Understanding UA Enrolled Students’ Attendance at Shelton State Community College

Report compiled by
Enrollment Subcommittee,
Undergraduate Programs and Services Committee.

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Introduction

The purpose of this research is to gain a better understanding of why students take courses for transfer to UA, particularly from nearby Shelton State Community College (SSCC).

Two avenues of data collection were pursued. First, quantitative and qualitative data were gathered from an online survey from students that had transferred credits from SSCC. Second, information was obtained from the Student Information System (SIS) pertaining to transferred courses, broken down by time (i.e., term) of transfer, the transfer institution, and the UA major of the student.
Shelton State Transfer Credit Survey

Current UA students that had transferred credits from Shelton State Community College were solicited by email (email listed in the SIS) to complete an online survey (Shelton State Transfer Credit Survey) on why they chose to enroll in courses at SSCC. The survey consisted of structured response sections each followed by an open-ended question allowing the student to elaborate on their chosen response(s).

A total of 266 students completed the survey. The results of the entire survey are given with a synopsis of the structured responses at the end.

What were the reasons you took classes at Shelton State Community College rather than The University of Alabama?  N = 266

1a. Scheduling issues and conflicts (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>Course(s) at UA were filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>Able to take night/weekend courses at Shelton</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>Course not taught often enough at UA</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>Work conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Personal conflict (e.g., children, health, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>Other, please list. (see below)</td>
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2 course was online at Shelton State  
52 cost  
53 Summer class  
59 felt the subject matter was easier at Shelton  
63 Shelton instructors seem to offer one on one help throughout the semester  
65 Academic  
68 less expensive  
79 less expensive  
80 cheaper, easier  
84 couldn't get in to UA originally  
85 thought it would be easier  
86 smaller class size  
87 application deadline  
88 wanted to begin school at a community college  
90 cheaper  
93 Financial reasons  
96 Easier transition from high school and the classes are smaller and easier  
99 wanted to play baseball  
100 cheaper  
111 no Friday classes  
114 financial aid  
115 full scholarship to Shelton, able to participate in more extra curricular organizations  
116 internet class
1b. Please elaborate on the scheduling conflict(s) you indicated.

3  Shelton offered many of the courses I needed at night.
4  wanted to get the basics out of the way before getting into my field of study and those courses were offered more at Shelton
5  There are no Economics classes taught in the late evening at the UA.
6  Sometimes without financial aid I can't afford to take classes at UA.
7  I struggle in math and was told the classes were easier there. It did turn out to be.
8  They offered a class M-Th at a better time.
10  The thought of attending a four year institution intimidated me.
12  I work in the afternoon and most labs at UA are in the afternoon while at Shelton they have some in the morning.
14  It helps to be able to work a full day and take night classes.
19  Shelton is just cheaper
31  I was able to take a class one night a week and it allowed me to take more hours.
34  Classes are cheaper and I took night classes and work during the day.
36  Needed to take Macroeconomics over the summer and it was cheaper and closer to my job.
37  classes are smaller and teacher was more available
I took a summer class at Shelton b/c st260 wasn't offered for a full summer course and I could not take the split term course b/c of work scheduling. Smaller classrooms and professors were easier to understand. The times that those classes were being offered at Shelton were more convenient for me. The course I needed was offered at UA but it was only offered during other classes I took. The class I took at Shelton was an internet class that gave me the flexibility I needed in order to complete the class. It was also cheaper to take a class during the summer at Shelton. Shelton State is easier to get in and out of than UA and I live closer to SSCC. It doesn't take forever to go to class and then go back to work like it does at the University.

The courses I've taken at Shelton since being admitted to UA were either not offered the semester I wanted to take them or I was unable to schedule the courses around other courses I was taking. Shelton has many more classes on weekends and evenings available compared to the University. I could not get into two classes I needed this past semester and the cost of tuition is about half of that at the university. Classes were at a better time for me not offered at convenient times. During the summer UA classes are offered everyday of the week and you can get classes at Shelton once or twice a week. Offered a better time for me.

When I tried to sign up for a particular class it was already filled. So, therefore I signed up for a class that was offered at Shelton. It is also cheaper. I am an independent, non-trad student and must work to support myself while going to school. Taking classes at Shelton allowed me to transfer to UA without taking the SAT or ACT exam. More classes were offered in time slots that were good for me. When I worked the night classes filled much faster. Registration is always a problem. When its time to register all the classes you wanted are gone. Shelton offered classes during the summer that I needed & Alabama did not. I was working a co-op job from 8am to 5pm every day and UA didn't offer night classes.

Classes are not as crowded. Computer classes are much easier to take at Shelton due to the simplicity of being able to get into the classes. The UA has only ONE webdesign class offered. At Shelton when you take a split-term class it is only 4 days a week. At the UA they are 5 days a week restricting you from working a full day at work. I am married and I have a five year old son. The night courses were a big help to me. I also worked and this allowed me to choose when I needed to go to school. The tuition is cheaper for the same class. Why not go??

