



ALABAMA SUCCESS

EDUCATION & CAREER PLANNER

The answers
you need to succeed

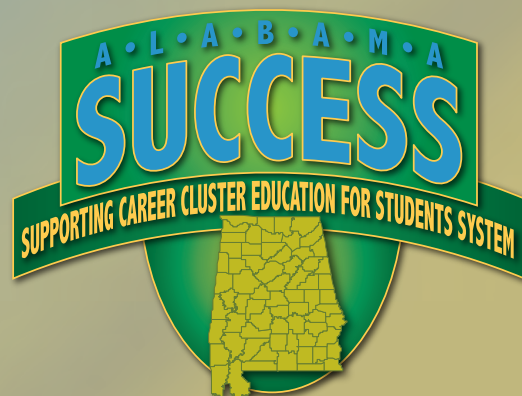
WHO
can help me
get started?

HOW
can I make high school
work for me?

HOW
can I discover
my talents?

WHERE
can I explore careers
that interest me?

HOW
can I plan for a
successful future?

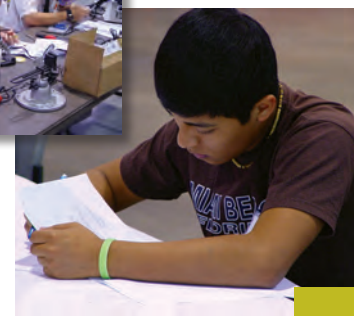




In elementary and middle school, other people make all the decisions for you.

The courses you take.
Your after-school activities.
How and what and where you learn.

That was then—and this is now.



You're in

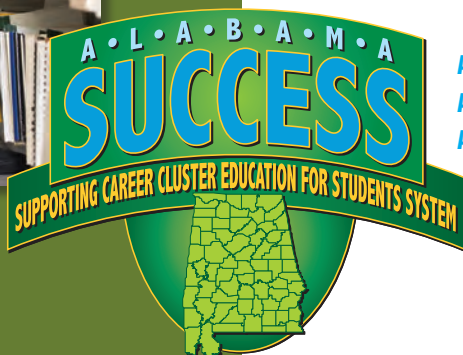
Control



Your next step is high school, where the rules change. In high school, you get to make most of the important decisions about your education. **You're in control.** If having all that power sounds a little scary, relax. In Alabama, there are lots of people and programs in place to help you map out a successful plan to reach your future goals. That plan begins with Alabama SUCCESS, the Supporting Career Cluster Education for Students System which is outlined in this guide. With Alabama SUCCESS, you can:

- ◆ Explore 16 different career interest areas
- ◆ Discover the jobs that best fit your interests and talents
- ◆ Figure out what you do well and what you like to do
- ◆ Put all that together to create your personal education plan for high school and beyond.

The plan you design—with the help of your parents and counselor—will include the courses, clubs, and career learning experiences you need in order to prepare for success in your education, your career, and your life.



Alabama SUCCESS makes going to school matter more than ever before.
Alabama SUCCESS connects what you learn in class to real-world careers.
Alabama SUCCESS starts now.

READY, SET, TAKE CONTROL!

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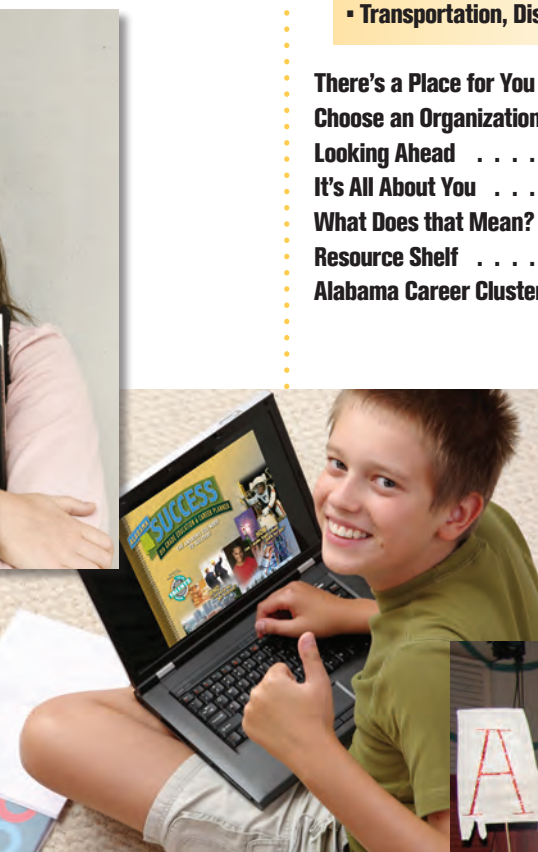
A message from ...



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

Alabama SUCCESS is an invaluable resource designed specifically for students. By

learning about actual career fields and the education and experience required for specific jobs, you will be better able to figure out what you want to do after high school and what you need to do to achieve your goals.



Take 3 Giant Steps

toward the future of your dreams



STEP 1

WHO ARE YOU?

Take this quick quiz.

Start figuring out what career clusters and specific occupations might best fit your skills and personality.

1. Do you enjoy spending time outside?

If you answered yes, then check out the opportunities in these Alabama career clusters: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (page 6); Architecture & Construction (page 7); and Hospitality & Tourism (page 14).

2. Can you text faster than you can talk?

If you love high-tech gadgets, computers, or video games, then you might enjoy working as a game designer, computer scientist, engineer, programmer, or technician.

3. Do your friends ask you for help in math and science?

If math and science come easy to you, then explore your options in Finance (page 11); Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (page 20); Business Management & Administration (page 9); and Health Science (page 13).

4. Is art your favorite class?

If you love to paint, draw, make models, or take photographs, then you might have what it takes to become a graphic, fashion, or interior designer; visual artist; museum curator; or advertising agency executive.

5. Do you enjoy building or fixing things, or solving puzzles?

If you enjoy working with your hands, then check out the careers available in Manufacturing (page 18); Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (page 21); Architecture & Construction (page 7); and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (page 20).

6. Do you like being in charge?

If you're a natural leader, then you could find your career path in government, law, management, business, education, coaching, or the military. You also might enjoy owning and operating your own business or franchise.

7. Do you enjoy helping people?

If you are a helpful person who likes caring for others and comforting friends when they are sick or sad, then explore the career opportunities available in Human Services (page 15); Health Science (page 13); Education & Training (page 10); and Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security (page 17).

8. Are you a huge NASCAR, BMX, or X Games fan?

If you have a need for speed and adventure, then explore careers that would allow you to work on or around vehicles, such as an airline pilot or steward, bus or truck driver, automotive technician, auto designer, mechanical or aeronautical engineer, boat captain, or member of the military.



STEP 2

EXPLORE JOBS

Explore jobs that match your interests and strengths.

Use the career cluster overviews (pages 6–21) as a starting point. Then, follow up with the career resources available at your school and online (see the inside back cover of this book) to learn about jobs, salaries, and what it takes to do what you want to do.

