



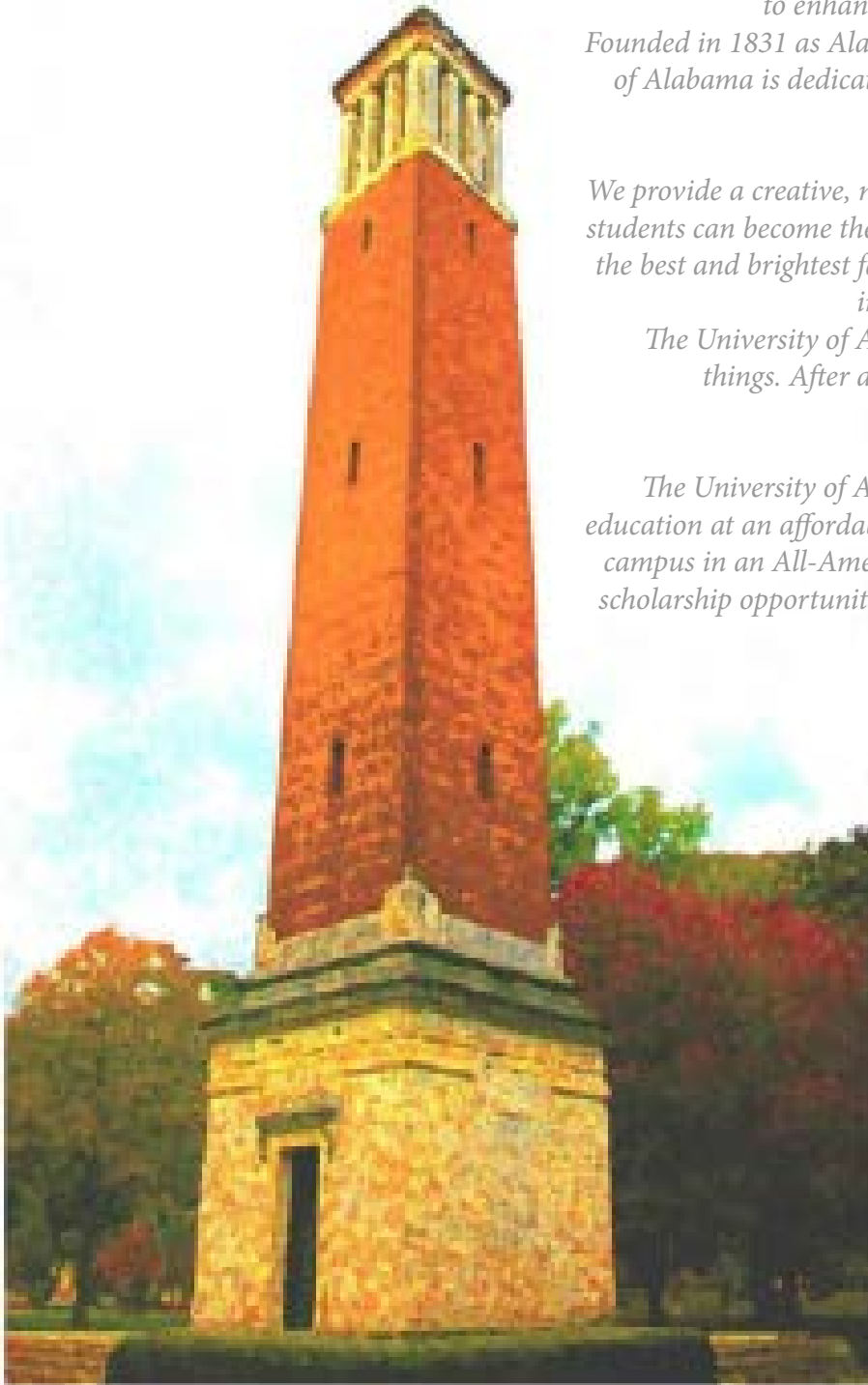
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**

Prospective Student Guidebook  
First Edition

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*The University of Alabama is a student-centered research university and an academic community united in its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Alabamians. Founded in 1831 as Alabama's first public college, The University of Alabama is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and service.*

