

## Alabama State Profile

November 1, 2020

State profiles for the 50-State Comparison on postsecondary governance structures summarize information about coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards, administrative/service agencies, advisory groups and membership organizations. The most in-depth information is provided for statewide and major postsecondary systemwide coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards.

*Note:* This resource does not include information related to setting tuition rates, administering funding formulas or allocating funds. The state profile information is based primarily on statutes, codes and state and postsecondary system board/agency policies. To the extent possible, Education Commission of the States reached out to state and system officials to verify our information.

### State Overview

Alabama’s Commission on Higher Education is a statewide coordinating board for public postsecondary education and has oversight over other institutions. The affiliated administrative agency is charged with carrying out board policies and administering student financial aid, and state and federal academic programs. The agency also oversees research reports, data collection and analysis, and the State Authority Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). The coordinating board appoints the agency’s executive director. Individual boards govern the University of Alabama System, the Alabama Community College System and other institutions.

Data Point	Description
<b>Single Statewide Coordinating Board/Agency or Governing Board and State Postsecondary Governance Models</b>	
Single Statewide Coordinating Board (or Agency) or Governing Board for All Public Higher Education	Yes
State Postsecondary Governance Model	Single, statewide coordinating board/agency



Data Point	Description
<b>Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards</b>	
Entity Name	Alabama Commission on Higher Education
Entity Function	Coordinating
Scope of Authority	Statewide
Legal Authority	Statutory
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>- Approve institutional missions</li> <li>- Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>- Develop master/strategic plans for state or system</li> <li>- Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>- Review existing academic programs</li> </ul>
Budget Role for Institutions	Review and recommend
Budget Role Notes	Budget recommendations are made by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to the legislature through the Consolidated Budget Recommendation (CBR).
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Coordinating board
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	12



Data Point	Description
Number of Board Members Appointed Based on Role or Selected	12
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0
Board Member Composition and Selection	12 members with 10 appointed by governor; 1 appointed by lieutenant governor; and 1 appointed by Speaker of the House with advice and consent of Senate; 1 member appointed from each Congressional district and remaining members appointed from state at large, with no more than 2 of total members from same Congressional district. No members can be on other, specified education boards.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	Not applicable
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Website	<a href="http://www.ache.state.al.us/">http://www.ache.state.al.us/</a>
Citations	Ala. Code §16-5-1, et seq.
<b>Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards</b>	
Entity Name	Alabama Commission on Higher Education (Agency)
Entity Function	Administrative/service



Data Point	Description
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)
Website	<a href="http://www.ache.state.al.us/">http://www.ache.state.al.us/</a>
<b>Administrative and Advisory Entities</b>	
Entity Name	Not applicable
<b>Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards</b>	
Entity Name	Board of Trustees for University of Alabama System
Entity Function	Governing
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year
Website	<a href="http://uasystem.edu/board-of-trustees/">http://uasystem.edu/board-of-trustees/</a>
<b>Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards</b>	
Entity Name	Alabama Community College Board of Trustees
Entity Function	Governing
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public two-year
Website	<a href="https://www.accs.cc/index.cfm/board-of-trustees/">https://www.accs.cc/index.cfm/board-of-trustees/</a>
<b>Membership Organizations</b>	
Entity Name	Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities



Data Point	Description
Entity Function	Membership
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Independent/non-profit
Website	<a href="http://www.aaicu.net/">http://www.aaicu.net/</a>