When you see, read about, or hear about a career that sounds interesting, find out the answers to these three key questions:

- ◆ What preparation (special training, education, work experience) is required to get the job that interests you?
- ◆ What activities (clubs, internships, job shadowing) can you participate in now to help you learn more about this career?
- ◆ How much money could you earn in that career (what is the average yearly salary)?

CREATE A PLAN

Sit down with your parents and counselor and create a plan.

Map out an Alabama Education Plan (sample at right) based on your interests, strengths, and possible career goals.

Your plan outlines the courses and electives you'll take in high school, plus related clubs and career preparation. Your counselor will work with you to determine the learning experiences needed for you to complete your plan, such as using distance learning or earning college credit from your local community college.

Here's a sample Alabama Education Plan for you to use as a guide.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

is a fancy term for a simple education agreement that can streamline your road to a successful career.

Statewide articulation agreements link all high schools and two-year colleges in Alabama. They provide credit at two-year colleges for coursework mastered at the high school level.

SAMPLE* Alabama Education Plan

Name: Jordan Smith
School: Central High School
Diploma Option: Advanced Career and Technical Endorsement
Cluster: Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Pathway: Engineering and Technology
Career Goal: Biomedical Equipment Technician
Postsecondary Goal: Associate in Applied Science Degree



	Math	English	Science	Social Studies	Other Optional Courses	Sampling of Career and Technical Education Courses in Pathway
9th Grade	Algebra I	English 9	Physical Science	World History 1500–Present	- Health - Fine Arts - Computer Applications - Physical Education - Foreign Language I** - Foreign Language II** - CTE Course I—Foundations of Engineering - CTE Course II	- Foundations of Engineering - Engineering Applications - Engineering Research and Design - Engineering Systems
10th Grade	Geometry	English 10	Biology	United States History to 1877		
11th Grade	Algebra II with Trigonometry	English 11	Chemistry	United States History to Present		
12th Grade	Pre-Calculus or Calculus	English 12	Physics	Government and Economics		
Community College	General Education Requirements - English Composition I - English Composition II or SPH 106 - Humanities Elective - Intermediate College Math - Microcomputer Applications - Math or Science Elective - History, Social, or Behavioral Science - Orientation for Career Students					
Higher Education	Required and CTE Courses - Applied Electronic Computation - Concepts of Direct Current*** - Concepts of Alternating Current*** - Concepts of Solid State Electronics - Concepts of Digital Electronics - Concepts of Electronic Circuits - Circuit Fabrication - Special Topics in ILT (Microprocessors)					
Education and Career Assessments: 8th Grade: Interest inventory and education plan initiated for all learners 11th Grade: College placement assessment Career Learning Experiences: Career preparation—paid and unpaid, internships, job shadowing						- Biomedical Equipment Technician Option (A.A.S.) - Industrial Electronic Controls - Hydraulics/Pneumatics*** - Troubleshooting Techniques*** - Biomedical Electronics - Electro-Optics - Electro-Optics Lab - Cooperative Education
Co-Curricular Experiences: Technology Student Association (TSA) Extracurricular Experiences: FIRST Robotics Service Learning Experiences: Service project to adapt computers to make them accessible for seniors with disabilities						

*This is a sample plan and should not be considered a definitive plan for any student interested in this career cluster.
Alabama First Choice diploma requires 2 years of the same foreign language. *Statewide articulated course

Articulation agreements can take you down your career pathway as well. In many cases, students transferring from two-year to four-year colleges and universities can complete four-year general studies core course requirements before they transfer.

Get Career Credentials

If you're a student in a career and technical education (CTE) program, you may have the option of earning a Career Readiness Certificate along with your high school diploma. The nationally recognized certificate shows you're proficient in applied math, reading for information, and locating information—skills employers highly value. Ask your school counselor about the statewide program; if it's not in your high school now, it will be implemented soon.



Alabama offers students a world of career options. From marine biology in Mobile to high-tech aeronautics in Huntsville, the possibilities are limitless for Alabama students who plan ahead for a successful future.

**So, when should you start planning?
Why not begin right now?**

Explore Your Options

The Alabama career clusters outlined in this guide make it easy for you to map out a path to wherever you want to go. Choose a cluster that matches your interests and then pick a career pathway that you'd like to explore. During high school, you can change clusters or pathways as you learn more about yourself and specific careers.

The choices you make today really do matter. The more planning and preparation you do now—before high school even begins—the better prepared you'll be to succeed in whatever you choose to do.



REAL-LIFE REPORT



NAME: Josh Standridge
EDUCATION: Hayden High School,
Blount County Career Technical Center,
Mississippi State University and Veterinary School



As a Hayden High student, Josh volunteered at a local animal hospital, took dual enrollment courses for college credit, and landed a job at the Birmingham Zoo through a special program with the Blount County Career Technical Center. This experience helped him earn his undergraduate degree in only two years and guaranteed acceptance into the Mississippi State Veterinary School as a college freshman.

"In the eighth grade, I started researching what I needed to do to achieve my goal of becoming a veterinarian. The plan I developed has come full circle. I am now the youngest member of my veterinary school class, and after graduation, I plan to work with some of the largest poultry producing companies in Alabama and Mississippi to make sure that the chicken we eat is healthy, and to make sure that infectious diseases like avian flu never pass to the public."

Meet the Clusters

The Alabama career cluster system is like a chest of 16 drawers filled with careers. Each drawer contains a variety of jobs linked to a specific skill or interest area, such as Information Technology or Health Science.

Take a quick look inside each drawer to see what's there and to start figuring out what fits you best. When you find a drawer or two where the careers and courses inside sound like something you would enjoy, take a longer look at the available opportunities and options. Use this information to talk to your parents and counselor about your future, your goals, and your plans for high school and beyond.

To help you get started, here's a quick overview of what's inside each cluster. Take a look, see what might fit, and then try a career cluster and pathway on for size.



Processing, production, distribution, and development of agricultural commodities and natural resources



Designing, managing, building, and maintaining the built environment



Creating, exhibiting, performing, and publishing multimedia content



Organizing, directing, and evaluating functions essential to productive business operations



Providing education and training services, and related learning support services



Financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management



Executing governmental functions at the local, state, and federal levels



Providing diagnostic and therapeutic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research



Managing restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events, and travel-related services



Providing for families and serving human needs



Designing, supporting, and managing hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration



Providing legal, public safety, protective, and homeland security services



Processing materials into intermediate or final products



Performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives



Performing scientific research and professional and technical services



Managing movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water

Every Alabama public school student will apply Alabama SUCCESS to all 16 career clusters. Your counselor will work with you to determine the courses and related career experience you need to fulfill your education plan and reach your goals.

The career clusters icons above are used with permission of the States' Career Clusters Initiative, 2008. For more information, visit www.careerclusters.org.

Growing Your Future



AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES

Are you interested in environmental issues? Do you enjoy gardening, camping, hunting, or fishing? Are you good with animals, or interested in biological sciences?

