ATTENTION PARENTS!

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

As I’ve said on many occasions, our people are Alabama’s greatest strength, especially our young people, who hold the state’s future in their hands. As the guardians of our state’s future, students deserve every possible tool to help them—and Alabama—succeed in all areas.

To achieve this, we have created the Alabama SUCCESS Guides, which are designed to assist students in identifying resources regarding careers, postsecondary education and financial literacy. Through our students, we are positioning our state for even greater accomplishments. They will be well-equipped for careers in Alabama’s workforce which will allow them to compete—and excel—in our global economy.

This Alabama SUCCESS Guide is an excellent tool in helping our students of today become our leaders of tomorrow.

Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama

This guide is part of a series created to help students in Alabama learn more about high-demand careers, salaries, the steps they need to take to reach their goals, and the resources that can help them get there.

The workforce has changed since you entered it. Many of the jobs that exist today were not even created when you graduated from high school, and the pace of change is faster than ever! However, since work skills are transferable to many jobs, by helping your student connect with what they learn in the classroom to real jobs that interest them, they will graduate better equipped for life after high school.

Thank you for talking with your child about what careers interest them—and why. You can help them by sharing your own work experiences with your child. Ask people in your community who work in jobs that interest your child to share about their careers or let your child visit their workplace. And last, but not least, go with your child to meet with their school counselor or career coach to get them moving in the right direction. Help them prepare for their future...today.
ALABAMA’S GREATEST HEROES ARE OUR WELL TRAINED AND DEDICATED LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL. In order to keep our communities safe, law enforcement agencies require men and women committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and bravery. As Alabama’s top law enforcement official, I personally feel these characteristics are important from the ground up. Police officers, Deputy Sheriffs, State Troopers, and Attorney General Special Agents must be of the highest caliber. If you want to be part of this elite group of men and women devoted to protecting the people of our state, then I encourage you to consider a career in law enforcement!
THINK AGAIN

Now is the time to take a fresh look at Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security careers you may not have considered before.

MYTH: We have more law enforcement, firefighters and lawyers than we need.

FACTS: According to the Alabama Fire College, the reality is that the emergency services personnel is shrinking. Due to the volume of calls, increased responsibilities, and aging personnel, the field of law, public safety, corrections and security is one of the fastest growing areas. Opportunities for growth abound in this area.

REALITY CHECK

WHAT IT COSTS TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN IN ALABAMA
Estimated 2017-2018 monthly expenses for a 22 year-old living in Birmingham.

**Groceries:** $350-$400

**Mobile Phone:** $55

**Cable and Internet:** $80

**Gasoline:** $100 (1,000 miles @ $3.00 per gallon, 30 mpg)

**Rent and Utilities:** $700-$850 (1 Bedroom)

**Car Payment:** $350-$450 (Used 2016)

**Car Insurance:** $60-$125 (6-Month Policy)

NOTE: Keep in mind that your paycheck will be reduced by about 30 percent to cover taxes, retirement, and insurance. What’s left is known as your “take-home pay.” Subtract 30 percent from the salaries shown on pages 5 and 6 to get a more accurate take-home amount.

Sources:
- RENT: rentbits.com/mb/rental-rates/birmingham-al
- CAR: carsdirect.com
- MOBILE PHONE: att.com, verizon.com
- GROCERIES: bestplaces.net
- CABLE AND INTERNET: birmingham.mybrighthouse.com
- CAR INSURANCE: progressive.com
- GAS: gasbuddy.com
YOU DECIDE

Does the Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Career Cluster fit you, your talents, and your dreams?
Take this quick quiz to find out.

1. Do you follow the rules?
   **WHY IT MATTERS:** People in legal careers must know the law and obey it.

2. Are you a people person?
   **WHY IT MATTERS:** In this work, you must be prepared to deal with all sorts of people, often under difficult conditions.

3. Are you a good communicator?
   **WHY IT MATTERS:** To make a case in court or deal with people under stress, you have to know what to say.

