
Special Programs

Adult Education

The Adult Education Program provides opportunities for learners age sixteen and older, who are not enrolled in a secondary school. Each learner is assessed and placed in a personally-prescribed study program. Services include:

- Earning a high school diploma – Earn your high school diploma if you did not pass graduation exam(s) and/or earned at least ten credits in high school. Must be nineteen years of age to qualify and last high school attended must be an Alabama public high school.
- GED Preparation - Reading, writing, computing mathematically, social studies, science, literature, and the arts for learners to prepare them to earn the State of Alabama High School Equivalency Diploma.
- Accuplacer Preparation – Bypass remedial college courses
- College & Career Preparation - Designed to prepare adult learners to enter postsecondary education, higher education, training programs, and/or to improve their employability.
- Career Pathways – Assistance in identifying and supporting a learner’s career pathway. There are many paths to choose from.
- Workforce Credentialing - As part of the workforce credentialing initiative in Alabama, the Adult Education Program prepares and administers WorkKeys assessments resulting in the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).
- English as a Second Language (ESL) - Classes providing non-English speaking individuals with the language skills needed to succeed in other educational/training programs and to cope more effectively with the challenges of their daily lives. Learners are also given information on steps to becoming a U.S. citizen and how to advance their education.
- Digital Literacy – Basic digital literacy skills for living in today’s technologically sophisticated world.

Classes are free of charge on both the Muscle Shoals and the Phil Campbell campuses and at various off-campus sites throughout our five county service area. Day and evening classes are offered, and an on-line option is also available for busy adults whose work schedules or other responsibilities do not allow them to attend classes. For information on current class locations and times, or other questions, please call the Adult Education Office at 256.331.5440 or email at adulthood@nwsc.edu.

GED Testing

The College offers General Educational Development (GED) testing on both campuses. The four test areas include Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. Instruction at no charge, through Adult Education classes, is recommended prior to taking the GED exam. For information call 256.331.5443 (Shoals Campus) or 256.331.6297 (Phil Campbell Campus).

Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC)

The Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) is the nation’s leading industry-led training, assessment and certification organization focused on the core technical competencies needed by industry.

Today’s manufacturing features streamlined production lines, robotics, and computer controlled processes requiring highly developed skills in problem solving, computer and technical training, math skills, and the ability to work in a team environment. These are skills beyond the reading and writing of a standard high school degree.

Northwest-Shoals Community College is preparing and certifying a world-class workforce, and the Certified Production Technician (CPT) program addresses the core technical competencies of higher skilled production workers in all sectors of manufacturing. Certificates are awarded in Safety, Quality Practices & Measurement, Manufacturing Processes & Production, and Maintenance Awareness. Earn all four certificates and receive the full Certified Production Technician Certificate.

Classes are offered in three different tracks: Fast-Track (primarily online), Boot Camp, and Semester Based. Pre-MSSC classes are offered for students needing preparation before entering one of the above mentioned tracks. For more information on classes and financial assistance, please contact the MSSC Training Center Coordinator at 256.331.8092; mssctraining@nwsc.edu.

Workforce Solutions

The Workforce Solutions Division, located on the Shoals Campus, works with area companies to meet specific training needs. If traditional classes, whether academic or technical, do not meet the employee development needs of a company, a Workforce Solutions coordinator will work with company representatives to develop training programs, locate a qualified instructor to teach classes, and set the training to the company’s schedule. The coordinator will also monitor the class, along with company representatives, to make sure the employees are reaching the company’s desired outcomes.

New program offerings include:

- Machinist Apprenticeship Program
- CDL Training Program
- Healthcare Re-Certification Training

Visit <https://www.nwsc.edu/workforce-training> for more information or contact workforcesolutions@nwsc.edu / 256-331-5325.

WorkKeys®

Across the country, employers, educators, labor organizations, and state agencies are working together to ensure that students and employees in their communities are adequately prepared for higher-skill, higher-wage jobs. Northwest-Shoals Community College serves as a contact for WorkKeys profiling, assessments, and skill training. WorkKeys®, ACT’s comprehensive system for improving the workforce, can serve as a rallying point for these efforts.