If you enjoy nature, science, or simply working outdoors, you should know that there's a big, wide world of career opportunities available in the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources cluster. Across Alabama, students in this cluster are preparing for exciting careers as varied as aquafarming and landscape design, fighting bioterrorism and maintaining a safe water supply.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong science and business skills
- ✓ A desire to protect and responsibly manage the world's resources
- ✓ An ability to be organized and on time
- ✓ Professional appearance
- ✓ Enjoyment in working outdoors



QUICK LOOK

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Pathways

Power, Structural and Technical Systems*
 Natural Resources Systems*
 Food Products and Processing Systems
 Plant Systems*
 Animal Systems*
 Environmental Service Systems
 Agribusiness Systems*

Sample Occupations

Agricultural Equipment Operator
 Fish and Game Warden
 Food Scientist and Technologist
 Forester
 Veterinary Assistant
 Environmental Engineer
 Farm Labor Contractor

*Denotes Alabama pathway



10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Natural Sciences Manager	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$106,400
Veterinarian	First professional degree	\$72,100
Environmental Engineer	Bachelor's degree	\$80,300
Biochemist and Biophysicist	Doctoral degree	\$57,200
Occupational Health and Safety Specialist	Bachelor's degree	\$68,800
Farm, Ranch, or Other Agricultural Manager	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience	\$78,900
Veterinary Technologist or Technician	Associate's degree	\$24,700
Nonfarm Animal Caretaker	Short-term on-the-job training	\$18,000
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	Short-term on-the-job training	\$21,000
Veterinary Assistant or Laboratory Animal Caretaker	Short-term on-the-job training	\$19,500

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Golf Course Turf Manager

WHAT: Keep golf courses in shape by using their expert knowledge of golfing, plants, and irrigation systems; and golf to water, fertilize, cut, and precisely manicure the greens.

WHO: Turf managers have strong business and people skills, love golf, and know how to manage plant diseases and sprinkler systems.



Building Success



ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

Do you like building things or drawing? Do you enjoy working with tools? Do you get good grades in math and science?

Look around you. A team of architecture and construction professionals built every structure, housing community, park, and roadway you can see. Whether you dream of designing a new building or wielding a blowtorch on a construction crew, opportunities are available throughout Alabama for highly skilled, hardworking people in this field.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, science, and time management skills
- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Being good at following directions
- ✓ Satisfaction in working as part of a team
- ✓ Enjoyment in working with your hands and with tools



QUICK LOOK

Architecture & Construction

Pathways

Design/Pre-Construction*

Construction*

Maintenance Operations*

Sample Occupations

Interior Designer

Carpenter

Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanic

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Architect	Bachelor's degree	\$70,000
Construction Manager	Bachelor's degree	\$74,400
Civil Engineer	Bachelor's degree	\$69,300
Landscape Architect	Bachelor's degree	\$37,100
Elevator Installer and Repairer	Long-term on-the-job training	\$53,500
Electrical and Electronics Repairer, Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$61,200
Cost Estimator	Related work experience	\$50,800
First-Line Supervisor/Manager of Construction Trades	Related work experience	\$51,300
Electrical Power-Line Installer and Repairer	Long-term on-the-job training	\$53,400
Welder, Cutter, Solderer, and Brazier	Long-term on-the-job training	\$32,900

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Architecture & Construction cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Underwater Robotic Welder

WHAT: Program or operate high-tech, automated welding tools sent underwater to repair bridges, pipelines, tunnels, oil platforms, and vessels.

WHO: Underwater robotic welders work in diving suits or on deck as welding engineers or technicians. Open water welders have special training, strength and coordination, and an adventurous spirit.



Express Yourself



ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Do you like to write, act, sing, or create visual art? Can you play a musical instrument? Do you love using new technologies?

The Arts, A/V Technology & Communications cluster stretches as far and wide as your imagination. If you're known for your creative flair or for expressing yourself well, a wide variety of career possibilities are available to you in Alabama or wherever your adventures take you.

What It Takes:

- ✓ A passion for your art or craft
- ✓ Perseverance and self-confidence
- ✓ Talent plus a willingness to improve
- ✓ Time-management and public speaking skills
- ✓ Practical experience



QUICK LOOK

Arts, A/V Technology & Communications

Pathways	Sample Occupations
Audio/Video and Broadcasting*	Sound Engineering Technician
Printing Technology*	Bookbinder
Visual Arts*	Commercial and Industrial Designer
Performing Arts	Choreographer
Journalism	Reporter or Correspondent
Telecommunications	Telecommunications Line Installer

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Broadcast News Analyst	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$46,700
Music Director and Composer	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$48,800
Art, Drama, and Music Teacher, postsecondary	Master's degree	\$52,600
Writer and Author	Bachelor's degree	\$55,700
Producer and Director	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$49,800
Fine Artist	Long-term on-the-job training	\$42,100
Multimedia Artist and Animator	Bachelor's degree	\$41,400
Editor	Bachelor's degree	\$41,000
Telecommunications Line Installer and Repairer	Long-term on-the-job training	\$37,700
Graphic Designer	Bachelor's degree	\$40,300

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Arts, A/V Technology & Communications cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Multimedia Artist

WHAT: Use film, video, computer, or other media tools to create special effects, animation, computer games, music videos, movies, and commercials.

WHO: Multimedia artists are creative people with skills and training in specific areas such as computer animation, photography, and graphic design.



Taking Care of Business



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

Are you good with numbers? Do you like earning and managing your own money? Are you the leader of a team, club, or project?

Check out the fast-growing, high-paying world of business, management, and administration. With a solid business background, you could own your own company, work in a law or medical office, manage a store, or plan meetings and events. Or maybe you'd like to be an accountant, a personnel recruiter, or an agent representing an athlete, artist, or performer.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, English, and public speaking skills
- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Being organized and on time
- ✓ Professional appearance
- ✓ Enjoyment in working with people



QUICK LOOK

Business Management & Administration

Pathways	Sample Occupations
Administrative Services*	Court Reporter
Business Information Technology*	Budget Analyst
Business, Financial Management, and Accounting	Chief Executive
Human Resources	Training Specialist
Corporate/General Management*	Business Manager
Marketing	Advertising Sales Agent

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
CEO	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$166,400
Marketing Manager	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$103,000
Sales Manager	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$85,000
General and Operations Manager	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$85,100
Financial Manager	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$92,900
Advertising Sales Agent	Moderate on-the-job training	\$35,500
Court Reporters	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$41,700
Bookkeeping, Auditing, and Accounting Clerks	Moderate on-the-job training	\$30,600
Data Entry Keyer	Moderate on-the-job training	\$25,200
Medical Secretary	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$27,100

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Business Management & Administration cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Sports Marketer

WHAT: Work for a sports organization to get fans in the seats, sell merchandise, and create excitement for a team or brand.

WHO: Sports marketers have strong business and people skills, a willingness to work hard, and a love for the games their teams play.



