



A2 ACHIEVE COLLEGE ADMISSION RISK ASSESSMENT
University of Alabama | Auburn University
Mississippi State University | University of Mississippi
Allie Jennings | Class of 2027

Important Starting Point

Allie, this assessment is based on the information we currently have as of August 25, 2026.

You report a 3.8 GPA, 29 ACT composite and 30 ACT superscore. You have taken or plan to take AP Literature, AP Language, AP U.S. History and AP Government and report dual-enrollment work through UNA and Northwest Shoals. You also have sustained performing-arts, faith and extracurricular involvement, approximately 150 service hours, employment and National Honor Society.

I don't yet know whether your 3.8 is weighted or unweighted, your class rank, your exact transcript or your senior schedule. Those are important limitations.

A risk rating is **not** a prediction that you will or will not be admitted. It is my assessment of how much uncertainty exists in the application and how much of that uncertainty we can still reduce.

Your Overall College-List Position

Right now, I would classify the four schools this way:

University of Alabama – LOWER RISK / LIKELY
Mississippi State University – LOWER RISK / LIKELY
University of Mississippi – LOWER RISK / LIKELY
Auburn University – MODERATE RISK / TARGET-TO-REACH

That is a healthy admissions mix, provided the three lower-risk schools are also schools you would truly attend. The bigger unanswered issue is financial safety. Until we calculate likely scholarships and your family's acceptable cost, I will not call any school a complete safety.

Your Academic Position

Your academic record is competitive enough to make all four universities realistic.

Your 3.8 GPA is solid. Your advanced coursework matters because it shows rigor, particularly in English, history and government. You also have college-level mathematics through Algebra II and Precalculus.

The biggest academic unknown is how the 3.8 was calculated. That matters because universities may evaluate or recalculate GPA differently. At Auburn, in particular, the most recently published enrolled-student profile has a GPA range that makes the exact nature of your 3.8 important.

Your senior-year performance also matters. A strong fall semester would reinforce the application. A significant drop in grades or a reduction in course rigor would create unnecessary risk.

Your Testing Position

The ACT may be the single most actionable part of your profile right now. A 29 composite/30 superscore makes you viable at all four schools. But admission and scholarship strategy are not the same thing.

At Alabama, your **29 single-date composite versus 30 superscore is an extremely important distinction** because Alabama currently superscores for admission but does not use a superscore for automatic merit scholarship qualification.

At Auburn, the superscore is useful because Auburn states that it uses ACT superscores for admission and scholarship consideration. That means another ACT attempt has genuine strategic value.

Activities, Leadership and Involvement

Your activities will help your applications if we present them correctly. You have four-year involvement in Show Choir, Muscle Shoals Performing Arts, youth group and FCCLA, plus dance, soccer, SADD and VBS. You have also:

- Mentored younger dancers
- Encouraged soccer teammates
- Led academic group projects
- Helped lead show-choir practice
- Completed approximately 150 service hours
- Worked as an ice cream server
- Worked as a camp counselor
- Babysat younger children

That profile has substance. The risk is presentation. If we simply list memberships, the activities look ordinary. If we explain longevity, responsibility, mentoring, work, leadership and service, they become much more useful.

Your Distinction Factor

You do not currently have a national-level award, major research project or highly specialized academic achievement that instantly separates you from a large applicant pool. We should not pretend that you do.

Your distinction comes from the combination of **people-centered leadership, performing arts, service, work responsibility and resilience.**

You repeatedly describe yourself as someone who notices people, helps them make decisions, mediates conflict and encourages others. That is what I would build around.

Application Story

The application should leave the reader with a picture similar to this:

You are a determined, socially aware student who pays attention to people, naturally steps into leadership and encouragement roles, and is exploring careers that will allow you to use communication, analysis and influence to help other people succeed.

That supports law, business, marketing and psychology without forcing you to claim certainty you do not yet have.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Overall A2 Achieve Risk Rating: LOWER RISK

The Big Picture

Alabama currently looks like a likely admission for you. For Fall 2025 enrolled Alabama residents, UA reports a middle 50% ACT range of **22–30** and GPA range of **3.48–4.16**. Your reported 3.8 GPA sits comfortably inside that published GPA range, and your 29 composite/30 superscore is at the upper end of the resident ACT range. For 2027 entry, UA states that ACT or SAT scores are required only for applicants with a cumulative high-school GPA below 3.0. Your reported GPA is well above that threshold.

