State Government

Many student financial aid programs in Alabama are administered by state agencies. This chapter provides information on state-administered programs.
Conversion scholarships/loans

Nursing Scholarship
Eligibility: The applicant must:
- be a resident of Alabama.
- be a registered nurse admitted to a graduate nursing program at an accredited school.
- attend graduate school 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours for 2 consecutive semesters.
- pass all classes.
- agree to teach nursing full time or work in a professional nursing capacity for at least 2 years in Alabama following graduation.
- Recipients who do not perform the required service must repay the scholarship.
Award: Varies
Deadline: July 30 (must be received at Board of Nursing by close of business)

Grants

Alabama Student Assistance Program Grant
Eligibility: The applicant must:
- be a financially needy Alabama resident.
- be an undergraduate at an eligible Alabama institution.
- submit the FAFSA.
Award: $300–$5,000

Alabama Student Grant
Eligibility: The applicant must:
- be an Alabama resident.
- be an undergraduate student.
- be enrolled at an eligible independent Alabama college or university.
Award: Up to $1,200 per year
Contact: Financial aid office

Other student aid programs

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program
Eligibility: The applicant must:
- be an Alabama resident.
- be an active member in good standing with a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard.
- be enrolled in a degree program.
- be making satisfactory academic progress at an accredited Alabama college, university, community college or junior college.
- have completed basic training and advanced individual training.
- not be receiving 100% of federal educational veterans’ benefits. Based on need.
Award: Tuition, fees, books and supplies up to $2,000 per year ($1,000 per term)
Number: Limited
Contact: Local state education services officer or apply online at http://ache.edu/ACHE_Reports/Forms/Grants/ANGEAP-App11819.pdf

Police Officer’s and Firefighter’s Survivor’s Educational Assistance Program
Eligibility: Must be the dependent or spouse of an Alabama police officer or firefighter killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty and be enrolled in an undergraduate program at an Alabama public college or university. Other criteria may apply.
Award: Tuition, fees, books and supplies
An applicant who has a 2- or 4-year degree in a field other than child development/early care and education is eligible for a CDA scholarship only.

**Award:** Tuition and selected fees  
**Number:** Varies  

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### One Free GED Class Scholarship

**Eligibility:** Must have passed the GED in Alabama no earlier than July 2002 and attend a 2-year public college in Alabama.

**Award:** Tuition for one 3-hour class  
**Number:** Varies  
**Contact:** Admissions office

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### Two-year College Athletic Scholarship

**Eligibility:** The applicant must:
- meet admissions requirements.
- demonstrate satisfactory athletic ability during tryouts.
- enroll full-time in a 2-year public community college in Alabama.
- participate in a designated sport or activity.

Not based on financial need.

**Award:** Tuition (limits on various sports may apply); renewable on the basis of continued participation  
**Number:** Varies by sport  
**Contact:** Coach, athletic director or financial aid office

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### Two-year College Institutional Scholarship

**Eligibility:** Must be accepted for enrollment at a 2-year public college in Alabama.

**Award:** Tuition  
**Number:** Varies  
**Contact:** Financial aid office

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### Two-year College Senior Adult Scholarship

**Eligibility:** The applicant must:
- be at least 60 years old.
- attend a 2-year public college in Alabama.

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### Other student aid programs

**Trade Adjustment Assistance**

**Eligibility:** The applicant must:
- be a worker, covered by a certified petition, who has lost employment, wages or hours of work due to increased imports or shifts in production to foreign countries
- file claims for unemployment compensation and for Trade Readjustment Allowance.
- report to One-Stop Career Center to apply for reemployment benefits and services when the claims have been approved.

**Award:** Additional unemployment compensation; Health Coverage Tax Credit (72.5% of worker’s health insurance premium); tuition, fees, supplies and tools for training worker to achieve reemployment; and wage supplement for workers age 50 and older (Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance).
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Scholarships

Alabama Scholarship for Dependents/Textbook Benefits for Dependents of Blind Parents

**Eligibility:** The applicant must:
- have been an Alabama resident for at least 5 years.
- be from a family in which the head of household is blind.
- be from a family whose family income is at or below 1.3 times the current poverty income level, as determined by federal poverty guidelines based on family size.
- begin attending an Alabama public college, university or technical college within 2 years after high school graduation but before the age of 23.