4. Do you have an analytical mind?
   **WHY IT MATTERS:** To solve a criminal case or present it in court, you have to be able to reason well.

5. Do you manage your own stress well?
   **WHY IT MATTERS:** You have to keep a cool head in difficult situations.

If you answered “yes” to most of these questions, Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security could be right for you.

CAREER IDEAS

What Job Works for YOU?

On the next two pages you will find job descriptions for this career cluster that are projected to be the “Hot Jobs” in the state of Alabama from now through the year 2024. The jobs are listed in order of projected demand.*

On pages 7 and 8 you will see short bios of people who live and work in this career cluster right here in Alabama. As you read their stories, pay attention to their pathway to the job they are in currently and the lessons they learned along the way. What can you learn from these real-life stories that might help you along your own career path? ►►►►►►►►►►►►

*This information is provided by the Alabama Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Division in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The wage data is based on the May 2015 Occupation Employment Survey employment and wage estimate file. The wages have been aged using the most current Employment Cost Index (ECI) factors reflecting wages as of September 2016.
POLICE OR SHERIFF’S PATROL OFFICER

Job Description: Maintain order and protect life and property by enforcing local, tribal, State, or Federal laws and ordinances. Perform a combination of the following duties: patrol a specific area; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; apprehend and arrest suspects, or serve legal processes of courts.

Education: High school diploma or equivalent and License

Salary Range: $30,571 – $50,820

LAWYER

Job Description: Represent clients in criminal and civil litigation and other legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, or manage or advise clients on legal transactions. May specialize in a single area or may practice broadly in many areas of law.

Education: Doctoral or professional degree and Licenses

Salary Range: $58,735 – $147,017

SECURITY GUARD

Job Description: Guard, patrol, or monitor premises to prevent theft, violence, or infractions of rules. May operate x-ray and metal detector equipment.

Education: High school diploma or equivalent

Salary Range: $17,619 – $28,003

FIREFIGHTER

Job Description: Control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk. Duties may include fire prevention, emergency medical service, hazardous material response, search and rescue, and disaster assistance.

Education: Postsecondary non-degree award and Licenses

Salary Range: $27,692 – $48,180

PARALEGAL OR LEGAL ASSISTANT

Job Description: Assist lawyers by investigating facts, preparing legal documents, or researching legal precedent. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.

Education: Associate’s degree

Salary Range: $30,428 – $53,041
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OR JAILER

**Job Description:** Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit between jail, courtroom, prison, or other point. Includes deputy sheriffs and police who spend the majority of their time guarding prisoners in correctional institutions.

**Education:** High school diploma or equivalent

**Salary Range:** $27,328 – $42,057

DETECTIVE OR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR

**Job Description:** Conduct investigations related to suspected violations of Federal, State, or local laws to prevent or solve crimes.

**Education:** High school diploma or equivalent

**Salary Range:** $36,569 – $76,162

POLICE, FIRE, OR AMBULANCE DISPATCHER

**Job Description:** Operate radio, telephone, or computer equipment at emergency response centers. Receive reports from the public of crimes, disturbances, fires, and medical or police emergencies. Relay information to law enforcement and emergency response personnel. May maintain contact with caller until responders arrive.

**Education:** High school diploma or equivalent

**Salary Range:** $24,237 – $38,672

LIFEGUARD, SKI PATROL, OR OTHER RECREATIONAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE WORKER

**Job Description:** Monitor recreational areas, such as pools, beaches, or ski slopes to provide assistance and protection to participants.

**Education:** No formal educational credential

**Salary Range:** $17,629 – $19,604
NOAH COBB
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

My current position includes working in the community, helping those in need by responding to dangerous calls, and working traffic in an effort to prevent accidents and reckless driving.