With smaller classes the student to teacher ratio is not as great therefore creating a more personal learning environment. I was taking classes at UAB when I sent out my application to UA. UAB was on quarters at the time and my transcript did not get sent to UA in time. I had already rented an apartment and decided to just register at Shelton for awhile. Shelton offered me a full academic scholarship. I only paid for a parking decal, extra classes I wanted to take, and books. I also had more flexibility at Shelton in terms of when my classes were. It made finding a job easier due to the fact that

Scheduling classes so far hasn't been a problem. I thought I was going to be able to take a history class in Memphis over summer break last year, but I ended up not being able to so by the time I knew this all the classes were filled at UA. The classes at the university fill so quickly especially for freshmen and sophomores. Found instructors to be more willing to work with adult students who work full time during the day. Need to work full time during the day as long as possible.

The after work hours were very convenient. At the time I was a full time employee that worked the PM shift. I don't receive financial aid during the summer at UA so I can't afford to take classes there. If I did I would most definitely take them at UA. It is considerably cheaper to take courses at Shelton. Why not pay less and get the same credit and the same education?...it's the sensible thing to do. There are also more scholarship opportunities for students who don't have a 4.0
the biology 101 class was offered online @ Shelton State

The class I took was one night a week. I liked it more.

Last semester of senior year UA version of course was offered at the same time as a senior level course in my major when both were required for my graduation. SSCC offered the same course at night

AC 210 was only one night a week at Shelton and there were no labs.

A lot of the science classes offered at the university overlap many other classes that you may have to take. Shelter offers better times and usually work into my schedule so much better.

The teachers at Shelton State are much nicer then the ones at UA and they also care about you and how you will do in the course. Another reason why I took courses is because the courses are much cheaper then the

University of Alabama for the exact same c

cheaper, easier

most courses were offered in the mornings at Shelton so I could take all my classes by noon and work the rest of the day, where as at the university some classes were only offered in the afternoon or evening.

the night classes were better during period of life

I went to Shelton first- biggest mistake of my life. My dad told me not to do it, but I did anyway.

cheaper

With a full time job and a family it was hard or impossible to take day classes

I didn't know if I wanted to be in Tuscaloosa or not to go to school and I didn’t want my parents spending so much money at the university if I didn’t like it. I also wanted to get my grades up higher.

The classes were smaller so therefore professors could spend more one on one time with a student. The teachers weren't as strict on the curriculum either.

I found that classes were easier to schedule around the times I worked. I worked during the afternoons and I was able to finish all of my classes by noon at Shelton.

UA still does not seem to care I have a 40 hour a week job. Shelton seemed more understanding.

some of the harder classes at UA are easier at Shelton and Shelton's summer classes are a lot cheaper

The cost is really lower, so unless you like throwing your money away it’s a good idea to take your first 2 years there.

tuition at Shelton State was affordable.

I work full time during the day (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). At Shelton I can take courses after work. Also, the amount of tuition at Shelton is half the price per credit hour of the UA's tuition prices and I am paying for school on my own.

I found that both Shelton and UA should offer all courses in the fall and summer. Especially if they have a pre-req.

the classes at the UA fill up too quickly and no one is willing to give overrides.

I needed a nursing science that was not taught over the summer at UA.

I worked days, therefore, I was interested in taking night classes at the time.

If a course a Shelton fills sometimes they just open another section. Never happens here. Good paying jobs are hard to come by so working is a major conflict. More night classes and late afternoon classes would be great.

The times that I were able to attend class at Shelton were more structured towards my work schedule in the summer and I did not have class on Thursday. The term was shorter and better suited for the Fourth of July.

I felt that I did not learn the concepts in Ana./Phy. that would help me when I got into the nursing program. I felt that the lab TA I had did not have a clue as to what he was doing.

Classes at Shelton are a lot easier than at UA and are offered at night which is more convenient.

I found that it was more convenient to take necessary classes in which I have no interest (i.e. AC210).

Everyone registers at the same time

I needed to take Microbiology and sociology this past summer. However, these classes were both taught during the same part of the summer at the same time. I was able to take my sociology class at Shelton at night.

more night classes available

the cost of summer classes is cheaper at Shelton.

Alabama did not let me in because I did not pass summer trial program so I went to Shelton for 2 years.

I had just graduated from high school and wanted to get a head start at Shelton before starting at the University

Classes are smaller making learning easier.

Had to work and take care of a daughter. At the time I was paying for it myself and could not afford university tuition.

The freshman classes at UA are huge
I applied to UA my freshman year and was rejected, so I went to Shelton. I received a scholarship from Shelton and not one from UA.

As a freshman I just though the cost to class size ratio was better at Shelton. However, the education I'm receiving is A LOT better here at Alabama. Larger variety of night classes. Things worked out better at the time for my family because I am a single parent. I had a scholarship at Shelton my first year attending. I was not able to receive one through the university. With scholarships I was able to take concentrate on core classes and complete them so at UA I could devote myself to my major classes.

Shelton was so cheap that my grandfather could pay the tuition. I took the class at Shelton at night for 2 nights a week during a full summer term. UA doesn't offer enough full-term summer courses. It is hard to arrange work schedules around a class that meets 5 days a week for 2 hours. The courses offered at Shelton were offered in the day as well as a full course listing that was also offered in the evening. The University only offers select courses in the evening.

