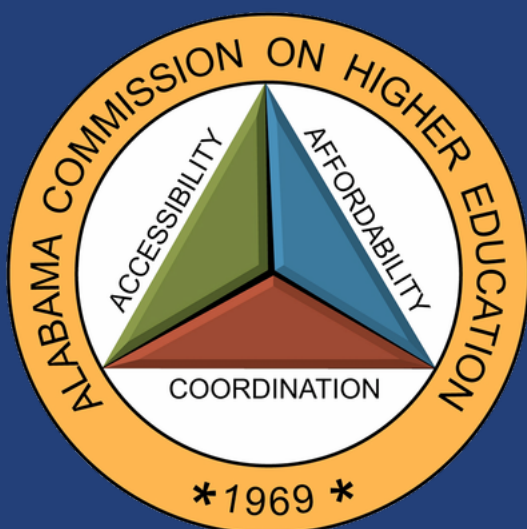


ALABAMA COMMISSION
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALABAMA



2026

ACCESSIBILITY. AFFORDABILITY. COORDINATION

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Mission, Vision, and Responsibilities

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 wise 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
(This includes new institutions, mergers, branch campuses, colleges, schools, divisions and departments);
- Approves any new academic programs;
- Approves off-campus instruction;
- Facilitates planning for higher education;
This includes developing a statewide plan.
- Reviews and makes recommendations concerning existing programs;
- Prepares a Consolidated Budget Recommendation for Alabama's public institutions of higher education for the Governor and Legislature;
- Collects and compiles information concerning higher education in the State;
- Administers student 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 master plans and reports to the Commission and the Legislature;
- Maintains an electronic student unit record system to provide accountability on student progress;
- Provides oversight for the programmatic review of public and private institutions operating as foreign corporations in Alabama, in accordance with the statutory authority granted to the Commission; and
- Serves as the state portal for Alabama's participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).



ACHE Commissioners



Stan Nelson, Chair
At-Large

Term: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2027



Jody M. Singleton, Vice Chair
At-Large

Term: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2030



Nicholas Bolden
3rd District

Term: 02/19/2026 - 08/31/2035



Ann Forbes
1st District

Term: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



Harry Hobbs
5th District

Term: 02/18/2025 - 08/31/2033



Paul W. Kennedy
4th District

Term: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



ACHE Commissioners



Payne Meadows
2nd District

Term: 09/01/2024 - 08/31/2033



Douglas Ragland
6th District

Term: 02/18/2025 - 08/31/2033



Rod Scott
At-Large

Term: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2028



Shane Spiller
7th District

Term: 02/21/2024 - 08/31/2029



Larry Turner
At-Large

Term: 03/27/2019 - 08/31/2027



Jennifer Whitt
At-Large

Term: 02/19/2026 - 02/20/2031



Message from the Commission Chair



Commissioner Stan Nelson

As Chair of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, I have had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated group of Commissioners committed to strengthening higher education for all Alabamians. The Commission exists to ensure that decisions affecting our colleges and universities – academic programs, funding, and long-term priorities – are made with the interests of our entire state in mind. This year, I am especially proud of the thoughtful leadership, collaboration, and commitment demonstrated by the Commission as we advanced initiatives that will benefit students, institutions, employers, and communities across the state.

This legislative session marked one of the most significant in recent years for higher education in Alabama. The Legislature passed the College and Higher Education

Excellence and Results (CHEER) Act, establishing the state's first outcomes-based funding model for public higher education and creating a coordinating committee to guide its implementation, which is a milestone that reflects years of collaboration among policymakers, higher education leaders, and stakeholders committed to improving student success and institutional performance. Lawmakers also expanded eligibility for the (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program, broadened and renamed the Loan Assistance for Shortage Area Educators (LASEA) Program, established the Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship for the officers' spouses and dependents, and implemented Move On When Ready statewide, allowing eligible high school juniors and seniors to complete their high school diploma requirements while attending college full-time at no cost to their families.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate Alabama's commitment to expanding educational opportunity, strengthening the state's workforce, and investing in its long-term economic future. As these programs are implemented, the Commission will carefully evaluate participation, funding, and administrative processes to ensure they achieve their intended outcomes and deliver the greatest possible benefit to Alabama's students, families, institutions, and taxpayers.

Serving as Chair has been a tremendous honor. I am grateful to my fellow Commissioners for their thoughtful stewardship, to Dr. Jim Purcell and the exceptional ACHE staff for their professionalism and tireless dedication, and to Governor Kay Ivey, legislative leadership, and our partners across Alabama for their continued collaboration and support.

The work of strengthening higher education and connecting it to Alabama's workforce needs is ongoing. Because of the progress made this year, our state is better positioned than ever to provide meaningful educational opportunities, prepare a highly skilled workforce, and expand economic prosperity for students, families, employers, and communities throughout Alabama.

Stan Nelson

Commission Chair, ACHE



Message from the Executive Director

Since 1969, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) has been charged with the statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama: expanding accessibility, protecting affordability, and coordinating the work of our 38 public institutions so that Alabama's students and its economy both come out ahead. That mandate guided every decision ACHE made this year.

Fiscal year 2026 was, by several measures, one of the strongest years in ACHE's recent history. The Legislature and Governor Ivey approved a 6.2% increase in Education Trust Fund appropriations to our public institutions for FY2027 – a fourth consecutive year of substantial growth – and the Commission approved 55 new academic programs across our four-year and two-year institutions. Each of these programs was built around demonstrated workforce demand, not simply institutional interest.

That workforce lens shaped one of our most significant initiatives of the year – a multi-million-dollar federal cooperative agreement through which ACHE has partnered with the Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN). The project focuses on developing and expanding the adoption of national occupational frameworks while establishing efficient, scalable processes for their production. It also includes additional activities designed to support the broader expansion of registered apprenticeship programs across states at both the industry and institutional levels. The initiative builds on Alabama's nationally recognized five-part test for identifying in-demand occupations, applying that same industry-driven approach to help inform and advance apprenticeship strategies on a national scale.

This is exactly the kind of work our state needs. Nationally, approximately 90% of U.S. counties face a potential automation-related job displacement rate of 22% to 27%, while more than two-thirds of Alabama counties are projected to experience job displacement rates exceeding 25%. Closing that gap and ensuring Alabamians see a meaningful return on their credentials is one of the clearest reflections of our mission, particularly as households with a bachelor's degree have a median income more than twice that of households with only a high school education.

We also continued to invest in the 380,000 Alabamians who have some college credit but no degree. (Re)Engage Alabama, an initiative for adult learners returning to complete a credential, expanded its eligibility this year. The program connects these Alabamians to degree programs aligned with the state's high-demand occupation list. We are tracking toward the state's Success Plus goal of 500,000 new degree-earners since 2018, with an estimated 493,500 to date. Closing that last stretch is one of my top priorities for the year ahead.

None of this happens without the dedication of our multiple stakeholders: legislators, students, faculty, and administrators across all of ACHE's 38 institutional partners, Alabama's employers, and ACHE's Commissioners and staff. Thank you for continuing to make Alabama's higher education system one that works for its students and its economy alike.

Dr. Jim Purcell
Executive Director, ACHE



Executive Director Jim Purcell



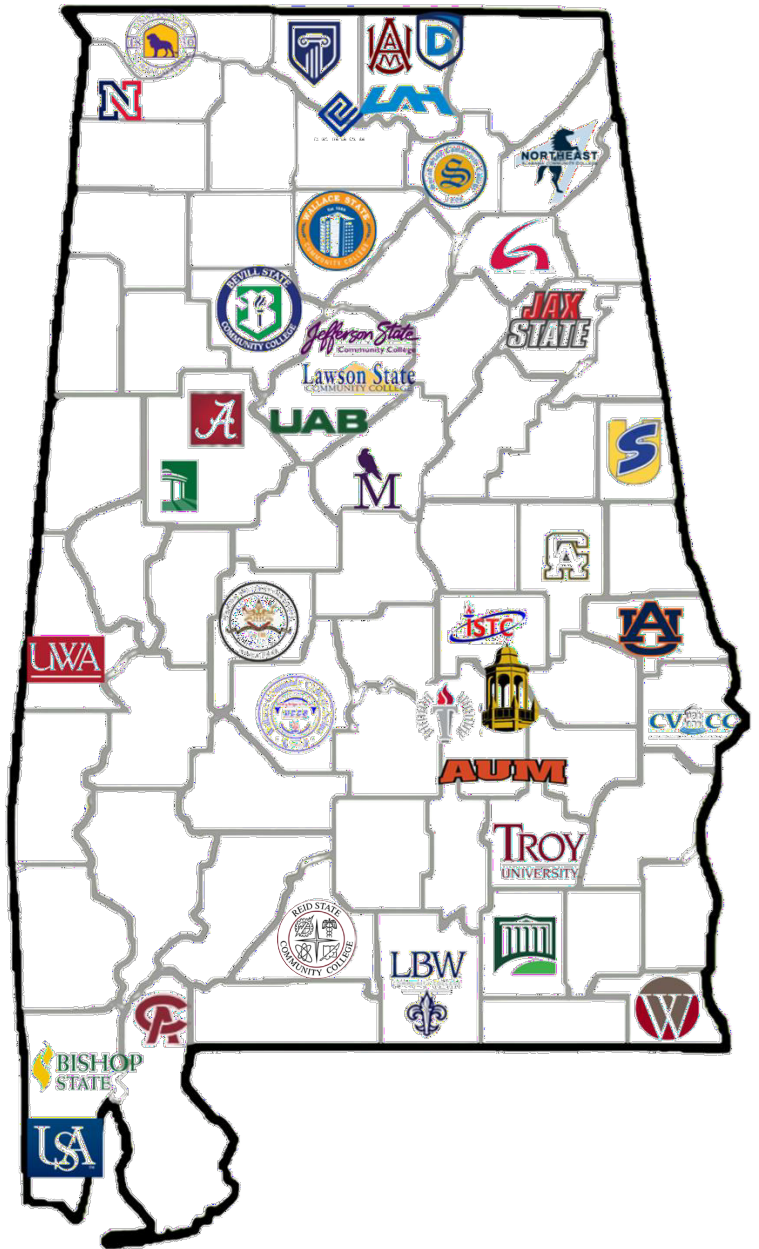
Alabama Public Higher Education Map

4-Year 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

2-Year 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 Community College
Shelton State Community College
Snead State Community College
Southern Union State Community College
Trenholm State Community College
Wallace Community College – Dothan
Wallace State Community College – Hanceville
Wallace State Community College - Selma



Legislative Updates

The **2027 Education Trust Fund** bill was signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey in **May 2026**, providing nearly **\$10.5 billion** in funding for education across Alabama. The budget represented a significant increase in state education funding and included one of the largest appropriations for higher education in Alabama history.