*We provide a creative, nurturing campus environment where our students can become the best individuals possible, can learn from the best and brightest faculty, and can make a positive difference in the community, the state and the world.*

*The University of Alabama family has always expected great things. After all, we are our state's flagship university — the Capstone of higher education.*

*The University of Alabama has a lot to offer – a high-quality education at an affordable cost; a beautiful 1,000-acre residential campus in an All-American City; more than 200 fields of study; scholarship opportunities; more than 350 student organizations; and faculty and staff who genuinely care about our students' success.*

*The Office of Undergraduate Admissions provides information to high school and transfer students applying for admission to the Capstone.*

Alabama REACH, helping foster youth to REACH their potential and Foster Hope. Studies show that 70 percent of foster youth desire to attend college. According to Casey Family Programs, estimates suggest that only 7 to 13 percent of students from foster care actually enroll in higher education. Further analysis shows that only about 2 percent of youth from foster care obtain bachelor's degrees. Alabama REACH wants to change these numbers by improving college access and preparedness and post-secondary opportunities for



*The mission of Alabama REACH is to empower current and former foster youth, orphans, emancipated minors, wards of the State, and homeless youth in a supportive environment that allows students the freedom to pursue higher education and successfully matriculate and graduate from college.*

# Alabama REACH *Foster Hope*

Alabama REACH is a threefold program, REACH Back (future students), REACH Up (current students), and REACH Out (community members), bridging high school to post secondary to community. REACH serves as a resource hub to help students access the needed services on campus as well as cultivate meaningful relationships off campus. REACH's programmatic goal is to graduate individuals who will be successful personally and professionally.



This guide is designed as a tool for foster youth and their responsible adults during the transition into college. This list is a compilation of programs and resources that can assist foster youth and their caregivers in preparing to enter higher education.

## LET'S GET ORGANIZED:

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- Start a binder to place all information related to college.
- Keep copies of test scores and/or write down dates of tests taken.
- Save your log-in name and passwords for online registration, etc.

### 9th Grade - Freshman

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- Meet with your high school counselor.
- Think about taking courses listed to meet The University of Alabama admissions requirements:
  - Algebra I or Geometry
  - College prep English
  - Foreign language

- Aim for As and Bs in all your classes; focus on homework and develop good study skills.
- Take the ACT EXPLORE exam, a tool that helps you plan for high school and college.

### 10th Grade - Sophomores

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- Talk with your guardians about your educational choices and review your course load.
- Take Geometry or Algebra II.

## 10th Grade, continued

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- Take college prep English.
- Visit college campuses and attend college fairs.
- Take the PLAN and PSAT, exams that help you prepare for the ACT and SAT and keep you on track for college.
- If you are interested in attending a selective college, register for the Advanced Placement (AP) test, honors, and advanced courses for the 11th grade, if available.
- Take part in enrichment programs and summer workshops (NSORO or NSEP) and camps in subjects like music, science, engineering, writing, film making, and others.
- Find out about career related and occupational programs at your high school and sign up for those that interest you.

## 11th Grade - Juniors

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- Review with your guidance counselor your academic record and strengthen any weaknesses or problem areas.
- Students taking AP classes: Register to take the AP exam in the spring. You can earn college credit for AP courses if you score well on the test(s). Ask your counselor about fee waiver.
- Take advanced math, i.e Algebra II and college prep English: (writing and critical reading)
- Attend college fairs and college planning sessions with your guardian.
- Attend financial aid information sessions at your high school, Independent Living Program, or local colleges.
- Register for the PSAT, a practice exam for the SAT, if you did not take it in the 10th grade.
- Register for the SAT or the ACT at least one month before the exam. Many Alabama campuses require you to take the ACT by October of your senior year. Acquire fee waiver code, if needed from the high school counseling office.
- Check your transcript at the end of the year to make sure it is correct.

## 11th Grade, continued

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- Use spring break or summer vacation to tour college campuses. Have questions prepared in advance and take notes on your visits.
- Explore careers by taking a summer job or job shadowing in your field of interest.
- Participate in career awareness, career exploration, and career preparation activities.
- Identify educational goals and schools consistent with your career interest.
- Prepare for and participate in a summer internship or work experience.

