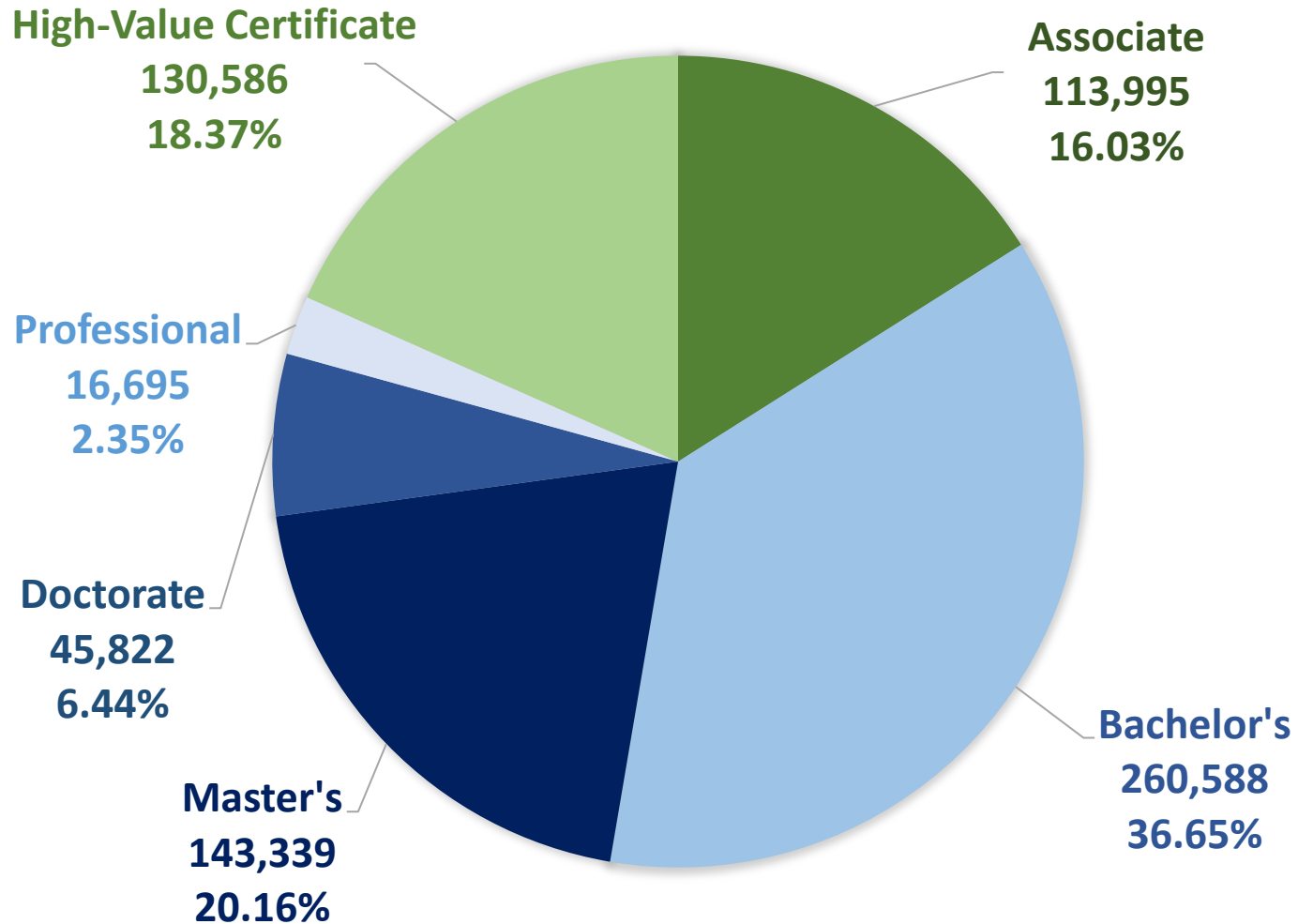


Workforce-relevant
certificates first included in
attainment calculations

Industry-recognized
certifications first included
in attainment calculations

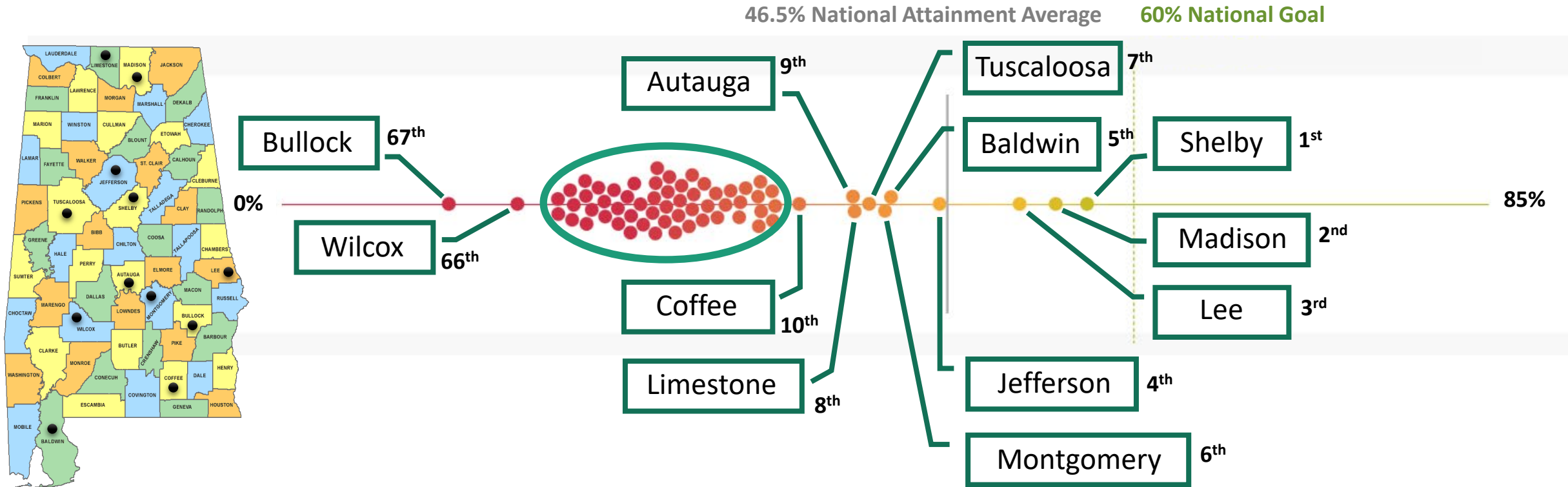
500,000 Credentials Needed by 2025

1/3
of needed
credentials can be
earned at
2-year institutions



2/3
of new jobs in
Alabama will
require
a 4-year degree

2022 Degree Attainment by County



Retain Alabama and the State's Workforce

The **Retain Alabama Initiative** led to the *All in Alabama* campaign and its three components:

- **Retain Alabama** – encourage college graduates to live and work in Alabama after graduation.
- **Recall Alabama** – outreach to former graduates to entice them to return to the state's workforce
- **(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program** – help adults to return to college and finish their degrees

**ALL
IN AL**



VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS



Alabama Workforce

Guest Presenter: Joseph Lulka

Joseph Lulka is an engineer at Mercedes-Benz U.S. International (MBUSI) in Vance. He worked for over two years as a Battery Analysis Engineer in MBUSI's Bibb County Battery Plant. Joseph currently works as a Buildability Engineer in MBUSI's SUV factory, performing root cause analysis to resolve issues affecting vehicles' quality.

He is Chair of the Alabama Germany Partnership's Young Professional Group, which organizes social and professional events to showcase German industry in the state and cultivate cultural understanding between Germans and Alabamians.

Joseph received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alabama in 2021. Joseph is a native of Concord, New Hampshire and currently resides in Northport.



HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant Results

Staff Presenter: Dr. Jim Hood



Deferred Maintenance Landscape

Public Universities:
34.86% of GSF constructed
 between 1960 and 1989

Public Community Colleges:
52.98% of GSF constructed
 between 1960 and 1989

Physical Plant By Year of Construction Alabama Public Colleges and Universities 1810-2023, Gross Square Feet (GSF)

Decade	Total University		Total Two-Year	
	Total GSF	Percent of Total	Total GSF	Percent of Total
Unknown	568,121	0.76%	28,938	0.21%
1810-1819	918	0.00%	-	0.00%
1820-1829	17,596	0.02%	-	0.00%
1830-1839	18,203	0.02%	720	0.01%
1840-1849	86,340	0.12%	-	0.00%
1850-1859	79,593	0.11%	30,514	0.22%
1860-1869	66,400	0.09%	-	0.00%
1870-1879	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
1880-1889	154,980	0.21%	-	0.00%
1890-1899	125,284	0.17%	-	0.00%
1900-1909	313,345	0.42%	6,230	0.04%
1910-1919	462,998	0.62%	7,442	0.05%
1920-1929	2,817,626	3.77%	64,346	0.46%
1930-1939	2,484,831	3.32%	76,427	0.55%
1940-1949	1,402,419	1.88%	147,390	1.06%
1950-1959	1,793,767	2.40%	295,389	2.12%
1960-1969	9,652,535	12.91%	3,641,857	26.15%
1970-1979	9,441,248	12.63%	2,448,289	17.58%
1980-1989	6,976,634	9.33%	1,288,363	9.25%
1990-1999	8,084,233	10.81%	2,009,389	14.43%
2000-2009	13,833,409	18.50%	2,457,391	17.64%
2010-2019	13,642,003	18.24%	1,256,883	9.02%
2020-2023	2,758,512	3.69%	167,301	1.20%
Total	74,780,995	100.00%	13,926,869	100.00%

Note: Figures reflect all Alabama public colleges and universities.
 Source: ACHE Fall 2023 Facilities Inventory Survey

HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Overview

- Lawmakers passed two Acts in 2024 that provided a total of \$9 million in funding
 - \$4 million from supplemental (Act 2024-428)
 - \$5 million from regular (Act 2024-351)
- Projects limited to deferred maintenance defined as general upkeep and maintenance of facilities
- Priority placed on projects related to ADA, health, and safety compliance
- No matching requirement between institutional and state funds



Eligible Deferred Maintenance

Deferred maintenance projects are associated with the upkeep of the institutions' facilities. **The grant prioritizes plans necessary to maintain functionality, not to improve aesthetics.** Projects for repair and/or replacement include but are not limited to the following:

- Roofing
- Gutters and Downspouts
- Interior or Exterior Painting
- Resurfacing of Floors
- Windows and Window Hardware
- Electrical and Plumbing Systems
- Traffic Control Devices
- Security Cameras and Systems
- Interior or Exterior Lighting
- Sidewalks
- Parking Areas and Roadways
- Central Heating and Cooling (HVAC)
- Projects related to ADA, health, and safety compliance

Eligible HBCU Institutions (14)

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Bishop State Community College
- Drake State Community College
- Gadsden State Community College
- Lawson State Community College
- Miles College
- Oakwood University
- Selma University
- Shelton State Community College
- Stillman College
- Talladega College
- Trenholm State Community College
- Tuskegee University

HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Overview

To facilitate institutional planning, grant funds from the two Acts were combined into one \$9 million pool of funds.