Act 2026-380 FY 2027 Operating Budget for Higher Education

Institution Type	Amount Received	Percentage Increase Over FY 2026
Two-Year	\$660,356,653	6.13%
Four-Year	\$1,886,687,569	6.20%
Other Higher Education	\$163,975,180	3.63%
Total Higher Education	\$2,711,019,402	6.02%

Act 2026-599 FY 2026 Supplemental Funding for Higher Education*

Alabama A&M University	\$8,401,824
Alabama Community College System	\$27,201,249
Alabama Council on the Arts	\$375,000
Alabama Innovation Fund	\$2,000,000
Alabama State University	\$4,360,182
Athens State University	\$1,615,927
Auburn University	\$20,406,678
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$1,661,328
Department of Workforce	\$6,900,000
Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission/Fire College	\$1,025,000
Jacksonville State University	\$4,440,678
Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium	\$2,000,000
Troy University System	\$5,175,081
University of Alabama System	\$44,169,369
University of Montevallo	\$2,967,772
University of North Alabama	\$4,538,046
University of South Alabama	\$9,579,249
University of West Alabama	\$2,974,736
Alabama Commission on Higher Education Pass-Throughs	
Alabama Veterinary Hospital-Birmingham Zoo	\$2,000,000
North Alabama Agriplex	\$400,000
North Alabama Land Trust	\$250,000
Selma University	\$200,000
Sweet Trails	\$1,000,000
Talladega College	\$62,968
Tennessee RiverLine Program	\$185,000
Tuskegee University	\$2,750,992
USS Alabama Battleship	\$2,000,000

**Supplemental funding for Alabama higher education refers to additional state-allocated resources beyond regular operating budgets. These funds support specific initiatives, capital projects, or emerging needs not covered by standard appropriations.*

Legislative Updates

Act 2026-600 Advancement and Technology FY 2026 Supplemental Appropriation*

Alabama Community College System	\$102,630,833
Alabama A&M University	\$6,603,176
Alabama State University	\$3,618,925
University of Alabama System	\$63,655,827
Athens State University	\$3,396,437
Auburn University	\$30,644,049
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$5,220,244
Jacksonville State University	\$10,736,161
Troy University System	\$13,357,993
Tuskegee University	\$990,360
University of Montevallo	\$3,363,650
University of North Alabama	\$10,322,804
University of South Alabama	\$13,243,822
University of West Alabama	\$7,315,719

**The Advancement and Technology Fund is a state-appropriated fund established by the Alabama Legislature using Education Trust Fund (ETF) revenues. It provides public colleges and universities with dedicated resources for instructional technology, facility upgrades, and workforce development, aiming to enhance student success and institutional capacity.*

ACHE Board Appointments

- Alabama Local Government Training Institute (ALGTI)
- Alabama STEM Council
- Alabama Terminal for Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on Career Pathways
- Alabama Virtual Library Advisory Council
- Alabama Workforce Council Committee on Credential Quality and Transparency
- Forever Wild Land Trust
- Health Care Workforce Task Force
- 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. ACHE conducts budget hearings to gather additional insight and justification for funding needs. A single consolidated budget report containing recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions is presented annually to the Governor and the 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 using 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				
Institutions	Legislated FY 2025-26 Appropriation	FY 2026-27 Budget Request by Institutions	FY 2026-27 Recommendation by ACHE	Legislated FY 2026-27 Appropriation
Alabama A&M University	\$61,115,089	\$81,414,715	\$65,231,774	\$64,254,117
Alabama State University	\$66,556,368	\$76,524,823	\$69,975,935	\$69,335,841
University of Alabama (Main Campus)	\$266,214,571	\$291,843,868	\$282,463,337	\$284,765,168
University of Alabama (Birmingham)	\$421,143,986	\$461,608,647	\$452,311,838	\$443,576,636
University of Alabama (Huntsville)	\$77,280,307	\$128,278,338	\$81,371,896	\$81,713,659
Athens State University	\$23,502,462	\$27,600,500	\$25,132,825	\$24,650,048
Auburn University	\$379,246,504	\$416,864,642	\$398,736,374	\$403,992,530
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$34,989,116	\$38,476,536	\$36,795,809	\$36,598,473
Jacksonville State University	\$61,933,407	\$68,746,082	\$67,428,825	\$66,543,021
Troy University	\$87,931,064	\$94,075,000	\$92,957,256	\$92,920,654
University of Montevallo	\$33,018,738	\$39,622,486	\$34,725,623	\$34,874,394
University of North Alabama	\$57,665,778	\$65,825,000	\$60,778,675	\$61,435,950
University of South Alabama	\$171,209,511	\$188,560,463	\$181,413,176	\$184,001,844
University of West Alabama	\$34,218,443	\$38,104,000	\$36,493,796	\$37,331,748
Total Public Senior Institutions	\$1,776,025,344	\$2,017,545,100	\$1,885,817,139	\$1,885,994,083
Public Two-Year Institutions*	\$485,311,163	\$573,932,006	\$515,584,724	\$508,065,614
Total All Public Institutions	\$2,261,336,507	\$2,591,477,106	\$2,401,401,863	\$2,394,059,697

*The Two-Year Institution line includes O&M for Public Two-Year Institutions, Marion Institute, and Prison Education.

Alabama's higher education institutions requested an increase of 14.63% for their FY 2026-27 budgets. The Commission approved a recommendation for an increase of 6.02%, totaling \$2,392,928,607 based on estimated funds available for higher education. In Act 2026-380, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$2,394,059,697 from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to these institutions, an increase of 6% above the previous year's budget.

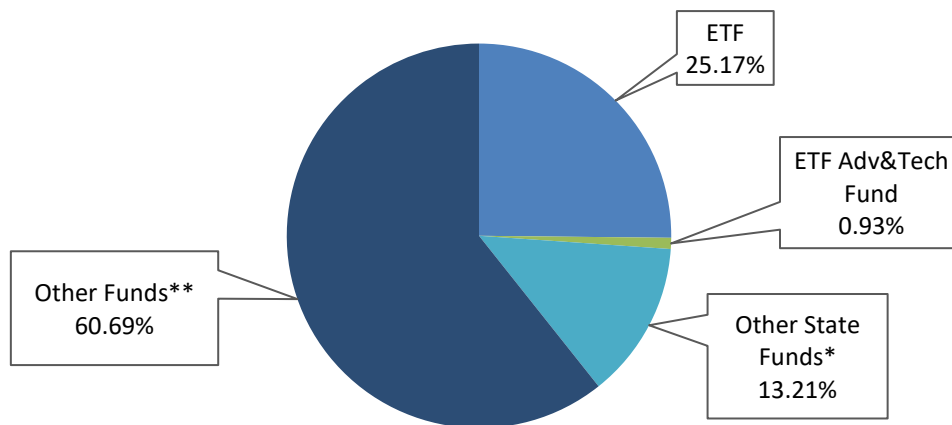
Institutional Finance

Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests

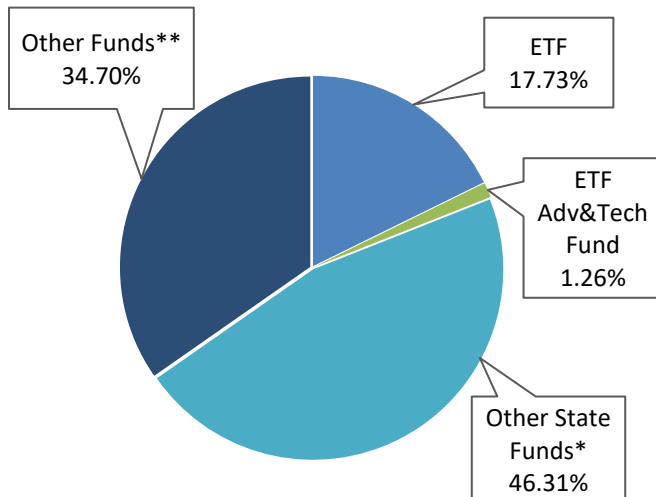
Each public two- and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Request to the Commission as required by statute. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Request report for the period covering FY 2027-31 was presented at the December 12, 2025, Commission meeting. The two- and four-year institutions project they will need over \$8.6 billion to fund capital projects during this five-year period.

