

GENERAL INFORMATION



HISTORY

GSCC is a public, open-door comprehensive community college under the control of the Alabama Community College System. On July 8, 2003, the College was created by the consolidation of Harry M. Ayers State Technical College and Gadsden State Community College.

Harry M. Ayers State Technical College was created by an act of the Alabama Legislature on May 3, 1963, as Harry M. Ayers State Trade School. Later in 1973, the Alabama State Board of Education designated the institution as a technical college. Harry M. Ayers State Technical College is now identified as the Harry M. Ayers Campus of Gadsden State Community College.

The College initially became **Gadsden State Community College** on February 28, 1985, when the Alabama State Board of Education merged Alabama Technical College, Gadsden State Technical Institute, and Gadsden State Junior College.

Alabama Technical College was founded as the Alabama School of Trades in 1925 and was the first state-operated trade school in the southern United States. In 1973, the name of the “trade school” was changed to Alabama Technical College, and it is now identified as the East Broad Street Campus of Gadsden State Community College.

Gadsden State Technical Institute, the second oldest component of Gadsden State Community College, began

operations in 1960 as Gadsden Vocational Trade School, a private training facility. Two years later the State of Alabama assumed ownership of the school and in 1972 renamed it Gadsden State Technical Institute. In 1997, the U.S. Department of Education designated this institution as a “Historically Black College or University” (HBCU). It is now identified as the Valley Street Campus of Gadsden State Community College.

In 1965, **Gadsden State Junior College** was established. The Junior College is now identified as the Wallace Drive Campus of Gadsden State Community College.

In addition to these campuses, Gadsden State Community College operates the McClellan Center in Calhoun County, Gadsden State Cherokee in Cherokee County, and an instructional site at St. Clair Correctional Facility. [See Appendix B](#) for maps and location information.

The Alabama Community College System has designated as the College’s service area the following counties: Calhoun, Cherokee (all but the northern one-sixth), Cleburne, Etowah, and St. Clair (the northeastern third).

MISSION STATEMENTS

The *Alabama Community College System* mission is to provide a unified system of institutions dedicated to excellence in delivering academic education, adult education, and workforce development.

Gadsden State Community College is an affordable, accessible, and comprehensive community college that prepares our diverse student population for success through quality

education, innovative workforce development, and meaningful community engagement. We foster the development of lifelong learners by giving students the opportunities to develop skills that empower them to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic life of our communities, our nation, and our world.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

1. Provide educational opportunities that prepare students for successful careers in professional and career technical fields in an increasingly global environment, retrain existing employees, and promote local and state workforce development initiatives that meet employer needs.
2. Prepare students with foundational knowledge of general education core requirements, such as communications, humanities, social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, and/or computer/technology skills, for certificate programs, associate degree programs, and successful transfer to four-year institutions.
3. Grow enrollment strategically by aligning educational offerings with market demands.
4. Maintain and expand a broad range of innovative technologies in the delivery of traditional and distance learning programs, student services, and state-of-the-art communication platforms.
5. Offer adult education, continuing education, and skills training programs that provide all students with opportunities to improve competencies, attain personal/professional goals, and promote career/college readiness.
6. Establish, maintain, and promote partnerships to respond to the needs of the community, improve education, and stimulate economic and workforce development.
7. Enhance student development and success through programs of faculty advising, academic support, and educational progression of degree and non-degree students, and through opportunities for social, cultural, and personal growth.
8. Foster a campus climate that respects diversity and creates a culture of inclusion evident in the delivery of programs and student services as well as in the recruitment of faculty and staff and the advancement of community relations.