- \$4 million would be available immediately (supplemental appropriation)
- \$5 million would be distributed quarterly (regular appropriation)

ACT	Appropriation Type	Amount	% of Total Funds	Distribution Timeline
2024-428	Supplemental (Available immediately)	\$4,000,000	44.4%	September 2024
2024-351	Regular ETF (Available Quarterly in 2024-25)	\$5,000,000	55.6%	1st Qtr – 11/01/24 2nd Qtr – 01/31/25 3rd Qtr – 05/02/25 4th Qtr – 08/01/25

HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Overview

- \$1.8 million limit/cap per institution (20% of total funds)
- ACHE convened Zoom meeting on July 12 to discuss grant program
- Institutions submitted projects in priority order on August 2 (14 of 14 submitted)
- Institutions submitted 42 projects requesting over \$19.6 million (funds addressed 46%)
- ACHE Financial Affairs Committee reviewed and finalized distribution of funds August 16



Distribution of Funds

Public Universities

- A&M and ASU each received \$1.8 million (cap limit)
- 40% of total available funds

Public Community Colleges

- Average award of \$547,178
- 36.5% of total available funds

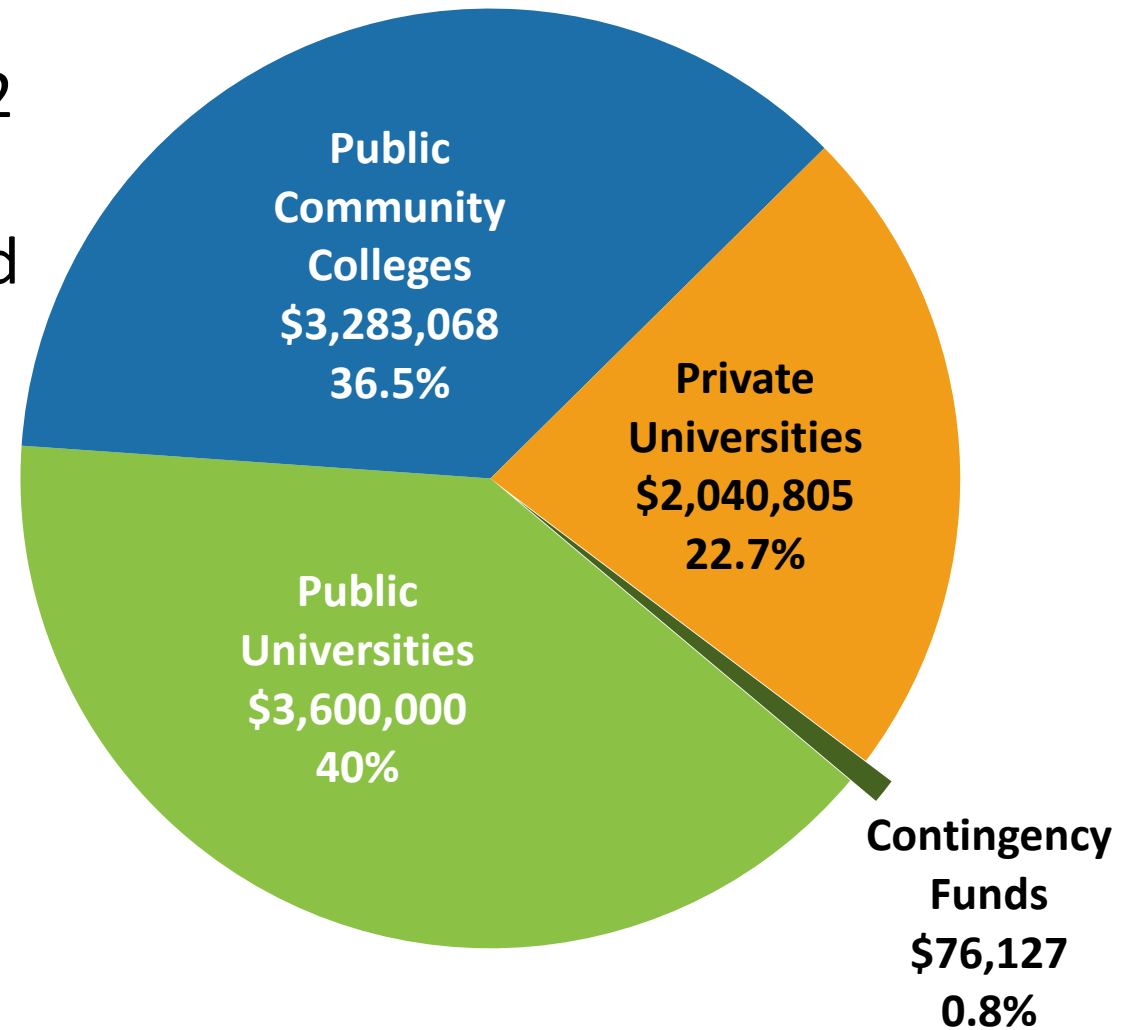
Private Colleges & Universities

- Average award of \$371,261 (excluding Miles College)
- 22.7% of total available funds

Institution	Institution Total
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES (2)	
Alabama A&M University	\$ 1,800,000
Alabama State University	\$ 1,800,000
PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES (6)	
Bishop State Community College	\$ 575,000
Drake State Community College	\$ 550,000
Gadsden State Community College	\$ 558,068
Lawson State Community College	\$ 500,000
Trenholm State Community College	\$ 525,000
Shelton State Community College	\$ 575,000
PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (6)	
Miles College	\$ 184,500
Oakwood University	\$ 360,887
Selma University	\$ 400,000
Talladega College	\$ 375,000
Stillman College	\$ 395,418
Tuskegee University	\$ 325,000
Contingency Funds	\$ 76,127
Total Funds	\$ 9,000,000

Funding Summary by Sector

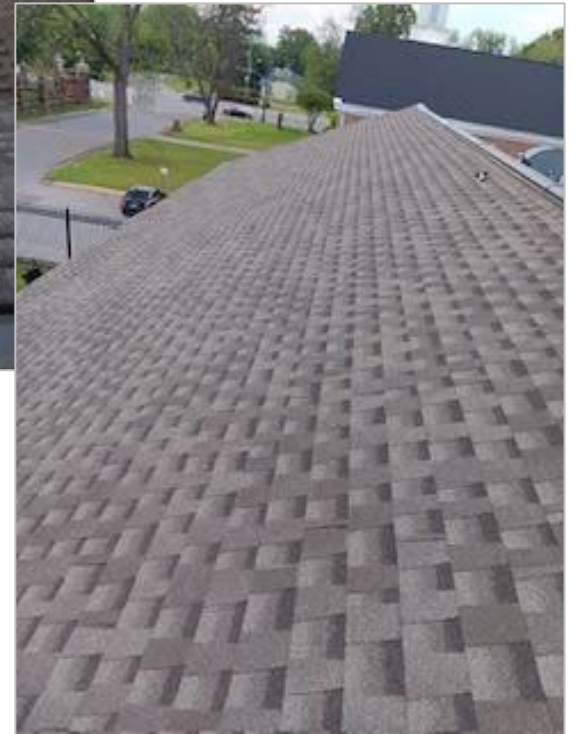
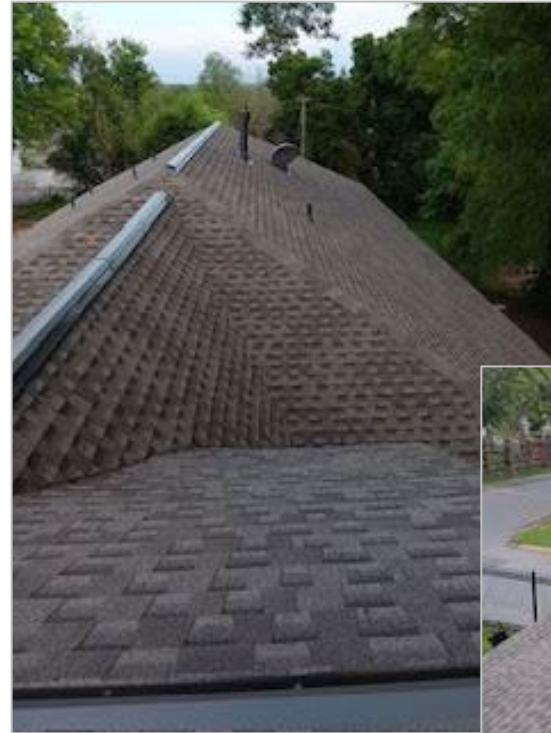
- Institutions collectively submitted 42 projects totaling \$19.64 million
 - 31 (74%) of those projects received full (19) or partial (7) funding
- The grant dollars addressed 45.8% of the requested dollars indicating the ongoing need for these funds.
 - Includes \$76,127 in contingency funds to address inflationary cost overruns, etc.



ASU Roof Renovation Project



Stillman Roof Renovation Project



HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Current Timeline

- **August 20** – Institutions were notified of their selected projects
- **August 23** – Grant Acceptance Forms due
- **September 16** – ACHE begins distributing supplemental funds (44%)
- **November 1** – ACHE begins quarterly payments from regular appropriation (remaining 55% of funds)



Roof renovation for
Adult Education Building at
Lawson State Community College

IX. DECISION ITEMS



A. Approval of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie Dolan

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2025

March 14, 2025

June 13, 2025

September 12, 2025

December 12, 2025

*Mark your
calendars*

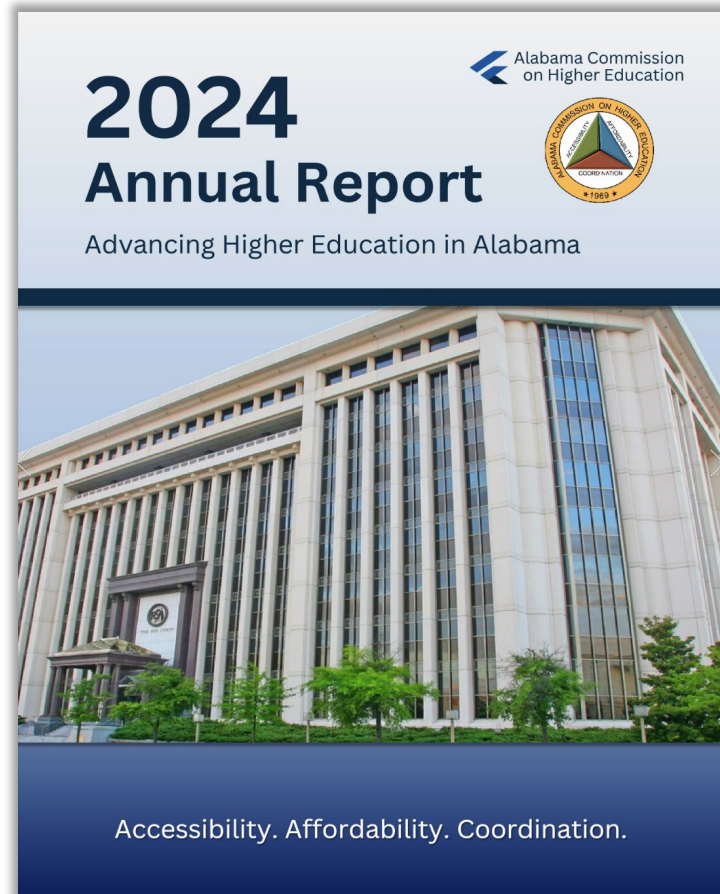


Motion, Decision Item A:

That the Commission approve the Commission's 2025 Meeting Schedule.

B. 2023-24 Annual Report ACHE State Plan Update

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie Dolan




The cover of the 2024 Annual Report features a photograph of a large, modern university building with a prominent glass facade and classical architectural elements. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout.

**2024
Annual Report**

Advancing Higher Education in Alabama

Alabama Commission
on Higher Education



ACCESSIBILITY
AFFORDABILITY
COORDINATION
1969

Building Human Capital Strategic Plan 2018-2030

As per the Alabama Code 16-5-6, the Commission shall be responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education in Alabama. Such planning shall be the result of continuous study, analysis, and evaluation. Plans will include the establishment of statewide objectives and priorities with methods and guidelines for achieving them.

Improving Access

Enhancing Student Success

Enhancing STEM Progress

Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce

Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Board Approved 12/8/2017

The Educational Path to Alabama's Economic Success

2024 Annual Report



Advancing Higher Education in Alabama



Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education, a statewide 12-member lay board appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate, is the state agency responsible for the overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, the administration of various student aid programs, and the performance of designated regulatory functions. The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision making and policy formulation regarding responsible stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students and the goals of institutions. The agency also provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State.