Sources of Funding for Requested Capital Projects

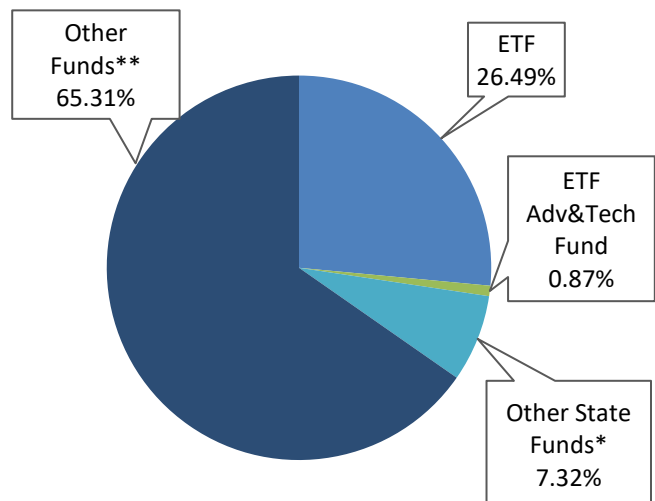
Total Two- and Four-Year Institutions



Two-Year Institutions



Four-Year Institutions



Source: ACHE Program Inventory

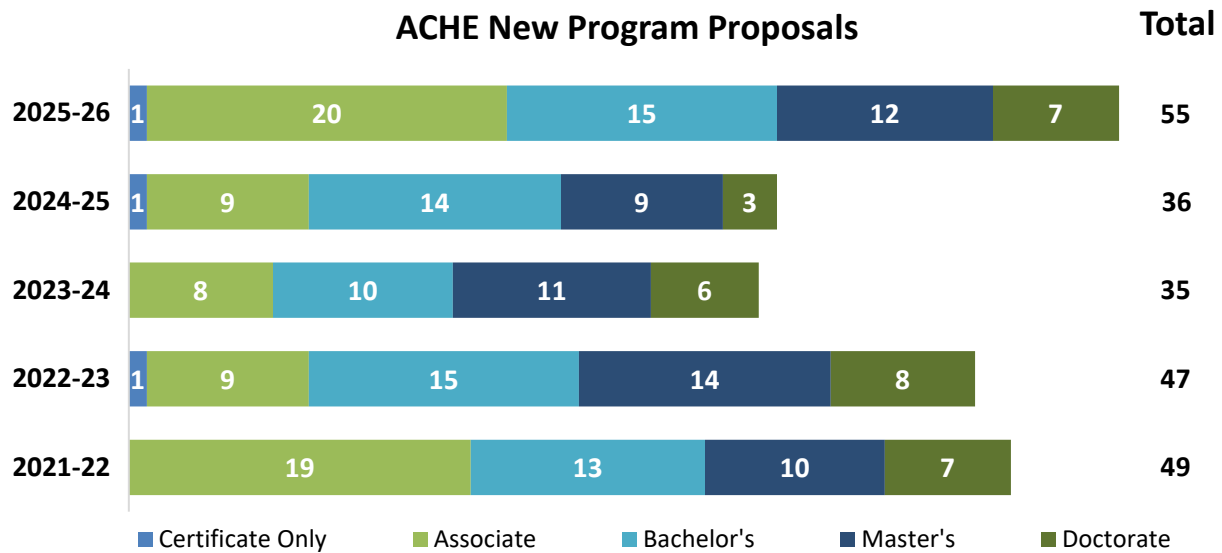
*Other State Funds – Direct legislative appropriations, statewide, capital bond issues or any other funding not from the ETF.

**Other Funds – All other potential sources of funding other than direct legislative appropriations.

Academic Affairs

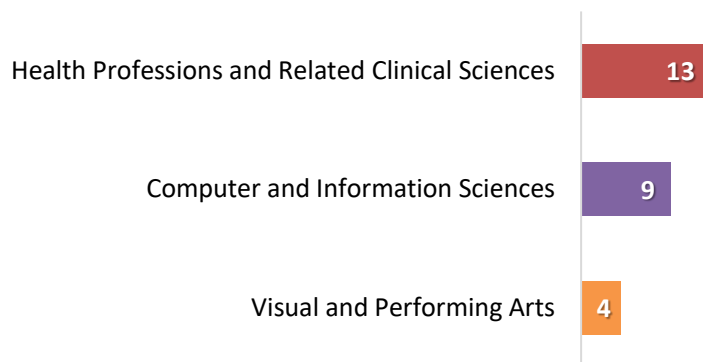
New Academic Program Approvals 2025-2026

Between September 2025 and June 2026, the Commission approved 55 new academic programs, the highest total of the five reporting periods shown. Associate degree programs represented the largest category, with 20 approvals, followed by 15 bachelor's, 12 master's, seven doctoral, and one certificate program.



Source: ACHE Program Inventory

Top New Program Areas of Study



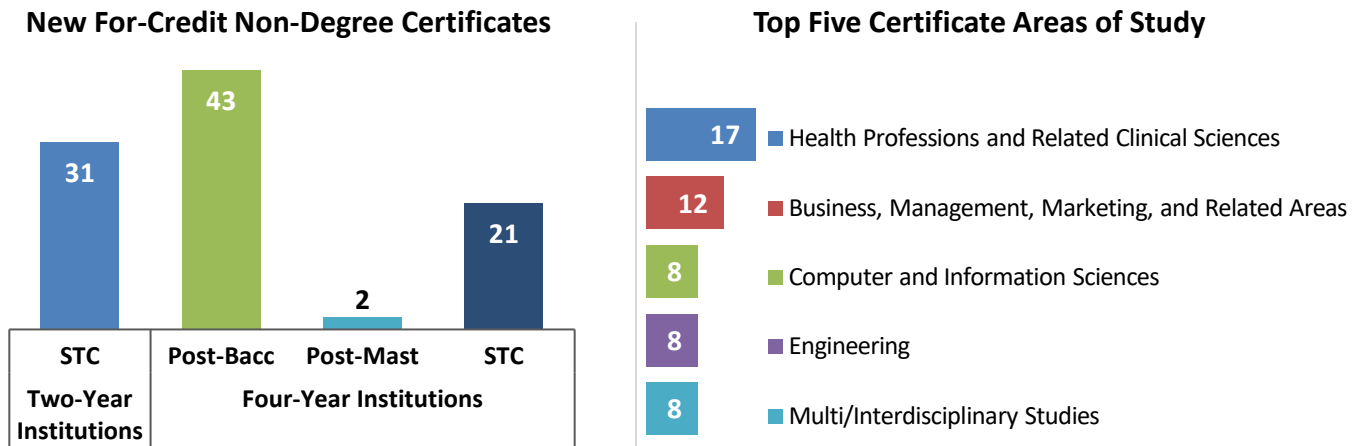
Source: ACHE Program Inventory



Academic Affairs

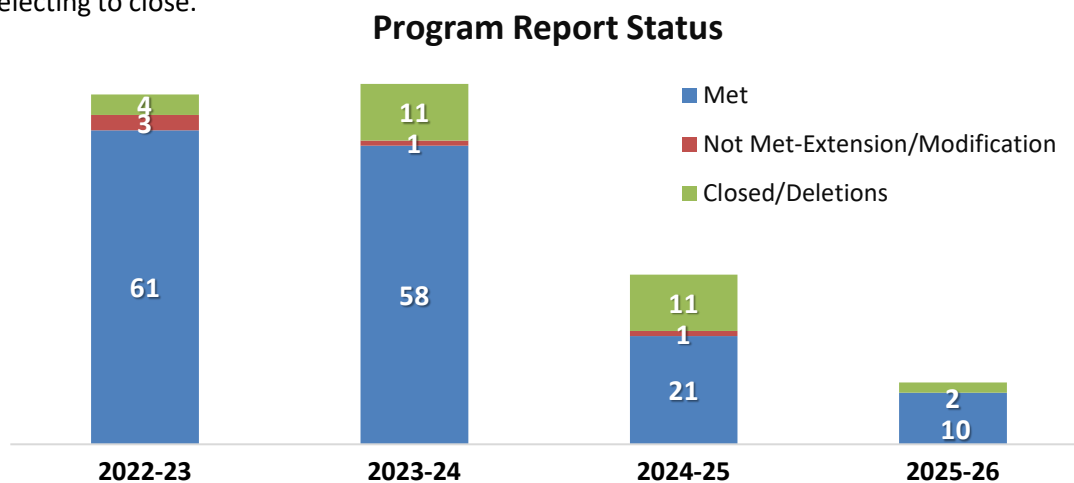
New For-Credit Non-Degree Certificates

Between June 2025 and June 2026, Alabama's public institutions developed 97 new for-credit, non-degree certificates. Two-year institutions reported 31 short-term certificates (STC), while four-year institutions reported 66 certificates: 21 undergraduate (STC), 43 post-baccalaureate (Post-Bacc), and two post-master's (Post-Mast). The leading areas of study were Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences (17 certificates), followed by Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Areas (12 certificates), with three additional areas accounting for eight certificates each.



Post-Implementation Reporting

In March 2025, ACHE completed a cleanup project initiated in 2022 to review academic programs that had not fulfilled the requirements to end their post-implementation monitoring. The 2022-2024 reporting period included the bulk of these outstanding PI reports. For Academic Year 2025-26, institutions submitted post-implementation reports for 12 programs, with 10 meeting conditions and two electing to close.