Helping others and trying to make a true difference has always been a goal I have had in mind. In high school I worked at a local bank, and was part of many clubs at school, as well as playing varsity football. Staying busy was good for me and kept me from going down the wrong paths that could have hindered me from the career I knew that I wanted. Skipping parties to study, missing out on riding dirt roads because you’re working, and sleeping in on Saturday morning because you had a physically demanding football game all seem boring and not worth it, but in the end it will make you a better person. After graduating high school, I started attending community college which was a great choice because it allowed me to stay at home and keep my job and get my education at the same time.

One day a co-worker told me about an officer position that had opened up at a neighboring town’s agency. I applied and was fortunate enough to get my dream job before even finishing my degree. I am still attending school to be able to advance in my career. There are lots of jobs and career paths you can choose. The most important thing to remember is to always maintain a good reputation, stay positive, and be willing to work your way up.

CAROLINE MUSE
ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY
BRADLEY ARANT BOULT CUMMINGS LLP

I represent clients in various litigation matters in both state and federal courts working for a private law firm.

My great-grandfather was a lawyer, my grandfather was a lawyer, and my dad, though no longer a practicing attorney, went to law school. I studied communications and sociology, hoping to either write for a magazine or work in development for a nonprofit. It wasn't until I graduated college that the realities of the job market and student debt began to sink in. I needed to find a job and fast. I lucked into a job with a major law firm in Dallas, Texas, not having any idea what I was getting into.

After several years there, working for and with attorneys in various practice groups, I decided that if I was going to work for attorneys, I might as well become one. So that's what I did.

Although I've only been a practicing lawyer for six months, I can already tell that fate knew what it was doing when it placed me in this position. The work is extremely varied, challenging, and exciting, and the people I work with are some of the brightest I've ever met. I'm looking forward to seeing where the practice of law takes me. The job requires 100% mental focus at all times, and the hours can be long. Dependability and integrity are crucial for a career in law, so I always show up to work on time and am willing to do whatever is asked.

ROBBIE ALEXANDER HYDE
ATTORNEY
ALEXANDER HYDE, LLC

I started my own law firm in 2014 after many years of working with law firms primarily in litigation of cases involving governmental entities. I practice in the areas of constitutional and civil rights law and regularly litigate cases involving such disputes.

Although I concentrated on a science and mathematics path in high school, I began to doubt if a career based on those studies was the path I wanted to continue down. My classmates began to encourage me to explore the idea of a career in law and even elected me to be the “class lawyer.” The idea rubbed off on me, and I did eventually choose to go to law school. Not one to put all my eggs in one basket, I chose a college major on which I could fall back (Spanish and International Trade). I reasoned that I could teach Spanish if the legal thing did not pan out. However, I have not needed to explore that avenue.

I enjoy the versatility of my profession. Although the main thrust of my practice is litigation, I also conduct training sessions for employers and provide advice in how to proceed in avoiding employment disputes. I find this aspect of my practice very rewarding. My ability to relate to my clients and explain things to them in terms they can understand but without any condescension has served me well.
MATT HARDEN
CAPTAIN
PRATTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In my current position as a Training Captain for the Prattville Fire Department, I am responsible for ensuring that the other personnel employed by the PFD receive the adequate amount of training required to maintain their Firefighter certifications.

I grew up in a fire department family. My dad entered the fire service when I was in the second grade, and I grew up in and around the firehouse. After high school, I went to community college with no real direction for what I wanted to do for my career. After my second year at community college, I decided to attend an EMT Basic class, and it was then that I found a career that I wanted to be a part of. After several conversations, my parents persuaded me to continue and finish my education prior to entering the fire service. After graduating from Troy University, I found my first job in the fire service and began Recruit School to earn my Firefighter I/II certification. After several years in the fire service I decided to continue my education and enroll in the Paramedic Program at a local community college. Earning my Paramedic license has allowed me to promote and move up the ranks to my current position as a Captain. In the future, I hope to continue my upward progression through the promotional ranks, promoting to Battalion Chief, where I will be tasked with leading 25-30 personnel who operate each day's shift, and eventually earn the rank of Fire Chief of a department.

“After high school, I went to community college with no real direction for what I wanted to do for my career.”