At Shelton there is more one on one help from the teachers. It was hard for me to get into the class at the UA. It seemed like even if I registered the minute I was able the class was already full. Registration at Shelton was later than at UA and I had no other choice because the class I needed was full. Having to work full time to support my family, taking night courses fit my lifestyle the best.

Tuition is lower at Shelton. A lot of the time when one takes a course at Shelton the classes are small and the teacher and student relationship is more personal. It is also a lot cheaper to take a course at Shelton.

When I register for classes I just have to pick up the phone and call when the service is available at Shelton. At the UA I have to go through the hassle of making an appointment with an adviser then I have to wait at least a month for the scheduled ap. More classes available later—after 5pm. It is so much cheaper to take the first 2 years there. Not enough openings until after the start date.

Some courses Shelton offers as a technical school are not offered here at the UA. Shelton has a good mix of students both young, old, returning students, full time students, out of state students, international and local students. Courses taught only one semester at UA are taught all 3 semesters at Shelton. The University of Alabama did not offer the courses that I needed at night.

Shelton State is easier and cheaper. It costs more here at UA and there is no football in the summer. It is very hard to work and go to school and Shelton had the course at the time that was convenient. I work the day shift and the class that I needed was not offered in the evening at the U.A. Shelton State teachers are twice that of the University, they actually try to teach and care, instead of just want to earn a paycheck. Plus the price at Shelton is much cheaper. The University has some really weird policies. UA summer school is extremely expensive in the summer and the courses are harder.

Microbiology lecture is offered only at one or two class times that conflict with upper level nutrition classes which are only offer at one lecture hour. The cost at Alabama was twice as much as Shelton for the same exact classes.
2a. More convenient at Shelton (check all that apply)

Percent
[16.2] Shelton location was more convenient
[49.2] Parking is not a problem at Shelton
[16.2] Other, please list. (see below)

2 did not have to go to Shelton State campus but for 2
tests
19 Shelton is still not convenient
20 worked at Shelton
27 Better parking at Shelton
29 There is always a parking problem at UA
45 I did not have to go on campus except twice to take a
midterm and a final.
48 Not sure about parking
53 It wasn't really convenient
67 PRICE!!!
86 core classes offered @ night
87 flexible schedules
90 more simply set up
100 smaller classes
112 teachers
114 tuition much less
116 visited campus 3x
127 Not as crowded
134 Parking was not as big a problem
144 their summer classes
154 Full scholarship and friendly staff and students
162 less paper work and people to put up with.
166 See above comment
173 The classrooms are much smaller.
182 cheaper
184 same
196 Money situation
198 scholarship
200 The course was an internet course that I could do on
my own time
202 it’s smaller
211 easier
212 classes are smaller
214 no Friday classes
218 Scholarship
221 cost of tuition
234 Smaller campus
236 Classes are close together.
241 All of the classes are in one building so it makes it
easier
262 you don’t have to walk across campus to get to class
264 not as much traffic

2b. Please elaborate on the convenience issue(s) you indicated.

