

Annual Report

2023

Alabama Commission on
Higher Education



Thank you Jacksonville State University for hosting the September Commission meeting on your beautiful campus.



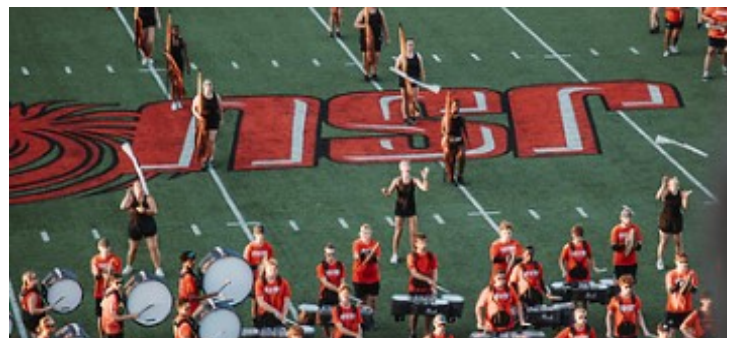
Stan Nelson, Jim Purcell, and Charles Buntin join JSU President Don Killingsworth on the observation deck of the Houston Cole Library overlooking the Talladega National Forest.



ACHE Executive Director Jim Purcell, ACHE Chair Miranda Bouldin, ACHE Commissioners Stan Nelson and Charles Buntin, JSU President Don Killingsworth and ACHE Commissioner Rod Scott toured the College of Health Professions and Wellness.



ACHE Commissioners Paul Kennedy and Stan Nelson at ACHE September meeting on JSU campus.



The JSU Marching Southerners provided entertainment prior to the meeting.

ACHE

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Commissioners



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



Charles Buntin
2nd District
Term:
09/01/2015 – 08/31/2024



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



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



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



7th District



Commissioners



Stan Pylant
At-Large
Term:
09/01/2014 – 08/31/2023



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



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



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



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



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



Letter from the Executive Director

It has been a tough decade for maintaining services and operations for state government and higher education. The 2008 recession sent the economy into an anemic condition which impacted overall state funding that included significant declines for higher education. In addition, tuition increased exponentially during this same timeframe. And just when state support for Alabama's colleges and universities was getting closer to its pre-2008 level, the COVID pandemic further changed how the world works. Higher education institutions experienced a period of all online education followed by declining enrollments, especially at the state's community colleges and smaller regional universities. During that time two in-state private universities also closed.

Even with a recovering economy and two years of robust state support, the world continues to change:

- Businesses and industry are rapidly automating the workplace. Projections indicate two-thirds of Alabama's counties will experience at least a 25% job displacement by 2035;
- A disconnect exists between jobs and the skill-sets and credentials of available workers; and
- Higher education has not been as responsive to these changes as it should be in order to support the local and state economy.

As a result, Alabama has made short-term fixes to address the current rapid economic and social changes such as:

- Non-credit training to address immediate need;
- Relaxing job and licensure requirements in several areas from teachers to physicians;
- Eliminating income tax for overtime work to encourage additional hours of work by skilled labor already in the workplace; and
- Expanding support for credentialing of prisoners.

Several initiatives brought forward by ACHE in this past year were designed to help higher education become an integral part of the current workforce shortages and long-term stability. Retain Alabama focuses on encouraging college students to remain in Alabama to live and work following graduation, providing the missing links between these potential employees and the countless workforce opportunities in the state. Recall Alabama identifies former graduates who have left the state, encouraging their return to Alabama through direct marketing campaigns in conjunction with institutional alumni and workforce development groups. (Re)Engage Alabama helps students who did not complete their undergraduate coursework and only lack a few credits to earning a degree but need assistance with barriers in the academic and financial process to complete their credentials. The legislature allocated \$4,500,000 in scholarships to be used for adults returning to college to complete their degree.

It is my expectation that these ACHE initiatives and the curricular innovations occurring at our colleges and universities will address our current workforce needs and will position the state's higher education system to quickly respond to further change.



Dr. Jim Purcell

*“Education is one thing
no one can take away
from you.”*

- ELIN NORDEGREN

Chair's Message

As Chair of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, I am pleased to transmit to Governor Ivey and the Alabama Legislature the 2023 annual report.

The Commission on Higher Education has the statutory responsibility 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. Some of the more noteworthy of the Commission's statutory responsibilities include the approval of new academic programs at public two- and four-year institutions, the submission each year of a funding recommendation to the governor and legislature, and the approval of off-campus offerings of public two- and four-year institutions.

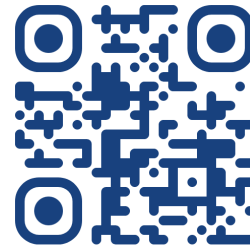
Since the 2020 Pandemic, many facets of education have changed. The most notable has been in the delivery of academic courses in a remote format. As a statewide coordinating board, the Commission has become a leading source for information about higher education.

Whether the inquiry concerns student data, institutional information, non-resident institutions operating in state, financial aid or statewide research and development activities, the Commission is the clearinghouse for citizens of this state and their leadership. The Commission welcomes this role and continues to seek additional avenues to improve information collection and delivery.

This year the legislature passed a bill creating the Students' Right to Know Act of 2023. This will provide to the public, and specifically prospective students, a comprehensive source of information about the state's colleges and universities. All of the resources will be available in an interactive online user-friendly format.

The Right to Know Act is just one of many examples of the Commission's advocacy commitment for students, faculty, and institutions of higher education in Alabama.

I hope you will learn more in this annual report about the Commission's important role in Alabama's higher education system.



Miranda Bouldin





Historic State Support for Public Education

The 2023 legislative session goes down in the history books with record-setting budgets from both the Education Trust Fund and the General Fund. During the regular session, lawmakers passed tax cuts, repaid debts, shored up savings accounts and returned money to tax filers. All of this in addition to two special sessions to determine how to allocate the last of the federal Covid funds and redraw the state’s congressional districts.



Governor Kay Ivey signs budget bill

Act 2023-379 - Public Education Funding

An \$8.8 billion Education Trust Fund budget bill was signed into law in May by Governor Kay Ivey. The 2024 budget is the largest amount ever appropriated to fund education in the state. She also signed two supplemental spending bills for budget surpluses.

Institution Type	Amount Received	Increase over FY 2023
Two-Year	\$551,286,557	6.89%
Four-Year	\$1,553,524,984	7.20%

Act 2023 378—Supplemental Funding	
Transfer to Tuskegee University for Deferred Maintenance	\$ 7,000,000
Forest Workforce Training Center	\$ 1,000,000
Talent Retention Initiative Project	\$ 100,000
USS Alabama Battleship	\$ 5,000,000
Outcomes Based Funding for Four-Year Universities	\$ 15,000,000
Best and Brightest STEM Pilot Program	\$ 270,000
Deferred Maintenance for Historically Black Colleges and Universities	\$ 5,000,000
(Re)Engage Alabama - Part of the All in Alabama Campaign	\$ 4,500,000
Birmingham Zoo - Alabama Veterinary Teaching Hospital	\$ 5,000,000
Southern Museum of Flight	\$ 390,831
*Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program	\$ 3,400,000

**Funded 2023 summer semester students*

Act 2023-556 – Students’ Right to Know

Provides the public, specifically students planning for college, a comprehensive source of information about higher education and job opportunities. The Student Horizon Database will be an easily-accessible online tool.

Act 2023-539 – (Re)Engage Alabama

Focuses on former students in Alabama with some college and no degree. This program is designed to identify individuals who previously attended a college or university, but may be short of earning an undergraduate degree by a few credits. It connects those former students with Alabama’s colleges and universities by working to remove academic and financial barriers that often prevent them from reengaging in the academic process and completing their credential or degree.



Executive Order 728 – Use of State Vehicles

By July 1, 2023, all state executive-branch agencies were to ensure the efficiency and accountability of the use of state vehicles. It was ordered that a written policy on the assignment and proper use of state vehicles was in place in support of the appropriate stewardship of such state resources. ACHE updated its policy and forms for the use of state vehicles accordingly.

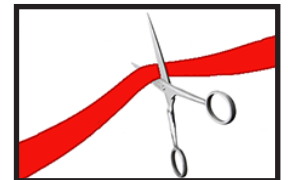
Executive Order 734 – Public Records Request

By April 26, 2023, all state executive-branch agencies were to revise their policies to adopt or amend administrative rules of Public Records Request transparency. Responsibilities of the agency included, but were not limited to, creating online request forms, working with a third-party vendor to develop a process for collecting request fees, and having a response process established utilizing a specified email address. ACHE completed the tasks of the executive order by creating a website and email address. For more information email public.records@ache.edu.



Executive Order 735 – Reduction of Red Tape

All state executive-branch agencies are to reduce unnecessary regulations on the citizens and businesses of Alabama. Executive Order 735 will be conducted over the next two years in a three-year phase process to reduce discretionary regulatory restrictions by at least twenty-five percent. Phase I, due September, 2023, provides an inventory of each agency’s regulations to the Office of the Governor. Phase II, due March, 2024, develops a formal rule-reduction plan to simplify administrative code with intentional reductions. Phase III will be the implementation period of the rule-reduction plan and will last from March, 2024 - March, 2025.



Employment Outcomes Report (2022)

The Employment Outcomes Report is designed to study the value of public higher education in the state of Alabama by analyzing employment outcomes for graduates. Findings are intended for policymakers who are interested in how investments in public higher education are contributing to the state’s workforce and economy. Findings may also inform higher education administrators and policymakers who are interested in how their graduates are faring in the workforce.



ACHE’s Quadrennial Review

Alabama is unique among its counterparts in other states because its enabling legislation requires a periodic evaluation. The Quadrennial Review is conducted during the final year of each gubernatorial term and according to law is to be “submitted to the governor, the legislature, the presidents and the governing boards of the public institutions of higher education in the State and the public.”