SGT. CAMERON BATES
DETECTIVE DIVISION
CLANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

I really enjoy helping people while working as a Detective and solving cases and getting justice for the victims and their families. My experience in Law Enforcement allows me to teach high school students what it's like to be a Police Officer in a school type setting. I see firsthand many of these kids have a rougher than normal home life, and it allows me to be a huge influence on the students becoming productive instead of destructive people in today's society.

When I was a child, I wanted to be a fireman until one day there was a homicide of my mom's friend. When the detectives came and interviewed my mom, I became very infatuated with the case. I decided that I would one day solve the case that has been a cold case for twenty plus years now. I worked a few odd and end jobs after high school before getting my job as a corrections officer at our local county jail. While working at the jail, I decided I wanted to further my career in law enforcement, and after a few years went back to school to obtain my degree. I would encourage anyone getting into this profession to get your degree first to make yourself more knowledgeable than the other candidates. I have also been involved in the Fire Service for over 25 years. I am the city's Fire Marshal as well as a Detective for the Police Department. It's emotionally straining sometimes – long hours working holidays and weekends – however the reward is GREAT!

“After high school, I went to community college with no real direction for what I wanted to do for my career.”

JUDGE STUART K. SMITH
DISTRICT JUDGE
DALE COUNTY

As a District Judge, it is my job to make the final decision when the parties involved can't agree on a resolution. As District Judge, I'm also the Chairman of our local Children's Policy Council.

I was like many boys growing up; all I could think about and all I wanted to do was play and watch sports. I played at a pretty high level in high school in basketball and golf. After a year of junior college, I attended Auburn University. I even tried to walk on to the Auburn University Basketball team in college, but didn't make the team. That was the point that I honestly realized that I wasn't ever going to play professional sports for a living.

Law and law enforcement were really the only things that I could see myself doing that weren't sports related. I didn't make very good grades the first couple of semesters at Auburn, but the further along I got, the better my grades got, and even managed to make a 4.0 during one semester of my senior year. While in law school, I worked full time and went to school part time at night. Working full time while attending law school taught me a very important work ethic for the field of law. I knew that a law degree opens up a lot of doors, even if I didn't want to be an attorney, so that is the route I took. I now sit as a Judge in the county where I grew up, and I am thankful for all of the experiences that I had along the way that got me here.

“While in law school, I worked full time and went to school part time at night.”
MAKE A PLAN

SIT DOWN WITH YOUR PARENTS AND COUNSELOR AND CREATE A PLAN

Map out an Alabama Education Plan (sample below) based on your interests, strengths, and possible career goals. Your plan outlines the courses and electives you’ll take in high school, plus related co-curricular organization and career preparation experiences. Your school counselor or career coach 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. Below is a sample Alabama Education Plan for you to use as a guide.

SAMPLE EDUCATION PLAN FOR THIS CAREER CLUSTER

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<td>SOPHOMORE YEAR</td>
<td>JUNIOR YEAR</td>
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*Other Required Courses
**Career & Technical Education and/or Foreign Language and/or Arts Education (3 Credits)

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS & SECURITY CLUSTER COURSES

- Core Forensic & Criminal Investigations
- Emergency Services
- Fire Fighting
- Forensic & Criminal Investigations
- Introduction to Criminal Justice
- Introduction to Fire Science
- Introduction to Law and the American Legal System
- Law in Society
- Police Patrol
- Principles of Public Service
- Senior Career Pathway
- Project--Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

CO-CURRICULAR WORK-BASED LEARNING

- SkillsUSA
- Job Shadowing
- Internship
- Work Experience
- Career Day/Fair
- Field Trips
- Guest Speakers
- Work Experience
GETTING READY

MAPPING OUT YOUR PROGRAM

GRADE 8

• Research your career options based on your interests, talents, and goals.
• Create an Alabama Education Plan (see page 9).

GRADE 9

FRESHMAN YEAR

• Choose a career cluster.
• Do your best work in all your classes. Course selection and grades really do count when you are applying to colleges and training programs.
• Keep a folder or portfolio of your activities, awards, accomplishments, and work experience, and add to it during your high school career.