1 At the time I was a little closer to Shelton than UA, yet the real reason for attending is the cost difference.
3 Parking at the University is one of the biggest problems for students. I work full time and find it difficult to
find parking quickly when coming straight to work.
4 at the time money was limited and didn’t have the funds to attend the university
6 There were never any parking problems at Shelton.
12 I live closer to Shelton.
17 There are always plenty of parking spaces at Shelton
19 Shelton is subpar
25 No one has special hang tags--faculty and students all fend for themselves.
27 You can hardly find a place to park at UA
28 Shelton is close to UA campuses and the science class sizes are generally smaller over there with more
student teacher attention
32 I live across the highway
35 I don’t have to get to Shelton an hour early just to find a parking space, unlike UA.
40 It is very convenient to find a park at Shelton, whereas at the university you spend all day looking for
parking.
41 I went to Shelton before and it wouldn’t be a problem getting a scholarship or extra help if needed.
47 I live 10 minutes away. My class rooms are closer together. It does take an extra twenty minutes to get to
class.
48 I’ve only taken classes at Shelton during the summer or at night. The parking during the summer is about
the same at UA and there haven’t been any night classes to take at UA that I know.
51 They actually have enough parking places to accommodate the amount of cars. Also, they only give tickets
if it is your fault for not finding a parking place; unlike the University.
52 I live down south so Shelton is only about 1 mile from my house.
53 I only went to Shelton for a summer session; it wasn’t convenient because I drove 45 minutes everyday but it was cheaper.
67 It was a convenient price for me.
68 Not enough parking spaces for students
69 I appreciate the fact that faculty and students have the same parking convenience; however, it is not a reason why I took classes.
70 Shelton is a smaller school with fewer students & plenty of parking. At Alabama you can sometimes walk for a mile from your parking place to your class. (Unless you want to pay to park in the parking deck.)
71 Parking problems have been an issue since I have been at Alabama. It seems like if you don’t have an 8:00 class you have to drive around for 30 minutes hoping one becomes available. Then if one doesn’t I have to park in a parking deck that I have P
74 Parking is much better at Shelton, although that’s not the primary reason I took a class there
76 Parking will be a problem at any college. However, the problem at the university is simply inexusable. As if that wasn’t problem enough the UA feels the need to issue tickets for ANYTHING possible. This is ridiculous!
78 Never had a problem finding parking at Shelton, always do at UA
79 It was just a lot less stressful to attend Shelton. There are less things to worry with at Shelton, such as parking and walking all the way across campus to get to class.
83 Parking is ridiculous. If you don’t have an early class it’s hard to find a good parking place.
84 Parking is out of control at the University.
86 I was able to take all required core classes which transferred to UA @ night
87 I was able to get into every class that I needed at a variety of different times to accompany my work schedule.
88 I never had a problem parking at Shelton
90 easier to get around, well divided among sections of education
95 The commuter parking here is horrible. Why issue more commuter parking tags than you have spaces?
96 It’s not as far to walk and you know there will be a parking space.
97 As a disabled person I NEVER had to be concerned with the problem of having to walk very far to get to class. All classrooms, computer labs and libraries are under one roof. A student at Shelton can park close to one building and access classes
100 teachers are more willing to work with you if you have a problem of some sort
104 There are always spaces available at Shelton.
106 parking at Shelton is better than at the university
107 Parking much more available and in close proximity to my home
109 always very easy to find a parking space at SSCC
110 The classes were in the time frame that I could be away from work
114 I have to park at my last class of the day and then walk to my first class because there is no way that I would be able to get a parking place and make it to class. This is really not really that big of a deal though
115 PARKING AT UA IS HORRIBLE AND OUTRAGEOUSLY EXPENSIVE. IN MY PROGRAM I AM ONLY ON CAMPUS FOR 6 WEEKS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR AND I STILL HAVE TO PURCHASE A $65 DECAL WHICH ONLY GIVES ME THE PRIVILEDGE TO WALK FOUR BLOCKS TO CLASS STILL.
116 I only had to visit campus 3x during the semester
118 Everyday at UA I have to fight to get a parking spot everyday.
119 Taylorville is quite far from where I live and rush hour is also an issue, but once there, I was able to park and directly go into my class. There was no walking several hundred feet, heavy traffic, etc. once I worked my schedule out.
122 I never had a problem finding a CLOSE parking spot at Shelton
123 Parking at UA is HORRIBLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
124 I am from Tuscaloosa and Shelton is about a mile way from my house. Also, I did not worry about having to drive around about a million times in order to find a parking space.
126 Shelton is easier to get around... everything is in one location
128 Plenty of parking in the front of the school as well as the back.
134 At UA there is always difficulty finding a place to park. It does not matter what time of day or even night! Also students at UA will run over you for a place to park!
140 Parking is dangerous in the G.P. annex area, there is no speed limit signs, no white lines for division in traffic, students park in their cars in the "street" where thru traffic pass, it is a headache, students are rude.
Parking at UA? You're kidding right? At least at Shelton I never had to walk a mile or more to class!

again getting classes done in the summer a lot cheaper

Parking was just better at Shelton. I never received parking tickets there and I didn't have to walk a mile to get to the building.

It was easier to talk to staff. They seemed to actually want to help you with your problems.

Parking is horrible at Alabama

Parking at the UA is very terrible. I can get to campus 45 minutes to an hour and still not get a park. So, most students just leave because you can't find a park or you're designated to park there. And that's not right, if you pay tuition you should be able to park.

Parking in very inconvenient on the UA campus.

teachers are more willing to work with your schedule and understand the real working environment. Many professors know the theory, some have worked their profession but are totally unwilling to help with time constraints

Parking at UA is horrible!!

I don't believe that transfer students should have all decal parking and not commuter and they have already been in college (24 credit hour or more of course)

not enough parking for commuter at UA

This way we are able to get one-on-one attention from the professor. I know that the professors at Alabama don't time because they have so many students, but I do think they could elaborate a little more on their discussions.

Shelton built their parking lot to accommodate any number of students

Was living in Moundville so it was a much shorter distance to drive. Parking was much easier and less distance to walk.

Shelton is cheaper

The university's parking is dreadful. There isn't a park except two, three, even four blocks from where you need to be.

Alabama parking = nightmare. (That's why I bike!)

there aren't any zoned areas for parking. faculty and staff are treated the same as students

Tuition is cheaper at Shelton state.

I chose to enroll at Shelton State Community College for the first two years of my college experience because of its monetary and geographical economy--I received music and academic scholarships to the school and lived within 3 miles of its entrance.

The biology course that I am taking through Shelton is taught over the internet and I can go at my own pace and I know what is going to be on the tests and I am better prepared.

parking is a thousand times better!!!! The parking decks are too far away from my classes. I don't have time to wait on a parking space for thirty minutes but you really don't get a choice b/c you will receive a ticket quicker than you blink your eye!!!!!

all my classes were in the same building it was easy

I lived less than a mile from Shelton. I always found a place to park.

There is more student parking than there is faculty and Shelton is easier to get to. There is not as much vehicle/pedestrian congestion.

I live 5 minutes away from Shelton

I live off campus and Shelton is actually closer to my house

UA's parking is terrible and if you can't get a spot and have to park on the grass or something you get a ticket no matter what

Full scholarship

It's more convenient to pay less tuition

Shelton State is far away. I had to walk a fucking mile to class everyday

I have gotten several parking tickets while at UA. The amount we pay for tuition is fairly substantial, especially for a student with a job. Twenty-five dollars for a parking violation? You people have gone mad. If I could have gotten a four year

parking is same for both teachers and students. First come, first serve!!!