Using WorkKeys,

- Employers can identify and develop workers for a wide range of skilled jobs.
- Students and workers can document and advance their employability skills.
- Educators can tailor instructional programs to help students acquire the skills employers need.

By contributing to a stronger workforce, WorkKeys helps strengthen the nation's economic health.

Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA)

This program is designed to help persons vocationally displaced who are economically disadvantaged.

Alabama's Career Center Systems was developed to address the WIA principle requiring a One-Stop system of delivering services to customers. This system was designed to offer a variety of services to customers through coordinated efforts of several agencies, including the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), the Alabama Department of Education/Adult Education, the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), the Alabama Department of Senior Services, the Alabama Community College System (ACCS), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Employment and Training Activities. Linkages and partnerships among agencies result in a cost-efficient, seamless environment for those customers who desire services.

Customers, as defined in WIA, are job seekers and employers. Job seekers receive services such as training, education, and other employment-related services depending upon their individual need. Employers have a single point of contact to provide information about current and future skills needed by their workers and to list job openings. One of the benefits to employers that this system offers is helping them find ready skilled workers who meet their needs.

For further information, please contact the North Alabama Skills Center at 256.381.0611 (Shoals area) or 256.332.7672 (Russellville area).

Ready-To-Work Program

The Ready-To-Work Program is a grant-funded, workforce development training program sponsored by Northwest-Shoals Community College. The program is free to residents who live in the College's service area and are ages sixteen years old and above. The Ready to Work program is operated by the Alabama Community College System in cooperation with Alabama's Industrial Development Training (AIDT). The training curriculum is set to standards cited by business and industry employers throughout the state as well as skills cited in the U.S. Department of Labor's Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) Reports.

Upon successful completion of the program, students receive two workforce development credentials: the National Career Readiness Certificate (WorkKeys certification) signed by the Governor of Alabama and the Alabama Certified Worker Certificate (ACW). The Ready to Work credentials show

employers a person's abilities and measures the skills that employers seek. The mission of the program is to assist citizens in Alabama to find employment, find better employment and/or continue further education or training. The certifications that are earned improve the marketability and employment opportunities for program graduates.

For more information, please contact the Ready-To-Work Coordinator at 256.331.5248.

Out-Of-School Youth Success Program

The Out-of-School Youth Success Program assists and encourages eligible youth, ages 16-24, in developing an educational and career plan, which may include the achievement of their GED, and/or postsecondary completion to achieve the goal of employment in their chosen field. Career Advisors are located in Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence and Winston counties.

Program services include assistance with:

- Transition to Adult Education
- College enrollment
- Tutoring
- Personal Development workshops
- Job readiness skills
- Job placement

For more information, call 256.331.5262.

The College administers this Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant through the Alabama Department of Commerce.

Educational Talent Search

The Educational Talent Search Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education, sponsored by the College with projects located on both campuses. The program is designed to assist eligible participants to enter, continue in and graduate from high school and to enroll in and complete a program of postsecondary education or training. The program works with students in grades 6 through 12 (ages 11 through 27) as well as dropouts and stop-outs in Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Winston Counties in Alabama and Lawrence and Wayne Counties in Tennessee. In this program, trained counselors/advisors seek out qualified individuals who need help. Through counseling and advising, they motivate participants to continue their education. Program participants receive academic advising, assistance in course selection, preparation for college entrance exams, assistance with college and student financial aid applications, connections to services to improve financial literacy, personal and career counseling and connections to high quality academic tutoring.

For more information, please contact:
Educational Talent Search Director at 256.331.5348

Upward Bound Program

The Upward Bound Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by the College, at both the Phil Campbell Campus and the Shoals Campus. The program serves high school students of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Winston Counties.

The purpose of this program is to generate in its participants additional academic and motivational skills necessary for success in secondary and postsecondary education. Program participants are selected from area high schools based on criteria mandated by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Upward Bound Program consists of an academic component and a summer component. The academic component focuses on cultural enrichment and supplemental support to assist the students in subject areas in which they may experience the most difficulty (tutoring sessions). The summer component consists of a six-week program which focuses on exposing program participants to college life, and obtaining some college credit.