Nothing in admission is guaranteed, but based on the profile we currently have, Alabama is not the school on this list that concerns me.

Course Rigor

Your AP and dual-enrollment coursework strengthens the application. The humanities concentration also makes sense for your interests in law, business, communication and psychology. I would classify your rigor as appropriate and supportive rather than a major admissions concern.

Testing Strategy

For admission, I would submit your score. For scholarship purposes, I would absolutely retest if you are willing. UA's currently published 2027 Alabama-resident automatic scholarship chart states that students with a qualifying 3.50+ GPA and a **29 ACT composite** qualify for \$9,000 per year, while a **30–36 ACT composite** qualifies for the Presidential scholarship covering tuition. UA further states that automatic merit uses the highest score from a single test date, not the superscore.

You currently report a 29 composite and 30 superscore. That means one point on a single-date composite could materially change the financial picture. This is the clearest test-score leverage anywhere on your current college list.

Application Timing

For Summer/Fall 2027, Alabama's priority deadline for admission and full consideration for available scholarships is **December 4, 2026**. I would not wait until December. I would get your admission

application submitted early in the fall and then make sure any qualifying official test score reaches Alabama before the scholarship deadline.

Scholarship Risk

Your **admission risk is lower than your scholarship risk**. A 29 composite can produce meaningful merit under the current chart, but a 30 single-date composite changes the category dramatically. That makes testing a financial decision, not merely an admissions decision.

What Helps You at Alabama

Your GPA.

Your course rigor.

Your current ACT.

Your broad involvement.

Your work and service.

And, if we improve the single-date ACT, your scholarship position.

What Creates Risk

The largest risk is not admission. It is leaving money on the table because your 30 exists only as a superscore.

Final Alabama Assessment

Alabama is a school you should apply to.

Risk: LOWER

Current position: LIKELY

Most important next move: Retake the ACT with the specific goal of a 30+ single-test composite and have all required materials submitted well before December 4.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Overall A2 Achieve Risk Rating: MODERATE

The Big Picture

Auburn is a realistic option for you, but I would not treat Auburn as a safety. For Fall 2025 enrolled Alabama residents, Auburn reports a middle 50% ACT range of approximately **25–31**. Your 30 superscore fits within that range and is toward the stronger end. Auburn's published GPA middle 50% for enrolled students was approximately **3.87–4.33**, which makes your reported 3.8 more important to investigate. Before I become more precise, I want your transcript and need to know whether that 3.8 is weighted or unweighted. I would currently call Auburn a **target-to-reach**, with moderate risk.

Testing Position

Auburn's current freshman admissions information for 2027 requires an ACT or SAT score as part of a complete application, and Auburn says it accepts ACT superscores and uses the best result for admission and scholarship consideration. That helps you because your 30 superscore is the stronger number. A 31 or 32 would improve your position, but I would not delay the entire application solely to chase the score because Auburn allows updated testing later in the cycle.

Course Rigor

Your AP/DE schedule is a positive factor. Your rigor is more heavily concentrated in humanities than STEM, which is perfectly reasonable given your current interests. For business or a liberal-arts/pre-law pathway, I do not see a program-specific academic mismatch from the information currently available.

Intended Major Risk

Your current interests (business, marketing, law/pre-law and psychology-related work) do not create the kind of special direct-admit risk we would see with a highly restricted clinical or portfolio-based undergraduate program. The bigger need is to decide which academic area you will actually list. If "therapy" turns into a specific clinical program later, we will need to evaluate that separately because prerequisites and progression requirements may differ.

Activities and Distinction

Your activities help at Auburn, but Auburn receives many applicants with solid grades, school organizations and service. That is why your descriptions matter.

I would emphasize:

- Long-term performing arts
- Mentoring
- Work
- 150 service hours
- Leadership through encouragement
- Connection between your interest in people and your future goals.

Auburn's admissions information describes a holistic process that can consider involvement, service and work, so those pieces should not be treated as secondary.