All classes are in one building. No need to walk around in bad weather.

Classes are close together, instead of having to walk a couple of blocks. When having to walk to class, the building is all air conditioned.

The parking is better and it's not a hassle where you park.

closer to my home
There are enough spaces for the decals sold. You may still have to walk a short distance but you are not spending as much time looking for a spot.

No more convenient, but parking is not as much of a problem.

Parking was a problem at Shelton but it's experienced more here at the UA.

Parking is horrible at UA

Parking was always guaranteed. You were not late to class because you could not find a parking space.

Parking wasn't near the hassle at Shelton as it is here
closer to home

UA parking is a hassle

Shelton has classes scheduled every semester for every course. You do not get that at UA.

if you park in the wrong place at Shelton it is only a 5 dollar fine
3a. Financially cheaper at Shelton (check all that apply)

Percent

| 32 | Presidential scholarship                      | 108 | scholarships |
| 64 | Finances were rather insignificant to me as I carried | 115 | EASIER TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP |
| 71 | Scholarship                                     | 152 | Was offered a FULL academic scholarship at Shelton |
| 78 | Had scholarship to Shelton                     | 154 | Full Scholarship to Shelton |
| 80 | easier, smaller                                | 162 | can't stress it enough- cheaper |
| 93 | I was offered a full scholarship to Shelton and | 174 | scholarship |
|    | nothing from UA                                | 184 | money not an issue |
| 99 | had a full scholarship at Shelton state        | 206 | Scholarships are easier to get |
|    |                                               | 251 | it is 1500 less a semester |

3b. Please elaborate on the cost issue(s) you indicated.

1. It is less expensive to attend Shelton and then transfer to UA to obtain my degree.
2. Classes at Shelton are several hundred less than at the UA
3. was able to get a Pell grant
4. Shelton has one flat fee; UA has dining dollars, course fees, etc...
5. Costs are affordable.
6. to take three summer classes was far less expensive at Shelton
7. As an out-of-state student it was much cheaper to take the class at Shelton instead of Alabama.
8. I dropped four classes and it cost me about 1000 dollars whereas it would have been at least twice as much
9. I knew that I could get a Pell grant to go to Shelton. I did not know until this year what kind of help I could get to attend the University.
10. My scholarship doesn't cover summer courses and it was MUCH cheaper to take classes at Shelton.
11. Shelton is just cheaper!
12. As an out of state student it is extremely expensive to take summer classes at the University.
13. classes are much less
14. less expensive/had scholarship
15. !2 hours at Shelton is about $1000; here it is almost 2 1/2 times that.
16. Much Much cheaper
17. the financial costs are reduced greatly by taking classes at Shelton
18. Classes are cheaper than at UA
19. I would much rather pay $200 per class than $600 per class.
20. it is cheaper (what else can you say!)
21. The tuition at The University of Alabama is outrageously high compared to Shelton State.
22. The summer class price per credit hour was cheaper at Shelton than at UA.
23. Classes are considerable less expensive at Shelton.
24. I am trying to pay for school myself and the more I work the better. If I took all of my classes at UA it would take up the entire day, EVERY day.
25. It is less expensive at Shelton and for the core classes that transfer there wasn't any noticeable difference in the quality that I noticed.
26. Half the money for twice the education.
27. For summer classes it is a lot cheaper to attend Shelton
28. classes are cheaper at Shelton
29. The university's tuition rate was astronomical compared to that of Shelton State
30. I was able to take the classes at Shelton on full scholarship.
31. UA is just too expensive for the summer classes
32. I can afford to take classes at Shelton. UA is TOO expensive
I am a mother with 3 children and I was paying for school out of pocket. Shelton State was 1/2 the price of Alabama.

Classes at the UA average about $650 for 3 credit hours, whereas Shelton offers the same class for $260.

Prices are more reasonable there.

Attending Shelton helps to keep debts low

I received a summer scholarship from Shelton.

Shelton is much cheaper than Alabama. (Up to $200 a class cheaper) When you get no support from your parents it's hard to pay for school and bills. The parking decals are much cheaper at Shelton. Shelton recognized me as an independent student.

Alabama did not offer me a scholarship- Shelton did

Perhaps the only reason I'm going to the UA is because my step-father is employed there, therefore I get tuition for 1/2 price.

UA's tuition during the summer costs too much for someone who is on financial aid. Last summer I took two classes for 600 odd dollars and at UA one class was 500 odd dollars.

When I first went back to school I could not afford to attend Alabama. If I could have finished at Shelton State I would still be there.

When you can take a course at Shelton for much cheaper then there really is no explanation.

I had just moved to Alabama from Colorado because my father is in the military. Shelton was able to offer in-state tuition which much less expensive than out of state tuition at UA.

Tuition is one half to one third less per credit hour at Shelton. When you've used all your loan money during the Spring and Fall and are having to pay cash for summer classes Shelton is the only option.

It is actually a lot to me for one class at Shelton because I am out of state, so everything is expensive.