Go to the Head of the Class



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Do you enjoy school? Are you active in school or community groups? Do you help your friends with schoolwork or studying?

If you enjoy learning and like sharing what you know with others, then you might make a great educator. There's a high demand for talented teachers in Alabama in school classrooms; as corporate trainers; and as school counselors, coaches, and administrators.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong academic and study skills
- ✓ Enjoyment in learning new things and sharing knowledge with others
- ✓ Solid public speaking skills
- ✓ Optimistic, caring, and confident personality
- ✓ Love of working with people

QUICK LOOK

Education & Training

Pathways

Administrative and Support Services*

Professional Support Services*

Teaching/Training*

Sample Occupations

Education Administrator

Librarian

Kindergarten Teacher

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Law Teacher, postsecondary	First professional degree	\$56,600
Instructional Coordinator	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience	\$65,100
Health Specialties Teacher, postsecondary	Master's degree	\$83,700
Biological Science Teacher, postsecondary	Doctoral degree	\$100,400
Business Teacher, postsecondary	Master's degree	\$78,000
Education Teacher, postsecondary	Doctoral degree	\$58,400
English Language and Literature Teacher, postsecondary	Master's degree	\$44,900
Career/Technical Education Teacher, postsecondary	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience	\$44,300
Special Education Teacher, kindergarten, elementary	Bachelor's degree	\$50,800
Preschool Teacher, except special education	Postsecondary on-the-job-training	\$25,500

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Education & Training cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Outdoor Education Instructor

WHAT: Teach skills such as whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, and wilderness survival and first aid.

WHO: Outdoor education instructors love outdoor adventure activities, are in excellent physical shape, and have the patience and maturity to teach people of all ages and ability levels.



Making Money Work



FINANCE

Are you good with numbers? Do you like earning and managing your own money? Are you the leader of a team, club, or project?

A strong finance background can take you anywhere. Companies in every industry need accountants and bookkeepers, banks in every city need tellers and bankers, and investors around the world rely on financial planners and stockbrokers. If you like money, and want to make it work for you, consider the Finance cluster.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, English, and computer skills
- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Being organized and reliable
- ✓ Love of solving puzzles and brain teasers
- ✓ Enjoyment in working with people

QUICK LOOK

Finance

Pathways

Accounting*

Corporate Finance*

Banking Services*

Insurance*

Management

Marketing

Sample Occupations

Personal Financial Advisor

Financial Analyst

Bank Teller

Insurance Sales Agent

Business Manager

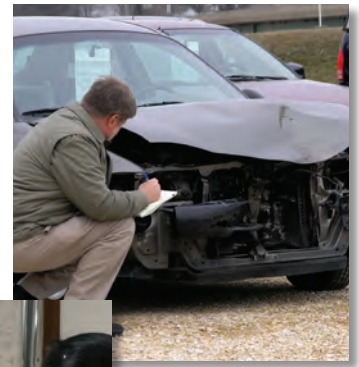
Advertising Sales Agent

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Personal Financial Adviser	Bachelor's degree	\$78,200
Financial Analyst	Bachelor's degree	\$60,900
Actuary	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience	\$66,000
Insurance Sales Agent	Bachelor's degree	\$41,000
Claims Adjuster, Examiner, and Investigator	Long-term on-the-job training	\$59,300
Credit Analyst	Bachelor's degree	\$49,300
Insurance Underwriter	Bachelor's degree	\$46,000
Insurance Appraiser, auto damage	Long-term on-the-job training	\$77,100
Title Examiner, Abstractor, and Searcher	Moderate on-the-job training	\$32,200
Bill and Account Collectors	Short-term on-the-job training	\$27,600

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high demand careers in the Finance cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Forensic Litigator

WHAT: Investigate financial fraud and track down undercover computer transactions designed to hide illegal financial transactions.

WHO: Forensic litigators have strong computer and problem-solving skills.



Liberty and Justice **for All**

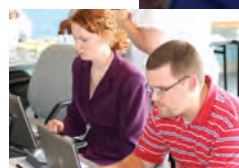


GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Are you interested in news and current events? Do you take part in student government, organizations, and clubs? Do you like helping people with their problems? The government is the biggest employer in the U.S. So if you want to prepare for a career in a field with plenty of job openings, then consider Government & Public Administration. The wide variety of career options includes tourism and transportation, accounting and animal control. Wherever there is a local, state, or federal agency or office, there is a need for qualified employees.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, English, and public speaking skills
- ✓ Desire to help others
- ✓ Good listening and time management skills
- ✓ Enjoyment in working on a team
- ✓ Leadership, debate, or student government experience



QUICK LOOK

Government & Public Administration

Pathways	Sample Occupations
Governance	Legislator
Planning	Urban and Regional Planner
Revenue and Taxation	Tax Examiner, Collector, and Revenue Agent
Regulation	Detective and Criminal Investigator
Public Management and Administration*	Postal Service Clerk

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Postmaster and Mail Superintendent	Related work experience	\$61,700
Urban and Regional Planner	Master's degree	\$53,100
Financial Examiner	Bachelor's degree	\$65,300
Transportation Inspector	Related work experience	\$62,300
Compliance Officer, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	Long-term on-the-job training	\$55,900
Appraiser and Assessor of Real Estate	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$48,500
Tax Examiner, Collector, and Revenue Agent	Bachelor's degree	\$51,800
Detective and Criminal Investigator	Related work experience	\$50,400
Postal Service Clerk	Short-term on-the-job training	\$53,100
Postal Service Mail Carrier	Short-term on-the-job training	\$51,200

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Government & Public Administration cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Foreign Service Diplomatic Courier

WHAT: Secretly and safely carry diplomatic pouches containing classified and sensitive material for the federal government.

WHO: Diplomatic couriers often live and work in foreign countries, and travel frequently.



Lifesaving Solutions



HEALTH SCIENCE

Do you enjoy helping others? Is science one of your favorite subjects? Are you interested in how the human body works? Health Science professionals work in research laboratories, health clubs, and health-care facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, and physicians' offices. Using their science and problem-solving skills, people in this cluster create new medicines, discover cures for diseases, heal and comfort the sick, and operate the high-tech tools that diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, science, and computer skills
- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Desire to help others
- ✓ Ability to work on a team
- ✓ Enjoyment in working with people



QUICK LOOK

Health Science

Pathways	Sample Occupations
Therapeutic Services*	Athletic Trainer
Diagnostic Services*	Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Health Informatics*	Medical Transcriptionist
Supportive Services*	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker
Biotechnology Research and Development*	Biomedical Engineer

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon	First professional degree	\$166,400
Internist, general	First professional degree	\$166,400
Orthodontist	First professional degree	\$166,400
Physician and Surgeon	First professional degree	\$166,400
Dentist, General	First professional degree	\$166,400
Registered Nurse	Associate's degree	\$55,000
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$33,900
Pharmacy Technician	Moderate on-the-job training	\$23,700
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$20,500
Home Health Aide	Short-term on-the-job training	\$18,300

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Health Science cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Cytotechnologist

WHAT: Study cells to look for patterns and abnormalities that might show that a patient has cancer or another disease or infection.