Demonstrated Interest and Personal Statement

Auburn specifically encourages genuine engagement and provides room for optional personal context within its process. If Auburn becomes your first choice, I would want your interest to be real and specific. Visit if possible. Attend the appropriate admissions or academic events. Learn enough about the program you choose that you can explain why Auburn actually fits you. Do not email admissions repeatedly simply to get your name noticed.

Application Timing

Auburn's current 2027 schedule includes Early Action material deadlines of **September 15, October 15, November 15 and December 1**, with Regular Decision materials due **February 1**. Scholarship consideration is tied to completing the admissions process by the appropriate early deadline, with December 1 serving as the final Early Action deadline. Auburn also allows later score updates for additional scholarship consideration in January.

For you, I would prefer: **September 15 if the application is truly ready**. If rushing to September 15 would produce a weaker application, use **October 15**. I would not deliberately push Auburn deep into the cycle.

Scholarship Risk

Auburn's exact 2027 competitive merit awards are not something I would promise today. Auburn publishes guidance based on prior award cycles and explains that competitive award amounts can change. The recent Alabama-resident guide shows that ACT increases can matter substantially for competitive merit. So again, moving the ACT upward is useful for both admission positioning and scholarship positioning.

Auburn Honors

If Auburn Honors becomes a serious goal, recognize that it is a different level of competition.

Auburn reports a Fall 2025 Honors entering-student middle 50% of approximately **33–34**

ACT and **4.4–4.6 weighted GPA**. Based on the numbers we currently have, I would not build your Auburn strategy around Honors admission. You may apply if you are eligible and interested, but I would treat it as substantially more competitive than Auburn admission itself.

What Helps You at Auburn

Your 30 superscore.

Your advanced coursework.

Long-term activities.

Work and service.

A coherent application showing leadership and people skills.

What Creates Risk

The reported 3.8 relative to Auburn's recent enrolled GPA profile.

A competitive applicant pool.

Limited formal honors.

The possibility that generic activity descriptions could undersell you.

What I Would Not Worry About

Not having a perfect "future career" decided.

Auburn has enough academic breadth that you can enter with a thoughtful direction and continue exploring.

Final Auburn Assessment

You should apply.

Risk: MODERATE

Current position: TARGET-TO-REACH

Most important next move: Complete a strong Early Action application, verify your actual GPA/transcript profile, and continue testing if a 31+ is realistic.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Overall A2 Achieve Risk Rating: LOWER RISK

The Big Picture

Mississippi State currently appears to be a strong admission option for you. Its published freshman admission standards are well within your reported GPA profile, and the university uses rolling admission. Mississippi State also accepts an ACT superscore calculated from the relevant ACT

sections. With a 3.8 GPA and 29/30 ACT profile, I would consider Mississippi State a likely admission based on the information we have.

Scholarship Position

This is where Mississippi State becomes particularly interesting. For **2027–28 nonresident freshmen**, Mississippi State's current published automatic academic scholarship schedule lists:

- 3.30–3.59 scholarship GPA at \$12,000 per year
- 3.60–4.09 scholarship GPA at \$16,000 per year
- 4.10+ scholarship GPA at \$19,000 per year.

If your qualifying scholarship GPA is the 3.8 you reported and you are an Alabama resident, that currently places you in the published **\$16,000-per-year** range. We need to verify exactly how Mississippi State will calculate your scholarship GPA before treating that amount as final.

Presidential Endowed Opportunity

You are also close enough to the published eligibility thresholds that I would investigate Mississippi State's Presidential Endowed Scholarship seriously. For the 2027 cycle, Mississippi State lists a **December 1, 2026 priority date**, a minimum **3.75 GPA from grades 9–11** and **30 ACT**, along with additional application requirements and Shackouls Honors participation. The scholarship package is competitive rather than automatic. Your reported 3.8 and 30 superscore make this worth investigating immediately. We need to verify whether your ACT superscore satisfies the scholarship's testing requirement and confirm your 9th–11th GPA calculation.

Honors College

Mississippi State's Shackouls Honors College also has separate pathways. Students who do not meet the higher Distinguished Student thresholds can apply through the standard pathway using an essay and recommendation letters. If Mississippi State rises on your list, I would absolutely evaluate Honors rather than assuming it is either automatic or out of reach.

Application Timing

Because Mississippi State is rolling, I would apply early. There is little strategic benefit to sitting on a finished application. The more important deadline is **December 1** if you want to pursue the Presidential scholarship opportunity.