Alabama Two-Year Public Institutions

Community Colleges

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



Technical Colleges

- Ingram State
- Reid State

Alabama Four-Year Public Institutions

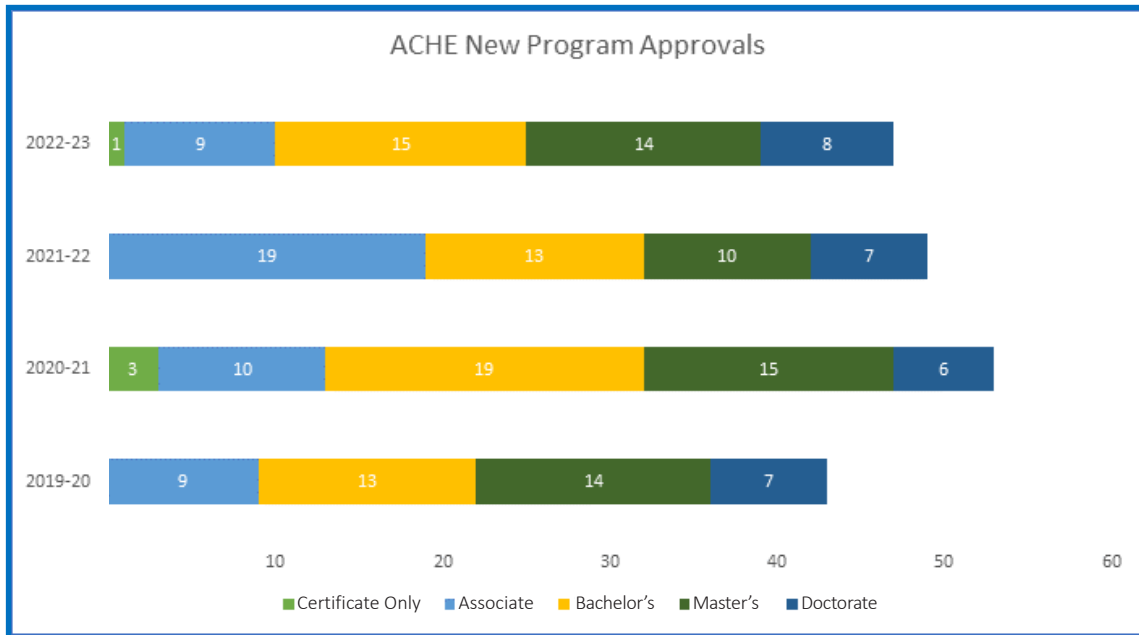


Alabama A&M University	University of Alabama
Alabama State University	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Athens State University	University of Alabama in Huntsville
Auburn University	University of Montevallo
Auburn University at Montgomery	University of North Alabama
Jacksonville State University	University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

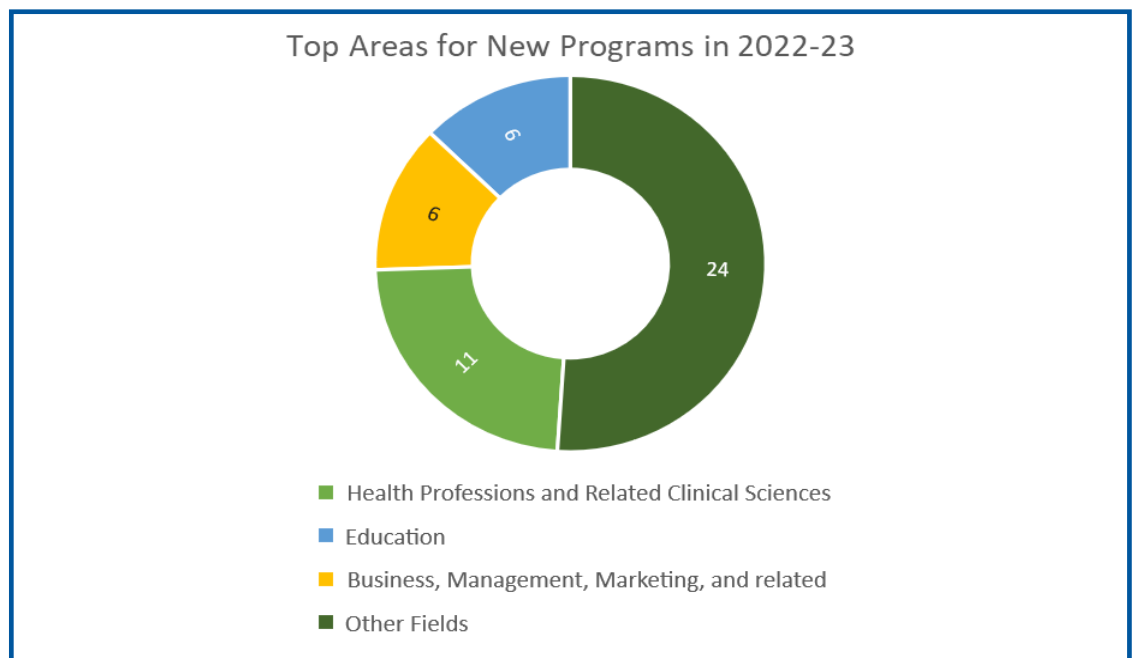
Academics

In 2022-23, the Commission approved 47 new programs of study, down slightly from the previous year's total of 49. The number of newly approved associate degrees decreased by half from the previous year, while newly approved graduate degrees were up by almost 30% compared with the prior year.

New Program Approvals



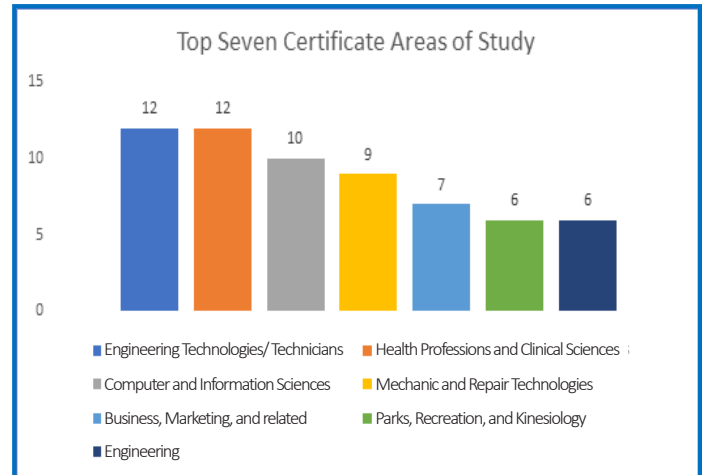
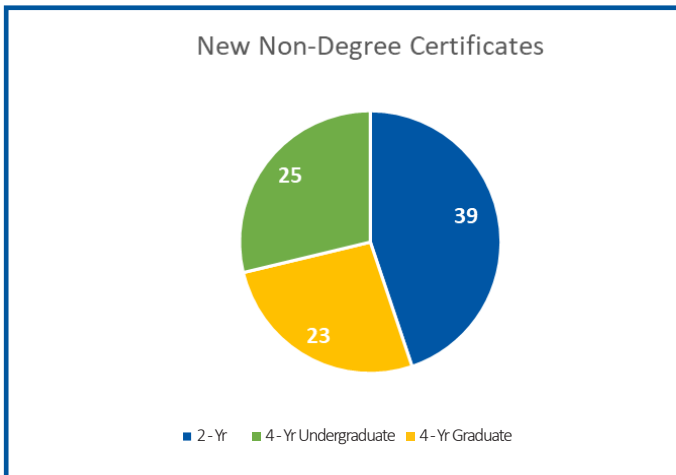
The top three areas in which new programs were approved appear below. While these are the same top three areas as the previous two years, the number of programs in Health Professions only represents 23% of total programs compared to 41% in 2021-22. Business has the same number of programs and education doubled from three to six in 2022-23.



New Non-Degree Certificates

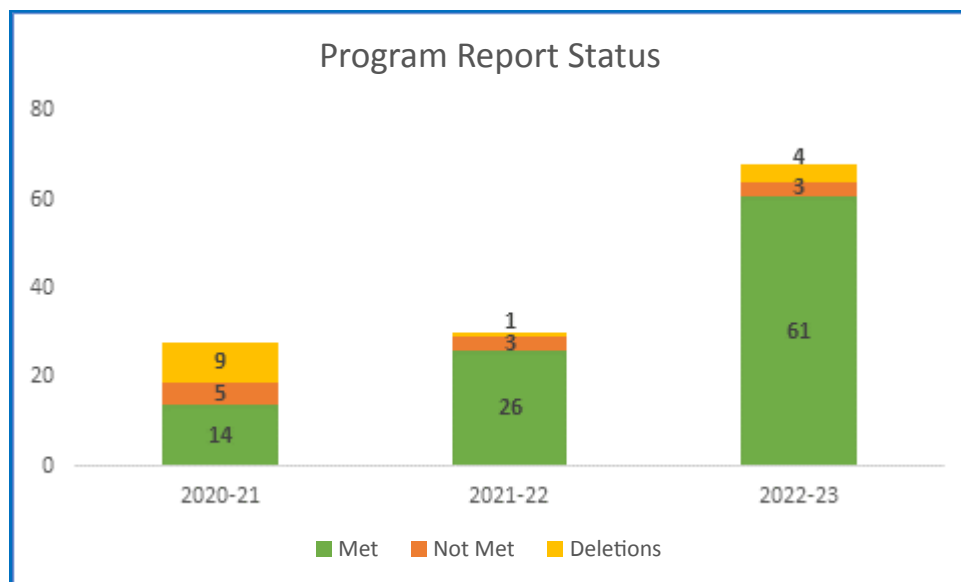
Between December 2022 and September 2023, Alabama’s two- and four-year public institutions developed 87 new non-degree certificates, including 39 short-term certificates at the community and technical college level. Compared to the previous year, the number of all newly approved certificate groups dropped: two-year certificates by 39%; four-year undergraduate certificates by 19%; and graduate certificates by 15%.

In the top seven areas in which new certificates were developed in 2022-23, two categories are dominated by the technical programs being offered by the two-year programs (Engineering Technologies, and Mechanical); and the remaining categories are dominated by the four-year undergraduate and graduate certificate programs.



Post-Implementation Reporting

In 2022, ACHE began a project to review any approved programs that did not complete the post-implementation process. The review included programs that were newly approved or up for review back to 2010. This resulted in more post-implementation reports than normal. Between December 2022 and September 2023, a total of 68 programs submitted post-implementation reports or deletion requests (both on-time and overdue). Of these, almost all programs (61) met all post-implementation conditions. This is an ongoing project that will continue into 2024.



Non-Resident Institutions

Out-of-state institutions that offer postsecondary programs in Alabama are identified as Non-Resident Institutions (NRI) and must be licensed or exempted from licensing by the Private School Licensure Division at 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 policy was adopted, a total of 200 NRIs have been exempted from programmatic review, including 12 exempted in the past year.

The 12 NRIs exempted from ACHE review in the past year have headquarters in the following seven states:

California:	4	New York:	1
Georgia:	2	Virginia:	1
Michigan:	1	Washington:	1
New Jersey:	2		

Three additional institutions have ACHE approval 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). Scan the QR code for a current list of NRIs with ACHE programmatic approval or exemption from review.