Responsibilities of the Commission include the following:

- Approves new units of instruction, including new institutions, mergers, branch campuses, colleges, schools, divisions, and departments;
- Approves any new academic programs;
- Approves off-campus instruction;
- Facilitates planning for higher education, including developing a statewide plan;
- Reviews and makes recommendations concerning existing programs;
- Prepares a Consolidated Budget Recommendation to the Governor and Legislature, including budget recommendations from all public community colleges and universities and for statewide initiatives;
- Collects and compiles information concerning higher education in the State;
- Administers student financial assistance programs;
- Conducts studies on higher education issues and makes recommendations to the institutions, the Legislature and the Governor concerning its findings;
- Provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State;
- Reviews institutional facilities masterplans and reports to trustees and the Legislature;
- Maintains an electronic student unit record system to provide accountability on student progress;
- Oversight for the programmatic review of private and public institutions operating as foreign corporations in Alabama in accord with the regulatory authority assigned to the Commission by statute; and
- Serves as the state portal entity for Alabama's participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

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ACHE Commissioners



Miranda Bouldin, Chair
5th District
Term: 09/18/2015 - 08/31/2024



Amy Shipley Price, Vice Chair
3rd District
Term: 09/01/2016 - 08/31/2025



Ann Forbes
1st District
Term: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



Charles D. Buntin
2nd District
Term: 09/01/2015 - 08/31/2024



Paul W. Kennedy
4th District
Term: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



Timothy Gyan
6th District
Term: 09/18/2015 - 08/31/2024



ACHE Commissioners



Shane Spiller
7th District
Term: 02/21/2024 - 08/31/2029



Stan Nelson
At-Large
Term: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2027



Rod Scott
At-Large
Term: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2028



Jody M. Singleton
At-Large
Term: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2030



Larry Turner
At-Large
Term: 03/27/2019 - 08/31/2027



Terry Welch
At-Large
Term: 02/21/2024 - 02/20/2031



Message from the Commission Chair

As Chair of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, I am pleased to present ACE's 2024 Annual Report to Governor Ivey and the Alabama Legislature.

The Commission on Higher Education is legislatively tasked with the statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama. The agency's responsibilities encompass administering a variety of student aid programs and carrying out specific regulatory functions. Other key duties of the Commission include approving new academic programs at public two- and four-year institutions, submitting annual funding recommendations to the governor and the legislature, and approving off-campus offerings for these institutions.

As a statewide coordinating board, the Commission has emerged as a leading source of information about higher education. Whether the inquiry pertains to student data, institutional details, non-resident institutions operating within the state, financial aid, or statewide research and development activities, the Commission stands as a vital resource for the citizens of Alabama and their leadership. Embracing this role, the Commission continually seeks innovative ways to enhance information collection and dissemination.



The Alabama Commission on Higher Education continuously seeks to respond effectively and efficiently when the legislature appoints the Commission as the state agency to oversee and administer legislative acts. One example is the recent development of the Student Horizon Database, which offers the public and prospective students an

online, comprehensive source of information about the state's colleges and universities. Through these efforts, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to transparency and accessibility, ensuring that Alabamians have the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about higher education.

The Commission is committed to advocating for students, faculty, and institutions of higher education in Alabama. I encourage you to explore this report and other ACE publications available on the ACE website to gain a deeper understanding of the Commission's vital role in Alabama's higher education system.



Letter from the Executive Director

Considering everything, it was a great year for higher education in Alabama. Enrollment at Alabama's public colleges and universities stabilized after years of fluctuations, and the governor and the legislature provided robust support by approving a third consecutive year of funding increases of six percent or more. In addition, campuses received one-time funding to address deferred maintenance and new facility needs.

The "considering everything" caveat pertains to this year's problematic rollout of the revised Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Anxiety was ever present in conversations with students and campus leaders as they worked toward Fall enrollment. After countless delays and faulty communications, students finally received notifications from the federal government in late May. Despite these setbacks, the college and university financial aid and admissions staff, along with high school counselors and career coaches, showed remarkable adaptability. They significantly altered their operations to address issues with the U.S. Department of Education's processing of aid applications. With many scholarship programs relying on FAFSA completion, both current college students and high school seniors faced financial uncertainty. The good news is



that by late August, the year-to-year rate for FAFSA completion by Alabama's high school seniors only reduced by two percent, changing participation from 59% to 57%.

This year also marked the final chapter for Birmingham-Southern College. The closure of this highly regarded 168-year-old institution highlights

the financial fragility many colleges and universities face today. Other private colleges in Alabama, such as Judson College and Concordia College, have also recently closed their doors. Managing a campus is not only about balancing resources and maintaining quality academic offerings but also about willingly adapting to a rapidly changing world and its society.

Time's passage urges us to embrace each new horizon. Institutions have taken significant strides in welcoming educational advancements, such as integrating artificial intelligence into curricula, research, and administration. Colleges and universities are not just adapting to change; they are leading the way into a future where education and technology are deeply interconnected, ushering in a new era driven by innovation and opportunity.



Alabama Two-Year Public Institutions



- Bevill State Community College
- Bishop State Community College
- Calhoun Community College
- Central Alabama Community College
- Chattahoochee Valley Community College
- Coastal Alabama Community College
- Drake State Community and Technical College
- Enterprise State Community College
- Gadsden State Community College
- Ingram State Technical College
- Jefferson State Community College
- Lawson State Community College
- Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
- Marion Military Institute
- Northeast Alabama Community College
- Northwest Shoals Community College
- Reid State Technical College
- Shelton State Community College
- Snead State Community College
- Southern Union State Community College
- Trenholm State Community College
- Wallace Community College – Dothan
- Wallace Community College – Selma
- Wallace State Community College – Hanceville

Alabama Four-Year Public Institutions

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Athens State University
- Auburn University
- Auburn University at Montgomery
- Jacksonville State University
- Troy University
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- University of Montevallo
- University of North Alabama
- University of South Alabama
- University of West Alabama



Legislative Updates

Historic State Support for Public Education

The 2025 Education Trust Fund bill was signed into law in May 2024 by Governor Ivey and was the largest budget ever appropriated to fund education in the state, totaling \$9.35 billion. The legislature also passed two bills of supplemental funding for FY24.

Act 2024-351 FY25 Operating Budget for Higher Education

Institution Type	Amount Received	Percentage Increase Over FY24
Two-Year	\$ 586,946,967	6.47%
Four-Year	\$ 1,666,073,229	7.24%

Act 2024-428 FY24 Supplemental Funding for Higher Education

Alabama Community College System	\$ 112,390,057
Alabama A&M University	\$ 12,000,000
Alabama State University	\$ 9,000,000
Athens State University	\$ 5,750,000
Auburn University	\$ 28,675,000
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$ 5,250,000
Firefighters' Personnel Standards & Education Commission/Fire College	\$ 1,400,000
Jacksonville State University	\$ 12,700,000
Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium	\$ 4,000,000
Troy University	\$ 14,250,000
Tuskegee University	\$ 5,000,000
University of Alabama System	\$ 63,000,000
University of Alabama in Huntsville	\$ 3,000,000
University of Montevallo	\$ 9,250,000
University of North Alabama	\$ 14,000,000
University of South Alabama	\$ 23,000,000
University of West Alabama	\$ 11,750,000
Alabama Commission on Higher Education	\$ 13,920,000
HBCU Deferred Maintenance Program	\$ 4,000,000
Birmingham Zoo - Alabama Veterinary Teaching Hospital	\$ 2,500,000
Best and Brightest STEM Pilot Program	\$ 270,000
EarlyWorks Museum in Huntsville	\$ 850,000
NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament	\$ 250,000
Para-Cycling Road World Championship	\$ 250,000
SEC Baseball Tournament	\$ 500,000
Selma University	\$ 100,000
Southern Museum of Flight	\$ 200,000
USS Alabama Battleship	\$ 500,000
ReEngage Alabama Grant Program	\$4,500,000



Legislative Updates

Act 2024-429 Advancement and Technology FY24 Supplemental Appropriation

Alabama A&M University	\$ 5,820,931
Alabama Community College System	\$ 96,337,344
Alabama State University	\$ 3,654,216
Athens State University	\$ 3,518,874
Auburn University	\$ 30,602,181
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$ 5,770,804
Jacksonville State University	\$ 11,056,636
Troy University	\$ 14,559,220
Tuskegee University	\$ 985,320
University of Alabama System	\$ 67,638,715
University of Montevallo	\$ 2,986,909
University of North Alabama	\$ 10,629,307
University of South Alabama	\$ 13,494,033
University of West Alabama	\$6,645,510

Act 2023-539 (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program

In 2023, the Alabama Legislature approved the appropriation of \$4.5 million to benefit students who had earned some college credit and met given criteria to start spring 2024. In 2024, the legislature approved another \$4.5 million appropriation to extend financial assistance to more qualified students. The (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program seeks to remove academic and financial barriers that often prevent adults from reengaging in the academic process and completing their degrees. By aligning specific programs of study with Alabama's high-wage, high-demand occupations identified by the Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathways (ACCCP), Alabama residents have new means to enhance their career opportunities and enrich the workforce of Alabama.

ACHE Board Appointments

- Alabama Local Government Training Institute (ALGTI)
- Alabama Terminal for Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on Career Pathways
- Alabama Workforce Council Committee on Credential Quality and Transparency
- Forever Wild Land Trust
- Joint Interim Study Commission on Responsible Technology Purchases
- Postsecondary Math Task Force
- Principal Mentoring and Leadership Committee



Institutional Finance

Consolidated Budget Recommendation

The Commission receives, evaluates, and coordinates budget requests for the public institutions of higher education in Alabama. A single consolidated budget report containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions is presented annually to the governor and legislature. The recommendation of the Commission is based on, but not limited to, assessment of institutional requests, funding needs derived from standard techniques of objective measurement and need, and unit cost figures calculated through the use of comparative, verified data supplied by the institutions. The Consolidated Budget Recommendation also includes the Commission's recommendation for a variety of statewide programs and activities.

Alabama Public Higher Education Institutions				
Institution	FY23-24 Appropriation	FY24-25 Institutional Budget Request	FY24-25 ACHE Recommendation	FY24-25 Appropriation
Alabama A & M University *	\$53,771,418	\$263,418,484	\$57,110,648	\$57,304,433
Alabama State University	\$59,164,786	\$66,919,544	\$62,833,634	\$62,783,930
Athens State University	\$20,487,367	\$22,762,838	\$21,704,933	\$21,741,509
Auburn University	\$330,460,333	\$363,299,854	\$353,598,722	\$355,844,105
Auburn University Montgomery	\$31,522,666	\$34,663,441	\$33,671,445	\$33,112,856
Jacksonville State University	\$53,428,224	\$60,898,745	\$56,484,190	\$57,483,222
Troy University	\$75,811,358	\$85,050,000	\$80,863,580	\$82,021,926
University of Alabama	\$229,905,984	\$249,617,899	\$247,127,000	\$248,302,456
University of Alabama at Birmingham	\$374,266,862	\$395,357,013	\$401,415,675	\$397,409,628
University of Alabama in Huntsville	\$68,328,381	\$126,885,487	\$73,142,112	\$72,681,686
University of Montevallo	\$28,843,970	\$32,923,065	\$30,615,682	\$30,730,750
University of North Alabama	\$48,855,509	\$58,050,000	\$52,206,727	\$53,339,628
University of South Alabama	\$150,374,562	\$167,112,019	\$161,845,271	\$161,458,465
University of West Alabama	\$27,710,078	\$32,255,786	\$29,769,492	\$31,265,149
Miles College **	\$493,486	-	-	\$493,486
Stillman College **	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
Total Senior Institutions	\$1,553,524,984	\$1,959,214,175	\$1,662,389,110	\$1,666,073,229
Two-Year Institutions ***	\$436,197,495	\$452,506,116	\$458,067,686	\$450,474,444
Total of All Institutions	\$1,989,722,479	\$2,411,720,291	\$2,120,456,796	\$2,116,547,673

* Included capital improvement in budget request
 ** Pass through appropriation to Private Institutions
 *** Two-Year Institution line includes O&M only

Alabama's postsecondary institutions requested an increase of 21% for their FY24-25 budgets. The Commission approved a recommendation for an increase of 7%, totaling \$2,120,456,796. In Act 2024-351, the legislature appropriated a total of \$2,116,547,673 from the Education Trust Fund to these institutions, increasing 6% above FY23-24 budget.