Source: ACHE Program Inventory



Academic Affairs

Non-Resident Institutions

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 Licensing 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 NRI licensure and programmatic review by two separate state agencies.

Since 2019, when the current programmatic review policy was adopted, a total of 249 NRIs have applied for ACHE programmatic review. Of those NRIs, 127 have closed, merged with another NRI, voluntarily withdrawn, or not met criteria for approval or exemption, resulting in 122 that are currently active (see https://archive.ache.edu/academics/NRI/Active_NRIs.pdf).

Ten of the 122 active NRIs are new exemptions this fiscal year and have central administrations in these seven states:

State	Number of New NRI Exemptions	State	Number of New NRI Exemptions
Florida	1	Montana	1
Georgia	1	Texas	4
Louisiana	1	Washington, D.C.	1
Michigan	1		

Three of the 122 active ACHE NRIs are owned by Adtalem Global Education, Inc., a Chicago-based company, but are physically located outside the United States in Cupecoy, Sint Maarten; Barbados, West Indies; and Basseterre, St. Kitts, West Indies. As a result, these institutions are ineligible for exemption from ACHE review. All three have undergone full programmatic review and are approved.

Additional NRIs, including NC-SARA institutions without a physical site in Alabama, are exempt from ACCS licensure and may offer a broader range of programs. ACCS exemptions are automatically exempt from ACHE programmatic review and are not under the purview of, or listed by, ACHE.

ACHE NRI approval or exemption is valid for two years and can be renewed. The 122 currently active NRIs offer over 900 programs in 40 of the 47 NCES CIP classifications, ranging from a Certificate in Gourmet Cooking to a Doctor of Osteopathy. A list of these programs is available at https://archive.ache.edu/academics/NRI/Programs_by_CIP.pdf.

NRIs with current ACHE programmatic approval or exemption from review are listed at https://archive.ache.edu/academics/NRI/Active_NRIs.pdf. The ACHE NRI programmatic review process is available at https://archive.ache.edu/academics/NRI/Prog_Review_Procedures.pdf. For information on Alabama NRI licensing, including exemption from licensure, see <https://www.accs.edu/about-accs/private-school-licensure/>.

Source: NCES-CIP: National Center for Education Statistics – Classification of Instructional Programs



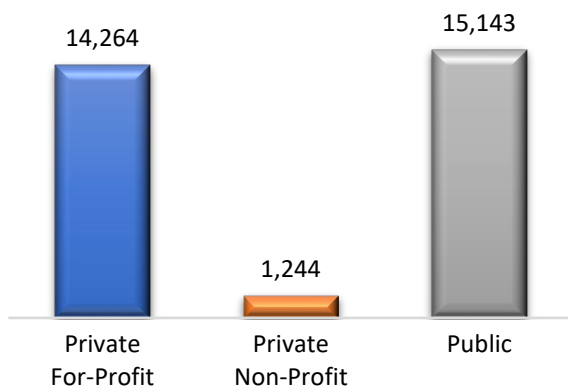
Academic Affairs

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

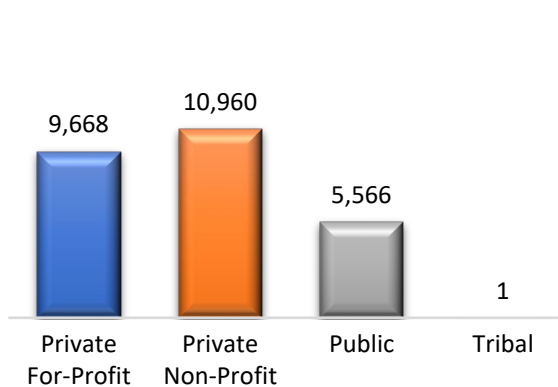
NC-SARA is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps students access educational opportunities and ensures efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs. Since 2016, Alabama's State Reciprocity Committee has contracted with ACHE to be the State Portal Entity 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. NC-SARA currently includes a total of 2,404 participating institutions across the two- and four-year sectors.

NC-SARA Data Dashboard

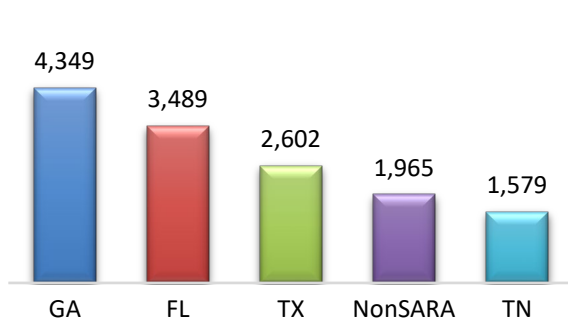
Types of Institutions Chosen by
Alabama Incoming Students



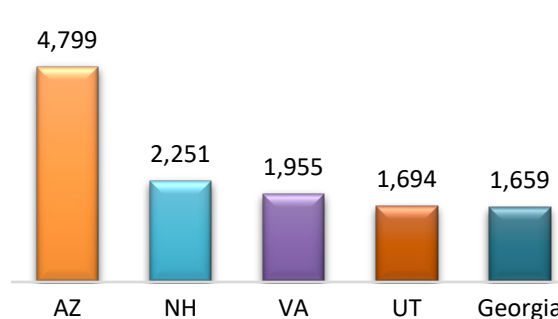
Types of Institutions Chosen by
Alabama Outgoing Students



Top Five Out-of-State
Student Sources for Alabama



Top Five Out-of-State
Destinations for Alabama Students



Source: <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards>



Academic Affairs

Academic Common Market

Organized through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program composed of fifteen (15) participating southern states that allow students to pursue specialized academic programs not offered in their home state at in-state tuition rates. Alabama residents who attended out-of-state institutions via the ACM had tuition savings in the amount of \$1,256,250 during the 2025-26 academic year. The average tuition savings per student for Alabama residents was \$13,958.

During academic year 2025-26, the ACM included 1,910 degree programs across the SREB states, with 168 institutions participating and 1,171 students approved for tuition savings. A total of 90 Alabama residents who were certified attended out-of-state institutions, while 87 out-of-state students certified by their home state attended Alabama institutions in 2025-26.

2025-26 ACM Enrollment at Alabama Institutions

State of Residence	Students Attending Alabama IHEs
Georgia	30
Kentucky	4
Mississippi	15
Louisiana	23
Tennessee	2
Other SREB States	13
Total Count	87

2025-26 Top 10 Degree Programs Attracting Out-of-State Students

1. Cancer Biology, BS	6. Neuroscience, BS
2. Immunology, BS	7. Accelerated Masters Entry to Nursing Pathway, MS
3. Aerospace Engineering, BS	8. Biobehavioral Nutrition & Wellness, BS
4. Genetics & Genomic Sciences, BS	9. Biomedical Science, BS
5. Metallurgical Engineering, BS	10. Biomedical & Health Sciences, MS

Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program (<https://www.sreb.org/doctoral-scholars-program>) supports doctoral persistence and attainment for scholars pursuing careers in academia through financial assistance, research funding, career counseling, and professional development. Its annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring strengthens pathways to careers in academia and industry while preparing scholars for research and leadership roles in high-demand fields.

SREB DSP Outcomes 1993-Present		Alabama Institutions with Current Scholars	
Total Alabama Scholars Supported	252	Alabama State University	Auburn University
Alabama SREB DSP Graduates	168	Tuskegee University	University of Alabama
Alabama SREB DSP Employed Graduates	144	University of Alabama at Birmingham	University of South Alabama

SREB DSP FY 2025-26 Participation

17 Alabama Scholars
were funded in 2025-26

Alabama's participation in the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program supports scholars as they transition from doctoral study to faculty and leadership roles. Since 1993, **94%** (135 scholars) of the Alabama SREB DSP graduates (144 scholars) have been **employed in higher education** (select "Alabama" at <https://www.sreb.org/statistical-profiles>).

Student Financial Assistance Programs

ACHE is committed to expanding access to postsecondary education through scholarship and grant programs that support student success and strengthen Alabama's workforce. These programs address financial need, encourage academic achievement, and promote enrollment in high-demand fields. Several programs were revised during the 2026 Legislative Session for implementation in 2026–2027 to better meet student needs, while the Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship is a newly established program.

- **Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program (ATLAP)** – This program assists licensed athletic trainers in **repaying their federal student loans** while serving in public K–12 schools and supports the state's efforts to recruit and retain these professionals, ensuring safer and healthier sports environments for Alabama's students.
- **Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)** – A **need-based grant** providing critical support for students attending eligible public and private institutions.
- **Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP)** – This program provides **non-need-based grant aid** for Alabama residents attending eligible private, nonprofit institutions in the state. Awards are available **up to \$3,000 per year**, depending on fund availability.
- **Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (ANGEAP)** – This program provides **tuition assistance to active members in good standing** with a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard who are enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution within the state. It recognizes the dedication of our service members and helps them pursue higher education while serving.
- **Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP)** – Effective Fall 2026, this program will be known as the **Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama (LASEA)**. The program expands loan repayment eligibility beyond math, science, and computer science to educators in other fields identified as experiencing acute shortages of certified educators, helping address critical teacher shortages across Alabama. LASEA offers two levels of financial support for up to four consecutive years.
- **Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance Program (POFSEAP)** – This program offers **tuition, fees, and instructional costs** for the **dependents and eligible spouses** of Alabama law enforcement officers and firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty. It serves as a small measure of support and gratitude for families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- **Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship Program** – This program provides financial assistance for the **cost of tuition and mandatory fees** to undergraduate students attending an accredited public postsecondary vocational school, technical school, community, junior college, or university in Alabama. An eligible student must be a **dependent or spouse** of a qualifying state, municipal, or county law enforcement officer who has been employed full-time in Alabama law enforcement for at least 15 years or who separated from full-time employment no more than 10 years.
- **(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program** – This initiative provides **scholarships targeted to support adult learners** who have some college credit but no degree to return to college and complete their degrees. (Re)Engage Alabama connects these students with resources, flexible pathways, and financial assistance to help them cross the finish line and enter the workforce better prepared. The **minimum age is 22 years**, and those who have **earned an associate may also qualify after a two-year stop-out** if all other eligibility requirements are met.