WHO: Cytotechnologists are patient, detail-oriented detectives who use high-powered microscopes and other high-tech tools to uncover signs of disease.



Be Our Guest



HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

Do you like learning about different cultures and countries?

Do you enjoy travel or sports? Are you friendly and outgoing?

Students who like travel or sports, and who enjoy meeting new people, can find plenty of exciting career options in the Hospitality & Tourism cluster. Whether they are front desk clerks or football referees, tour guides or travel agents, professionals in this fast-growing field find work wherever and whenever people gather to play and relax.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong English and public speaking skills
- ✓ Love of travel, sports, or learning about other cultures and languages
- ✓ Being organized and on time
- ✓ Professional appearance
- ✓ Enjoyment in working with people



QUICK LOOK

Hospitality & Tourism

Pathways

Restaurants and Food/Beverage Services*

Lodging*

Recreation, Travel and Tourism*

Sample Occupations

Chef and Head Cook

Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerk

Meeting and Convention Planner

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Food Service Manager	Related work experience	\$46,900
Meeting and Convention Planner	Bachelor's degree	\$39,100
Gaming Supervisor	Related work experience	\$44,600
Lodging Manager	Related work experience	\$39,400
Self-Enrichment Education Teacher	Related work experience	\$39,900
Chef and Head Cook	Related work experience	\$36,600
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setter, Operator and Tender	Master's degree	\$44,000
Museum Technician and Conservator	Master's degree	\$31,400
Set and Exhibit Designer	Bachelor's degree	\$46,200
Interpreter and Translator	Long-term on-the-job training	\$32,700

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Hospitality & Tourism cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Hunting Guide

WHAT: Work with guests at Alabama hunting lodges, ranches, and preserves to locate game and get close enough for a good shot.

WHO: Hunting guides have a thorough knowledge of the game being hunted; are able to properly field dress, skin, "cape," and care for game meat; and are able to walk many miles in rough terrain.





Lend a Helping Hand

HUMAN SERVICES

Are you a good listener? Do you enjoy helping people with their problems? Are you interested in cosmetology, hair styling, or fitness training? The Human Services cluster is exactly what it sounds like—people helping people. The career opportunities in this field include social work, counseling, and family therapy; they also include being a manicurist, massage therapist, or funeral home director. If you're a helpful person who wants to find a career in which caring counts, explore the options available in Human Services.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong English and public speaking skills
- ✓ Patience and compassion
- ✓ The ability to think and act under pressure
- ✓ Specialized skills such as hairstyling or massage therapy
- ✓ Love of working with people

QUICK LOOK

Human Services

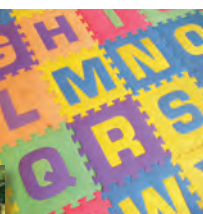
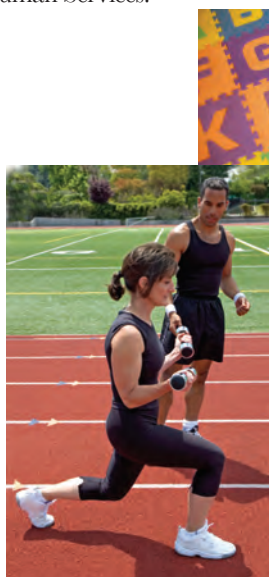
Pathways	Sample Occupations
Early Childhood Development and Services*	Child Care Worker
Counseling and Mental Health Services	Marriage and Family Therapist
Family and Community Services*	Clergy Member
Personal Care Services*	Skin Care Specialist
Consumer Services*	Loan Counselor
Fashion*	Apparel Buyer
Interior Design*	Cost Estimator
Food, Wellness and Dietetics*	Fitness Trainer

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Manager	Bachelor's degree	\$68,300
Director, Religious Activities and Education	Bachelor's degree	\$51,200
Social and Community Services Manager	Bachelor's degree	\$53,300
Marriage and Family Therapist	Master's degree	\$36,100
Counselors, all other	Master's degree	\$35,300
Clergy Member	Master's degree	\$39,600
Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors	Master's degree	\$36,500
Fitness Trainer and Aerobics Instructor	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$31,800
Social and Human Services Assistant	Moderate on-the-job training	\$21,800
Child Care Worker	Short-term on-the-job training	\$17,500

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Human Services cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Art Therapist

WHAT: Use art to help children and adults with developmental, physical, or emotional problems improve their health and wellness, or recover from illness or injury.

WHO: Art therapists are caring professionals trained in both art and therapy who work with patients in hospitals, schools, shelters, clinics, art studios, and correctional facilities.



Making Connections



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Do you enjoy working with computers? Are you good at solving puzzles? Do you like taking machines apart and putting them back together? If you're the family computer whiz, enjoy figuring out how things work, and want a fast-paced high-tech career, consider one of the new jobs being created every day in Information Technology (IT). In addition to having top-notch computer skills, people in this field need to be quick-thinking problem solvers who can clearly communicate instructions to others. For students who have what IT takes, jobs are available in nearly every industry across Alabama and around the world.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, English, and computer skills
- ✓ Problem-solving, organization, and time management skills
- ✓ The ability to adapt and respond quickly to change
- ✓ Teamwork skills



QUICK LOOK

Information Technology

Pathways	Sample Occupations
Network Systems*	Database Administrator
Information Support and Services*	Computer Support Specialist
Programming and Software Development*	Computer Programmer
Interactive Media*	Web Designer

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Computer and Information System Manager	Bachelor's degree or higher, plus related work experience	\$103,300
Computer Software Engineer, systems software	Bachelor's degree	\$87,200
Computer Software Engineer, applications	Bachelor's degree	\$96,200
Computer Specialists, all other	Bachelor's degree	\$71,600
Computer Systems Analyst	Bachelor's degree	\$74,000
Network Systems and Data Communications Analyst	Bachelor's degree	\$61,000
Computer Programmer	Bachelor's degree	\$69,300
Network and Computer Systems Administrator	Bachelor's degree	\$64,000
Database Administrator	Bachelor's degree	\$62,400
Computer Support Specialist	Associate's degree	\$41,300

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Information Technology cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Remote Sensing Specialist

WHAT: Use pictures and other information from satellites, planes, and ground sensors to gather and plot data about where things are on Earth.

WHO: Remote sensing specialists are IT professionals interested in Earth, space, and high technology.



Serve and Protect



LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS & SECURITY

Do you enjoy helping people? Do you like having rules to follow?