For further information, please contact the Phil Campbell Campus at 256.331.6277 or the Shoals Campus at 256.331.5357.

Library Services

Northwest-Shoals Community College has two library locations: the James A. Glasgow Library on the Phil Campbell Campus and the Larry W. McCoy Learning Resources Center on the Shoals Campus. Library services at the Phil Campbell and the Shoals Campuses support the various instructional programs and courses of the College with a total collection of over 64,000 books, several hundred periodicals, newspapers, and vertical file material. The libraries are members of the Library Management Network. Through this network, the holdings of the libraries are available via the Internet. Over 41,000 E-books, electronic versions of printed books, are accessible via the LMN website (www.lmn.lib.al.us). Internet access to the Alabama Virtual Library provides a variety of information through periodical indexes and resources. Library orientation is provided through individual or scheduled group sessions. The library is open 56 hours per week, except for holidays. Distance education students may access information on library resources as well as a library orientation on the college library website. The library phone numbers are 256.331.5283 (Shoals Campus) and 256.331.6271 (Phil Campbell Campus).

Library Regulations

Students registered for class at the College may use library materials on presentation of their student ID card. Materials generally circulate for a period of two weeks. Students with overdue materials must clear their obligations at the end of each term; otherwise, the student will not be permitted to register for further studies with the College.

Community citizens who wish to borrow materials may also be issued a library card by simply providing their full name, current address, and phone number. Only two books per person may be checked out at a time.

Alabama Technology Network Muscle Shoals Center

The Alabama Technology Network of the Alabama College System links two-year colleges, the University of Alabama System, Auburn University and the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama to solve the needs of industry. Each ATN regional center tailors its services to meet local needs, providing innovative and cost-effective solutions to enable Alabama's existing industry to be globally competitive. The network is Alabama's affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which provides hands-on assistance and training to smaller manufacturers. The Alabama Technology Network is committed to meeting customer requirements and increasing customer satisfaction through the quality management system. After initially receiving ISO 9001:2000 certification, ATN then transitioned to the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System standard. ATN-Muscle Shoals center specializes in environmental, health and safety training and technical assistance. For more information, please contact 256.331.5422 or visit <http://www.atn.org>.

Shoals Campus Child Development Center

The College Child Development Center is an on-campus child care facility for pre-school children of Northwest-Shoals Community College students, faculty and staff, and for the community. The center is open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and will operate on the same calendar schedule as the College contingent on adequate enrollment. A parent or guardian must register a child before he/she will be allowed to stay in the care of the center staff. The Shoals Center serves children 2 to 5 years old who are potty trained. To register a child, please obtain a form at the Shoals Campus Child Development Center at 256.331.5245. (N.A.E.Y.C. Accredited Site)

Discounts:

Children of Northwest-Shoals Community College students, faculty and staff are eligible for a discounted tuition rate. Childcare Management Agency (CMA) assistance is accepted as well as scholarships that are available. For more information on these scholarships, contact the Shoals Campus Child Development Center at 256.331.5245.

Pre-Kindergarten Program

A state supported pre-K program for 18 children who are four years old is available on the Shoals Campus. A minimal sliding fee for program services is assessed and may be charged. Hours of operation for this program are 7:45 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. Before and after school care are also available for pre-K students. For more information, call the Shoals Campus Child Development Center at 256.331.5245.

Summer School-Age Child Care

On campus school-age care is offered in the Child Development Center during the summer term for children and serves preschool ages that are potty trained from 2 1/2 years old to age 6. This service will be available from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for children of students, faculty, staff, and community contingent upon adequate enrollment. Pre-registration is required. For more information and fee rates, contact the Shoals Campus Child Development Center at 256.331.5245.

Kids In College

Offered through the College's Child Development Program, the "Kids in College" summer education program provides a unique learning opportunity for children who are home or visiting in the summer. "Kids in College" is specially designed for children entering grades K-6. The camp brings children onto the Shoals Campus and into the classroom for lots of fun while learning. Children participate in age-grouped classes that provide hands-on, non-graded academic, creative, physical, and wellness activities. For information and dates contact the Child Development Center at 256.331.5245.