Support of Other State Programs

Act 2026-380 for FY 2027

Alabama Soil and Water Conservation
State Appropriation - \$3,023,376



ALABAMA
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE



Alabama Resource Conservation
and Development Councils
State Appropriation - \$10,500,000



Alabama Humanities Foundation
State Appropriation - \$300,000



ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

USS Alabama Battleship
State Appropriation - \$1,750,000



National Computer Forensics Institute
State Appropriation - \$650,000



Alabama HBCU CARES
State Appropriation - \$650,000



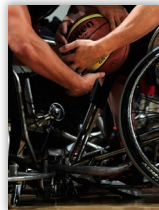
Alabama HBCU Consortium
State Appropriation - \$200,000



Alabama Wing of Civil Air Patrol
State Appropriation - \$155,000



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



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



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



Alabama Black Belt Adventures
State Appropriation - \$500,000



Support of Other State Programs Act 2026-380 for FY 2027

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



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



Alabama Trails Commission
State Appropriation - \$340,000

Alabama
Trails Commission

Support of Other Educational Activities Act 2026-380 for FY 2027

Articulation & General Studies
Committee/Alabama Transfers
State Appropriation - \$999,589



Alabama Established
Program to Stimulate
Competitive Research
State Appropriation -
\$1,460,184



Best and Brightest
STEM Pilot Program
State Appropriation - \$250,000



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



Southern Regional
Education Board (SREB)
State Appropriation - \$831,214

SREB | Southern Regional
Education Board

Support of State Universities Act 2026-380 for FY 2027

Alabama Agricultural
Land-Grant Alliance (AALGA) - \$6,491,283

AALGA
Alabama Agricultural Land-Grant Alliance

Building Human Capital Strategic Plan 2018-2030

Pursuant to § 16-5-6, Code of Alabama 1975, the Commission is responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education through continuous study, analysis, and evaluation. This responsibility includes establishing statewide objectives and priorities and identifying methods and guidelines for achieving them.

Building Human Capital: The Educational Path to Alabama's Economic Success, approved by the Commission on December 8, 2017, serves as the agency's strategic plan for 2018–2030 (https://www.ache.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/State_plan.pdf).

Improving Access

Enhancing Student Success

Enhancing STEM Progress

Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce

Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

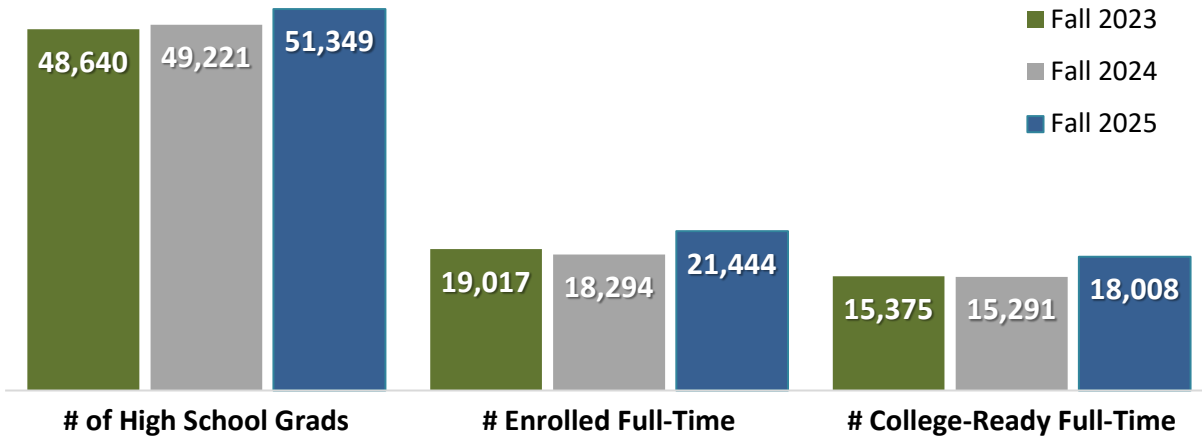


Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy One

Increase the number of high school students prepared for college

**Number of Alabama College-Ready High School Students
Enrolled Full-Time at Alabama's Public Colleges and Universities**

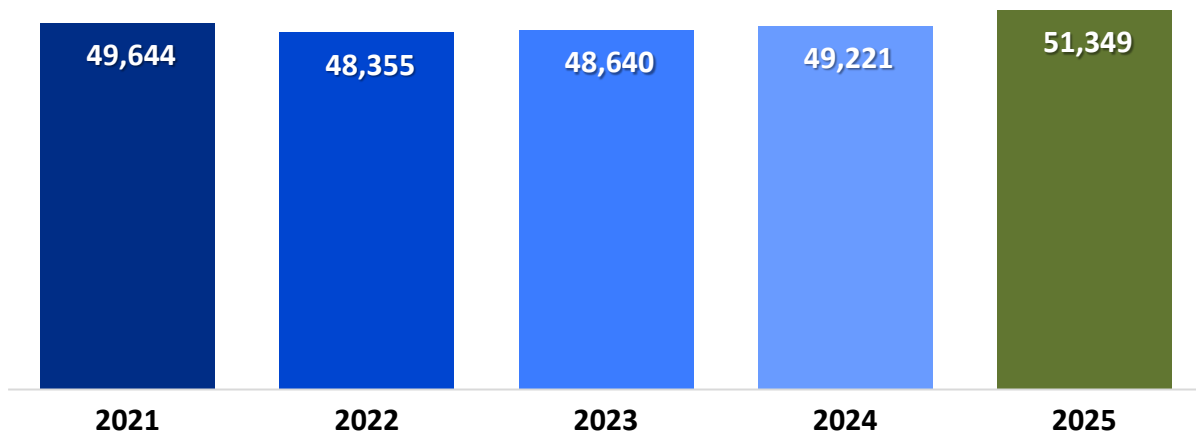


Sources: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education
Note: College-Ready students are those not requiring developmental education courses while in college.

Strategy One

Monitor Alabama public high school graduate trends

**Alabama Public High School
Graduate Trends**



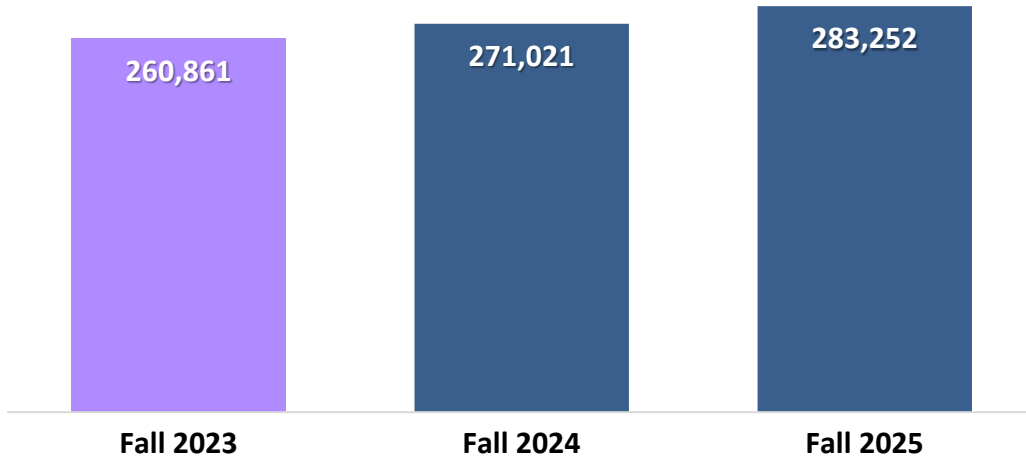
Source: Alabama State Department of Education

Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy One

Monitor enrollment at Alabama public higher education institutions

Alabama Public Institutions
Total Enrollment

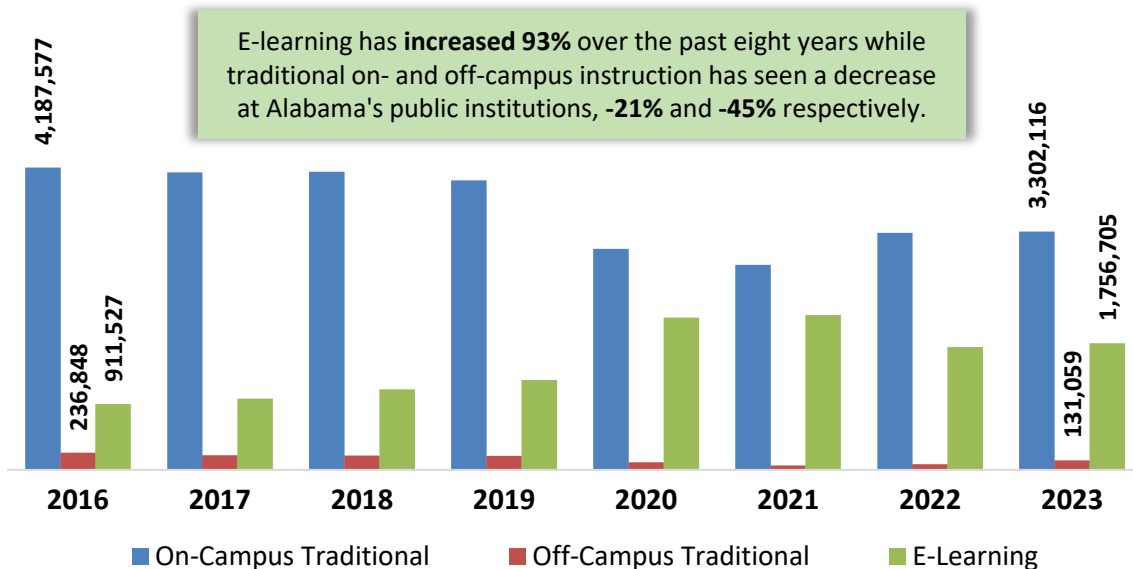


Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Strategy Two

Expand the delivery of coursework online

Delivery Mode of Undergraduate Credit Hours at Alabama Public Institutions

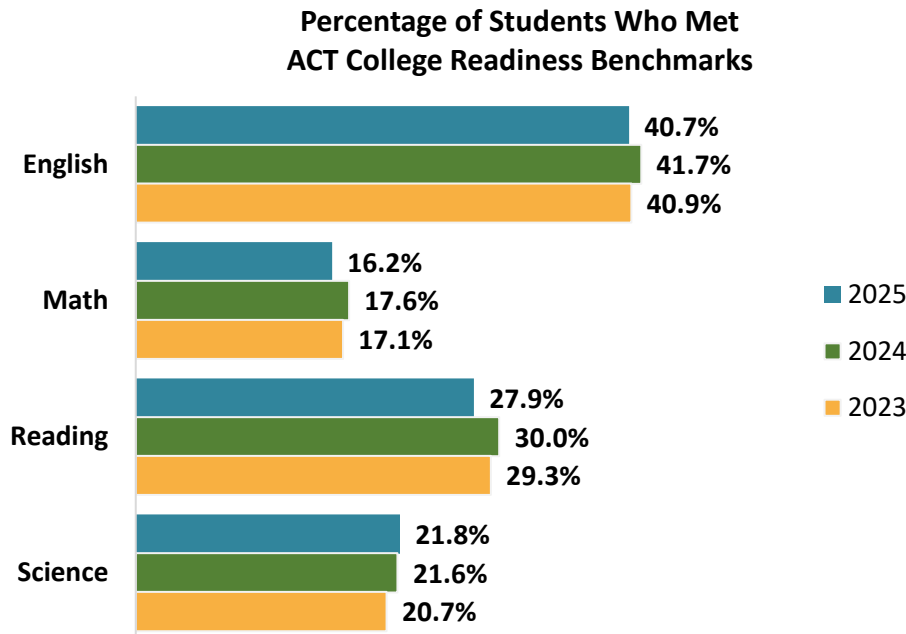


Sources: Alabama Commission on Higher Education; Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Data Exchange Survey

Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy Two

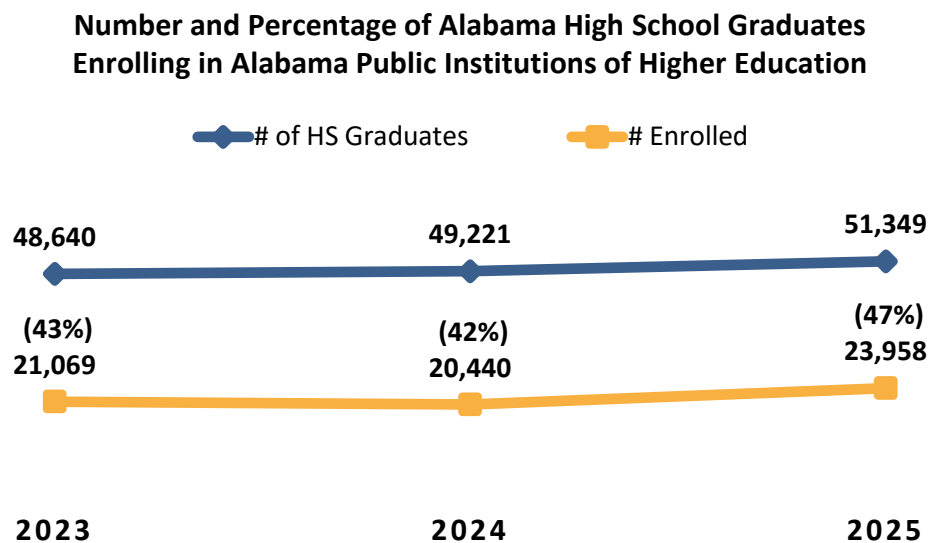
Monitor ACT readiness benchmarks



Source: Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA)

Strategy Two

Monitor the number of high school graduates enrolling in Alabama public institutions



Sources: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education
Note: Enrollment includes Full-Time and Part-Time Students.

Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy Three

Increase the number of students receiving financial aid by increasing scholarship and grant opportunities.

Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)

Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	11,790	\$9,698,099
2025	10,972	\$9,207,875
2024	10,184	\$8,728,582

Provides critical support as a need-based grant for students attending eligible public and private institutions.

Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP)

Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	5,435	\$9,592,158
2025	4,957	\$9,946,495
2024	5,015	\$8,346,325

Provides non-need-based grant aid for Alabama residents attending eligible private, nonprofit institutions in the state.

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (ANGEAP)

Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	1,189	\$7,660,015
2025	1,093	\$6,628,804
2024	1,108	\$6,365,556

Provides tuition assistance to active members of the Alabama National Guard who are enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution in the state.

(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program

Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	46	*\$127,750
2025	52	\$158,375
2024	37	\$100,750

*A total of \$993,625 is earmarked to support participants through program completion.

Provides scholarships to support adult learners in returning to college and completing their degrees.

Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivors Educational Assistance Program (POFSEAP)

Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	21	\$226,998
2025	20	\$231,662
2024	23	\$243,317

Offers tuition, fees, and instructional costs for the dependents and eligible spouses of Alabama law enforcement officers and firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty.

Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP)

Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	49	\$324,932
2025	47	\$234,819
2024	52	\$271,716

Provides loan repayment incentives to Alabama certified teachers of mathematics, science, or computer science who teach in the public schools.

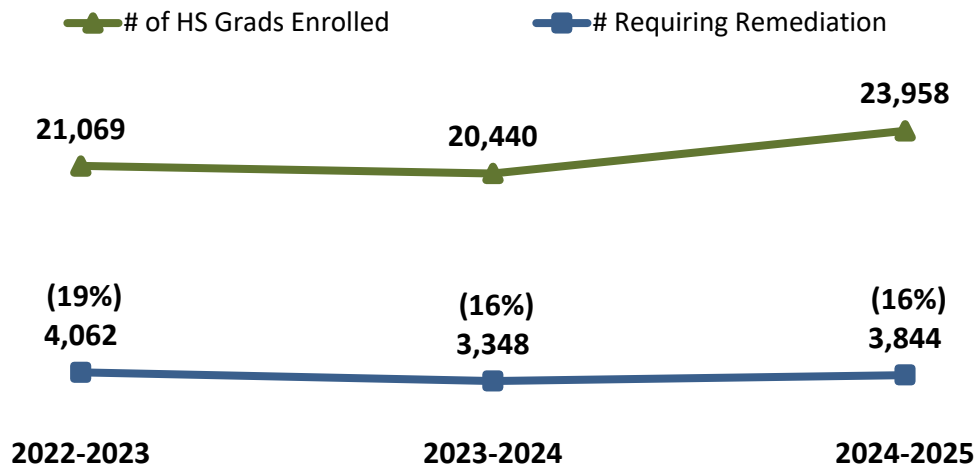
Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education Grant System
Note: All data collected as of August 2026

Priority 2: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy One

Monitor remedial education

Number and Percentage of Alabama High School Graduates Enrolled Requiring Remediation

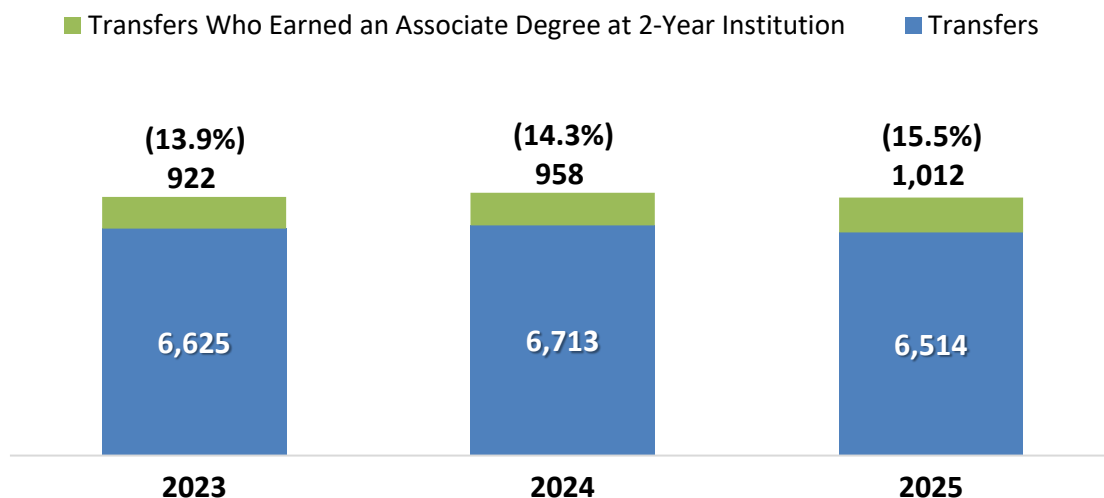


Sources: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education

Strategy Two

Promote the seamless transfer of students from community colleges to four-year institutions