Are you the leader of a team, club, or project? It isn't easy being responsible for the safety and security of others, but it can be extremely rewarding. If you want to serve and protect your community or country, then Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security could be the career cluster for you. Future job options include being an emergency medical technician, park ranger, attorney, or security guard.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong English and public speaking skills
- ✓ Ability to follow strict rules and meet ethical standards
- ✓ Being organized and on time
- ✓ Desire to help people
- ✓ Teamwork skills



QUICK LOOK

Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

Pathways	Sample Occupations
Correction Services	Correctional Officer and Jailer
Emergency and Fire Management Services*	Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic
Security and Protective Services	Private Detective and Investigator
Legal Services*	Lawyer
Law Enforcement Services*	Dispatcher

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Administrative Law Judge, Adjudicator, and Hearing Officer	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$118,600
Lawyer	First professional degree	\$103,000
Judge, Magistrate Judge, and Magistrate	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience	\$44,600
First-Line Supervisor/Manager of Police and Detectives	Related work experience	\$58,800
Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers, postsecondary	Doctoral degree	\$56,600
First-Line Supervisor/Manager of Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers	Related work experience	\$58,900
Fire Inspector and Investigator	Related work experience	\$50,700
First-Line Supervisor/Manager of Correctional Officers	Related work experience	\$52,500
Emergency Management Specialist	Related work experience	\$44,000
Legal Support Workers, all other	Bachelor's degree	\$41,400

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Forest Firefighter

WHAT: Fight fires in wilderness areas by digging fire lines and using axes, chainsaws, shovels, and hand- or engine-driven water pumps.

WHO: Forest firefighters are adventurous, physically fit people who enjoy living and working outdoors as part of a firefighting crew.



Designing and Producing Results



MANUFACTURING

Do you enjoy designing or building things? Would you like to work in a factory?

Do you like using new technology? If you're fascinated by the way things work, then you might enjoy exploring the manufacturing career cluster. Jobs in this high-tech field involve planning, managing, and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products. Nearly every product we wear, use, and drive was produced by a highly skilled team of manufacturing professionals.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, English, and computer skills
- ✓ Imagination and attention to detail
- ✓ Being organized and on time
- ✓ Time management and teamwork skills
- ✓ Ability to follow and give directions



QUICK LOOK

Manufacturing

Pathways	Sample Occupations
Production*	Model Maker, Metal and Plastic
Manufacturing Production Process Development	Industrial Engineering Technician
Maintenance, Installation, and Repair*	Medical Equipment Repairer
Quality Assurance	Medical Appliance Technician
Logistics and Inventory Control	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerk

*Denotes Alabama pathway



10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Industrial Production Manager	Related work experience	\$80,800
Purchasing Agents, except wholesale, retail and farm products	Related work experience	\$56,200
Chemical Plant and System Operator	Long-term on-the-job training	\$54,500
First-Line Supervisor/Manager of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	Related work experience	\$53,900
Power Plant Operator	Long-term on-the-job training	\$58,800
First-Line Supervisor/Manager of Production and Operations Workers	Related work experience	\$50,400
Industrial Engineering Technician	Associate's degree	\$40,100
Telecommunications Equipment Installer and Repairer, except line installer	Long-term on-the-job training	\$52,300
Radio, Cellular, & Tower Equipment Installer and Repairer	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$44,000
Mechanical Engineering Technician	Associate's degree	\$39,900

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Manufacturing cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Multicraft Automotive Technician

WHAT: Work as a highly skilled technician at one of the more than 200 auto production plants in Alabama.

WHO: Multicraft automotive technicians are skilled in electronics, hydraulics, programmable logic controllers, welding, machine tool technology, and robotics, as well as problem solving and team building.



Sold on Success



MARKETING

Are you good at convincing your friends to follow your lead? Do you enjoy art, writing, or public speaking? Are you friendly and outgoing?

If you enjoy meeting new people and like selling things, then the Marketing cluster could provide the background you need to succeed. Companies big and small need talented salespeople, customer service representatives, buyers, and brokers. This cluster is also the home of creative types, including web designers and fashion merchandisers. So if you like creating things to sell or have a knack for making a sale, check out the options available in Marketing.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong communication, math, and technical skills
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Organization and time management skills
- ✓ Professional appearance
- ✓ Enjoyment in working with people



QUICK LOOK

Marketing

Pathways

Professional Sales, Sales Management*

Merchandising*

Marketing Communications*

Sample Occupations

Real Estate Broker

Counter and Rental Clerk

Market Research Analyst

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Real Estate Broker	Related work experience	\$44,800
Sales Representative, Wholesale and Manufacturing, technical and sales products	Moderate on-the-job training	\$82,300
Real Estate Sales Agents	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$47,500
Market Research Analysts	Bachelor's degree	\$53,300
Sales Representative, Wholesale and Manufacturing, except technical and sales	Moderate on-the-job training	\$45,800
Wholesale and Retail Buyers, except farm products	Related work experience	\$42,600
Door-to-Door Sales Workers, News and Street Vendors, and Related Workers	Short-term on-the-job training	\$22,200
Procurement Clerks	Short-term on-the-job training	\$35,500
Customer Service Representatives	Moderate on-the-job training	\$26,900
Order Clerks	Short-term on-the-job training	\$24,300

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Marketing cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.

SOLD



Floral Designer

WHAT: Cut and arrange live, dried, and silk flowers and other greenery into attractive displays for individuals, businesses, events, and special occasions.

WHO: Employers generally look for high school graduates who have creativity and excellent customer service skills, a flair for arranging flowers, and a desire to learn. Skills are learned on-the-job.



Better, Safer, Faster



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

Do you get good grades in math and science? Are you good at fixing, designing, or building things? Do you like working on projects as part of a team? What do iPods, cell phones, and your favorite video game all have in common? They were all created by talented STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) professionals. The STEM cluster prepares students for exciting and challenging careers—many of which haven't even been created yet. Whether you dream of curing disease; developing new energy sources; or creating better, safer, faster ways to communicate, travel, and work, explore the possibilities available in STEM.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, science, and communication skills
- ✓ Focus and attention to detail
- ✓ Being organized and on time
- ✓ Being interested in using high-tech tools to solve problems
- ✓ Enjoyment in working on a team



QUICK LOOK

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Pathways

Engineering and Technology*
Science and Mathematics

Sample Occupations

Marine Engineer and Naval Architect
Conservation Scientist

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Computer and Information Scientist, research	Doctoral degree	\$101,700
Engineers, all other	Bachelor's degree	\$108,100
Aerospace Engineer	Bachelor's degree	\$111,300
Electronics Engineer, except computer	Bachelor's degree	\$91,500
Chemical Engineer	Bachelor's degree	\$87,000
Industrial Engineer	Bachelor's degree	\$72,900
Electro-Mechanical Technician	Associate's degree	\$38,300
Career and Technical Education Teachers, postsecondary	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience	\$48,500
Chemical Technician	Associate's degree	\$38,300
Surveying and Mapping Technician	Moderate on-the-job training	\$30,700

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Sound Engineer

WHAT: Operate machines and equipment to record, synchronize, mix, or reproduce music, voices, or sound effects in sporting arenas, theater productions, recording studios, or movie and video productions.