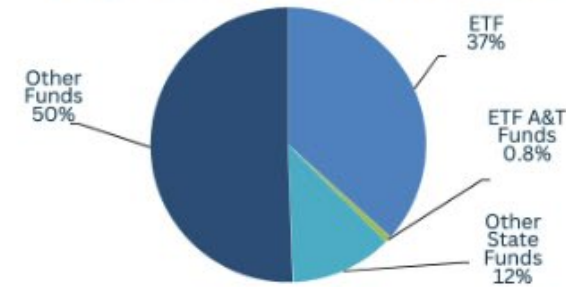
Institutional Finance

Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests

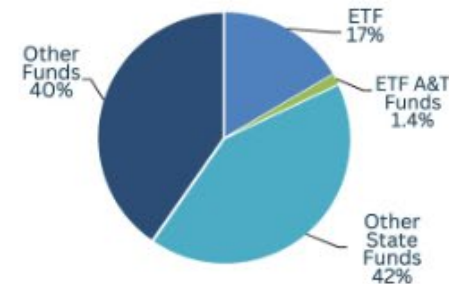
Each public two- and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Request to the Commission as required by statute. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Request Report for the FY25-29 period was presented at the December 8, 2023 Commission meeting. The two- and four-year institutions will need over \$6.9 billion to fund capital projects during this five-year period. A summary table of the general obligation bonds that have been issued by the institutions was included in the report. As of September 30, 2023, the institutions paid \$399,086,936 in debt service, leaving a total of \$4,285,345,184 in outstanding bonds.

Sources of Funding for Requested Capital Projects

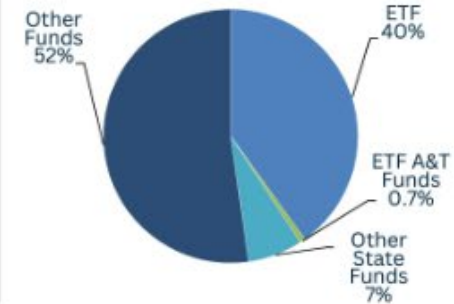
Total Two- and Four-Year Institutions



Two-Year Institutions



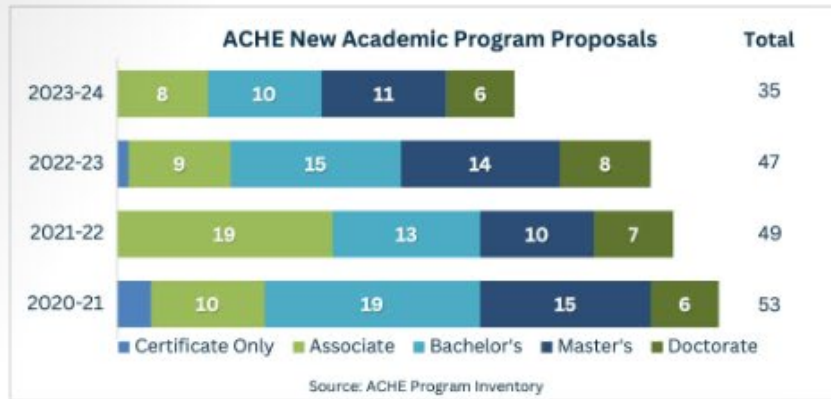
Four-Year Institutions



Academics

New Academic Program Approvals 2023-2024

Between December 2023 and June 2024, the Commission approved 35 new programs of study, which is lower than the previous year's total of 47 largely due to a change in reporting cycle. Whereas the previous reports have totaled programs reviewed across four Commission meetings (December, March, June, and September), this year's report includes programs approved across three meetings (December, March, and June). As ACHE seeks to shift the program reporting cycle to align with other annual data reporting, the programs approved in September 2024 will be included in next year's report for the 2024-25 academic year.



New For-Credit Non-Degree Certificates

Between December 2023 and June 2024, Alabama's 2- and 4-year public institutions developed 41 new non-degree certificates, including 17 short-term certificates at the community and technical college level and 24 undergraduate and graduate certificates developed by universities. As with the new degree programs, this report includes new non-degree certificates reviewed by the Commission over three meetings (December 2023, March 2024, and June 2024). Next year's report will align with the 2024-25 academic year to include new certificates across four meetings.



Academics

In this reporting cycle, graduate certificates accounted for the majority of programs in Business and Health Professions, while all of the Mechanic Technologies certificates were in 2-year programs. The Computer and Information Science certificates were split evenly between 2- and 4-yr programs, while the Education and Engineering certificates represented only 4-yr programs, and Engineering Technologies represented only 2-yr programs.



Post-Implementation Reporting

In 2023-2024, ACHE continued a 2022 clean-up project to review academic programs that had not fulfilled the requirements to end their post-implementation monitoring. As a result, the Commission has processed more post-implementation reports than normal over the past two years. Between December 2023 and June 2024, a total of 70 programs submitted post-implementation reports or deletion requests (both on-time and overdue). Of these, the majority (58) met all post-implementation conditions. The Commission has also seen an increase in voluntary program closures, with 11 programs being deleted or inactivated this year due to non-viability.



Academics

Non-Resident Institutions in Alabama

Out-of-state institutions offering postsecondary programs in Alabama are identified as Non-Resident Institutions (NRI) and must be licensed or exempt from licensing by the Private School Licensure Division in the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). Licensing is based in part on ACHE programmatic approval or exemption from ACHE review under specific criteria. Alabama is the only state with jurisdiction over NRI licensure and programmatic review administered by two separate state agencies. Since 2019 when the current ACHE policy was adopted, a total of 217 NRIs have been exempted from programmatic review, including 17 new or renewed exemptions in the past twelve months. The 17 NRIs exempted from ACHE review in the past year have headquarters in the following states:

Arizona	2	California	5	Colorado	1
Georgia	1	Illinois	1	Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	1	Texas	3	Utah	2

In addition, ACHE has approved three institutions located out-of-country not qualifying for exemptions following full programmatic review. Campuses of these three non-exempt institutions are in Cupecoy (Sint Maarten), Barbados (West Indies), and Basseterre, St Kitts (West Indies). Together, these 220 approved or exempted non-resident institutions offer programs in twenty-two of the fifty-four CIP categories.

For a current list of NRIs with ACHE programmatic approval or exemption from review, contact NRI@ache.edu. The ACHE NRI review process is available at https://www.ache.edu/wp-content/NRI/Prog_Review_Procedures.pdf. Information on Alabama NRI licensing is available at <https://www.accs.edu/about-accs/private-school-licensure/>.

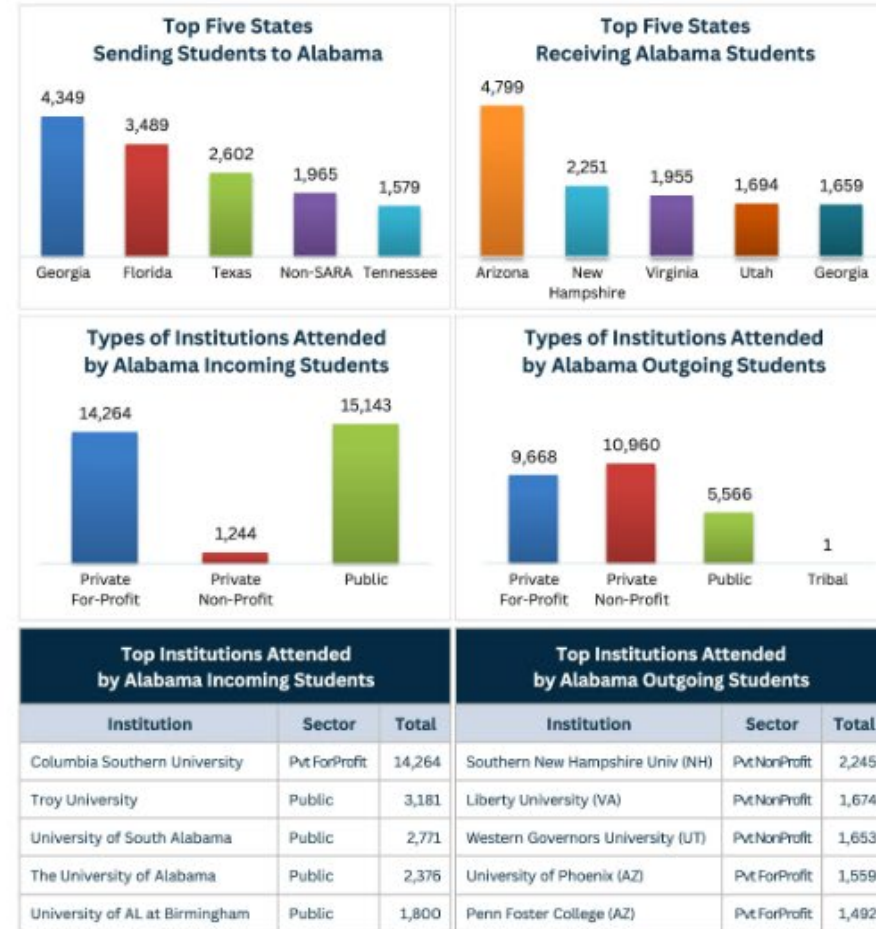
National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)

NC-SARA is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps students access educational opportunities and ensures efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs. Since 2016, Alabama's State Reciprocity Committee has contracted with ACHE to be the State Portal Entity for NC-SARA. ACHE enrolls and renews institutions as members of NC-SARA (also commonly referred to as SARA), communicates policies and procedures to institutional contacts, and investigates student complaints. As a result of having a uniform set of regulations and a uniform sliding payment scale across the nation, NC-SARA member institutions can streamline the process of becoming authorized to offer distance education programs in other NC-SARA states, saving at least \$69,797 per institution annually. NC-SARA membership currently stands at forty-one institutions.



Academics

NC-SARA Data Dashboards



The most current available NC-SARA data reports that Alabama's SARA-participating institutions enrolled 30,651 distance education students from other participating states and 26,195 Alabama residents enrolled in distance education programs in SARA states outside Alabama. Data can be found at <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards>.



Academics

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program of 15 southern states that allows students to study uncommon programs not offered in their home state at in-state tuition rates. During the 2023-24 academic year, Alabama residents attending out-of-state institutions through the ACM saved \$800,717 in tuition, with an average savings of \$8,429 per student. The ACM included 2,047 degree programs across SREB states, with 167 participating institutions and 2,007 students approved for tuition savings. In 2023-24, 95 Alabama residents were certified to attend out-of-state institutions, while 151 out-of-state students were certified to attend Alabama institutions.

2023-24 ACM Enrollment at Alabama Institutions	
State of Residence	Students Attending Alabama IHEs
Georgia	60
Kentucky	1
Louisiana	27
Mississippi	19
Tennessee	31
Other SREB States	13
Total Count	151

2023-24 Top 10 Degree Programs Attracting Out-of-State Students	
1. Biomedical Sciences, BS	6. Physician Assistant Studies, BS
2. Cancer Biology, BS	7. Biomedical Engineering, BS
3. Immunology, BS	8. Prosthetics and Orthotics, BS
4. Genetics and Genomic, BS	9. Aerospace Engineering, BS
5. Neuroscience, BS	10. Genetics & Genomic Sciences, BS

Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB State Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP), since 1993, has supported underrepresented students in earning their Ph.D.s and pursuing academic careers to diversify college faculties. Scholars receive financial aid and are invited to the Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest professional development conference for underrepresented doctoral scholars. The data below represents Ph.D. scholars who received funding from the state and/or individual institutions.

SREB DSP Outcomes 1993-Present	
Alabama Scholars	230
Graduates	159
Graduates Employed in Higher Education - 95%	

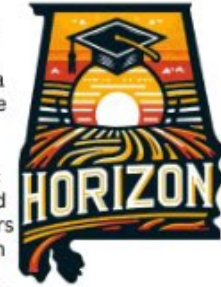
FY23-24 Participation	
Alabama Scholars Funded in 2023-24	18
Alabama Institutions with Current Scholars	
Alabama State University	
Auburn University	
Tuskegee University	
University of Alabama	
University of Alabama at Birmingham	
University of South Alabama	



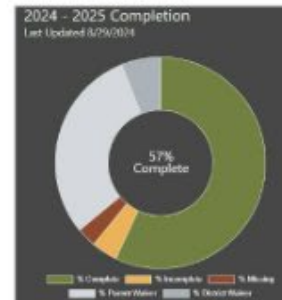
Special Initiatives

Student Horizon Database

The Students' Right to Know Act was passed during the 2023 legislative session as Act 2023-556. This Act charged ACHE with developing the Student Horizon Database. Horizon is an online interactive tool designed to provide parents and students with a variety of financial and academic information to help them make informed decisions about their education and future career paths. As noted in the legislation, the tool allows parents and students to make direct comparisons between Alabama's public community colleges, public universities, private institutions, and opportunities within America's armed forces. Comparison factors include college costs, admissions, academic programs, retention and graduation outcomes, and wage earnings. Horizons can be found at https://www.ache.edu/index.php/new_student_horizon2.