## 12 Grade - Seniors

### Fall

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- Review courses with your school counselor to make sure you are meeting high school graduation requirements and entrance requirements for the colleges that interest you.
- Complete recommended courses, including advanced math and college prep English.
- Taking Trigonometry or Analytic Geometry/Calculus are also recommended.
- If you are planning on attending a community college the summer before entering The University of Alabama please visit the UA website for transfer pathways:  
*[registar.ua.edu/service/transfer-credit](http://registar.ua.edu/service/transfer-credit).*
- Identify three individuals who can write a strong recommendation letter for you and get the letters by November 15.
- Finish personal essay for college scholarships. Include information about your foster care experience in your personal statement.
- Search for scholarship money using the scholarship search function at *[www.collegescholarships.org](http://www.collegescholarships.org)* and visit *[reach.ua.edu/financial-reach.html](http://reach.ua.edu/financial-reach.html)*
- Early September register for the October ACT at *[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)* or the SAT at *[sat.collegeboard.org/register](http://sat.collegeboard.org/register)*.



## REACH Students | Application Checklist

Below is an outline of important items you will need to complete prior to your acceptance to the University of Alabama and the Alabama REACH program.

- Applying to The University of Alabama at [ua.edu/admissions](http://ua.edu/admissions)
- Financing Your Education
  - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - Apply for financial aid at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Alabama ETV Funds
  - This is a **MUST** for all REACH Student. It is considered the most important source of free money for current or former foster youth to use for vocation school training or college courses. Apply for the ETV Funds at [www.fosteru.org/alabama](http://www.fosteru.org/alabama) Funding runs from July 1st through June 30th of each year.

### Applying to become a REACH Student

Students may apply to The University of Alabama and Alabama REACH simultaneously, but must be accepted to the University before they are eligible to receive services from the REACH program.

- REACH Student Application Form
  - Download from REACH website:  
<http://Reach.ua.edu>
- REACH Student Agreement Form
  - Download from REACH website:  
<http://Reach.ua.edu>
- REACH Student Consent Form
  - Download from REACH website:  
<http://Reach.ua.edu>
- Copy of Ward of the Court Documentation/ Dependent Documentation
- ESSAY: In no more than 2 pages total, answer the following questions:
  - How has being a former foster youth influenced your desire to pursue higher education?
  - What is your motivation?
  - What are your academic and career goals?
- Two Letters of Recommendation
  - From a teacher, counselor, social worker, coach, other
- A Recent Photo of Yourself



## Helpful Hints

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- Allow for sufficient time to complete online application forms and paper application forms.
- Keep a record of your ID and password for the online application.
- Identify yourself as a foster youth by marking “yes” on the question asking if you are a "orphan or ward of the court or foster youth” on The University of Alabama admissions application and the FAFSA.
- FAFSA: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) You will need to answer whether you are an orphan, ward of the court, an emancipated minor, or an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of homelessness. Use same legal name on all applications.
- Have an official copy of your high school transcripts on hand. You will need them to enter your courses and grades on the online application.
- Have your SAT or ACT results on hand to submit with your application.
- Keep a copy of all records that you send.
- Make a note of the people you speak with on campus.
- Keep a copy of your Social Security number in a safe place.





REACH Champion program, learning to foster hope one student at a time...

*"Definition: (verb) support the cause of; defend"*

The REACH Champion program is designed to support the cause of current and former foster youth. REACH Champions are faculty, staff and community members. Whenever you see this logo, know that this person has been trained to best assist you.