WHO: Sound or broadcast engineers have specialized computer, electronics, and engineering training related to the operation of high-tech recording and broadcast equipment. Since sound technology changes rapidly, sound engineers need to stay updated on the latest advances in equipment and techniques.



On the Fast Track



TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS

Are you a NASCAR, boating, or BMX fan? Do you like to travel? Are you good at operating tools and machinery? How do people and products get where they need to go?

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics professionals map out the routes, plan the schedules, and operate the cars, planes, trains, ships, buses, trucks, and other vehicles that deliver cargo to its proper destination. This fast-moving career cluster also prepares people for a variety of jobs at warehouses and distribution centers, at seaports and airports, and in all branches of the military.

What It Takes:

- ✓ Strong math, science, and computer skills
- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Being organized and on time
- ✓ Ability to think and act quickly
- ✓ Strength and coordination



QUICK LOOK

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Pathways

Transportation Operations
Logistics Planning and Management Services
Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations
Facility and Mobile Equipment Maintenance*
Transportation Systems/Infrastructure Planning
Sales and Service

Sample Occupations

Sailor and Marine Oiler
Logistician
Tank Car, Truck, and Ship Loader
Motorcycle Mechanic
Traffic Technician
Cargo and Freight Agent

*Denotes Alabama pathway

10 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Occupation	Education Required	Avg. Annual Salary
Airline Pilots, Co-Pilots, and Flight Engineers	Bachelor's degree	\$90,000
Air Traffic Controller	Long-term on-the-job training	\$97,000
Logistician	Bachelor's degree	\$80,300
Commercial Pilot	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$80,300
Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels	Related work experience	\$87,300
Railroad Conductor and Yardmaster	Moderate on-the-job training	\$44,800
Ship Engineer	Postsecondary on-the-job training	\$50,200
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technician	Associate's degree	\$55,700
Bridge and Lock Tender	Short-term on-the-job training	\$51,200
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Transportation and Material-Moving Machine and Vehicle Operator	Related work experience	\$48,300

This is a chart for 10 of the top-paying and high-demand careers in the Transportation, Distribution & Logistics cluster in Alabama. Wages are based on the May 2010 release from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Unit. Education requirements are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division.



Avionics Technician

WHAT: Test, maintain, design, and produce aviation electronics, including missile-guidance systems, jet engines, and flight-control equipment.

WHO: Avionics technicians are highly skilled, detail-oriented, and curious people who constantly learn new things to stay up-to-date on the latest aviation technologies.



There's a Place for You

Whatever you like to do or want to learn, there's a place for you in the co-curricular activities and organizations at your high school. See what's available, and then sign up to try new things, meet new people, and develop new skills.

One of the best ways to gain experience and see what it is really like to work in specific careers is by joining a career and technical student organization, or CTSO.

What's a CTSO?

Thousands of Alabama students in middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities participate in CTSOs. Under the guidance of adult mentors, including teachers and community members, students with a shared career interest develop the "soft skills" needed for career success. These skills include:

- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Organization
- ◆ Public speaking
- ◆ Interviewing
- ◆ Networking
- ◆ Resume writing
- ◆ Leadership

Why Should I Join?

In addition to learning new things and meeting new people, students who participate in Alabama CTSOs have the chance to test their career and technical skills in local, regional, and national competitions. You could earn medals, trophies, and even scholarship money by doing well in these competitions.

How Can I Sign Up?

With the Alabama SUCCESS program, CTSOs will be linked to clusters and pathways, so every student in the state will have the opportunity to participate. Once you choose a career cluster and pathway, you can see the related CTSOs that are available at your school. Many programs of study include more than one CTSO option.

Alabama CTSOs

Listed at right are the national CTSOs with local chapters at public high schools throughout Alabama.

Choose an Organization



Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) ▪ www.deca.org

DECA, a national association of more than 170,000 marketing students, provides members with hands-on experiences in the fields of marketing, management, and entrepreneurship.



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

www.fcclainc.org

FCCLA offers Alabama students the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life, such as planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision making, and interpersonal communication.



FFA (association for agriscience education students) ▪ www.alabamaffa.org

FFA members develop their potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education, competitions, and conferences.



Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL)

www.fbla-pbl.org

FBLA-PBL is the largest business student organization in the world. Its mission is to prepare today's students for success in business leadership.



Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) ▪ www.hosa.org

HOSA's mission is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill, and leadership development of all health science technology students.



SkillsUSA (association for students in technical, skilled, and service careers, including health careers) ▪ www.skillsalabama.org

Alabama SkillsUSA emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, high standards in trade ethics, superior workmanship, quality, and safety.



Technology Student Association (TSA) ▪ www.tsaweb.org

TSA prepares students to meet the challenges of a high-tech world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem-solving skills.

Members have opportunities to develop and showcase their technology skills through individual and team competitions.

REAL-LIFE REPORT

NAME: Jamey Jones

EDUCATION:

**West Point High School, Cullman;
Wallace State Community College,
Hanceville—Machine Tool Technology,
Associate in Applied Science Degree**



Jamey Jones is a top machinist in Axsys Technologies' mill department. Each day, he uses the math skills learned in his high school geometry and trigonometry classes, and the precision machining skills he developed at Wallace State to operate CNC (computer numerical control) machines.

"I'm given a sketch or a blueprint of a productive part, and then set up the computer-generated machine to produce that part. All of the math courses I took in high school prepared me for college and my job. I like what I do because I am doing and learning something different every day, plus I know that as a machinist I can make good money and provide for my family."

REAL-LIFE REPORT

NAME: Kendra Key

EDUCATION: Paul Bryant

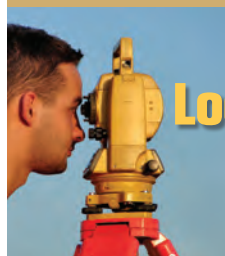
High School, Tuscaloosa

**CTSO: Future Business
Leaders of America**



Kendra is a member of Alabama Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA-PBL)—one of the nation's largest chapters, with more than 15,000 student members. In 2006, she was selected to serve as a founding member of State Farm's Youth Advisory Board, representing the Southern zone (Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama). More than 600 students applied for the post, which included a \$5,000 scholarship.

"Having the opportunity to serve on the National State Farm Youth Advisory Board was an absolute life-changing experience. I went to Washington, D.C., to serve as the mistress of ceremonies for the first ever National Teen Driver Safety Summit, and I traveled to St. Louis to speak at the National Youth Institute hosted by the American Red Cross. None of this would have been possible without the leadership training that FBLA provided me."



Looking Ahead

As you start exploring career opportunities, you'll learn what work experience, training, courses, and degrees are needed beyond high school for every job that interests you. One or more of these postsecondary (meaning "after high school") options might be in your future.

Apprenticeship Learn a craft or trade from a skilled craftsman or master trades worker (such as a carpenter, cabinetmaker, or plumber) through supervised, full-time work that meets Alabama state standards. At the end of your apprenticeship, you'll receive a nationally recognized Certificate of Completion.