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Project



In 2022, ACHE developed the FAFSA Completion Portal and implemented direct communications with high school seniors in Alabama to increase the state's FAFSA completion rate. As of August 2024, Alabama ranked as 16th among the completion rates for the Class of 2024, despite the challenges faced with the new FAFSA process for 2024-25. ACHE also shares data with local educators to ensure students receive the necessary support to complete their applications promptly and successfully. Official data for each FAFSA award year is published in October. For further inquiry, go to <https://fafsa.ache.edu/Data/Summary>.

(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program

The (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program from Alabama Act 2023-539 provides financial aid to Alabama adults with some college credits, helping them return to an authorized institution and complete degrees aligned with ACCCP's high-demand occupations. Initially, \$97,125 was awarded in Spring and Summer 2024, leading to four degree completions. An additional \$4.5 million was appropriated for 2024, which will allow for the expansion of financial assistance and addition of new programs from the 2024 ACCCP list in Spring 2025.



Support of Other Educational Activities

Alabama Soil and Water Conservation
State Appropriation - \$2,923,376



Alabama Resource Conservation and Development Councils
State Appropriation - \$7,037,744



Alabama Humanities Foundation
State Appropriation - \$200,000



USS Alabama Battleship
State Appropriation - \$1,350,000



National Computer Forensics Institute
State Appropriation - \$550,000



Alabama HBCU CARES
State Appropriation - \$650,000



Alabama Wing of Civil Air Patrol
State Appropriation - \$125,000



Alabama Trails Commission
State Appropriation - \$340,000



Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTAC)
State Appropriation - \$350,000



Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers Pilot Program
State Appropriation - \$700,000



Alabama International Education and Economic Partnership (ALIEEP)
State Appropriation - \$250,000



Support of Other Educational Activities

Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative
State Appropriation - \$532,000



Alabama Forestry Commission Education Program
State Appropriation - \$200,000



International Motorsports Hall of Fame
State Appropriation - \$200,000



Adaptive and Disability Sports Education
State Appropriation - \$60,000



Alabama Black Belt Adventures
State Appropriation - \$475,000



Scottsboro Boys Museum
State Appropriation - \$200,000



Statewide Programs in ACHE Budget

Alabama Agricultural Land-Grant Alliance
State Appropriation - \$6,491,283



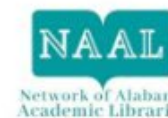
Alabama Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
State Appropriation - \$1,260,184



Articulation & General Studies Committee/Alabama Transfers
State Appropriation - \$799,589



Network of Alabama Academic Libraries
State Appropriation - \$384,076



Building Human Capital Strategic Plan 2018-2030

As per the Alabama Code 16-5-6, the Commission shall be responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education in Alabama. Such planning shall be the result of continuous study, analysis, and evaluation. Plans will include the establishment of statewide objectives and priorities with methods and guidelines for achieving them.

Improving Access

Enhancing Student Success

Enhancing STEM Progress

Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce

Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

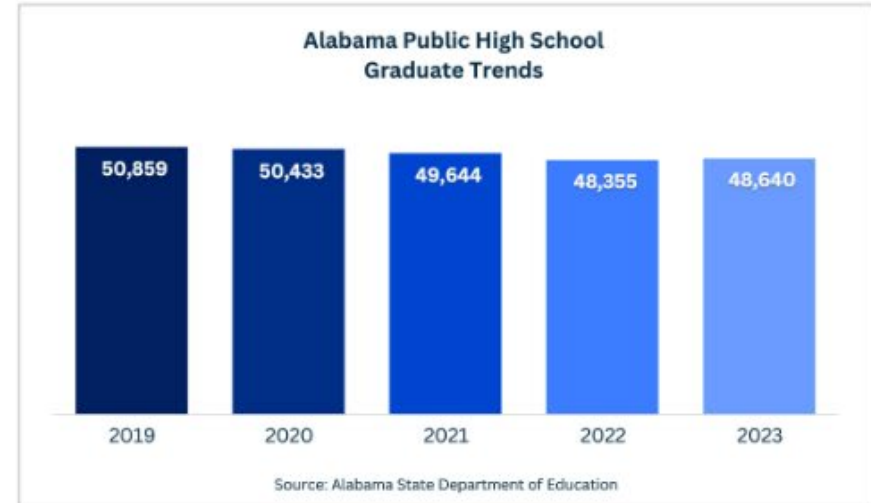
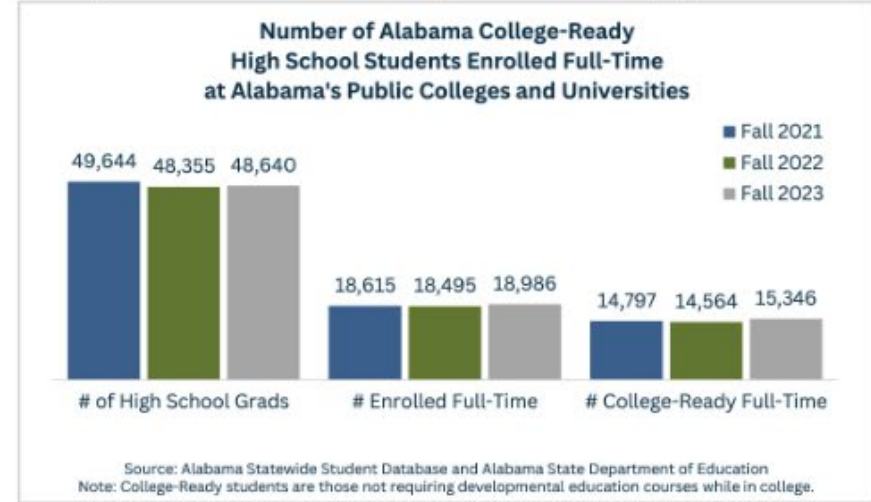
Board Approved 12/8/2017

The Educational Path to Alabama's Economic Success



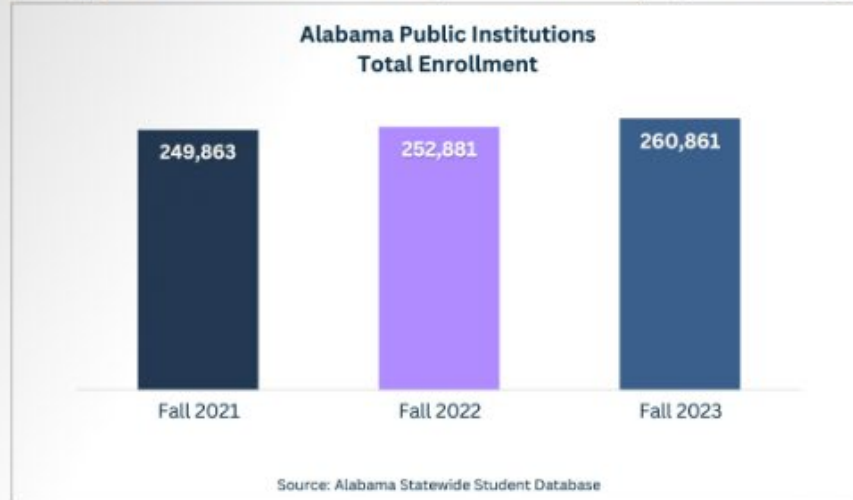
Priority One: Improving Access

Strategy One: Increase the number of high school students prepared for college

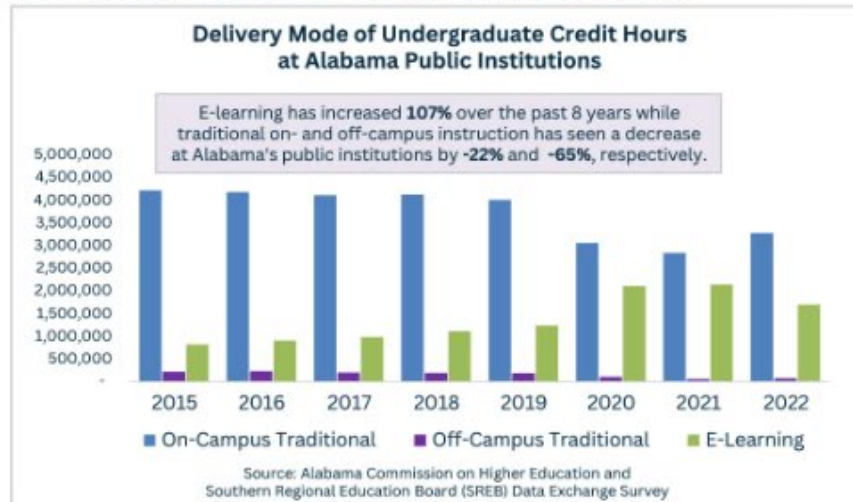


Priority One: Improving Access

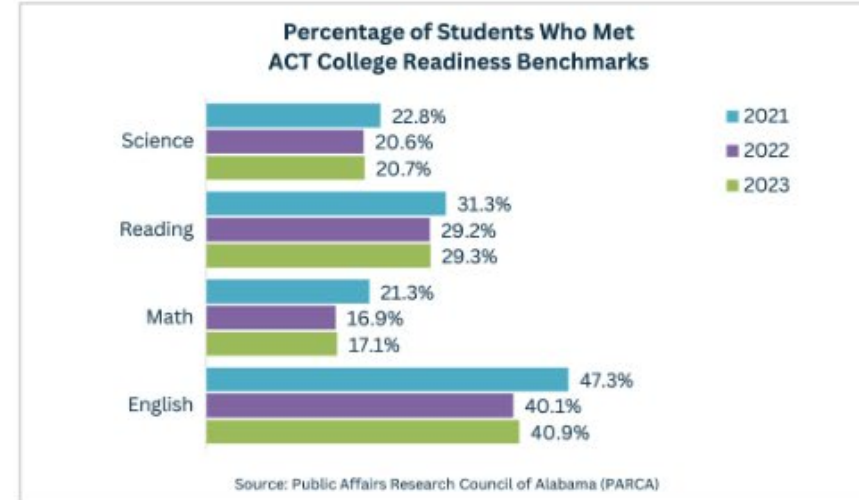
Strategy One: Increase the number of high school students prepared for college



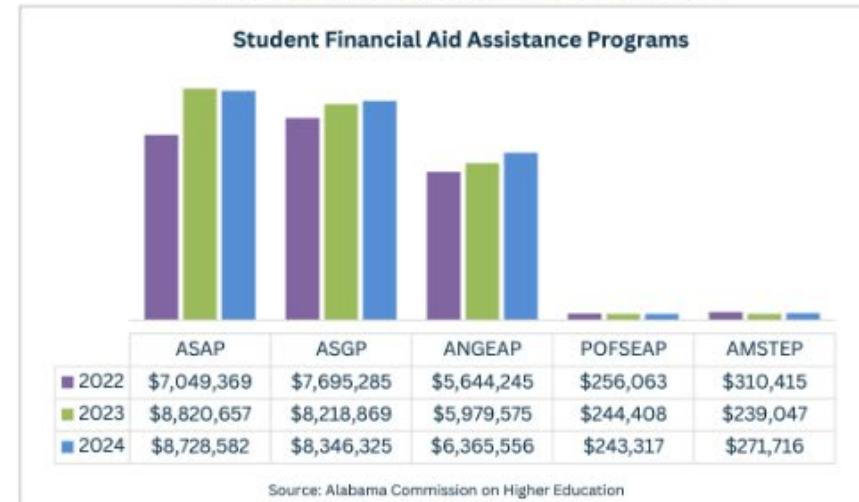
Strategy Two: Increase access to college and university offerings