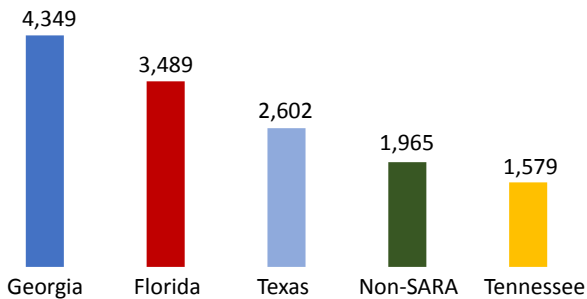
National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

Since 2016, Alabama’s State Reciprocity Committee has contracted with ACHE to be the State Portal Entity for the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). ACHE enrolls and renews institutions as members of NC-SARA (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, SARA member institutions can streamline the process of becoming authorized to offer distance education programs in other SARA states. This is estimated to save as much as \$69,797 per institution on an annual basis. Membership in SARA continues to grow and currently stands at forty-three institutions:

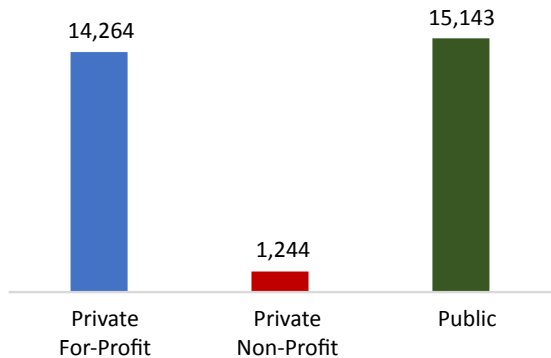
- Public Two-Year Institutions: 16
- Public Four-Year Institutions: 15
- Private Non-Profit Institutions: 11
- Private For-Profit Institutions: 1

NC-SARA Alabama Incoming Students Fall 2022: 30,651

Top States Sending Students—Alabama



Types of Institutions Attended by Alabama Incoming Students



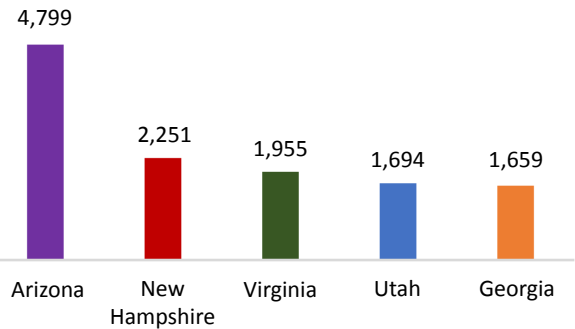
Top Institutions Attended by Alabama Incoming Students

Institution	Sector	Total
Columbia Southern Univ.	Pvt. For Profit	14,264
Troy University	Public	3,181
University of South Alabama	Public	2,771
University of Alabama	Public	2,376
Univ. of Ala. at Birmingham	Public	1,800

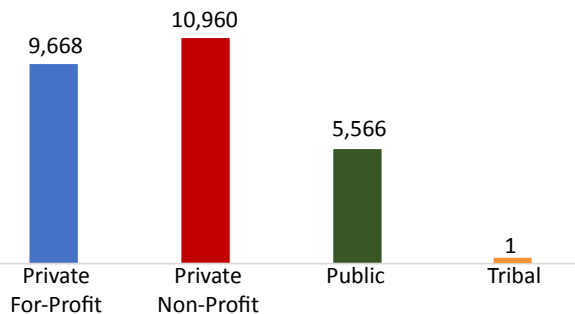
For the most recent reporting period available (Fall 2022), 30,651 distance education students from other states were enrolled in SARA institutions in Alabama.

NC-SARA Alabama Outgoing Students Fall 2022: 26,195

Top States Receiving Alabama Outgoing Students



Types of Institutions Attended by Alabama Outgoing Students



Top Institutions Attended by Alabama Outgoing Students

Institution	State	Total
Southern New Hampshire University	NH	2,245
Liberty University	VA	1,674
Western Governors University	UT	1,653
University of Phoenix	AZ	1,559
Penn Foster College	AZ	1,492

Conversely, 26,195 Alabama residents enrolled in distance education programs at SARA institutions in other states, with Arizona being the largest recipient state (4,799 Alabama residents enrolled in Arizona-based institutions).

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program for college students in the SREB’s 15-member states who want to pursue degrees not offered by institutions in their home state. Through this program students can enroll in out-of-state institutions that offer their degree program and pay the in-state tuition rate. Alabama residents who attended institutions out-of-state via the ACM had tuition savings in the amount of \$1,084,442 during the 2022-23 academic year. The average tuition savings per student for Alabama residents was \$12,049.

During academic year 2022-23, the ACM included 1,971 degree programs across the SREB states, with 167 institutions participating and 2,161 students approved for tuition savings. There was a total of 90 Alabama residents who were certified to attend out-of-state institutions, while 197 out-of-state students were certified by their home state to attend Alabama institutions during academic year 2022-23.

2022-23 ACM Enrollment at AL Institutions

State of Residence	Students Attending Alabama IHE
Georgia	101
Kentucky	4
Mississippi	15
Louisiana	29
Tennessee	20
Other SREB States	28
Total	197

2022-23 Top 10 Degree Programs Attracting Out-of-State Students

1. Biomedical Sciences, BS	6. Immunology, BS
2. Biomedical Engineering, BS	7. Neuroscience, BS
3. Aerospace Engineering, BS	8. Industrial Distribution, BS
4. Medical Sociology, BS	9. Professional Flight, BS
5. Cancer Biology, BS	10. Genetics & Genomic Sciences, BS

Doctoral Scholars Program

Since 1993, the SREB State Doctoral Scholars Program has supported minority students by helping them earn a Ph.D. and begin a career at a college or university to diversify campus faculties. Students receive financial support and current and former scholarship recipients are invited to participate in the Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, a four-day professional development conference that has become the largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars in the country. The information below reflects Ph.D. Scholars who have been funded by the state and/or by individual institutions.

Outcomes Since Beginning of Program

Alabama scholars since 1993:	228
Graduates since 1993:	153
Graduates employed in higher education:	95%

Current Participation

Alabama had 22 scholars funded in FY 2022-23.

Alabama institutions with current scholars:

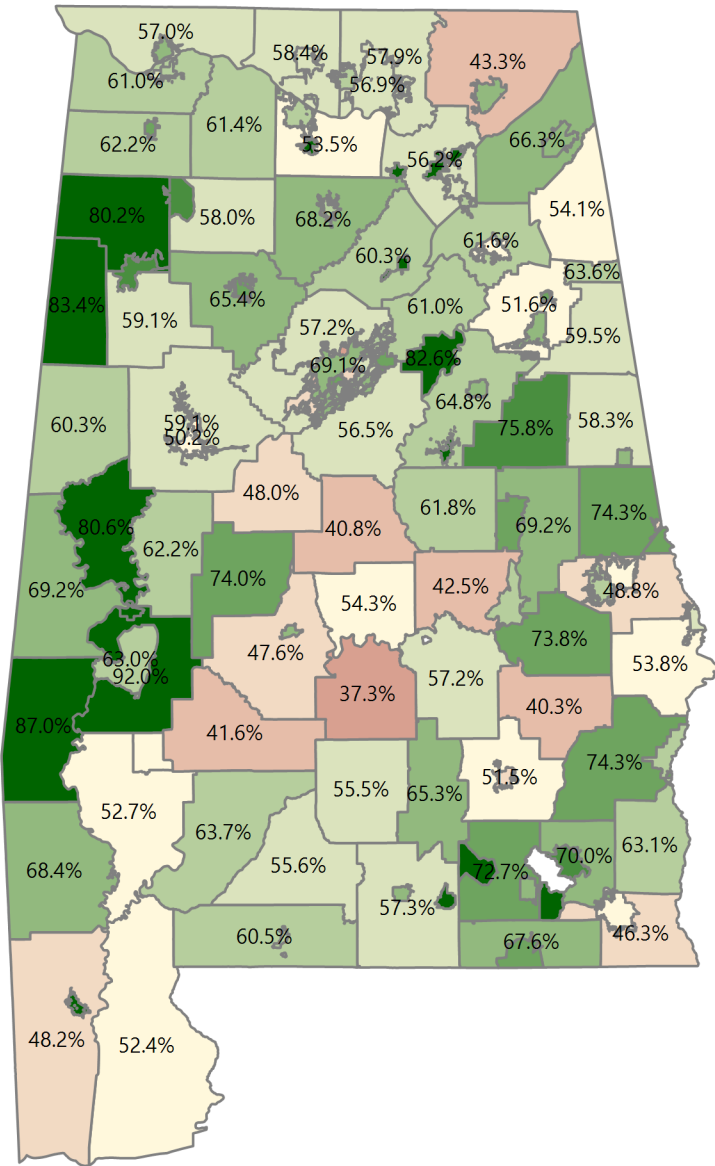
- Alabama State University
- Auburn University
- Tuskegee University
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of South Alabama

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

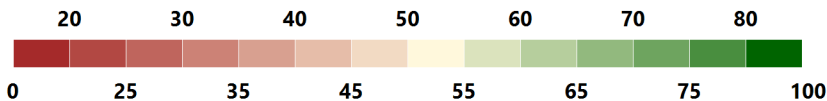
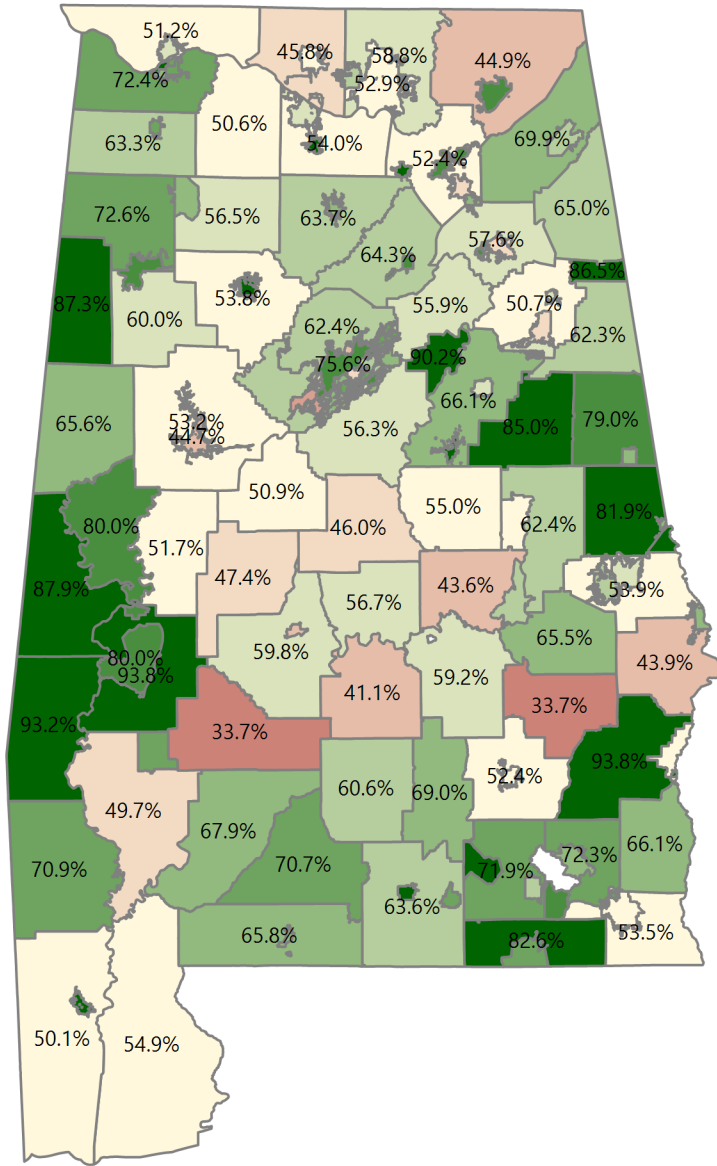
A partnership began in 2022 between ACHE, the Alabama State Department of Education and Alabama Possible to increase statewide FAFSA completions. Alabama now ranks second in the nation in year-over-year improvement (24.2%) and ninth in overall FAFSA completion rate.