Community College Affordable community colleges—including technical colleges, where students can study fields such as automotive technology, culinary arts, and welding—are located in every region of Alabama. Here you can earn a two-year associate's degree to prepare you for immediate entry into your career or to launch you directly into a four-year college or university.

Four-year College or University Alabama offers students state and private colleges and universities in urban, suburban, and rural settings. The Alabama Student Assistance Program, a state-supported and federally funded grant program, helps support financially needy students who want to attend college in Alabama. Nearly 80 Alabama schools participate in the program.

Military Service All branches of the U.S. military, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, provide skills training, financial aid for college, and career opportunities in return for three or more years of service. Some people choose the military as a long-term career. Others use their military experience to prepare for college or for a career in private industry or public service.

On-the-Job Training After earning a high school diploma, some graduates immediately start earning money as an entry-level employee. Through on-the-job training, they are able to learn new skills and gain valuable work experience.



It's All About You

What Do YOU Want to Do?

Create your own plan for SUCCESS. Now that you've learned about Alabama's 16 career clusters and all of the opportunities available to you through Alabama SUCCESS, you're ready to start making some important decisions about your future.

Fill out as much as you can in this planner. Then, sit down with your parents and/or counselor to create an Alabama Education Plan that will help you reach your goals.

MY EDUCATION & CAREER PLAN

Name: _____ Age: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Alabama Town/City: _____
E-mail: _____

My Top Talents:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My Favorite Interests:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My Greatest Strengths:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Things I Need to Work On:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Activities or Subjects that Interest Me:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Things I Belong To:

(activities, clubs, organizations, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My Experiences:

(meaningful things I've done in the past)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Career Clusters that Interest Me:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Career Pathways that Interest Me:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Careers that Interest Me:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Steps I Need to Take to Reach My Career Goal:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

School Subjects Related to My Career Goal:

- ☐ English
- ☐ Math
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Social Studies
- ☐ Foreign Language
- ☐ Career and Technical
- ☐ Electives

High School Diploma Endorsement I Want to Earn (see page 3):

Postsecondary Degree(s) or Certification I Want to Earn:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My Work Experience:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CTSOs Related to My Career Interests:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My To-Do List

- ☐ Talk about careers and courses with my parents, guardians, and school counselor.
- ☐ Do job shadowing or an internship.
- ☐ Research careers online.
- ☐ Volunteer.
- ☐ Find out what advanced or special courses my high school offers.
- ☐ Talk to my family about paying for education after high school.
- ☐ Update this planner as things change.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN



Some of the terms and names used in this guide may be new to you. **No problem.** We've created this little glossary to help answer some of the questions that might come up as you look through the pages of this guide and at other career information, and discuss what you learn with your parents. Your school counselor can also explain any confusing or new phrases or titles, so don't be afraid to ask. We're all here to help you get the information you need to dream big dreams and plan for your successful future.

Articulation agreements: formal agreements between or among educational organizations (high schools, community colleges, and universities) that allow students to receive college credit for courses taken in high school.

Associate's degree: a two-year degree awarded by a community college.

Bachelor's degree: a four-year degree awarded by a college or university.

Career and technical student organizations (CTSOs): co-curricular organizations for students that offer activities and competitions related to particular careers.

Career Clusters: identifies pathways from high schools to two- and four-year colleges, technical schools, graduate schools, apprenticeship programs, and workplace so that learners can recognize the relationship between what they learn in school and what they can do in the future.

Career Pathways: pathways are sub-groupings of occupations/career specialties. Occupations/Career specialties are grouped into Pathways based on the fact that they require a set of common knowledge and skills for career success.

Doctoral degree: a degree awarded by universities for study beyond a master's degree. May also be called a Ph.D. or a first professional degree.

Dual enrollment: a program between Alabama public colleges and universities and local boards of education that allows high school students to enroll in certain approved college-level courses to receive both high school and college credit.

ECEP (Early College Enrollment Program): a program that allows juniors and seniors to have full-time enrollment at an Alabama public college or university while still graduating with their class and staying involved with high school activities.

Extended learning experiences: participation in career and technical student organizations, co-curricular activities, job shadowing, internships, or community service.

Internship: an extended learning experience that gives students an opportunity to work temporarily at an entry-level job in a career that interests them.

Job shadowing: an extended learning experience in which students observe professionals in particular careers as they go through a day on the job.

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

Postsecondary education: education beyond high school. Middle and high school are referred to as *secondary education*, so *postsecondary* means after high school.

STARS (State Transfer & Articulation Reporting System): STARS System allows public two-year students in Alabama to obtain a Transfer Guide/Agreement for the major of their choice. This guide/agreement, if used correctly, guides the student through their first two years of coursework and prevents loss of credit hours upon transfer to the appropriate public four-year university in Alabama.

Resource Shelf

Use these websites and other resources available from your school counselor to learn more about careers, career clusters, and educational and job opportunities in high school and beyond.

ACCESS • www.accessdl.state.al.us

ACCESS (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide) Distance Learning provides opportunities and options for Alabama public high school students to engage in advanced placement (AP), elective, and other courses to which they may not otherwise have access.

Alabama Career Information Network

www.alcareerinfo.org

This new Web portal increases Alabama students' and families' access to valuable career exploration activities and college financial aid information.

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

www.ache.alabama.gov

Click on "Colleges & Universities" within this website for a list of four-year institutions in Alabama.

The Alabama Community College System • www.accs.cc

Learn all about the public and private two-year colleges in Alabama. Connect directly to each school's website to see the courses, majors, degrees, and scholarships it offers to Alabama students.

Alabama Tech Prep • www.altechprep.org

This booklet is sponsored by Alabama Tech Prep. The goal of Tech Prep is to create a smooth transition from high school to college and to a career.

Alabama Virtual Library • www.avl.lib.al.us

This Alabama Legislature-funded site provides all students, teachers, and citizens of the State of Alabama with online access to essential library and information resources.

America's Career InfoNet • www.acinet.org/acinet

Use this site to search for occupational information, industry information, and state-specific labor market information.

Career Voyages • www.careervoyages.gov

This career planning resource helps students, parents, career changers, and career advisors.

O*NET (Occupational Information Network)

www.online.onetcenter.org

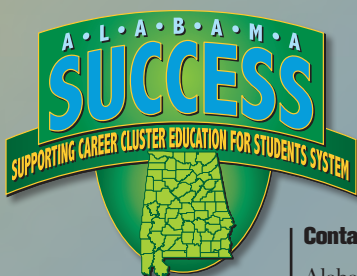
O*NET provides full information on occupations, including state-by-state salary data, employment prospects, and skill matching for students.

U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.bls.gov/oco

A valuable resource for both counselors and students, this federal website offers updated information on careers, job responsibilities and working conditions, salaries, and what jobs will be available in the future.

Alabama Career Clusters and Pathways



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