Priority One: Improving Access

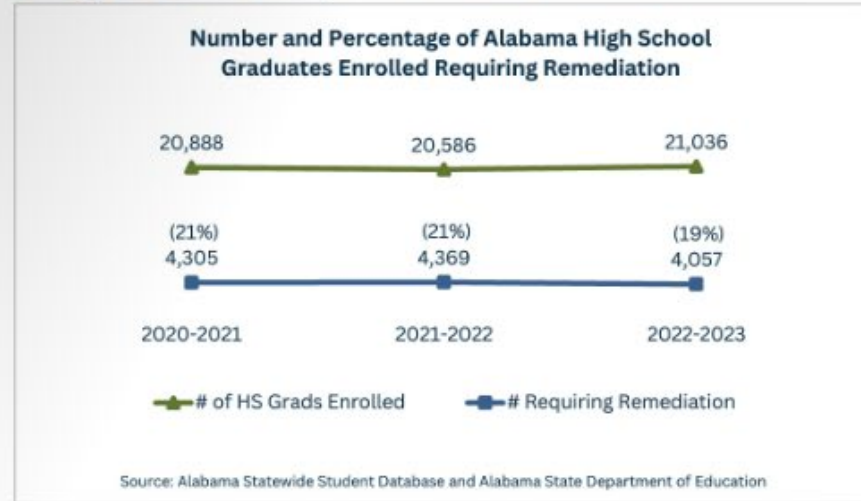


Strategy Three: Increase the number of students receiving financial aid by increasing scholarship and grant opportunities

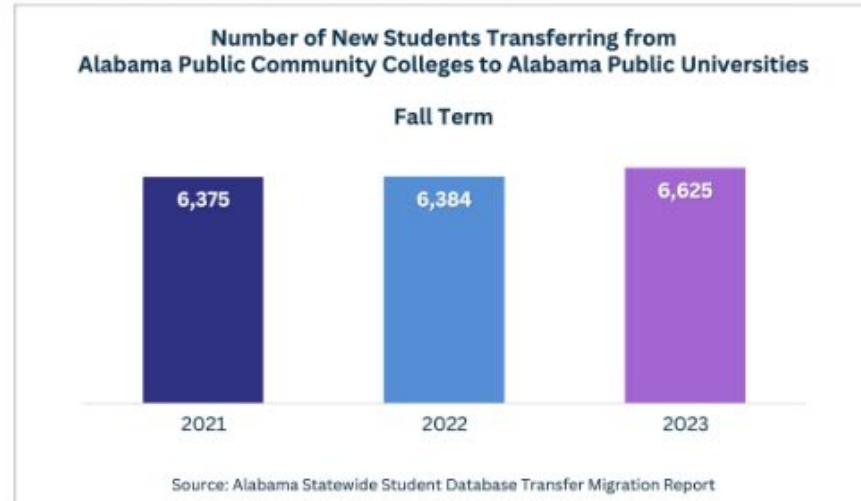


Priority Two: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy One: Rethink developmental education

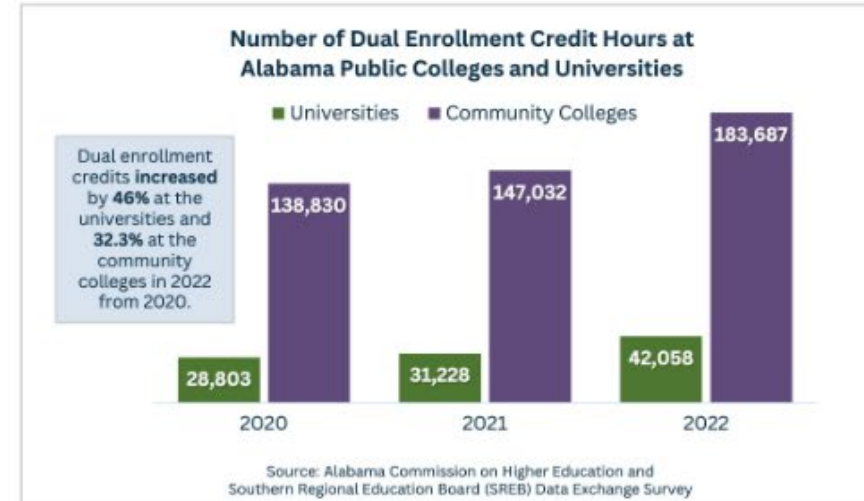
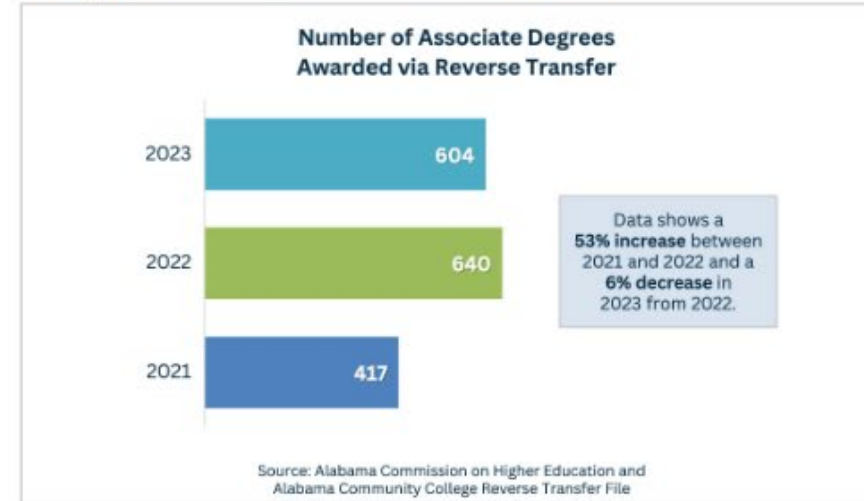


Strategy Two: Improve retention and persistence



Priority Two: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy Four: Promote the seamless transfer of students



Priority Three: Enhancing STEM Progress

Number and Percentage of Community College Transfer Students Who Enroll in STEM Programs

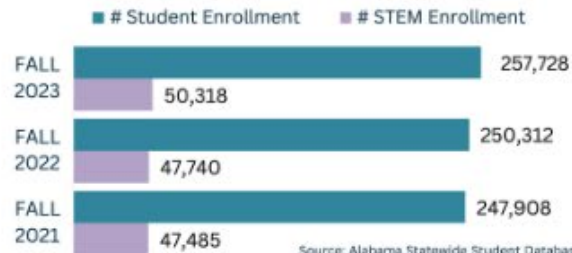


Reference: Department of Homeland Security STEM Degree Program List
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Strategy Two: Increase in the number of community college transfer students who enroll in STEM programs

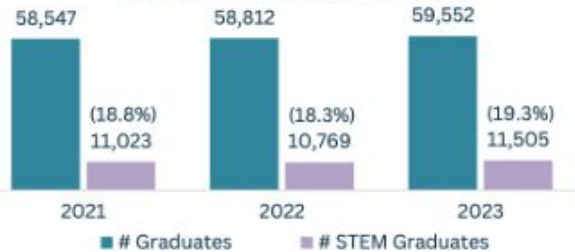
STEM Enrollment in AL Public Institutions

Strategy Three: Increase support of STEM students by increasing the number of STEM majors (enrollment)



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database.
Note: Data represents an unduplicated headcount.

Number and Percentage of STEM Graduates at Alabama Public Institutions



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database.
Note: Data represents an unduplicated headcount.

Strategy Three: Increase support of STEM students by increasing the number and percentage of STEM graduates

Priority Four: Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce

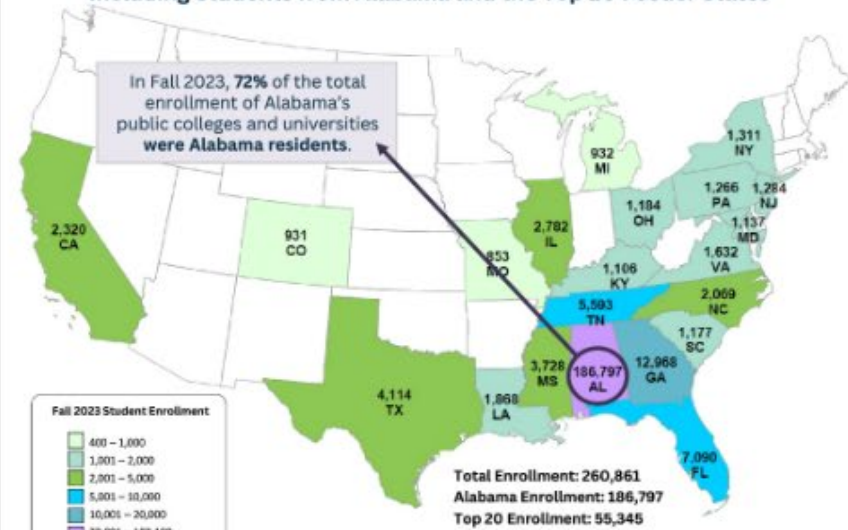
2022-2023 Top 10 Completions by Major for Baccalaureate Degrees



Number of baccalaureate degrees completed at Alabama public four-year institutions was **26,440**.

Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Fall 2023 Enrollment in Alabama Public Colleges and Universities Including Students from Alabama and the Top 20 Feeder States



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Note: Data does not include 6,827 students from other states and 11,792 students from unknown states, territories, and foreign countries.

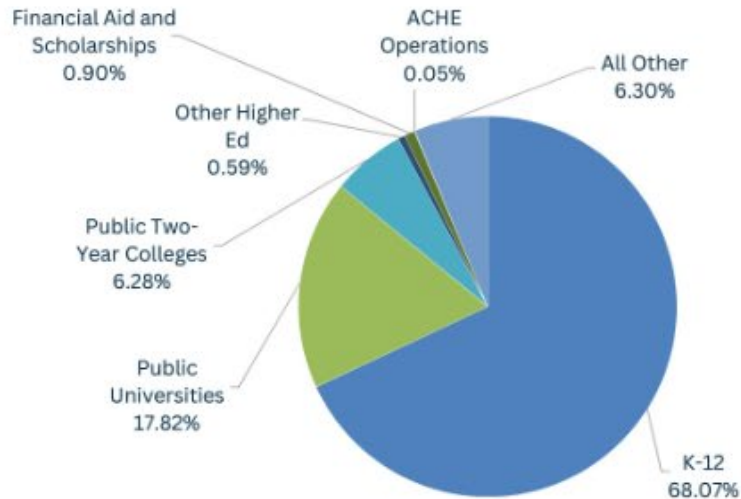


Priority Five: Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Strategy One: Optimize institutional performance

Alabama Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations				
	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split
Sectors	FY23-24	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY24-25
K-12	\$5,988,075,237	68.06%	\$6,363,394,077	68.07%
Public Universities	\$1,552,931,498	17.65%	\$1,665,479,743	17.82%
Public Two-Year Colleges	\$551,286,557	6.27%	\$586,946,967	6.28%
Other Higher Ed	\$56,588,689	0.64%	\$55,143,912	0.59%
Financial Aid & Scholarships	\$94,658,066	1.08%	\$84,551,121	0.90%
ACHE Operations	\$3,900,978	0.04%	\$4,446,209	0.05%
All Other	\$551,153,016	6.26%	\$588,544,140	6.30%
Total	\$8,798,594,041	100%	9,348,506,169	100%

Percentage of ETF Appropriation for Education FY24-25



Artificial Intelligence in Alabama Higher Education

On March 1, 2024, ACHE and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) hosted the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Alabama Higher Education Conference**, gathering 235 participants from academia, industry, and business to explore AI's impact in the state. Sessions covered AI in education, research, and key industries in Alabama. ACHE would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the **UAH Office of the President** for their gracious hospitality in hosting such a successful event.



Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer at the University of Michigan
Ravi Pendse
(Keynote Speaker)



ACHE Executive Director **Jim Purcell**, PROPEL Chief Dev. Officer **Glen Spencer**, PROPEL Chief Learning & Innovation Officer **Camesha Whittaker**, ACHE Deputy Director of Academic Affairs **Robin McGill**, and Honor Education Vice President of Learning Design **Jeremy Dean**




UAH Chief External Affairs Officer **LaFreeda Jordan**, UAH Vice President for Strategic Communications **Kristina Hendrix**, and ACHE Executive Director **Jim Purcell**




Deputy Director of Financial and Information Systems **Jim Hood**, Information Technology Specialist **Jamarcus White**, ACHE Chair **Miranda Bouldin**, Associate Director of Planning and Policy **Stephanie Dolan**, Credential Registry Specialist **Lakerri Gill**, Director of Special Initiatives **Ron Leonard**, ACHE Research Fellow **Jessie Lynn Nichols**, and Assistant Director of Workforce Alignment **Patrick Kelly**



Contact Us

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Alabama Commission on Higher Education
100 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104



Motion, Decision Item B:

That the Commission accept the ACHE 2023-2024 Annual Report.

C. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operation Plan

Staff Presenter: Veronica Harris



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

FY 2024-25 Budgetary Facts

The purpose of the Operations Plan is to ensure that the objectives of the Legislature's FY 2024-25 appropriations are satisfied. Each agency is required to submit a plan for each budget unit showing expenditures for each quarter of the fiscal year. This plan was due to the Executive Budget Office (EBO) on July 31, 2024, and submitted; however, any changes can be made by a revision after October 1, 2024.

The Commission has 38 programs under 6 appropriation units.

- Three new programs were added: Study Alabama, Indian Affairs Scholarship Program, and Scottsboro Boys Museum.
- FY 2024-25 budget signifies a 9.96% increase over the previous FY budget.

Program Variants

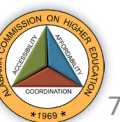
The following programs received increases/decreases in the FY 2024-25 ETF budget:

ACHE Operations and Maintenance	\$545,231
Retain Alabama	(\$400,000)
Alabama Student Assistance Program	\$500,000
Alabama Student Grant Program	\$500,000
Alabama National Guard Program	\$3,358,162
Articulations	\$200,243
FAFSA Completion	\$80,000
Southern Regional Education Board	\$175,000
Resource Conservation & Development*	\$1,050,000
Soil and Water Conservation Committee*	\$100,000
Alabama Humanities Foundation*	(\$100,000)
AKEEP (ALIEEP)*	\$100,000
Black Belt Treasures*	\$15,000
Civil Air Patrol*	\$25,000

*Support of State Programs

**Alabama Commission on Higher Education
FY 2024-25 Budget - All Funds**

Fund Code No.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	FY 2023-24 Appropriated	FY 2024-25 As Passed	Difference	
				Dollars	Percent
172	Planning and Coordination Services				
	Postsecondary Education (ACHE O&M)	\$3,900,978	\$4,446,209	\$545,231	13.98%
	Industry Credential Directory	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Retain Alabama (\$400,000 to O&M and \$250,000 to AHEP)	\$1,050,000	\$650,000	(\$400,000)	-38.10%
	FAFSA Completion	\$500,000	\$580,000	\$80,000	16.00%
	Study Alabama	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	
	Subtotal O&M	\$5,550,978	\$5,826,209	\$275,231	4.96%
	Non-Resident Institutions Fees (Local Funds - Fees)	\$236,239	\$236,239	\$ -	0.00%
	NC-SARA Fees (Local Funds - Fees)	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Total	\$5,987,217	\$6,262,448	\$275,231	4.60%
153	Student Assistance				
	Alabama Student Assistance Program	\$9,000,000	\$9,500,000	\$500,000	5.56%
	Alabama Educational Grants Program	\$9,000,000	\$9,500,000	\$500,000	5.56%
	Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program	\$5,472,952	\$8,831,114	\$3,358,162	61.36%
	Police and Firefighter's Survivors Tuition Program	\$466,935	\$466,935	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program	\$746,750	\$746,750	\$ -	0.00%
	Indians Affairs Scholarship Program	\$0	\$100,000	\$ 100,000	
	Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program	\$892,500	\$892,500	\$ -	0.00%
	Total	\$25,579,137	\$30,037,299	\$ 4,458,162	17.43%
152	Support of Other Educational Activities				
	Southern Regional Education Board	\$656,214	\$831,214	\$175,000	26.67%
	Network of Alabama Academic Libraries	\$384,076	\$384,076	\$ -	0.00%
	AGSC/STARS	\$599,346	\$799,589	\$200,243	33.41%
	STEM Major Teacher Recruitment	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research	\$1,260,184	\$1,260,184	\$ -	0.00%
	Total	\$7,399,820	\$7,775,063	\$375,243	5.07%



Alabama Commission on Higher Education FY 2024-25 Budget - All Funds

Fund Code No.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	FY 2023-24 Appropriated	FY 2024-25 As Passed	Difference	
				Dollars	Percent
151	Support of State Universities				
	Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance	\$6,491,283	\$6,491,283	\$ -	0.00%
189	Support of State Programs				
	Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC &D)	\$5,987,744	\$7,037,744	\$1,050,000	17.54%
	Soil and Water Conservation Committee Program	\$2,823,376	\$2,923,376	\$100,000	3.54%
	AL Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative	\$532,000	\$532,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Black Belt Adventures	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Black Belt Treasures	\$335,000	\$350,000	\$15,000	4.48%
	Humanities Foundation	\$300,000	\$200,000	(\$100,000)	-33.33%
	Alabama Civil Air Patrol	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$25,000	25.00%
	National Computer Forensics Institute	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Adaptive Sports Scholarship	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Motorsports Hall of Fame	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Trails Foundation	\$340,000	\$340,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Forestry Commission Education Program	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers Pilot	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$ -	0.00%
	AKEEP-Education & Teacher Recruitment Partnership (ALIEEP)	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	66.67%
	USS Alabama	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Scottsboro Boys Museum	\$ -	\$200,000	\$200,000	
	Alabama HBCU Cares	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Total	\$14,753,120	\$16,143,120	\$1,390,000	9.42%
	Deferred Maintenance	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Grand Total (includes Local Funds)	\$65,210,577	\$71,709,213	\$6,498,636	9.97%
Source of Funds					
200	Education Trust Fund	\$64,774,338	\$71,272,974	\$6,498,636	10.03%
403	Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
403	Local Funds (Fees and Grants)	\$436,239	\$436,239	\$ -	0.00%
	Grand Total	\$ 65,210,577	\$ 71,709,213	\$ 6,498,636	9.97%

**ETF
accounts
for 99%
of ACHE's
source of
funds**



FY 2024-25 Budgeted Expenditures by Appropriation Unit

Deferred Maintenance Program
(HBCU), 6.97%

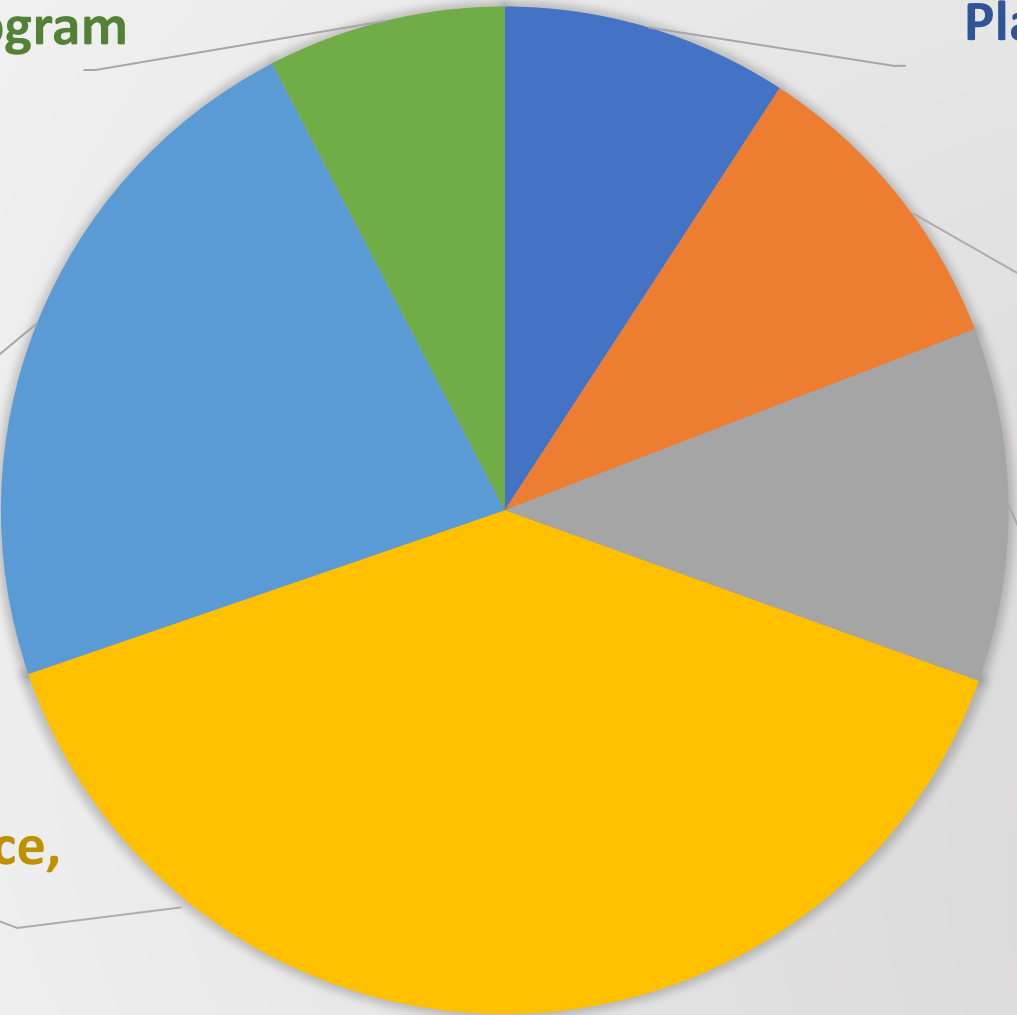
Planning and Coordination
(O&M), 8.73%

Support of State
Universities (AALGA),
9.05%

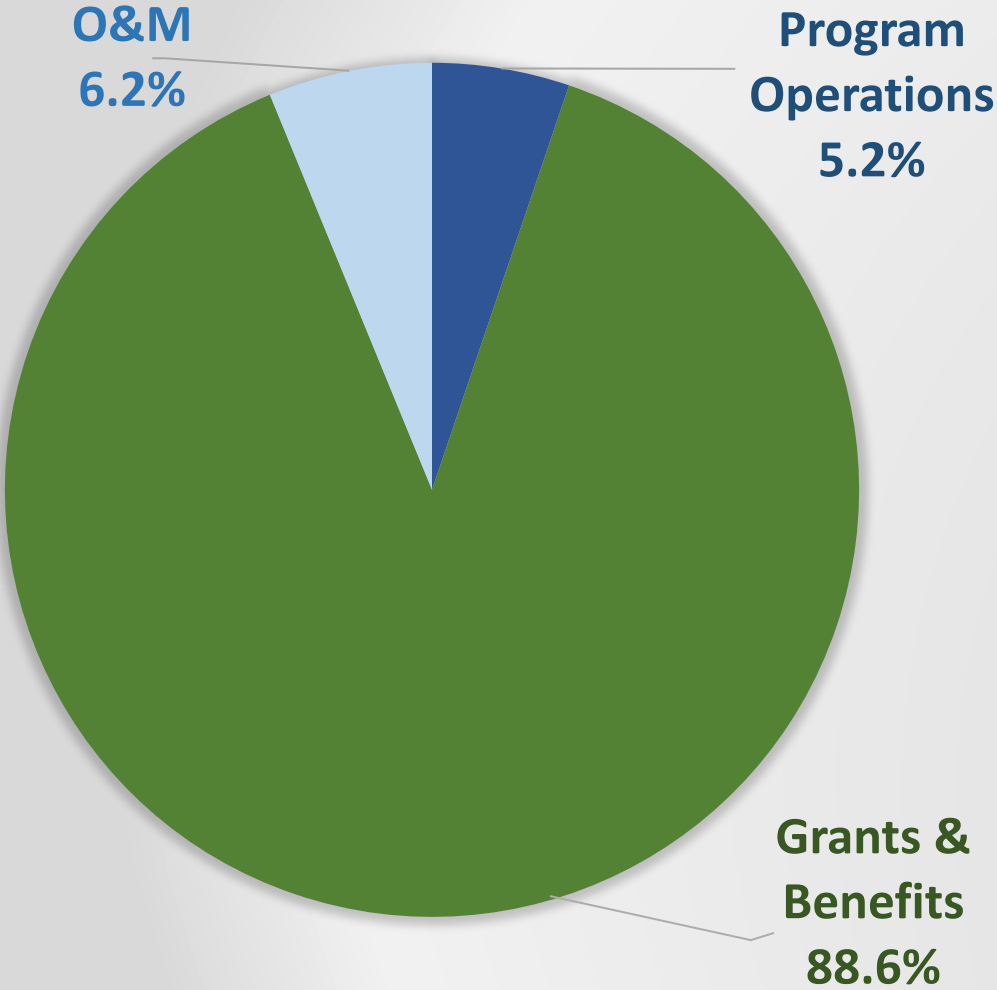
Support of State
Programs, 22.52%

Support of Other
Educational Activies,
10.84%

Student Assistance,
41.89%



FY 2024-25 Budgeted Expenditures by Category



Planning and Coordinating Services
Operations & Maintenance Industry Credential Directory Retain Alabama FAFSA Completion Assistance Study Alabama
Student Assistance
Alabama Student Assistance Program Alabama Educational Grants Program Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program Police and Firefighters’ Survivors Tuition Program Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program Indians Affairs Scholarship Program
Support of Other Educational Activities
AGSC/STARS Southern Regional Education Board STEM Major Teacher Recruitment
Support of State Universities
Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance
Deferred Maintenance
State Programs (19 Programs)

Motion, Decision Item C:

That the Commission approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operations Plan.

