

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Department of Instruction, Planning, and Special Services

The department is responsible for the review and implementation of statutory mandates and initiatives for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) related to instruction, planning, and special services.

Instruction

Activities related to the regulatory functions dealing with instructional offerings of the public colleges and universities include: the review of new programs and units of instruction, the review of extensions and alterations of existing programs, the review of off-campus courses and programs, maintenance of the Academic Program Inventory, the review of requests for the modification of post-implementation conditions, and the monitoring of the program viability process. The department is responsible also for the programmatic review of private institutions that operate as foreign corporations in Alabama.

Planning

The Commission is responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education in Alabama. Staff provides leadership in the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of the statewide plan for postsecondary education. In general, the department is responsible for the completion of studies in order to formulate policies and positions of the Commission in the areas of instruction, planning, and special services. Through the ACHE website, print documents, and staff presentations, these policies and positions of the Commission are communicated to institutions, advisory councils, government agencies, professional organizations, and civic organizations.

[Statewide Planning Advisory Council \(SPAC\) Website](#)

Special Services

Staff monitors statewide participation in the following programs offered through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB): Minority Doctoral Scholars Program, Academic Common Market, contract programs, Electronic Campus, and the Educational Technology Cooperative. The department administers as well the U. S. Department of Education Title II of the No Child Left Behind Competitive Grant Program.

The Commission serves as the fiscal agent for the Alabama Experimental Program to Support Competitive Research (EPSCoR), and the Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC). Under the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, staff coordinates academic library resource sharing to enhance education and research.

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