UA to expensive to take classes during summer

Shelton classes are half the cost of university classes

I was surprised to find how much cheaper Shelton classes are

same courses, same credit, just less money

I attended on a senior scholarship

Classes are cheaper at Shelton

Tuition is about half of that at UA

I pay for my education with the help of student loans. I can't afford to take them during the summer because of the expense

IT'S DIFFICULT TO RECIEVE A SCHOLARSHIP AT UA IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A 4.0 GPA AND AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

The class was a lot cheaper than it would have been @ UA

Much less expensive!!! My main reason!

A summer class at SSCC is half the cost of the same class at the University.

Classes at Shelton are about half the price than at the university. Plus it is easier to get some type of financial aid at Shelton. I have never had to pay for tuition there.

It is much cheaper for the exact same courses that are at UA. Especially during the summer terms!

cheaper, scholarship for the summer

Half the price.

to me it was stupid to take classes at UA and pay twice as much
It was cheaper.

I could take more courses at Shelton for a lot less money and have more one on one instruction from instructors. Also, books were not nearly as expensive at Shelton. I also USED my books at Shelton. That is not the case at UA.

The prices are much less to take summer courses than out at Shelton- by at least half- often more.

I have to take student loans while I attend UA, at Shelton I did not have to.

You get the same education for half the price at Shelton.

As I stated before, the cost is half the price at Shelton.

I wanted to keep my student loans down as much as possible.

UA was too expensive to take classes all 4 years. A community college fit my financial needs for the first two years.

My financial aid money is devoured by Alabama. At Shelton State I would always receive a refund check.

Shelton is a lot cheaper and they do not have all those rules.

I already pay out-of-state tuition and paying upwards of a thousand dollars for a summer class was out of the question. At Shelton it was only 400 dollars per class.

it’s just cheaper. They seem to have more local knowledge about jobs and job placement is fast and immediate.

The class that I took at Shelton was less expensive that the U of A. I was able to easily pay for it myself through summer work.

The summer classes at Shelton are cheaper. $300 vs. $800 for the same 4 hour class.

At Shelton it cost around $300 for a class, at UA it is around $600-$800

it’s more economical for summer school and to re-take classes

I didn’t have to take our any student loans to pay for the semester

less expensive, but not really a concern

I received a two year scholarship at Shelton

I am on financial aid but summer school is so much cheaper.

I had to pay for only 2 semesters out of 5 semesters that I was at Shelton. They offered me a Presidential Scholarship for one semester and for 2 semesters I was on an Athletic Scholarship for being on the dance team.

In the summer for 3 hours at Shelton it cost $252. For me that is more affordable than Alabama.

Tuition at Shelton is about $90 per hour and for me I ended up paying $900 to go to school full-time at Shelton as opposed to $9000 at Bama.

very inexpensive

tuition is less expensive for same quality of education

Shelton is less expensive

It was cheaper for me to go to Shelton. A hundred dollars is a lot of money to me and I needed to keep what ever I could.

Not much else to say...

Vocational Rehabilitation paid for the 2 years

same education for less, class transfer

tuition is much cheaper at Shelton

I had a book scholarship that helped along with my tuition.

My parent’s only expenses for my first two years of college were my books.

scholarships are more available

At the time I was attending Shelton my courses were about 45% cheaper at Shelton than at The University.

It is not as expensive per hour to attend Shelton.

It is a lot less expensive to take classes there and the teachers are even better than some at UA, especially the math teachers

The tuition hike at the UA helped out with decision to attend Shelton

I am married with a child and have to work full time. Money is a major issue.

classes are less

Full Scholarship

I wanted to bring up my GPA and needed a cheaper school

I learned just as much in a class at Shelton as I would have at a UA class and at a fraction of the cost.

Shelton gave me a scholarship and UA did not

At Shelton I could take classes for free b/c my father is a former teacher.

UA’s classes cost more than Shelton’s do in the summer time
The classes cost approximately 1/2 the price.
The same classes are offered at a cheaper tuition.
I could pay cash at Shelton.
as long as my credits from Shelton transfer I don’t think it matters where I take the classes I need. I could afford to take summer classes at Alabama, but why waste the money on that if Shelton is just as good?
One 3 hour class at UA is $638 and less than $200 at Shelton
UA is not out of state & international student friendly. The cost of attendance is too high and it keeps going up. There are scholarship opportunities at Shelton for out of state and international students, tuition is reasonable and stable
Tuition is significantly less expensive at Shelton, yet they are feeling the crunch of the state budget crisis as well.
The University is outrageous with its tuition rates
Shelton was considerably cheaper, yet after 3 yrs. at Shelton, I feel the educational level was just as good.
classes are much more inexpensive
class fees are half the price that they are at the University
Better teachings and caring for students at Shelton for the money.
UA tuition is too high
twice as less
I’m an out of state student and Shelton was still a lot less expensive than UA.
I could get 3 classes at Shelton for the price of 1 at UA
### 4a. Better teaching style at Shelton (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>More one-on-one interaction with teacher(s) at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>No language problems with teacher(s) at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>Overall teaching style is better at Shelton (i.e., better teachers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>Other, please list. (see below)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Online teaching
- Some classes seem less challenging
- Better at UA
- Class sizes
- The core classes and electives seem to be easier.
- No computer course for math
- MUCH MORE ORGANIZED
- Better paced
- Easier
- Cheaper
- At SSCC your instructor is a professor and not a student. At SSCC on the first day your instructor won’t tell you “I don’t have a degree in this course, but I am still qualified,” also the teachers don’t cancel class as much.
- More student interaction from professors.
- Easier to approach
- NO GRAD STUDENTS