D. Public Drawing to Determine Order of Payment of ASGP Funds for 2024-2025

Staff Presenter: Mrs. Takena Jones

Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) provides grants for eligible in-state students attending one of the following private institutions:

- Amridge University
- Faulkner University
- Huntingdon College
- Miles College
- Oakwood University
- Samford University
- South University–Montgomery
- Spring Hill College
- Stillman College
- The United States Sports Academy
- University of Mobile

Because all funds cannot be disbursed immediately, a drawing is needed to determine disbursement order.



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

South UNIVERSITYSM
ESTABLISHED 1899



Faulkner University
— A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY —

STILLMAN
PREPARING YOU FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

1830
SPRING HILL COLLEGE

AMRIDGE UNIVERSITY

HUNTINGDON COLLEGE
faith, wisdom, service

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY of MOBILE

THE UNITED STATES SPORTS ACADEMY[®]
America's Sports University[®] 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Motion, Decision Item D:

That the Commission approve the Public Drawing to Determine the Order of Payment of Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) Funds for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

E. Preliminary Approval of Repeal and New Rule (§300-2-1.05) within Administrative Procedures for Program Review

Staff Presenter: Dr. Robin McGill



Overview of Proposed New Rule §300-2-1-.05

300-2-1-.05 Review of Off-Campus Instruction Offered by Public Postsecondary Institutions and Determination of Service Areas

Last Amended: 2007

Synopsis of Rule: This rule sets forth procedures for reviewing off-campus instructional offerings in keeping with the Commission's charge. Its purpose is to ensure that institutions can bring forward new off-campus sites to serve postsecondary educational needs across the state, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of offerings.

Summary of Recommended Changes:

- Should be reorganized to improve clarity and align with SACSCOC rules.
- Needs additional sections on modifying sites and determining service areas.

Motion, Decision Item E:

That the Commission approve the Preliminary Approval of Repeal and New Rule 300-2-1.05 within Administrative Procedures for Program Review.

F. Preliminary Approval of Repeal of Attachments to the Administrative Procedures for Program Review (§300-2-1-A)

Staff Presenter: Dr. Robin McGill



Overview of Proposed Repeal of §300-2-1-A

300-2-1-A Attachments to the Administrative Procedures for Program Review

List of Attachments:

- 1) “Service Area Tables Approved by the State Board of Education for Two-Year Colleges,” included in 2007 as attachment to §300-2-1-.05.
- 2) “Service Area Tables for Universities by County,” included in 2007 as attachment to §300-2-1-.05.
- 3) Alabama State Board of Education Resolution, relating to “Consolidation or Merger of Postsecondary Institutions” and “Chancellor’s Guidelines and Timetable for Merger or Consolidation,” included in 1998 as attachment to §300-2-1-.09.

Rationale:

- Attachments are outdated.
- It is more appropriate to publish updated content on ACHE’s website.

Motion, Decision Item F:

That the Commission approve the Preliminary Approval of Repeal of Attachments to the Administrative Procedures for Program Review (§300-2-1-A).

G. Academic Programs

*Staff Presenters: Dr. Robin McGill
and Ms. Kristan White*



FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS



1. Master of Business Administration in Analytics (CIP 52.1399)

- The proposed MBA in Analytics will be built from existing analytics-focused coursework developed for other graduate programs in the College of Business, and therefore will not require any additional resources to implement.
- The Analytics content of the program will enable it to be classified using a STEM-designated CIP, which will make it attractive to international students seeking to extend their post-graduate opportunities in the United States.



Motion, Decision Item G-1:

That the Commission approve Troy University's proposal to offer a Master of Business Administration in Analytics.

2a. Bachelor of Science in Informatics (CIP 11.0104)

- The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for positions such as Computer Systems Analysts which are included on the 2023-24 Statewide Demand Occupations List.
- The program will expand the offerings of the School of Library and Information Studies down to the undergraduate level, allowing for a full range of degree offerings.



Motion, Decision Item G-2a:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Informatics.

University of Alabama



2b. Master of Arts in Philosophy (CIP 38.0101)

- The proposed program is primarily designed to serve students preparing for law school, medical school, or other post-graduate study. The integration of ethics and politics into the study of law and medicine can also assist students entering public and civic service.
- The MA degree will build upon existing coursework and resources for BA in Philosophy concentrations: Jurisprudence, Philosophy and Medicine, and Mind and Brain. As a result, the proposed program will require minimal new resources to implement.



Motion, Decision Item G-2b:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to offer a Master of Arts in Philosophy.

University of Alabama



2c. Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CIP 45.0401)

- The proposed PhD will build on UA's existing MS in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CIP 45.0401), and therefore, will require limited new resources for graduate assistantships.
- The proposal includes nine letters of support attesting to the industry and student need for this program.



Motion, Decision Item G-2c:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

University of Alabama



2d. Bachelor of Science in Real Estate (CIP 52.1501)

- The proposed program will prepare graduates for positions such as Real Estate Sales Agents, and Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers, both of which are included on the 2023-34 Statewide Demand list.
- The proposed program incorporates successful features of the existing minor, including continued partnership with the Alabama Center for Real Estate (ACRE) and professional credit towards the Alabama Real Estate Salesperson License and the Institute of Real Estate Management's Certified Property Manager credential.



Motion, Decision Item G-2d:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Real Estate.

University of Montevallo



3. Master of Science in Nutrition (CIP 51.3101)

- The proposed program will enable UM to continue offering its Coordinated Program in Dietetics, which prepares graduates to become Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists (RDNs). Beginning January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR) raised the minimum educational requirement for aspiring RDNs from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree.
- The proposed program will utilize faculty and resources from the existing BS in Exercise and Nutrition Science (CIP 31.0505) – Nutrition and Wellness Concentration and therefore will not require any additional expenditures to deliver.



Motion, Decision Item G-3:

That the Commission approve the University of Montevallo's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Nutrition.

University of North Alabama



4a. Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant (CIP 51.0803)

- The proposed program is designed to fulfill requirements for professional licensure and prepare graduates for employment as Occupational Therapist Assistants (SOC 31-2011), an occupation which is included on the 2023-24 Statewide Demand Occupations list.
- This proposal includes letters of support from eight potential clinical partners and employers attesting to the need for this program.



Motion, Decision Item G-4a:

That the Commission approve the University of North Alabama's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant.

University of North Alabama



4b. Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (CIP 51.2306)

- The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Occupational Therapists (SOC 29-1122), an occupation which is included on the 2023-24 Statewide Demand Occupations list. UNA's proposed program will help to fulfill the industry need in North Alabama, as the nearest existing OT professional program is at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- UNA plans to share start-up costs between this master's degree and the proposed BS in Occupational Therapy Assistant, which will enable both programs to become self-sustaining sooner.



Motion, Decision Item G-4b:

That the Commission approve the University of North Alabama's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy.

University of West Alabama



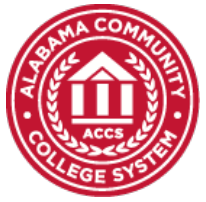
5. Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing (CIP 51.3801)

- The proposed program will be the only MSN in the state with a focus on rural leadership and will prepare graduates to serve rural and underserved populations in positions that are included on the 2023-2024 Statewide Demand list.
- The proposed program will take advantage of existing faculty expertise for the college's ASN and BSN programs and will require minimal funds to implement.
- The proposal includes three letters of support from area healthcare providers attesting to the need for this program.



Motion, Decision Item G-5:

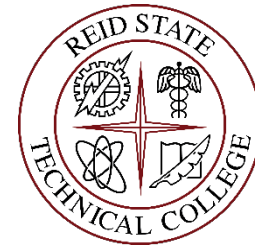
That the Commission approve the University of West Alabama's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing.



ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM



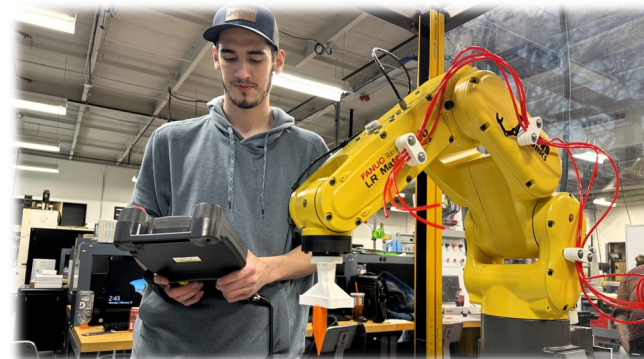
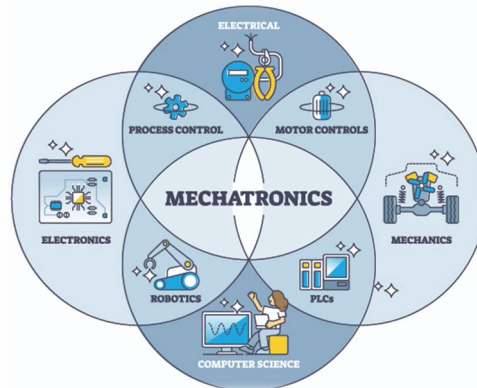
Bishop State



Coastal Alabama Community College

6. Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Manufacturing- Mechatronics (CIP 15.0407)

- The proposed AAS in Advanced Manufacturing-- Mechatronics is designed to prepare graduates for employment in occupations on the Statewide In-Demand Occupations List, such as Industrial Machinery Mechanics, and Maintenance and Repair Workers.
- This proposal includes letters of support from the Baldwin County Public Schools Career and Technical Education and Mayer Electric Supply, both attesting to the need for the program and willingness to partner in its delivery.



Motion, Decision Item G-6:

That the Commission approve Coastal Alabama Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Manufacturing- Mechatronics.

Gadsden State Community College

7. Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology (CIP 51.0909)



- The proposed AAS in Surgical Technology is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Surgical Technologists, included on the 2023-2024 Statewide Demand Occupations List.
- Gadsden State is transitioning their existing STC in Surgical Technology (CIP 51.0909) to an associate degree program in order to meet specialized accreditation requirements through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).



Motion, Decision Item G-7:

That the Commission approve Gadsden State Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology.

Trenholm State Community College

8. Associate of Applied Science in Data Analytics (CIP 11.0103)



- The proposed AAS in Data Analytics is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level employment as business intelligence analysts and related jobs, or for bachelor's-level study in a related field.
- Trenholm State's existing AAS in Computer Science has been one of the top three enrolling programs over the last three years. Trenholm State plans to leverage existing courses and resources to minimize start-up costs for the Data Analytics program.



Motion, Decision Item G-8:

That the Commission approve Trenholm State Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Data Analytics.

H. Information Items



1. Distribution of 2024-2025 Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) Funds
2. Implementation of For-Credit Non-Degree Certificate Programs
3. Changes to the Academic Program Inventory
4. Curricular Modifications for Existing Degree Programs
5. Updates to Academic Units
6. Implementation of Distance Education Programs



H. Information Items

7. New Exempt Off-Campus Sites
 - a. Northeast Alabama Community College: Moon Lake Village
 - b. Calhoun Community College: Decatur Center for the Arts
 - c. Coastal Alabama Community College: Baldwin Preparatory Academy
 - d. Lawson State Community College: UAB Medical West Hospital

8. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports: None

Motion, Decision Item H:

That the Commission accept the Information Items as presented.

I. ADJOURNMENT