For more information on who your REACH Champions are, visit us online at

*<http://www.reach.ua.edu/reach-champion.html>*

## Residency Program

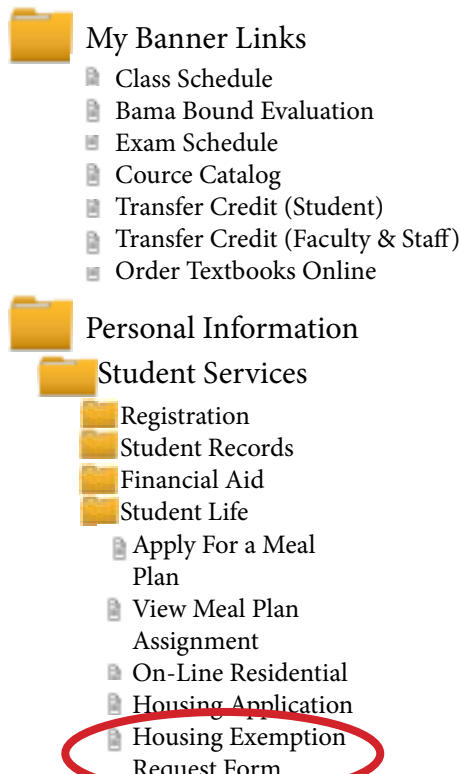
The University of Alabama is committed to providing all of its students with a comprehensive educational experience. There are numerous educational and social benefits for first year students living in the residence halls that may not be realized by those living off campus. With this understanding, UA began requiring all first year students to live on campus effective Fall Semesters 2006.

Students who will live in the legal residence of their parent(s) or guardian(s) may be exempted from the Freshman Residency Program. Requests for exemption to the Freshman Residency Program on the basis of compelling individual circumstances will be considered.

Freshman residency exemptions are not granted automatically. Each is considered as it is submitted. Students will be notified in a timely manner whether the exemption is granted or not. The housing exemption form is available on myBama at <http://mybama.ua.edu>. Then the student will need to click on the Student tab, and go to Banner Self Service section in the upper left corner of the screen. From there, the student will click on Student Services, and then click Student Life to get to the application:

***Under Student Life folder, click Housing Exemption Request Form.***

### Banner Self-Service

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- The screenshot shows a navigation menu for Banner Self-Service. It features a red header bar at the top, followed by a grey bar with the title 'Banner Self-Service'. Below this, there are three main categories, each with a yellow folder icon: 'My Banner Links', 'Personal Information', and 'Student Services'. Under 'My Banner Links', there are seven items: 'Class Schedule', 'Bama Bound Evaluation', 'Exam Schedule', 'Course Catalog', 'Transfer Credit (Student)', 'Transfer Credit (Faculty & Staff)', and 'Order Textbooks Online'. Under 'Personal Information', there are four items: 'Registration', 'Student Records', 'Financial Aid', and 'Student Life'. Under 'Student Services', there are ten items: 'Apply For a Meal Plan', 'View Meal Plan Assignment', 'On-Line Residential Housing Application', 'Housing Exemption Request Form' (circled in red), 'SGA Emergency Loan Application', 'SGA Serve Award', 'Scholarship Application', and 'CCS Scholarship Application'.
- My Banner Links
    - Class Schedule
    - Bama Bound Evaluation
    - Exam Schedule
    - Course Catalog
    - Transfer Credit (Student)
    - Transfer Credit (Faculty & Staff)
    - Order Textbooks Online
  - Personal Information
    - Registration
    - Student Records
    - Financial Aid
    - Student Life
  - Student Services
    - Apply For a Meal Plan
    - View Meal Plan Assignment
    - On-Line Residential Housing Application
    - Housing Exemption Request Form
    - SGA Emergency Loan Application
    - SGA Serve Award
    - Scholarship Application
    - CCS Scholarship Application

## **Student Financial Aid**

Student Financial Aid provides comprehensive information and services regarding opportunities to finance the cost of education at The University of Alabama. We recognize that financial assistance is an important key to helping reach your educational and career goals. The financial aid staff is dedicated to making the financial aid process as straightforward as possible.

Financial aid is financial assistance from all sources that can be used to help pay for educational expenses. The Student Financial Aid Office is responsible for administering federal aid such as grants (need-based aid that doesn't have to be paid back), work-study (a part-time job), and federal direct student loans (money that can be borrowed and must be paid back with interest when a student leaves school).

Financial Aid Counselors are available to meet with students concerning their options. Financial assistance available through the Financial Aid Office includes federal aid — grants, loans, work study and information about student employment. The Financial Aid Office is equipped with a staffed computer lab that may be used for financial aid purposes.

Feel free to contact them or stop by their office in 106 Student Services Center anytime. Their office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

## **Applying for Financial Aid**

To apply for federal financial aid, students will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application is used to determine which federal aid programs you will be awarded.