GRADE 10

SOPHOMORE YEAR

• Continue building the strongest possible academic record.
• Consider taking the ACT if you plan to apply to a two-year college or university in the future.
• Consider taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Test) if you plan to apply to a two-year college or university in the future.
• Use the information in your portfolio to create a resume.
• Apply for summer jobs, internships, or volunteer activities related to your career cluster.

GRADE 11

JUNIOR YEAR

• Take the PSAT/NMSQT.
• Use resources available at your school (books, online tools, college fairs, etc.) to research postsecondary education options related to your career goals.
• Register to take either the ACT or the SAT I and SAT II Subject Tests. (There are testing dates every month from January through June). Registration deadlines are approximately four weeks before each testing date.
• Apply for summer jobs, internships, and volunteer activities related to your career goals.
• Use studentaid.ed.gov to determine your financial aid eligibility.

GRADE 12

SENIOR YEAR

• In the fall, apply to postsecondary programs and retake any standardized college admissions tests if you would like to improve your score.
• Beginning in October, complete college financial aid forms. Deadlines and required data differ from school to school, so read the instructions carefully.
• In the spring, choose your postsecondary program on the basis of where you have been accepted, costs, etc.
• Continue doing your best work. All schools require a final transcript before making your acceptance official.

COLLEGE PREP: GETTING ACCEPTED

The college admissions process can be stressful and a bit scary, especially if you are the first in your family to apply. Give yourself the best shot at getting into a college program that matches your goals by following these five steps:

1. MAKE THE GRADE
   Your grade point average really does count, so do your best work on every assignment, pay attention in class, and participate in group discussions.

2. MAKE A LIST
   Before you can apply to college, you have to figure out what you would like to study and what matters most to you (like college location, size, or religious affiliation). Use the college guides in your local library, school library, school counselor’s or career coach’s office to start making a list of colleges that interest you. Use online tools like collegeboard.org and accs.cc to learn more about each school and take virtual campus tours.

3. GET INVOLVED
   Build teamwork and leadership skills by joining career technical student organizations, clubs, and teams at your school, volunteering for service projects, and participating in church or community activities.

4. PLAN FOR TEST
   Most colleges want scores from the ACT, SAT, or SAT II tests. See what tests the schools on your list require, sign up to take them in time to include the scores on your application, and then practice the free SAT sample questions at collegeboard.org or sample ACT tests at actstudent.org.

5. BE NEAT AND COMPLETE
   Before you send in a college application, double-check your spelling, make sure nothing is missing, and save a copy just in case you have to submit it again.

PAYING YOUR WAY: FINANCIAL AID

Every Alabama student can afford to go to college. It just takes a little planning. Put your college dreams within financial reach by taking these five steps:

1. CONSIDER A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
   Alabama’s public and private two-year colleges offer an affordable way to earn an associate’s degree or complete enough credits to transfer into a four-year school as a junior. Learn more at accs.cc.

2. WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS
   Attending one of Alabama’s four-year public or private schools cuts travel costs and other living expenses, as compared to attending schools out of state. In addition, public schools offer reduced in-state tuition, and, if there’s a college nearby, you can save even more by living at home.

3. RISE TO THE TOP
   Apply to a couple of schools at which your grades and accomplishments put you near the top of the typical applicant pool.

4. DO A LITTLE DIGGING
   More than one million local, national, and college-specific scholarships are available each year. Ask your school counselor or career coach for help finding printed scholarship resource guides. To find and apply for scholarships online, sign up for the free college scholarship search source achievealabama.org.

5. APPLY FOR AID
   Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) beginning on October 1 of your Senior year. FAFSA forms and instruction booklets are available at your school counselor’s office and online at studentaid.ed.gov. Some schools also require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile form (profileonline.collegeboard.org), and others have their own financial aid forms. Carefully read each college’s application to know what forms you need to submit and when.
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