### 4b. Please elaborate on the teaching style issue(s) you indicated.

- Fewer burnt-out professors teaching at Shelton and fewer international PHD students teaching that are difficult to understand.
- Less students in the classroom
- Not only were the classes smaller but the teachers were not foreign and they understood me better.
- The classes are smaller and the teachers have a smaller load. when it came to my math professor she was much better at communicating and teaching than the three I have had at UA
- The class I took was much easier to understand then the one at Alabama.
- Yes it is easier to learn at Shelton but it can not be challenging enough at times.
- The course was more personal, not a huge lecture hall. Also, I could understand my teacher (as opposed to UA calculus teachers who are almost always foreign)
- Some of the teachers at UA have an accent that is hard to understand.
- The professor at Shelton try to make sure you understand something completely before going to the next topic. She is more concerned with whether or not you understand the material than the professor I had for the same class at UA.
- Teachers at Shelton, with the exception of a few, suck. I have not had this problem at UA
- Because there are less students in each class the teacher student relationship is easier to develop and it allows for the one on one interaction.
- I have noticed that the University has a lot of foreign teachers, and that is usually a big barrier for students. I know that it has kept me from taking classes at the University such as Math or science.
- Teachers care about you and your grades much more at Shelton
- I’ve taken two math classes b/c I don’t like the way u of a does their math classes. I need smaller classes and an English speaking teacher. Also I don’t like taking math on computer
- The classes are smaller
- Smaller classes and with the smaller classes. Students are given more attention
- Shelton teachers are easier to contact and they’re easier to understand.
- I liked the one-on-one interaction b/c of smaller classes and all of there teachers spoke very well ENGLISH
At Shelton you have smaller classes so you can interact with your teacher one-on-one. The class size for the math class that I took at Shelton was smaller and there were more opportunities for me to have one-on-one help with the teachers. I also benefit more from the traditional style of teaching better. Teachers seem to care more since they do not have to deal with hundreds of students like 500 to 600 they may have 150 to 250 maybe. The classes are smaller and easier.

I am used to a teacher teaching me algebra, not a computer. I can interact better with an actual person teaching in the classroom.

Fewer in the classroom makes it easier for me to establish a relationship with my teachers. Although it doesn't make that much difference to me classes at Shelton have seemed smaller. I have had a few classes at UA where the professor's accent made him difficult to impossible to understand and their handwriting was worse.

UA Teachers teach each class as if you were majoring in that subject. Just about every teacher can speak English that students understand. Classes are not so over crowded. The classes are a lot smaller at Shelton therefore more one on one time is available. Teachers are always at there office unlike my experience with teachers at the university. Also I have a chemistry lab with foreigners teaching and can not understand a word.

There is a smaller teacher-student ratio for most of the classes at Shelton State. The teachers also make more of an effort to get to know their students individually. Afraid to get a math teacher with a heavy accent. It is hard enough to understand. Smaller classes.

The classes are smaller and the course is not "rushed" like it is at the UA. Unfortunately for me I have no choice but to take the rest of my courses at the UA because I don't drive and there is no transportation that goes close enough to Shelton State.

Shelton has more American teachers who really want the students in class to do well. Shelton instructors know how to bridge the intelligence gap between me and the instructor a whole lot better than most Alabama instructors. Because classes do not have 200 students in them student-teacher communication is much easier. Many of the labs and classes are taught by students who barely speak English. If they cannot speak English fluently they should not be allowed to teach a class. It does not help the students learn if they cannot understand the teacher.

If you take a Math Class @ UA it is on the computer. I mean @ Shelton you have an actual teacher to have one on one communication with.

I've had good & bad teachers at both locations. But, never have I had an oriental instructor that couldn't pronounce words adequately. I'm sorry, but if the TEACHER doesn't know how to communicate effectively, why should the students be expected to?

The classes are smaller and they are more willing to help you in class. The math instructors at UA are very hard to understand. I took Math 112 at UA 3 times and went to Shelton and passed it.

Teachers are more willing to work with you one on one if you have problems they better explain, and take more time.

Teachers at Shelton seem to care more about how a student does than University teachers. The teachers at Shelton are also less arrogant, not as stuck on themselves as UA.

There are no foreigners that teach there student/teacher ratio better proportioned.

There was more one on one interaction with teachers at Shelton, but they were more like high school classes. I did not feel challenged at Shelton. The teachers are not as knowledgeable. I did experience a language problem with a teacher at Shelton.

All my classes were smaller than at UA so I was able to interact more with the teacher.

teachers are more willing to help you. they seem to care about their students.

business classes at UA are terrible to keep up with.

The instructors at Shelton seemed to be more concerned with the knowledge that the students obtain and less with a pass/fail rate. Sometimes at UA I feel like a number instead of a person.

The one-on-one is great at Shelton; I love that type of environment. All the teachers I had spoke really good English; they were more personal w/ you. You weren't just a number and grade.