What Helps You

Your GPA.
Your ACT/superscore.
Your academic rigor.
Your sustained activities.
Your service and employment.
The current nonresident merit structure.

What Creates Risk

Very little creates major general-admission risk based on the information we currently have. The more meaningful risk is missing competitive scholarship deadlines or assuming that an automatic award makes Mississippi State inexpensive without comparing the full out-of-state cost.

Final Mississippi State Assessment

Mississippi State belongs on your list.

Risk: LOWER

Current position: LIKELY

Most important next move: Apply early and immediately determine whether you will pursue the Presidential Endowed/Honors scholarship track before the December 1 priority date.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI – OLE MISS

Overall A2 Achieve Risk Rating: LOWER RISK

The Big Picture

Ole Miss also currently appears to be a realistic, lower-risk option for you. For nonresident applicants, Ole Miss evaluates completion of the required college-preparatory curriculum, GPA and testing under its published freshman standards. Students with sufficiently strong unweighted GPAs can use its test-optional path for admission, although test scores remain very important for scholarship strategy. Ole Miss also advises nonresident applicants that admission is competitive and rolling, making earlier application preferable. Your 3.8 and 29/30 ACT profile gives me little reason to view general admission as the main concern.

Testing

I would submit the ACT. Even where a score may not be necessary for the admission decision, it can materially affect merit aid. Your superscore is also useful because Ole Miss states that superscores may be considered for scholarship purposes under its published merit guidance.

Scholarship Position

There is an important caution here. The most recently published nonresident automatic-merit chart currently available on Ole Miss's scholarship site is the **2026–27** chart, not a finalized 2027–28 chart. Under that currently published guide, a nonresident student with a 3.75–4.0 GPA and 30–31 ACT falls into a substantially higher merit category than a student with a 28–29 ACT. I would use that as evidence that testing matters, not as a promise of your exact 2027 award. We need to monitor the 2027–28 automatic merit chart when Ole Miss posts it.

Scholarship Application Timing

For the 2027–28 cycle, Ole Miss currently lists:

- **September 15, 2026** — freshman scholarship application becomes available.
- **January 10, 2027** — freshman scholarship application deadline for full consideration.

Competitive scholarship decisions occur later in the cycle. This is separate from simply submitting an admission application. Do not assume admission automatically enters you into every competitive scholarship.

What Helps You

A solid GPA.

A useful ACT score.

Advanced coursework.

Activities, service and work.

A profile that should fit comfortably within a broad liberal-arts/business exploratory path.

What Creates Risk

Waiting too long as an out-of-state applicant.

Missing the separate scholarship application.

Assuming the currently published 2026–27 automatic-merit amounts will remain identical for 2027–28.

Final Ole Miss Assessment

Ole Miss should remain on the list.

Risk: LOWER

Current position: LIKELY

Most important next move: Apply early, complete the separate freshman scholarship application after it opens September 15, and continue watching for the finalized 2027–28 automatic-merit chart.

Essay and Short-Answer Risk

At the three lower-risk schools, your essay is unlikely to rescue a fundamentally weak academic application because you do not have a fundamentally weak academic application. At Auburn, presentation matters more because there is more admissions uncertainty. Your biggest essay risk is writing something generic about wanting to become a successful lawyer or business owner.

Your stronger material is personal:

- Being the oldest and feeling pressure to go first
- Not making dance team
- Learning to lead even when you initially feel shy in unfamiliar settings
- Noticing people others overlook
- Listening to nursing-home residents
- difference between the way strangers and close friends experience you.

Your essay should make the reader know *you*, not prove that you already have your career figured out.

Activities and Honors Presentation

Your Common App activity section requires careful writing. For the strongest entries, I want numbers where possible:

- Number of years
- Hours per week
- Performances
- Audience reach
- Number of students mentored
- Campers supervised
- Service events
- Customers served
- Responsibilities
- Anything you initiated or improved.

National Honor Society should be included as an honor. Do not invent awards to fill unused slots.

Additional Information Strategy

At present, I do not see a compelling need to use Additional Information. The oldest-sibling story belongs there only if the role included substantial family responsibilities that materially affected your schedule or academics. Otherwise, it may be better essay material than explanatory material.

