



Half of young Americans think high school is enough

Nearly half of young Americans believe their high school education gave them the skills they need to get a good job after they graduate, according to a recent report from CBS and the Associated Press.

Still, more than half also think college can help them be successful.

However, results from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey provide a broader picture.

The wage gap between those with just high school degrees and those with bachelor's degree narrowed in Alabama from 2011 through 2017, according to the Census Bureau.

Still, the median income for someone with a bachelor's degree was 68 percent more than for a high school graduate with no college. A median is a middle value, meaning that half of the people make more than that amount, while half make less.

Unemployment shows a different trend over the same time span.

In 2011, the unemployment rate for high school graduates was 2.5 times higher than for college grads. The rate in 2017 was 2.8 times higher.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research conducted the nationwide poll in August and September. More than 1,300 teens and young adults ages 13 through 29 responded.

ACCS to consider eight new programs

Three community colleges have proposed adding eight new programs that will be considered by the Alabama Community College System. The programs, proposed for action at the Dec. 11 ACCS meeting are:

- Beville State Community College, AAS degrees in advanced manufacturing and in welding, plus a certificate in advanced manufacturing.
- Bishop State Community College, AAS degrees in airframe technology, avionics technology and powerplant technology.
- Shelton State Community College, an AAS degree and a certificate in advanced manufacturing.

Bishop State has also proposed adding an instructional site at Brookley Field in Mobile.



Scholarship Spotlight

Alabama Public Television

Contact: Alabama Public Television, Attn: Dwayne Johnson, 2112 11th Avenue South, #400, Birmingham AL 35205; 800.239.5233; djohnson@aptv.org; www.aptv.org

Eligibility: The applicant must:

- be a resident of Alabama
- be in grades 9–12
- not be more than 18 years old
- be nominated for APT’s Young Heroes Award in recognition of student’s academic achievement, public service and inspiration of others by overcoming adversity

Award: \$5000

Number: 5

Deadline: Jan. 10

High school planner

Seniors

December/January

- Make sure your applications were received on time.
- If you applied for Early Decision and were accepted, withdraw your applications from other schools.



Students should know college’s SAP standards

One important phrase in the language of student aid is satisfactory academic progress, or SAP.

All colleges that award federal student aid must have SAP standards. Those standards are based on three key areas: GPA, pace and a maximum time frame.

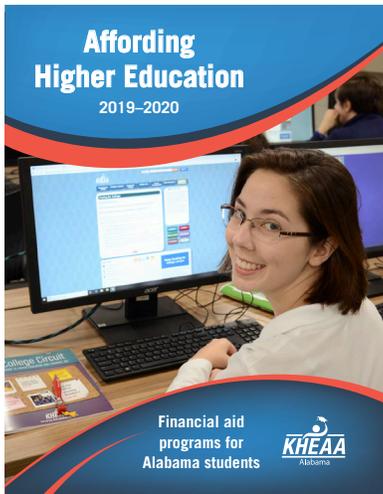
The GPA students are required to have may vary by school, major and whether they are undergraduate or graduate students.

Pace means students have to pass a stated percentage of the classes they take in a given period of time. It may also vary by college.

The maximum time frame means students have to finish their degree within a given number of attempted credit hours. For example, a school requires students to pass 120 credit hours to earn a bachelor’s degree. The maximum time frame might be that they have to pass those 120 hours without attempting more than 150 hours.

If students don’t meet their school’s SAP standards, they may not be able to receive state or federal student aid. Students should make sure they know what their college’s standards are before they get in trouble.

‘Affording Higher Education,’ ‘Getting In’ now online



The new editions of KHEAA-Alabama’s *Getting In* and *Affording Higher Education* have been posted on alstudentaid.com. *Getting In* provides information about the admissions and financial aid processes, the FAFSA and Alabama colleges and universities.

Affording Higher Education lists thousands of financial aid programs available to Alabama students and to students who attend colleges and universities in the state.

The book has seven sections that list student financial aid programs provided by:

- State government
- Federal government
- Alabama’s public universities
- Alabama’s private colleges and universities
- Alabama’s community and technical colleges
- Alabama companies and organizations

KHEAA-Alabama revises the books every year to provide the most up-to-date information we can. However, the information often changes between the time KHEAA-Alabama receives it and the books are posted.



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