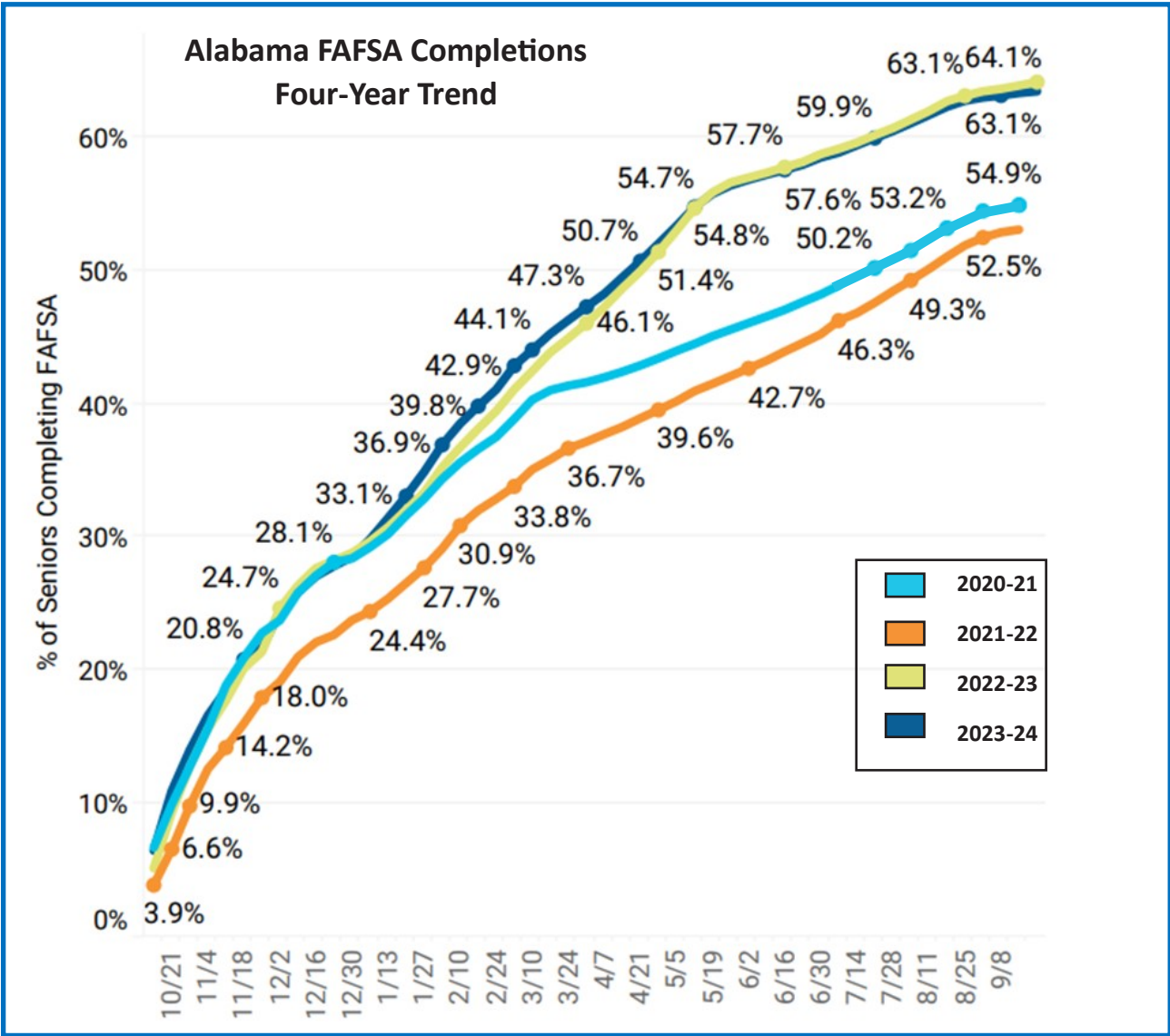
A web tool for educators to assist students in completing the form, along with an automation system that notifies students about errors in their application, are being credited with the increased numbers.

Alabama FAFSA Completions for 2022-23



Alabama FAFSA Completions for 2023-24





Summer Bridge Grant Program

In 2022, ACHE applied for and was awarded \$1,500,000 from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II) for establishing a Summer Bridge grant program for Alabama’s public two- and four-year institutions. Summer Bridge focused on student college readiness in math, English, time management, study skills, and financial aid.

Several hundred students from across the state participated in seventeen projects in Summer 2022. The amount of each grant per institution, which ranged from \$28,000 to over \$94,000, was based on the scope of the project.

A second round of grants was awarded to seven institutions for Summer 2023. They each received approximately \$65,000.

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 by 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	FY 2022-2023 Appropriation	FY 2023-2024 Budget Request	FY 2023-2024 Recommendation	FY 2023-2024 Appropriation
Alabama A&M University*	50,729,922	133,660,316	55,881,200	54,264,904
Alabama State University	55,871,225	68,097,431	61,552,502	59,164,786
Athens University	19,444,951	23,330,304	21,477,702	20,487,367
Auburn University	306,003,909	336,447,788	340,845,842	330,460,333
Auburn University Montgomery	29,539,550	31,599,274	32,934,063	31,522,666
Jacksonville State University	51,028,490	61,178,282	56,579,188	53,428,224
Troy University	68,023,640	85,050,000	75,900,537	75,811,358
University of Alabama	212,885,740	233,853,254	237,542,170	229,905,984
University of Alabama Birmingham	352,836,851	380,788,621	390,219,232	374,266,862
University of Alabama Huntsville	63,678,125	99,290,309	70,919,454	68,328,381
University of Montevallo	27,232,352	32,682,352	30,052,333	28,843,970
University of North Alabama	45,004,247	55,804,000	50,068,459	48,855,509
University of South Alabama	140,712,869	165,385,256	157,754,087	150,374,562
University of West Alabama	25,656,648	31,550,163	28,925,012	27,810,078
Total Senior Institutions	1,448,648,519	1,738,717,350	1,610,651,779	1,553,524,984
Two Year Institutions**	406,921,967	452,506,116	447,830,798	515,754,907
Total All Institutions	1,855,570,486	2,191,223,466	2,058,482,577	2,069,279,891

Some institutions included capital improvement in their budget request.

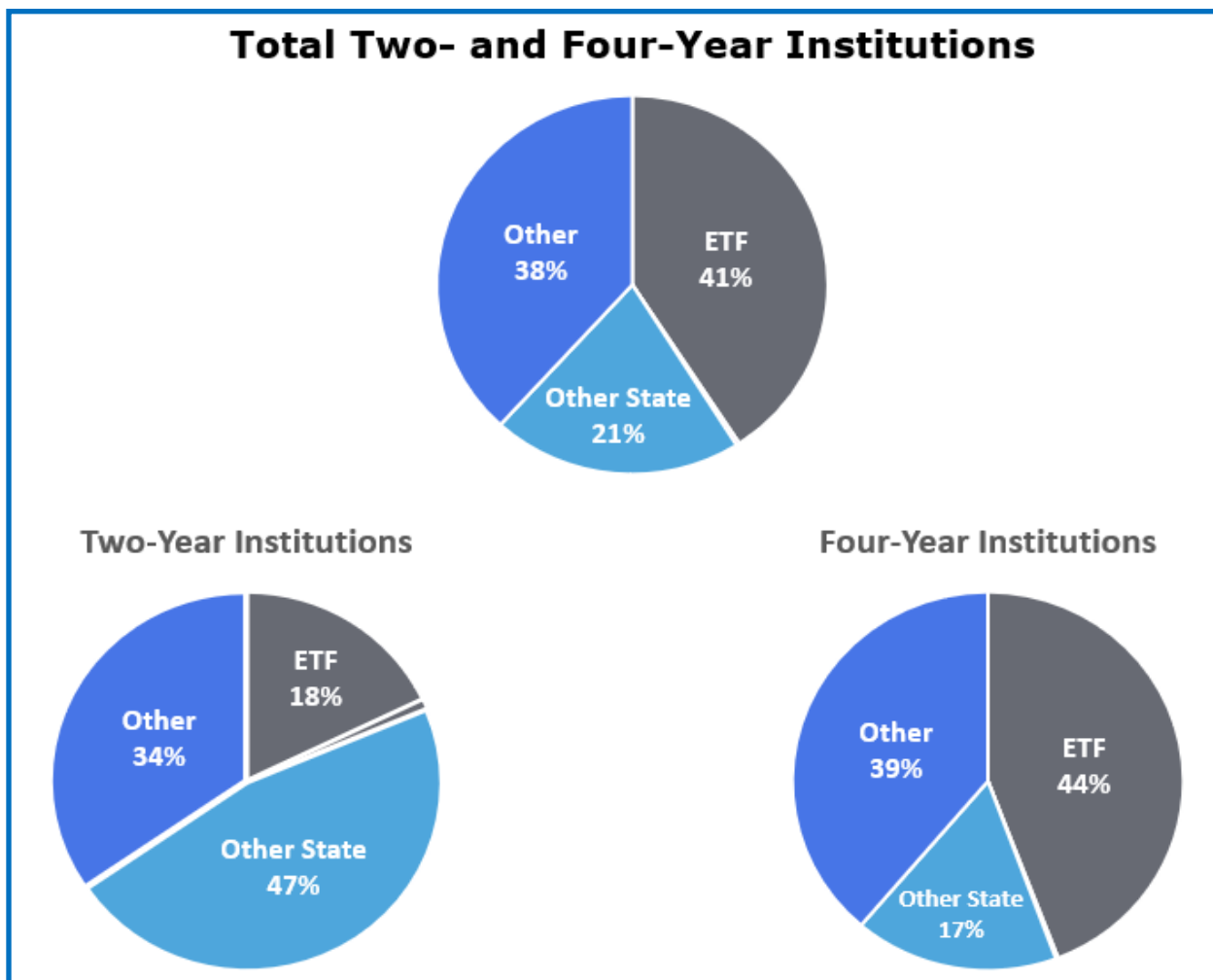
** The Two-Year Institution line includes O&M only.