Number and Percentage of New Students Transferring from Alabama Public Community Colleges to Alabama Public Universities in Fall Term



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database Transfer Migration Report

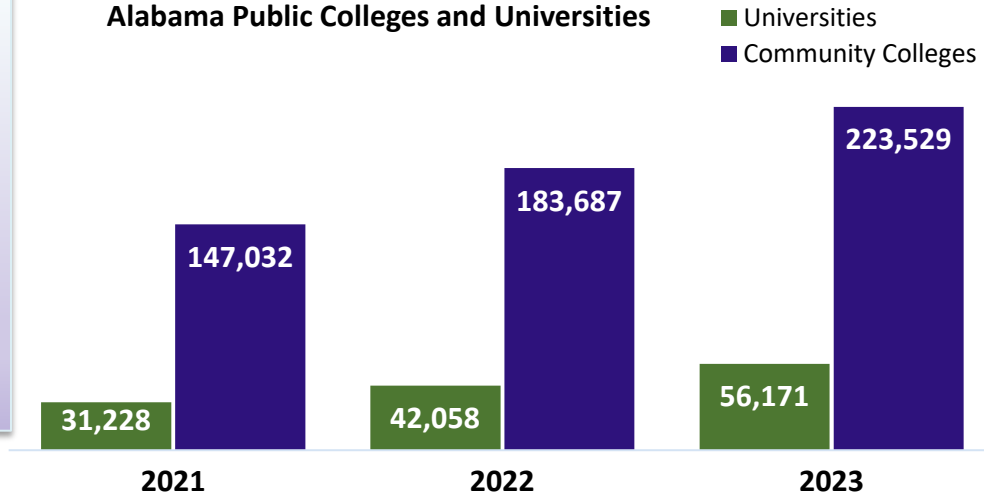
Priority 2: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy Four

Increase college access for high school students

Number of Dual Enrollment Credit Hours at Alabama Public Colleges and Universities

In 2023, Dual Enrollment credits at the universities increased 79.9% from 2021, and there was an increase of 52.0% at the community colleges.



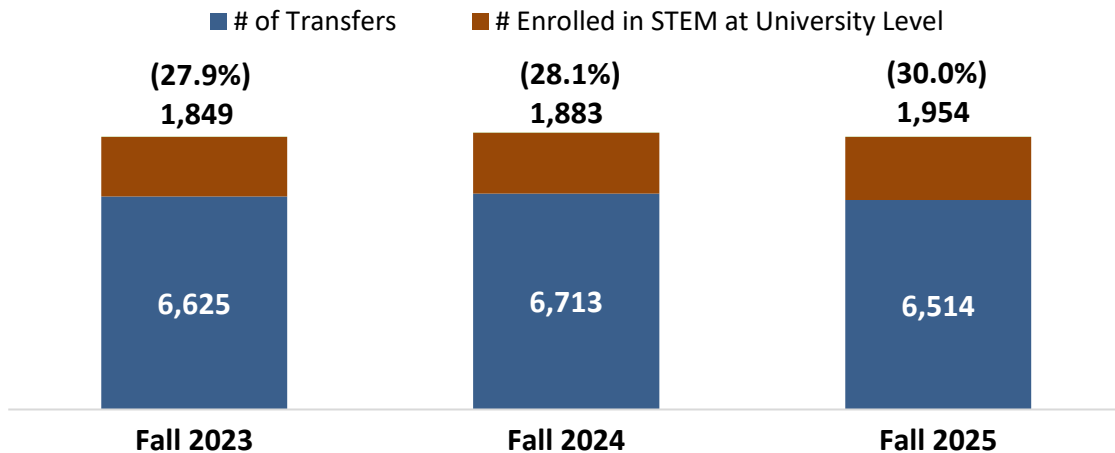
Sources: Alabama Commission on Higher Education and Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Data Exchange Survey

Priority 3: Enhancing STEM Progress

Strategy Four

Promote the seamless transfer of students

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



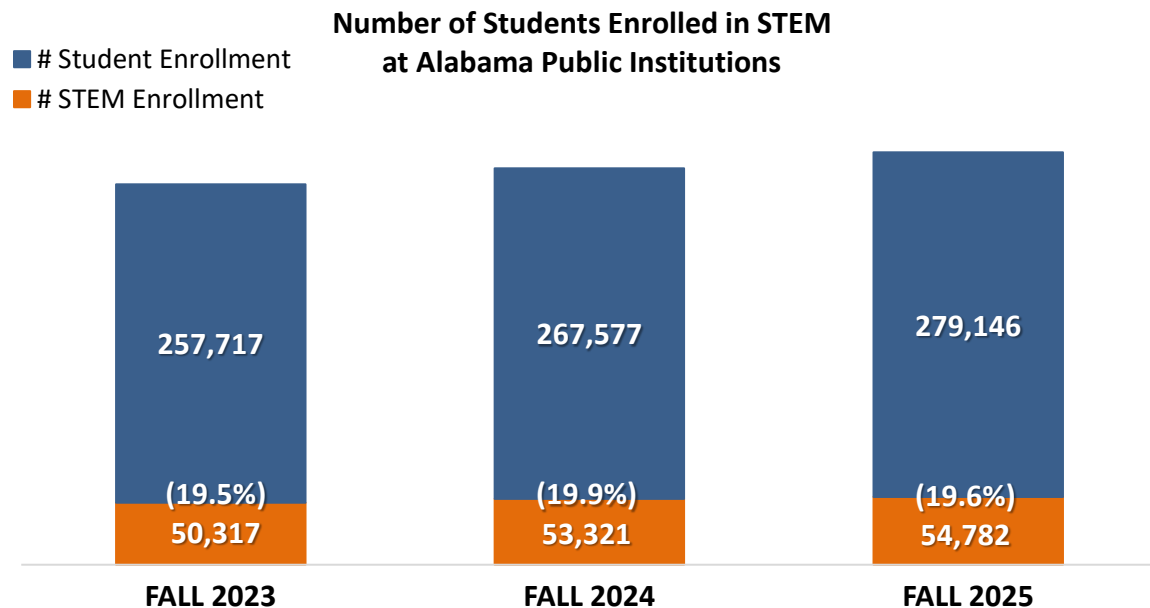
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Note: The Department of Homeland Security STEM Degree Program list is used.

Priority 3: Enhancing STEM Progress

Strategy One

Increase the number of high school students prepared for college

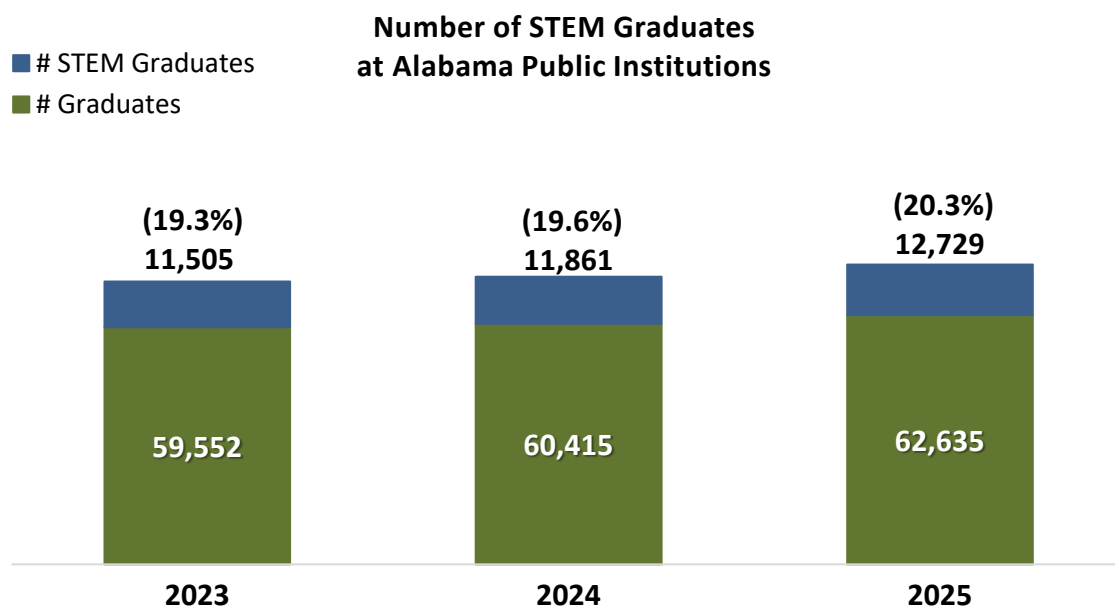


Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Note: These numbers represent an unduplicated headcount.