You can apply online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

Student financial aid packages may include funds from any of the following major federal student aid programs:

- Federal Pell Grants
- William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans
- Direct PLUS loans

Other aid programs that are awarded based on need and availability:

- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
- Federal Work Study
- Federal Perkins Loans

## Determining if You Are an Independent Student for FAFSA

If a student is clearly independent, then there is no need to report information related to his or her parent. But if it is not clear that a student is independent, then it becomes necessary to determine if the student is being supported by adoptive, biological parents, or foster parents. The following patterns of response show likely outcomes in several cases.

Certain groups that are considered independent are: parent died after age 13, foster care since the age of 13, dependent or ward of the court since the age of 13.

**To help determine if you need to provide parental information please see adjacent chart.**

<i>If...</i>	<i>Then...</i>
I live with and am supported by my adoptive parents.	Student must report his or her adoptive parents' information on the FAFSA.
I have adoptive parents, but I do not live with them and they do not support me.	Student must provide verification from a third party (such as a close friend, teacher, mentor, church member, etc.) who is familiar with the student's situation and knows that it is unsafe or otherwise unfeasible to contact the adoptive parents to get the necessary information.
My foster parents support me.	Student does NOT need to report foster parents' information, but, depending on the level of support, this may be recorded under the in-kind support.
I live with and I am supported by my legal guardian.	Student does NOT need to report their legal guardian's information, but, depending on the level of support, this may be recorded under in-kind support.

## The University of Alabama Campus Resources

### Alabama REACH Program

P: 205-348-5819  
E: [jyhartley@alan.ua.edu](mailto:jyhartley@alan.ua.edu)  
W: [www.reach.ua.edu](http://www.reach.ua.edu)  
F: [www.facebook.com/AlaReach](http://www.facebook.com/AlaReach)  
L: Lloyd Hall 303

### Student Support Services

P: 205-348-7087  
W: [www.ctl.ua.edu/sss](http://www.ctl.ua.edu/sss)  
L: Osband Hall 225

### Admissions

P: 205-348-5666  
E: [admissions@ua.edu](mailto:admissions@ua.edu)  
W: <http://gobama.ua.edu>  
L: Student Services Center 208

### Center for Academic Success

P: 205-348-6010  
E: [cas@ua.edu](mailto:cas@ua.edu)  
W: <http://www.ctl.ua.edu/default.asp>  
L: Osband Hall

### Bama Bound (Orientation)

P: 1-800-933-Bama  
W: <http://orientation.ua.edu/about>  
L: Student Services Center 205

### Housing & Residential Communities

P: 205-348-6676  
E: [housing@sa.ua.edu](mailto:housing@sa.ua.edu)  
W: <http://housing.ua.edu>  
L: Burke East

### Career Services

P: 205-348-5848  
E: [careers@ua.edu](mailto:careers@ua.edu)  
W: <http://www.uacc.ua.edu>  
L: Ferguson Center 330

### Women's Resource Center

P: 205-348-5040  
E: [wrc@sa.ua.edu](mailto:wrc@sa.ua.edu)  
W: [www.wrc.ua.edu](http://www.wrc.ua.edu)  
L: 2000 South Lawn Building

### Action Card/Bama Cash

P: 205-348-2288  
E: [action.card@ua.edu](mailto:action.card@ua.edu)  
W: <http://actcard.ua.edu>  
L: Student Services Center 104

### Financial Aid

P: 205-348-6756  
E: [financialaid@ua.edu](mailto:financialaid@ua.edu)  
W: <http://financialaid.ua.edu>  
L: Student Services Center 106

### 1st Year Experience

P: 205-348-8404  
W: <http://fye.ua.edu>  
L: Burke East 132

### Counseling Center

P: 205-348-3863  
W: <http://counseling.ua.edu>  
L: 1000 South Lawn Building

### Student Receivables

P: 205-348-5350  
E: [receivables@fa.ua.edu](mailto:receivables@fa.ua.edu)  
W: <http://studentreceivables.ua.edu>  
L: Student Services 105

### Student Health Center

P: 205-348-6262  
W: <http://shc.ua.edu>  
L: 750 5th Ave E., Tuscaloosa 35401

### IL Connect

W: <http://www.ilconnect.org/>