Alabama's higher education institutions requested an 18% increase for their FY 2023-24 budgets. The Commission approved a recommendation for an 11% increase totaling \$2,058,482. In Act 2023-379, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$2,069,279,891 from the Education Trust Fund to these institutions, an increase of 7% above the previous year's budget.

Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Request

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 2024-28 was presented at the December 9, 2022 Commission meeting. The two- and four-year institutions project they will need over \$6.1 billion to fund capital projects during this five-year period. Included in the report is a summary table of the general obligation bonds that have been issued by the institutions. As of September 30, 2022, the institutions had \$4,179,429,034 in Bonded Indebtedness and paid \$533,315,528 in Debt Service on these bonds.

Sources of Funding for Requested Capital Projects



Support of Other Educational Activities

Alabama Soil and Water Conservation
State Appropriation - \$2,673,376



Alabama Resource Conservation and Development Councils
State Appropriation - \$5,287,744



Alabama Humanities Foundation
State Appropriation - \$200,000



USS Alabama Battleship
State Appropriation - \$750,000
2023 Supplemental Funding - \$5,000,000



National Computer Forensics Institute
State Appropriation - \$450,000



Alabama HBCU Consortium
State Appropriation - \$650,000



Alabama Wing of Civil Air Patrol
State Appropriation - \$100,000



Alabama Trails Commission
State Appropriation - \$340,000



Alabama International Education and Economic Partnership
State Appropriation - \$100,000



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



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



Ability Sport Network
State Appropriation - \$60,000



Support of Other Educational Activities

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTAC)
State Appropriation - \$335,000



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



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



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



ACHE Board Appointments

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



Statewide Programs in ACHE Budget

Articulation & General Studies Committee /Alabama Transfers

State Appropriation - \$393,067

The Statewide Transfer & Articulation Reporting System was rebranded in FY 2022-23 as Alabama Transfers – www.alabamatransfers.com. The updated site has new features to assist students, counselors, advisors and administrators as they navigate the transfer process from public two-year community college course credits to public four-year universities. Students may visit the website and access AGSC-approved transfer guides which guarantee the transfer of those course credits. Since 1998, millions of students have used this system in planning their educational path to a four-year degree. Plans for expansion are underway for 2024.



Network of Alabama Academic Libraries

State Appropriation: \$379,201



Jessica Platt, Alabama State University, and Sheila Snow, NAAL Director, at Levi Watkins Learning Center.

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL), established in 1984, is a consortium of 27 public and private four-year institutions and ACHE. NAAL's mission is to reduce disparities between institutions offering graduate education, coordinate library resource sharing, and enhance the education and research missions of all Alabama higher education. They currently work with 34 vendors to provide discounts for hundreds of databases and e-books and thousands of e-journals. NAAL facilitates the sharing of library materials between members by covering shipping costs for interlibrary loan, which increases the resources available to all, encourages study and research, and saves member libraries the cost of individually purchasing all needed items.

Alabama Agricultural Land-Grant Alliance

State Appropriation: 5,006,831

The state funds are used to match federal money for agricultural research at Alabama's three land-grant universities. Member universities are Alabama A&M University (Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station), Auburn University (Alabama Experimental Station), and Tuskegee University (George Washington Carver Agricultural Experimental Station). The allocation also includes work being done through the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program.

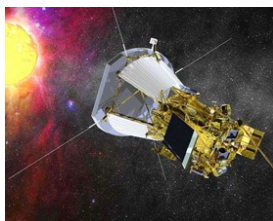


Alabama Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

State Appropriation: \$1,200,261

The Alabama Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ALEPSCoR) is dedicated to the advancement of economic development via scientific and engineering research through a collaborative effort among the eight Alabama Ph.D. granting institutions, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, and the Alabama Department of Commerce.

ALEPSCoR has been awarded 295 federal EPSCoR grants exceeding \$169 million from 2013-23, with \$16.9 million of new research grants and \$23.5 million of research expenditures in FY 2023 alone. The federal EPSCoR grants have funded new scientific discoveries, capabilities, and high-tech infrastructure improvements in Alabama. They include sustainable job growth in such wide-ranging areas as the role of mitochondrial behavior in animal performance, rare earth element investigations, research security, hydrologic forecasting, human trafficking and other organized crime, and ankle-foot orthosis to aid agility in older adults.



Federal and state funds support the Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP), designed to increase the pool of highly-trained graduates and provide funding for graduate students performing high-tech federal EPSCoR research. The GRSP funding is projected to support an estimated 259 Ph.D. and 78 master of science degrees by the end of 2023.

During FY 2023, ALEPSCoR continued research on a statewide \$20 million National Science Foundation EPSCoR grant focused on improving food safety and sterilization and forecasting weather events that would threaten space satellites.

Building Human Capital Strategic Plan: 2018-2030



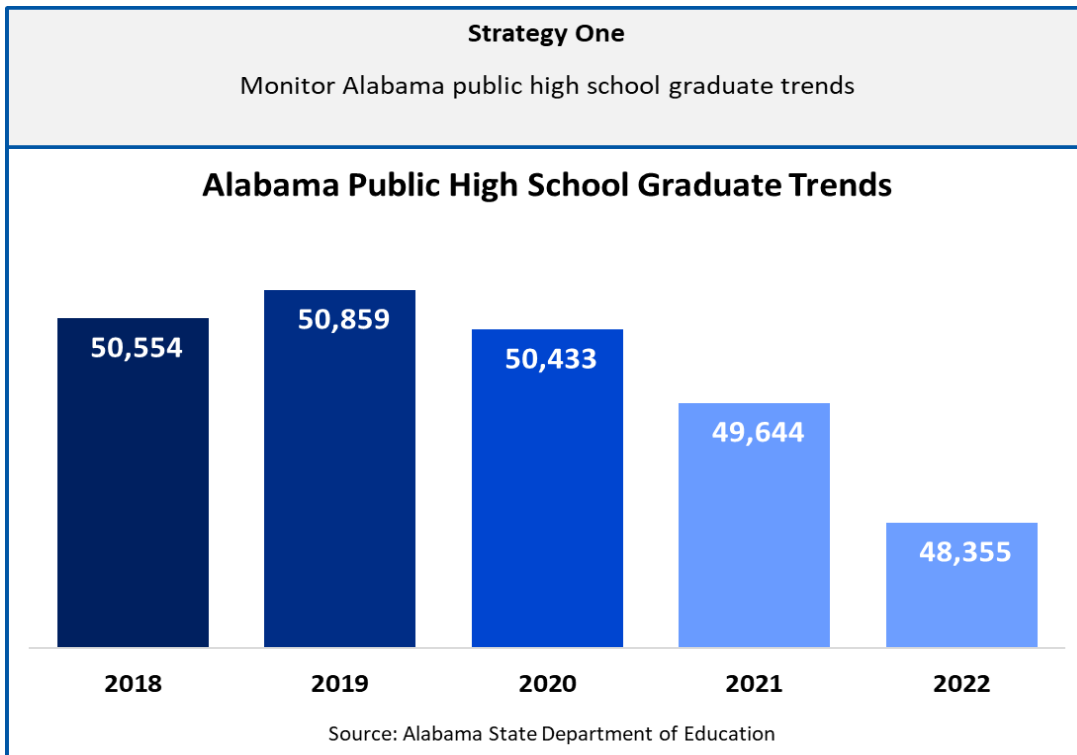
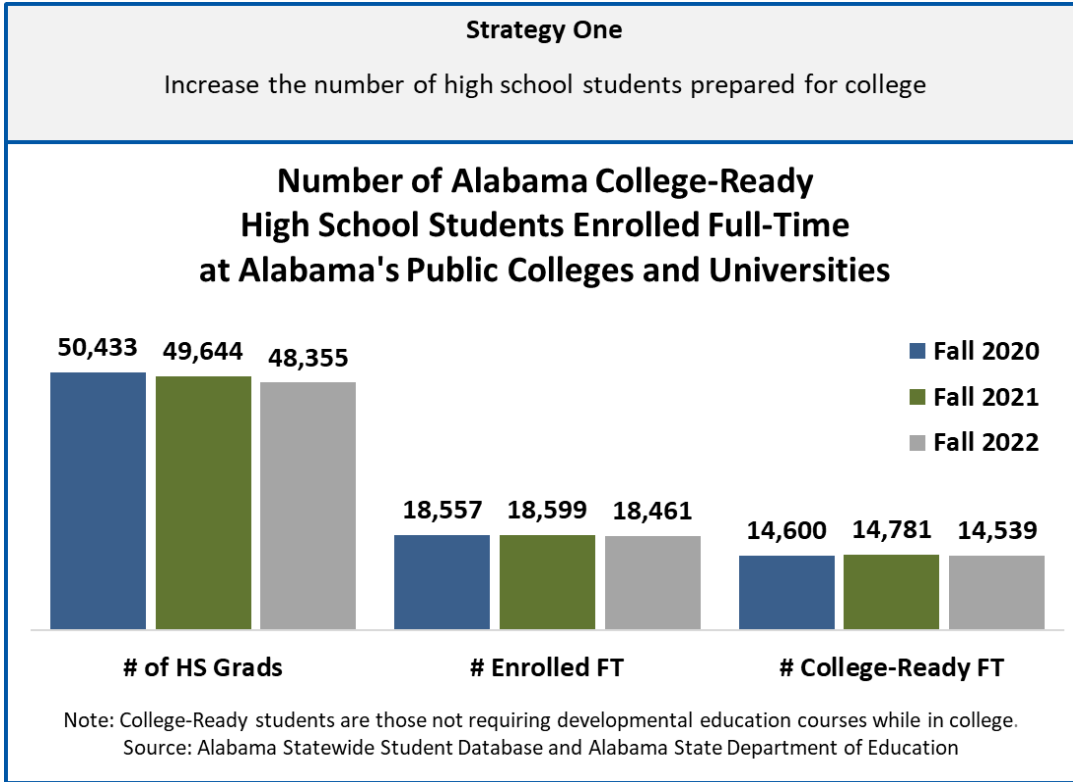
(Board Approved 12/8/2017)

The Educational Path to Alabama's Economic Success

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. (*Alabama Code 16-5-6. Long-range planning*)

-
- Improving Access
 - Enhancing Student Success
 - Enhancing STEM Progress
 - Developing Alabama's Economy & Workforce
 - Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Priority One: Improving Access