Recommendation Strategy

For schools or programs that accept recommendations, choose people who know something specific about you. An AP English/history/government teacher could reinforce intellectual curiosity, writing, discussion and group leadership. A performing-arts teacher, coach, camp supervisor or employer could reinforce reliability, encouragement, mentoring and how you interact with others. For Mississippi State Honors, recommendation preparation becomes more important because one of its application pathways uses recommendation letters.

WHAT HELPS YOU MOST

Your strongest factors, in order, are:

1. Your solid academic profile plus meaningful course rigor.
2. Your 29/30 ACT position with room for strategic improvement.
3. Long-term activities rather than one-year resume padding.
4. Work experience.
5. Approximately 150 hours of service.
6. Real but informal leadership.

A coherent personal pattern involving people, communication and encouragement.

WHAT CREATES THE MOST RISK

The 3.8 GPA needs clarification because we do not know whether it is weighted or unweighted. Auburn is meaningfully more competitive than the other three options.

Your honors section is limited.

Your strongest leadership is currently buried in descriptions rather than titles.

Your career direction is broad enough that a poorly built application could look unfocused.

And your 30 ACT is currently a superscore rather than a single sitting, which is especially important at Alabama.

WHAT I WOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT

I would not worry that you have not chosen one exact career.

I would not worry that you are not president of five clubs.

I would not worry that your activities do not all connect to one major.

And I would not worry that Auburn carries more risk than the other three schools.

A healthy college list is supposed to contain different levels of uncertainty.

WHAT I WOULD WORK ON NOW

PRIORITY 1 – DO THIS FIRST

Retake the ACT.

Your target is at least a **30 single-test composite**, with 31–32 even better. For Alabama alone, that one-point improvement could materially change the current automatic-merit category if all other requirements are met.

Get your transcript and confirm the GPA.

I need weighted GPA, unweighted GPA, senior schedule, rank if available and the way AP/DE courses are actually recorded.

Begin applications now.

(See recommended application calendar.)

PRIORITY 2 – STRENGTHEN THE APPLICATION

Build your Common App activities around actual responsibility and impact. Choose two or three probable major pathways. Complete real career exploration in law, business and/or psychology. Begin scholarship applications separately from admission applications. Prepare recommendation materials for any school, honors program or scholarship that requires them.

PRIORITY 3 – POLISH AND POSITION

Develop the essay around a personal story. Make sure the resume supports, not repeats, the Common App. Use your application to connect leadership, people skills, resilience, work and service. Review every portal after submission so that missing materials do not turn an otherwise strong application into a preventable problem.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THIS ASSESSMENT

A **30+ single-date ACT** would improve the scholarship outlook, especially at Alabama. A **31–32+ ACT** could improve both scholarship and Auburn positioning. Strong senior grades would help. A weaker senior fall or dropped rigor could increase risk. Confirmation that the 3.8 is unweighted would generally strengthen the academic interpretation. If the 3.8 is weighted and the unweighted GPA is meaningfully lower, Auburn's risk rating may increase. A meaningful new leadership accomplishment could strengthen presentation. Missing scholarship or Early Action deadlines would increase financial and admissions risk without changing who you are as a student.

FINAL A2 ACHIEVE ASSESSMENT

Allie, you are in a good position because you currently have more than one realistic college option. Alabama, Mississippi State and Ole Miss appear to be your lower-risk schools. Auburn should be treated as the application that carries more uncertainty, but it is realistic enough that I absolutely believe it belongs on your list.

Your biggest strength is the combination of a solid academic record with depth outside the classroom. You have challenged yourself academically while also participating in performing arts, athletics, church, service and paid work.

Your biggest risk is not one glaring weakness. It is **leaving opportunities unused**, particularly scholarship money tied to ACT performance and application content that fails to communicate the leadership and responsibility already present in your life.

If I could have you do one thing immediately, it would be this:

Make one more serious attempt at a 30+ single-date ACT while we simultaneously begin the applications.

Do not hold every application hostage waiting for a test score. Move both tracks forward.

The goal is not to make your resume look perfect before you apply. The goal is to understand where each school carries risk, improve the things that can still be improved, meet the deadlines that actually matter and make sure the application colleges read is a much fuller picture of you than a 3.8 GPA and a list of club names.