Strategy Four

Promote the seamless transfer of students

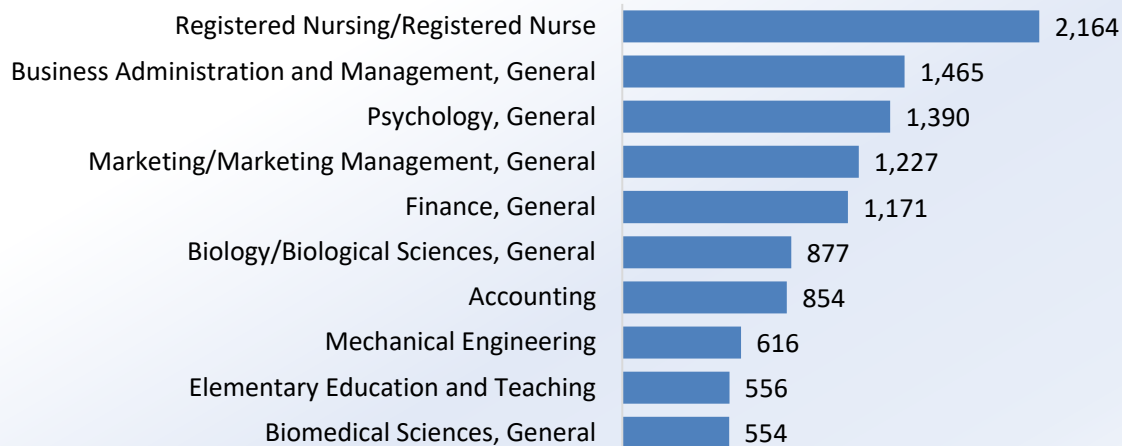


Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Note: These numbers represent an unduplicated headcount.

Priority 4: Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce

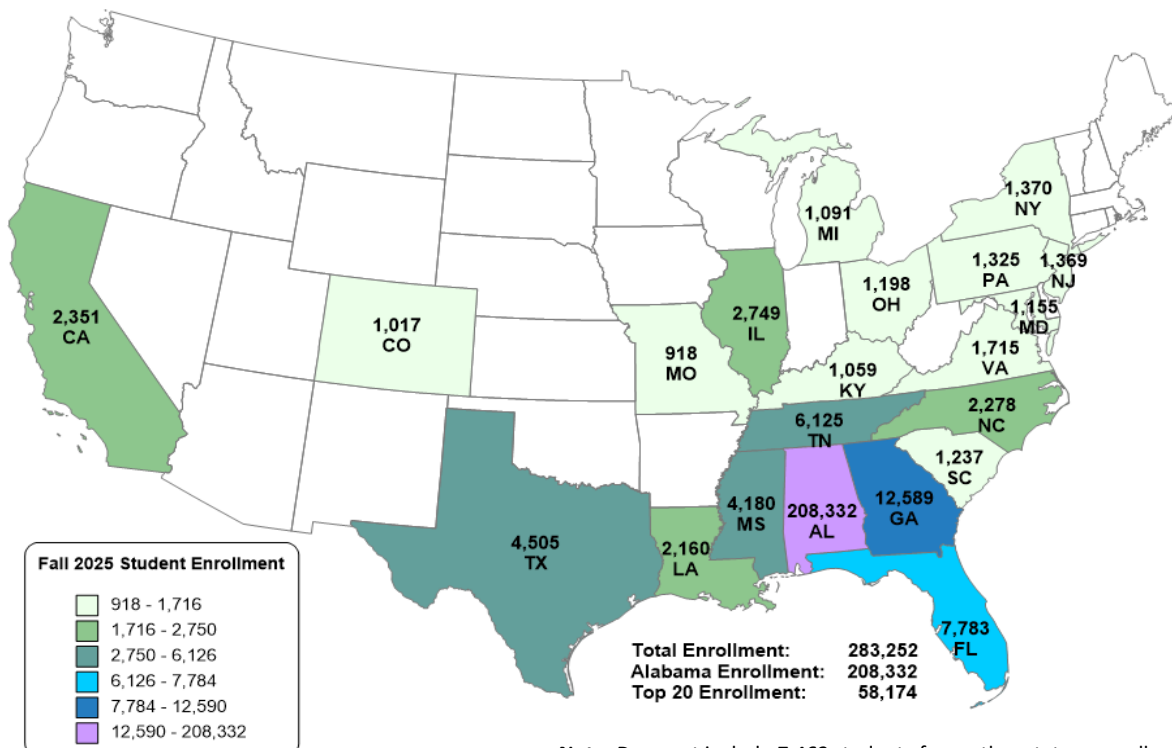
2024-2025 Top 10 Completions by Major for Baccalaureate Degrees



Number of baccalaureate degrees completed at Alabama public four-year institutions was 26,927.

Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Fall 2025 Enrollment in Alabama Public Colleges and Universities Including Students from Alabama and the Top 20 Feeder States



Note: Does not include 7,462 students from other states as well as 9,284 students from unknown states, territories, and foreign countries.

Percent of students enrolled from Alabama – 74%

Percent of students enrolled from Georgia, the top feeder state – 4%

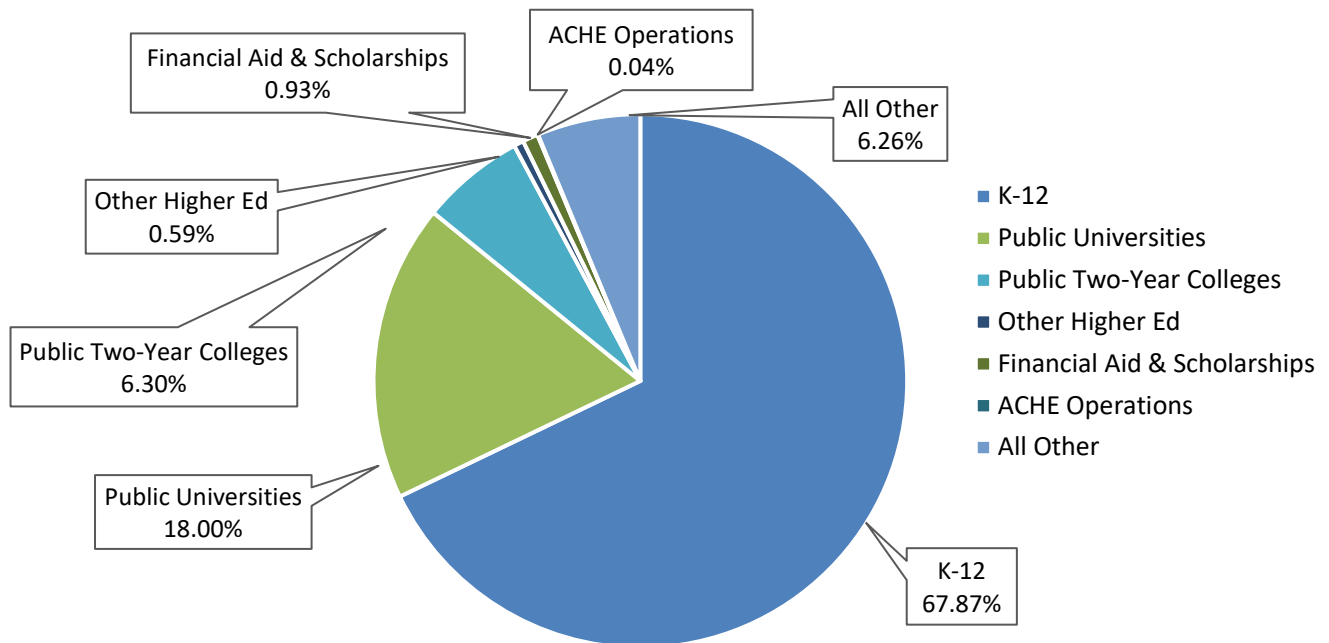
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Priority 5: Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Strategy One Optimize institutional performance

Sectors	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split
	FY 2025-26	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2026-27
K-12	\$6,737,754,832	67.99%	\$7,111,955,796	67.87%
Public Universities	\$1,776,618,830	17.93%	\$1,886,687,569	18.00%
Public Two-Year Colleges	\$622,223,785	6.28%	\$660,356,653	6.30%
Other Higher Ed	\$57,307,206	0.58%	\$61,988,494	0.59%
Financial Aid & Scholarships	\$96,451,091	0.97%	\$97,367,820	0.93%
ACHE Operations	\$4,470,148	0.05%	\$4,618,866	0.04%
All Other	\$614,590,647	6.20%	\$656,232,792	6.26%
Total	\$9,909,416,539	100.00%	\$10,479,207,990	100.00%

Percentage of ETF Appropriation for Education FY 2026-27



Source: ACHE Program Inventory





ACHE in Action

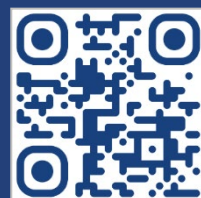


ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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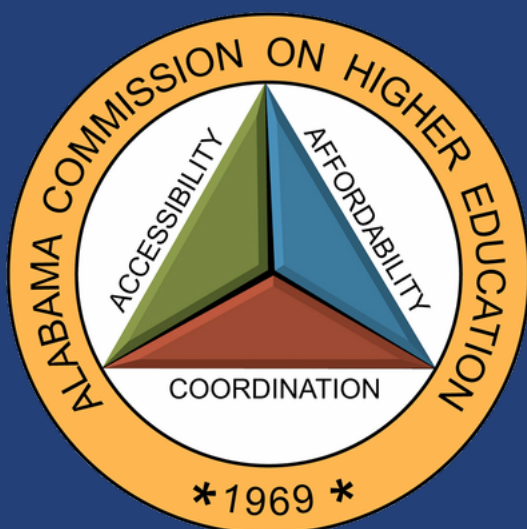
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ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALABAMA



2026

ACCESSIBILITY. AFFORDABILITY. COORDINATION