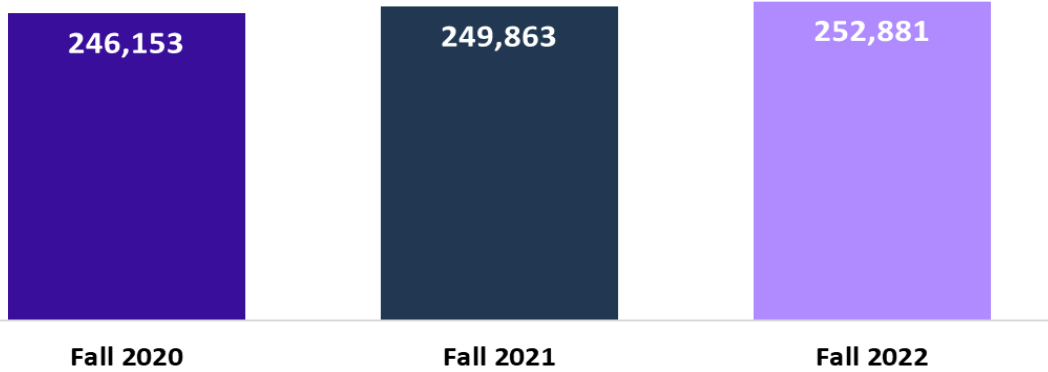


Priority One: Improving Access

Strategy One

Monitor the enrollment of Alabama higher education public institutions

Alabama Public Institutions Total Enrollment



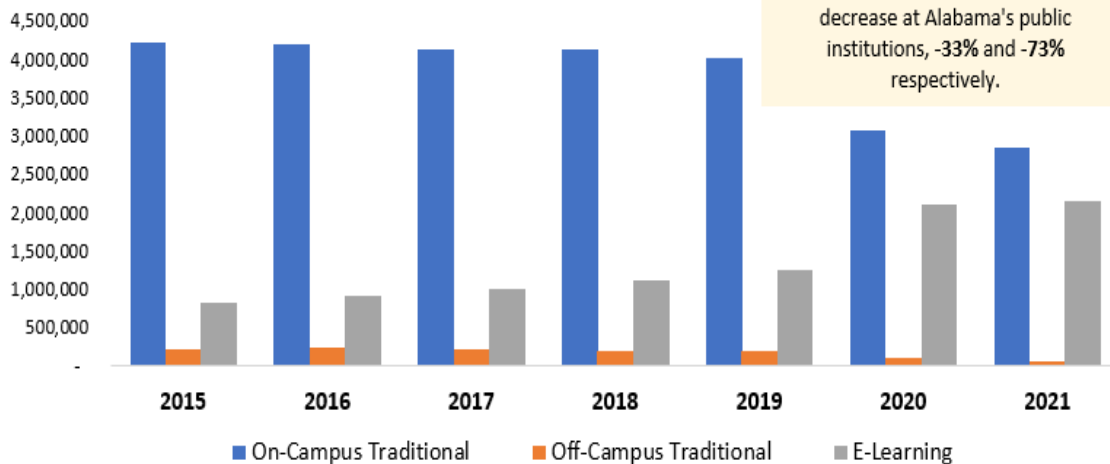
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Strategy Two

Expand the delivery of coursework online

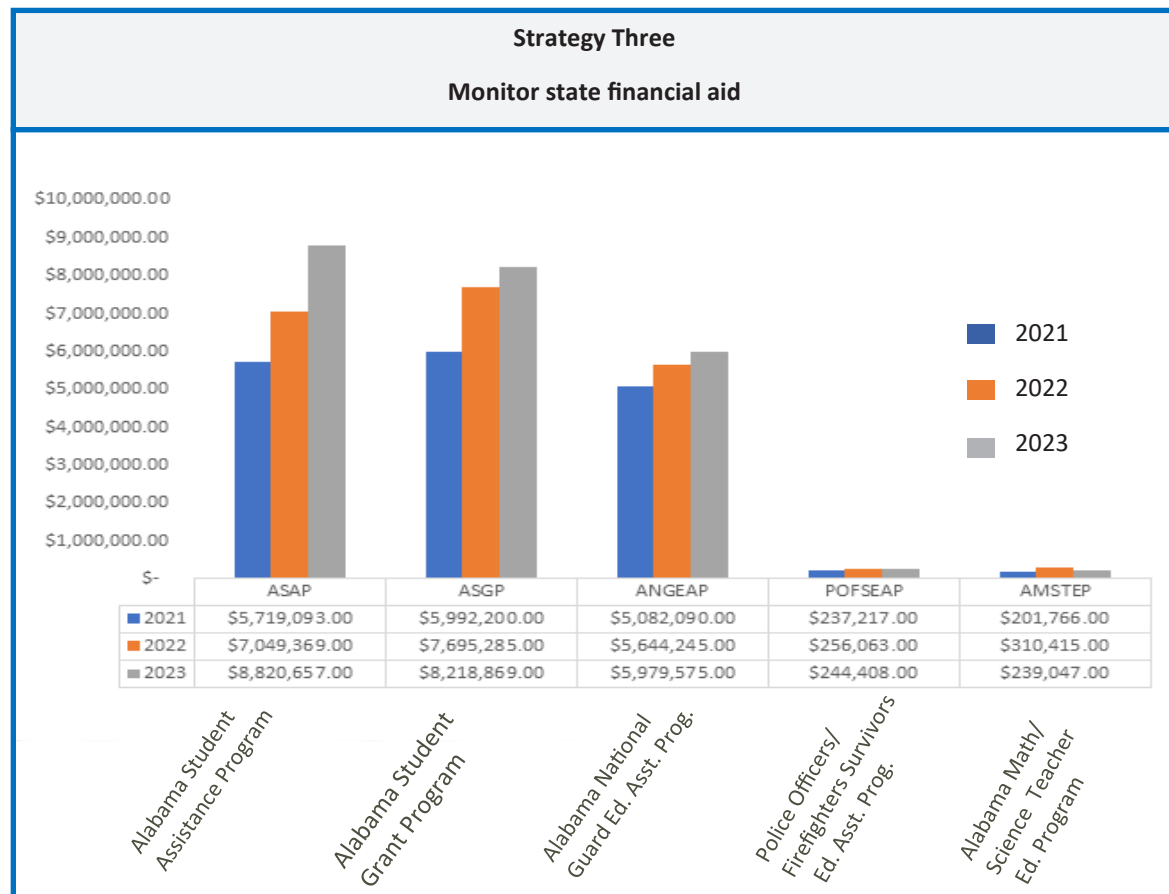
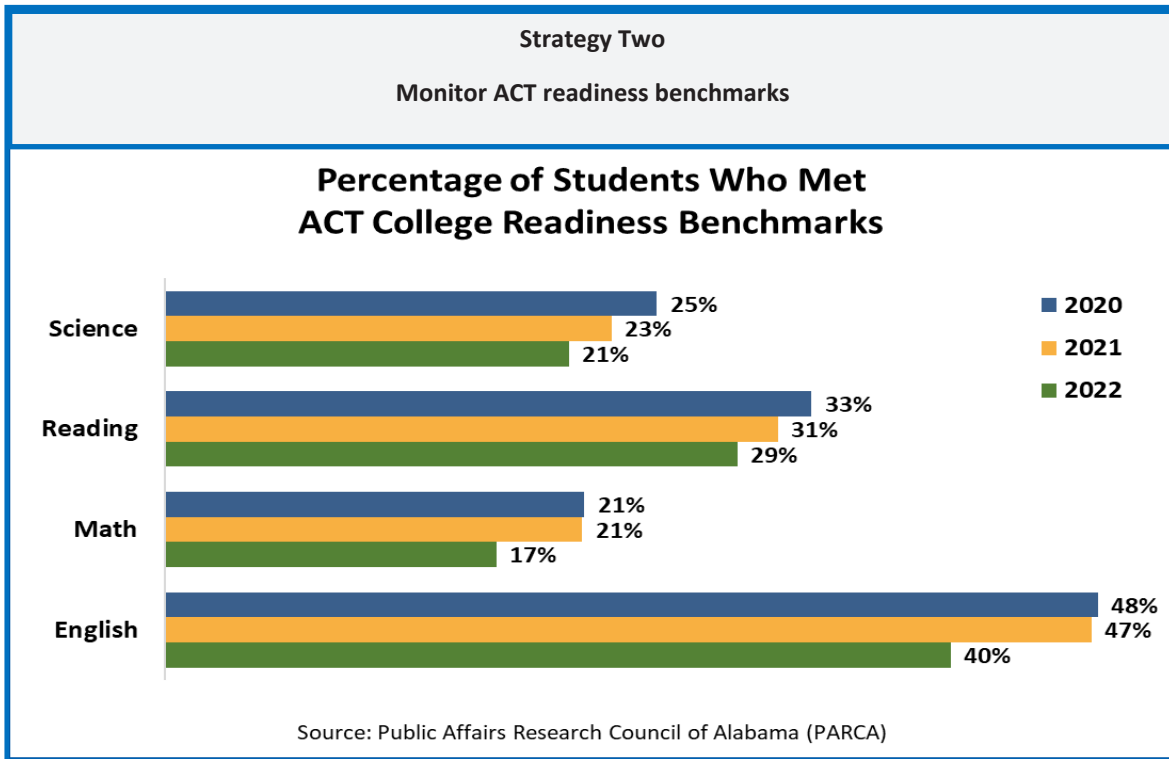
Delivery Mode of Instruction at Alabama Public Institutions

Undergraduate



Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Data Exchange Survey

Priority One: Improving Access

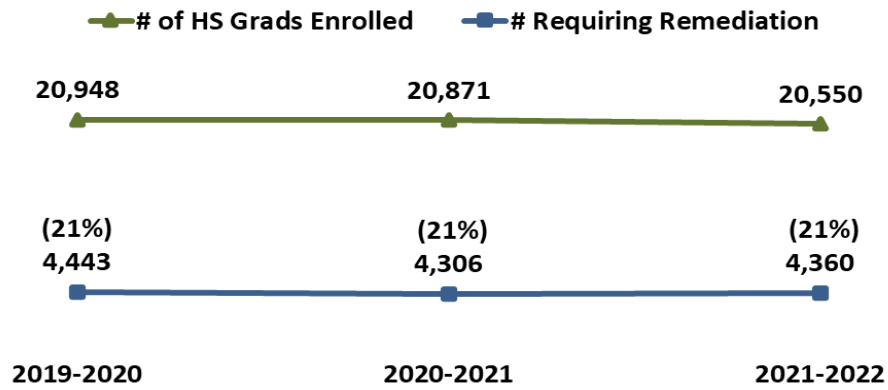


Priority Two: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy One

Monitor remedial education

Number and Percentage of Alabama High School Graduates Enrolled Requiring Remediation