**Award:** Tuition and instructional fees (waived by college), plus textbook allowance; renewable up to 4 years

**Contact:** Debra Culver, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, #4 Medical Office Park, Talladega, AL 35160; 256.362.0638; debbie.culver@rehab.alabama.gov

Other student aid programs

Vocational Rehabilitation

**Eligibility:** Based on disability creating an impediment to employment.

**Award:**Varies

**Number:**Varies

**Deadline:**Varies

**Contact:** Local Vocational Rehabilitation office or Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, 602 South Lawrence Street, Montgomery, AL 36104; 334.293.7500 or 800.441.7607; www.rehab.alabama.gov

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Scholarships

Alabama GI Dependents’ Educational Benefit Program

**Eligibility:** Must be the child, stepchild, spouse or unremarried widow/widower of an eligible disabled Alabama veteran and attend an Alabama public college or technical school.

Children and stepchildren of the disabled veteran must generally begin college before they are 26 years old.

**Award:** After all other grants and scholarships have been used, the scholarship will cover tuition up to the Department of Defense tuition assistance cap (currently $250 per credit hour) and up to $1,000 for the combination of textbooks and instructional fees per semester

**Contact:** County veterans service officer or Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1509, Montgomery, AL 36102-1509; 334.242.5077; www.va.alabama.gov

Alabama Indian Affairs Commission

Scholarships

Alabama Indian Scholarship

**Eligibility:** The applicant must:
- be enrolled in a state or federally recognized tribe.
- have been enrolled in that tribe for the last 3 years.
- be a resident of Alabama.
- attend an in-state school unless the program is not offered in Alabama.
- provide a current unofficial transcript (if currently enrolled in an eligible college) or letter of acceptance (if not yet attending that college).

**Award:**Varies

**Number:**Varies

**Deadline:**Usually in March

Contact: Alabama Indian Affairs Commission, 771 South Lawrence Street, Suite 106, Montgomery, AL 36130; 334.242.2831; aiac@att.net; www.aiac.alabama.gov

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services–Alabama Indian Affairs Commission
Visual Arts Achievement Program Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be an Alabama high school senior and submit a digital portfolio in 1 of the following 3 options: 2-dimensional design, 3-dimensional design or drawing.

- Applicants choosing 2-dimensional design must submit a total of 15 slides showing 5 works that demonstrate mastery of design, 5 works of a thematic 2-D series and 5 works that demonstrate a variety of 2-D concepts.
- Applicants choosing 3-dimensional design must submit a total of 30 slides (2 views of each work) showing 5 works that demonstrate mastery of 3-D design, 5 works of a thematic 3-D series and 5 works that demonstrate a variety of 3-D concepts.
- Applicants choosing drawing must submit a total of 15 slides showing 5 works that demonstrate mastery of painting or drawing concepts and composition, 5 works of a thematic drawing series and 5 works that demonstrate a variety of drawing concepts.

All applicants must submit:
- the portfolio as individual images within a slide show presentation.
- an artist’s statement.
- an official copy of high school transcript.
- a copy of ACT/SAT scores.

Award: $500. Amount increases to $1,000 if recipient enrolls in an art program at a partnering institution.

Number: Up to 5

Deadline: Must be received by 5 p.m. on the first Monday in March

CollegeCounts Scholarship

Eligibility: The applicant must:
- be an Alabama resident.
- be a U. S. citizen.
- be a high school senior or first-time college freshman.
- have at least a 2.75 GPA.
- have a maximum 26 ACT score.
- have financial need.
- enroll in an eligible 2- or 4-year school in Alabama.

Award: $4,000 (4-year school); $2,000 (2-year school)

Contact: CollegeCounts Scholarship Program, c/o ISTS, 1321 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 800, Nashville, TN 37217; 800.309.1198; college.counts@treasury.alabama.gov; http://treasury.alabama.gov/collegecounts-scholarship/

CollegeCounts 529 Fund

Description: A tax-advantaged way to save for college costs. Alabama provides a state income tax deduction of up to $5,000 (for single filers) or $10,000 (for joint filers) for contributions made to Alabama’s 529 college savings plan. CollegeCounts has no minimum or annual contribution requirements.

Funds can be used at most colleges, universities, trade, vocational, professional and graduate in the U.S. and at some foreign schools.

Qualified withdrawals for college are exempt from state and federal income tax and include payments for tuition, fees, room and board (if enrolled at least half-time), books and supplies and equipment required for enrollment, including computers.

Deadline: None

Contact: Alabama State Treasurer’s Office, College Savings Programs, 100 North Union Street, Suite 660, Montgomery, AL 36104; 334.242.7514 or 866.529.2228; alatreas@treasury.alabama.gov; www.CollegeCounts529.com