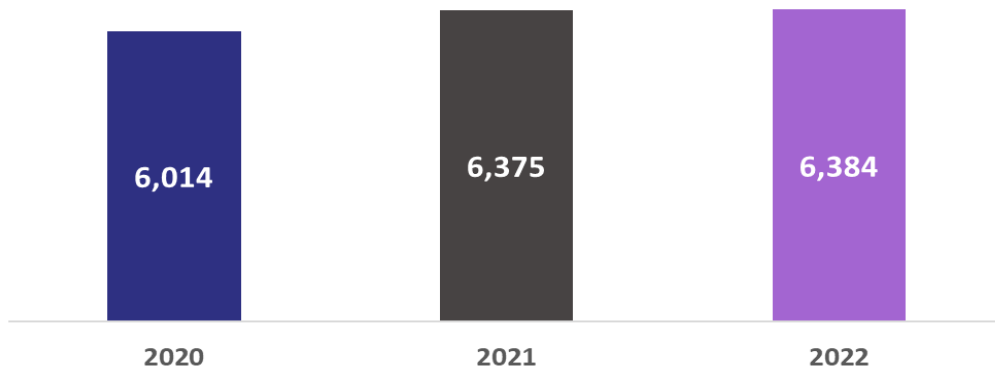


Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education

Strategy Two

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

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



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database Transfer Migration Report

Priority Two: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy Three

Improve reverse transfer opportunities

Number of Associate Degrees Awarded via Reverse Transfer

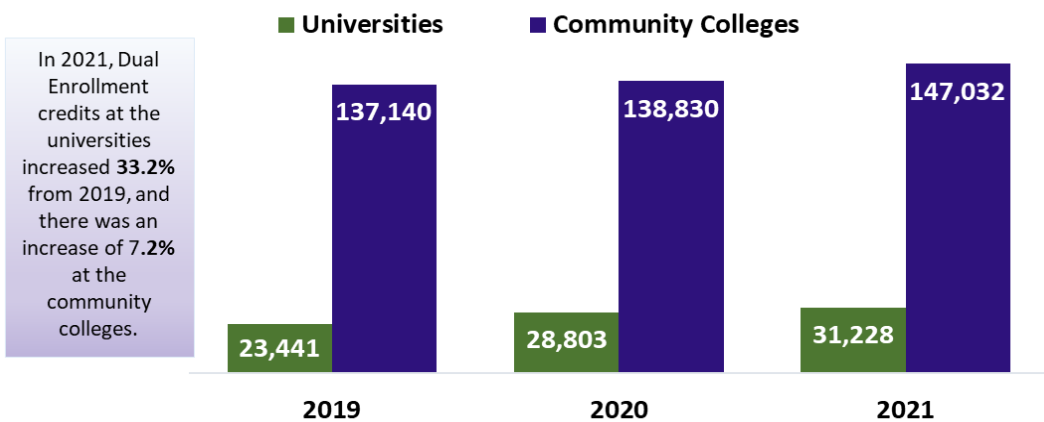


Source: Alabama Community College Reverse Transfer File

Strategy Four

Increase college access for high school students

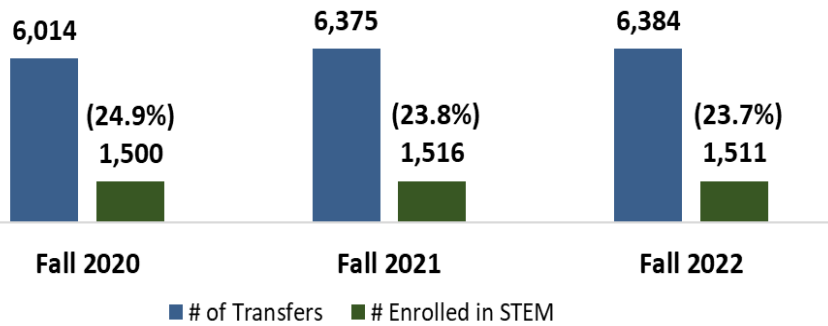
Number of Dual Enrollment Credit Hours at Alabama Public Colleges and Universities



Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Data Exchange Survey

Priority Three: Enhancing STEM Progress

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



Note: The Department of Homeland Security STEM Degree Program list is used.
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

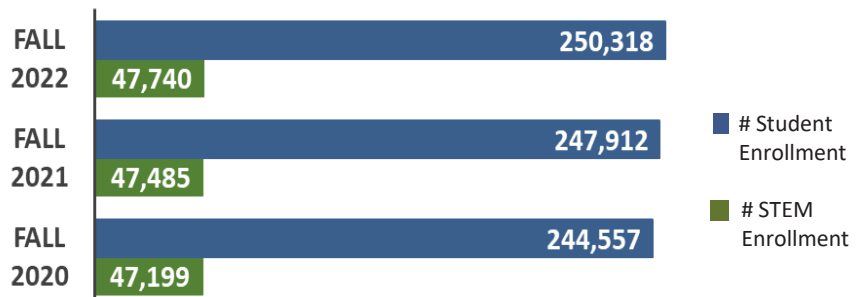
Strategy One

Monitor the number of STEM students who transfer from community colleges to four-year institutions

Strategy Two

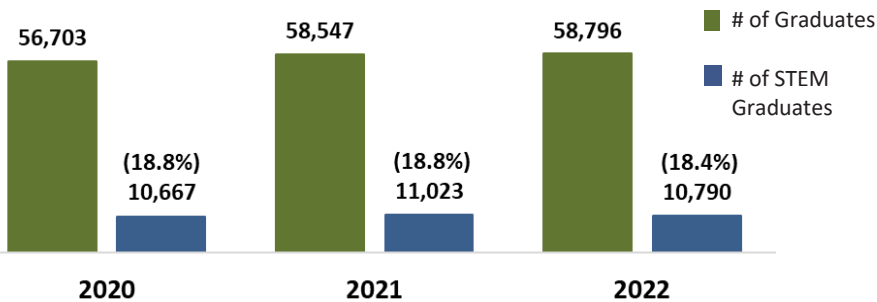
Monitor the number of STEM enrollments

Number of STEM Enrollment in Alabama Public Institutions



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database.

Number and Percentage of STEM Graduates at Alabama Public Institutions



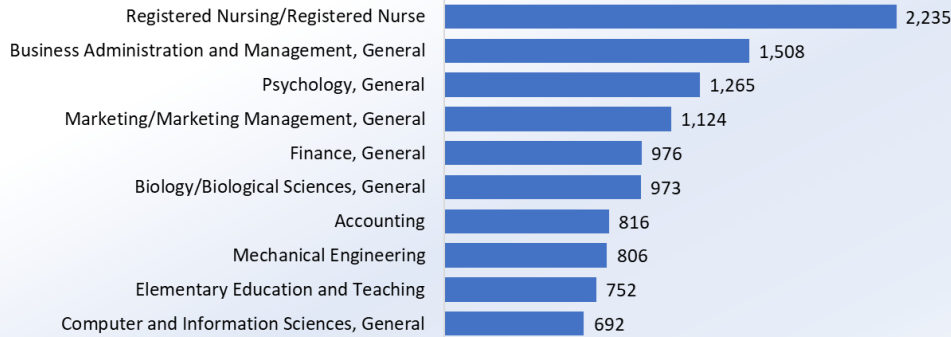
Note: The Department of Homeland Security STEM Degree Program list is used.
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Strategy Three

Monitor the number of STEM graduates (all degree levels)

Priority Four: Developing Alabama's Economy & Workforce

2021-2022 Top 10 Completions by Major for Baccalaureate

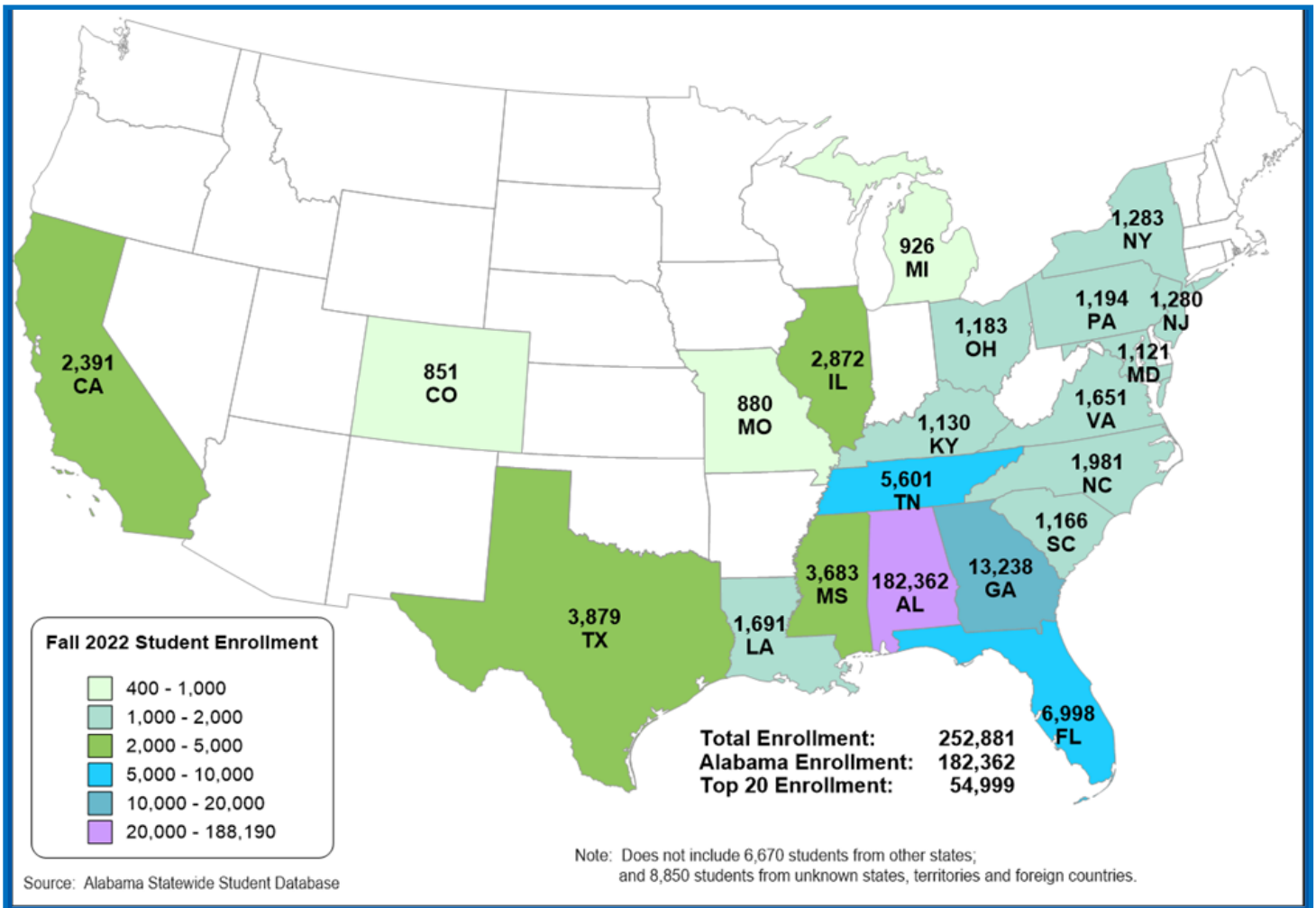


Number of baccalaureate degrees completed at Alabama public four-year institutions was 26,687.

Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Strategy One
Monitor Alabama's employment based on baccalaureate levels

Fall 2022 Enrollment in Alabama Public Colleges and Universities Including Students from Alabama and the Top 20 Feeder States



Priority Five: Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

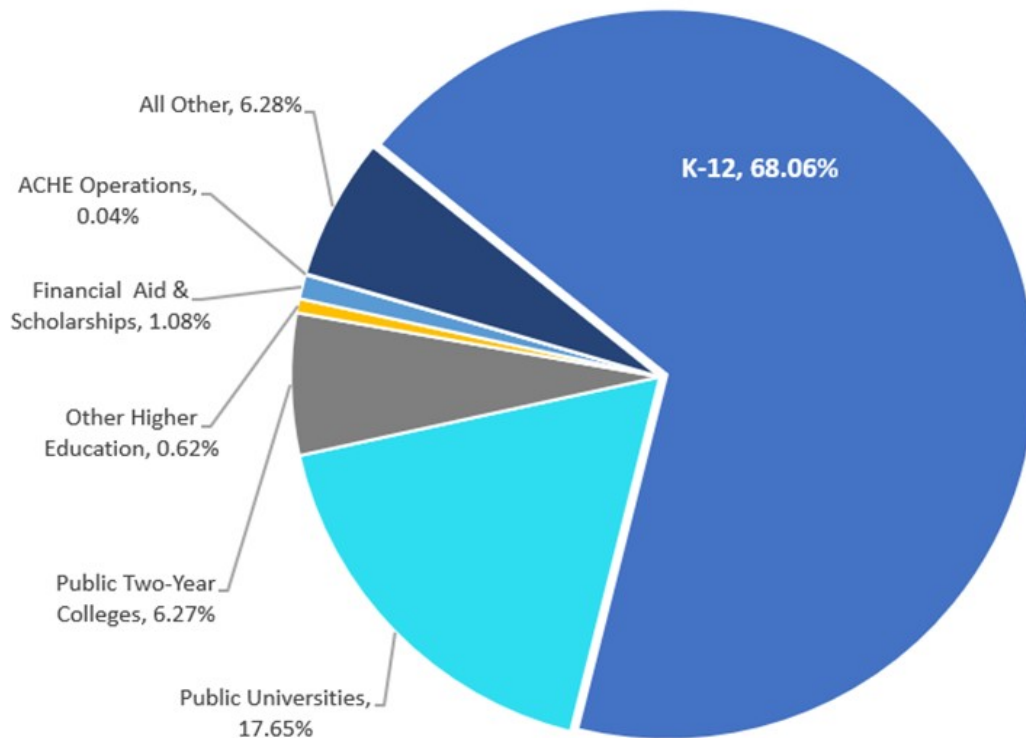
Alabama Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations

	Split ETF Appropriation	Percentage of Split	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of Split
Sectors	FY 2022-23	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2023-24
K-12	5,625,644,019	68.09%	5,988,465,237	68.06%
Public Universities	1,448,649,519	17.53%	1,552,931,498	17.65%
Public Two-Year Colleges	515,754,907	6.24%	551,286,557	6.27%
Other Higher Ed	57,706,515	0.70%	54,938,689	0.62%
Financial Aid & Scholarships	91,606,766	1.11%	94,658,066	1.08%
ACHE Operations	3,809,631	0.05%	3,900,978	0.04%
All Other	518,419,292	6.28%	552,413,016	6.28%
Total	8,261,590,649	100.00%	8,798,594,041	100.00%

Strategy One

Monitor allocations from Education Trust Fund to entities receiving financial support

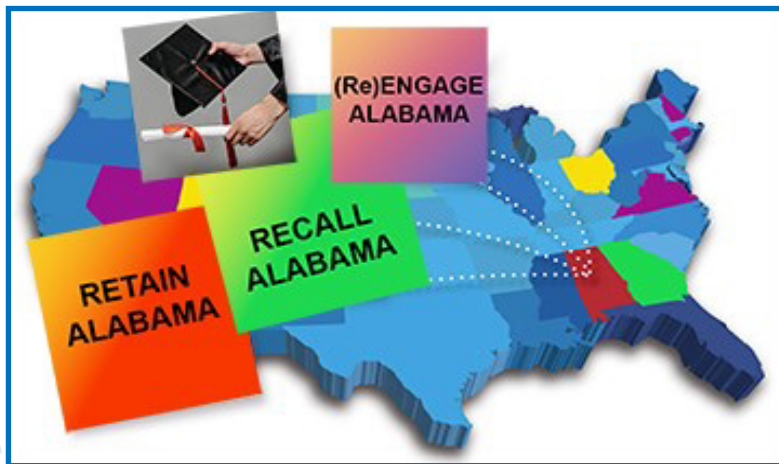
Percentage of ETF Appropriation for Education
FY 2023-24



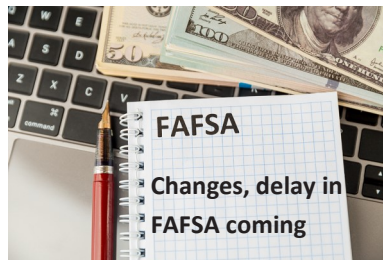
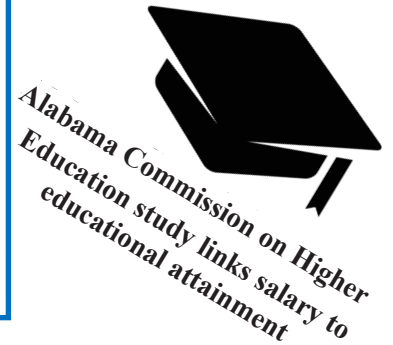
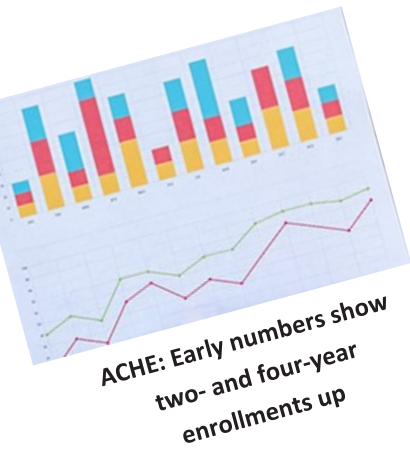
ACHE IN THE NEWS



Keeping college graduates in Alabama



The Alabama Commission on Higher Education has launched an initiative called All in Alabama to keep those sought-after college graduates here



ACHE's Executive Director Jim Purcell said recent changes in FAFSA include the form only having 36 questions, rather than the previous 108.

Reporting income and tax data is also supposed to be easier, he said.



ACHE



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.

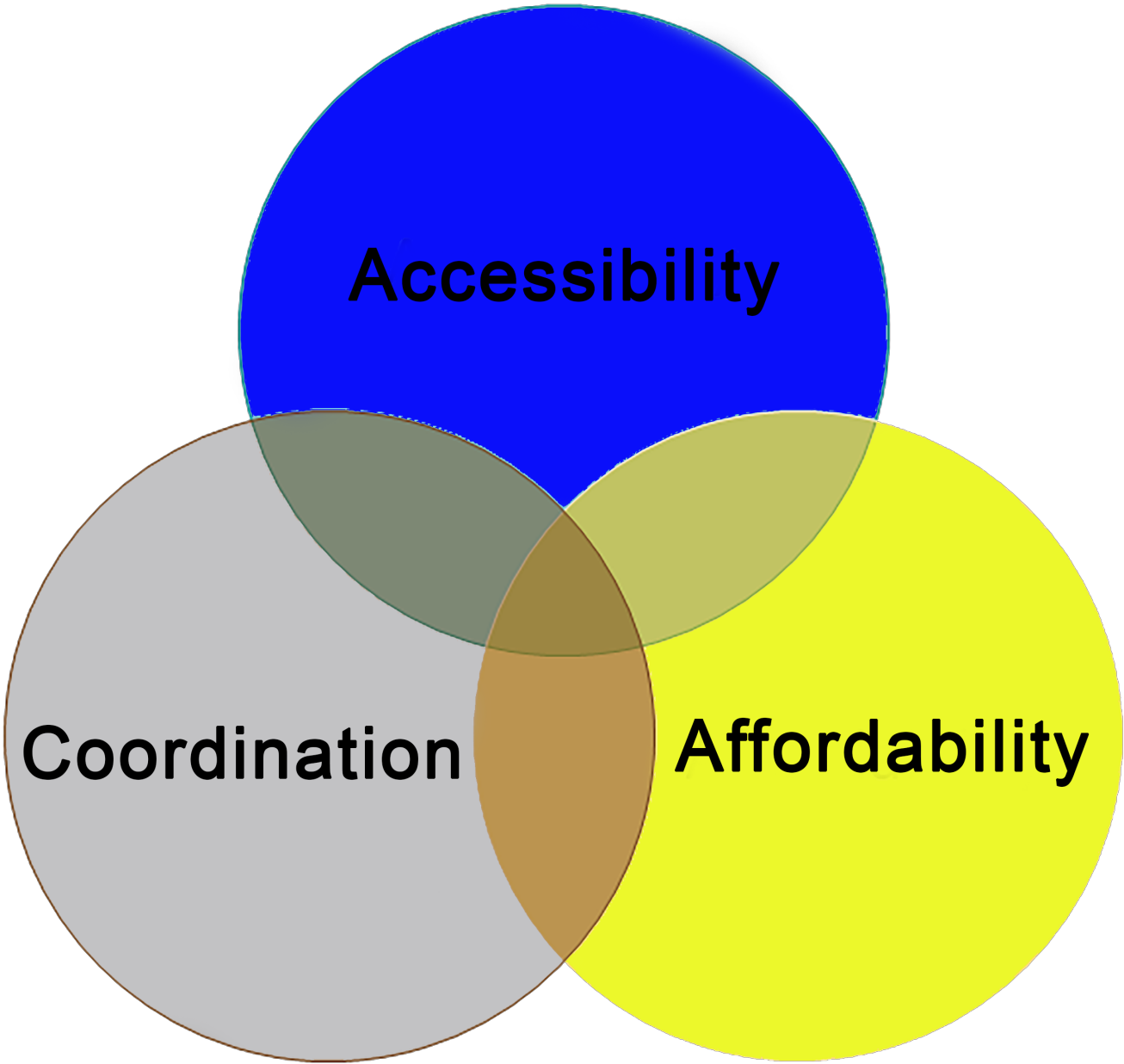
The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students 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.

ACHE 2024

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Commission Meeting Dates

- March 8
- June 14
- September 13
- December 13



**Alabama Commission on
Higher Education**

**100 N. Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
(334) 242-1998**

Ache.edu

*** 1969 ***