At Shelton the instructors make themselves available to students much more than at the UA. They seem to be much more personable and caring about student needs. I frequently go back and visit with former instructors at Shelton.
it doesn't matter how smart a student is if he can't understand what the teacher says it is nearly impossible to learn. The language barrier is the biggest reason I got out of engineering.
more one on one and easy to understand everyone
There are some fantastic professors at Alabama, however I have had more good experiences with teachers at Shelton than at Alabama. Some of my professors have barely been able to speak English and that resulted in me having to retake 2 courses.
Class rooms are smaller, and teachers dedicate more time to students
I haven't had any real problems yet with this but many of my friends have. I have had only 1 foreign teacher in math (beom lee) and he was great and spoke great English.
THE PROFESSORS ARE ACTUALLY IN THEIR OFFICE DURING LISTED HOURS AND DON'T MIND ASSISTING STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME
I was allowed to study on my own time and it allowed me to use my own styles to learn
I definitely would say Alabama has better teachers, but the classes have less people therefore the teachers were more helpful and cared for you too. ALSO, there are no language problems there unlike UA.
The first day before classes I walked up to my professor to ask him about a book. He took an immediate interest in my background. From that point on he VERY quickly learned every students name in the class while still teaching 3 other courses
The classes were smaller and the teachers took time to explain things
Most teachers at Shelton enjoy what they do. They like to help and they find ways to make the class more enjoyable. They get paid much less than they would at the university, so you know that they are there for more enjoyable reasons.
As I said above, the teachers at Shelton care about you and how well you do in the class. They seem to go the extra mile to help you understand the material. Also, the class sizes are much smaller so you get more one on one help from the teacher
easier
The teachers are more personal with their students.
most freshman level classes at UA are in large lecture rooms, where as at Shelton the classes only contain 30-40 students per class. not only that I have had problems with foreign teachers at the UA.
some teachers are too old to teach at Alabama
The one on one time made some things easier like math. At UA instructors are hard to understand because they are foreign and there are so many students that there is little time for extra help when needed.
Many of the teachers there have English as their first language which makes learning easier.
They teach more on a student's level rather than talking over your head.
my quiz experience I have more than 20 question, bonus question don't consist of text material, e.g., Who played in super bowl was a bonus question.
I felt like I had much greater access to the professors at Shelton. Every professor I have encountered there has taken great interest in their students' well being.
Aside from more one on one interaction and not having a language barrier problem the teachers at Shelton gladly accept questions and comments. UA teachers can (some not all) make you feel like an idiot when you don't know how to work a problem I HATE THAT.
I had to drop a class at UA because I could not understand the professor- a problem I never encountered at Shelton.
Smaller classes
All teachers at Shelton actually care about there students, unlike the tenures Professors and GRAD STUDENTS I have teaching my classes. GRAD STUDENTS really do not know how to teach, they need a seminar or class on teaching before they TRY to teach.
The teachers are more available to you in the classroom. You don't have to make a special appointment to meet with them. I have only had one teacher at Shelton that was hard to understand because of her language.
Much more personal during the Freshman/Sophomore years.
The teachers got to know their students and really seemed to care.
See 2b.
Getting a professor’s help at UA has never been a problem, but at Shelton the teachers hung around longer after class.
The teachers there will really work with and make you feel like they care about your education.
With summer courses the five weeks go so quickly that I liked the smaller class size because I knew that I could really talk to my professor and learn even in a short amount of time.
teachers have smaller classes and tend to spend more one on one time which makes me want to try harder. Interaction with other students is much more relaxed because they are not trying to get you to vote for some crap or join one of 5000 organizations.

The teachers do not go into so much detail that is not necessary like UA teachers do.

I have found that many teachers at the University (particularly at the introductory level) lecture to students in a manner that would require them to have previous knowledge of the subject. This has driven me away from classes in the past.

For the most part the teachers at Shelton are more interactive with students in the lower level classes. To me it’s similar to your upper level classes at UA

Language problems at UA are the real problem, especially in the math department

Same as I stated before. They have a more caring attitude. They show that they are in it to help, not for the paycheck.

I had no problem understanding my teachers at Shelton. All of my teachers spoke clear English. Also, I had no problems talking to my teachers and we had more one-on-one time with one another.

Teacher seem to have more time for their students

Classes are smaller and the teachers are people who actually can speak and be heard clearly in the American language- ENGLISH

Many of the classes at UA have foreign teachers that are very hard to understand. Also, it is easier to talk to many of the teachers at Shelton because they have more free time.

I took Math 112 at Shelton so I didn’t have to take the class on a computer. Math is much easier for me if someone is there to help that I can understand in person instead of a computer.

Many professors at the U of A are not from here and the accent of their language can make it hard in lecture settings to understand.

teachers of the core classes seem to be more helpful

teachers are NORMAL in that they write out tests that apply to the knowledge that the student has from the lectures and the book.

Since the class sizes are smaller students can have more contact with their professors. It felt like high school again. I liked it. :)

UA is bigger than Shelton which makes Shelton less intimidating.

This is true for freshman level courses....not the case with all classes though.

Teachers have more practical knowledge of subjects

This is one of the biggest reasons- you don’t have to carry the world on your shoulders in order to get an education, teachers care

Much smaller classes

I enjoyed the interaction with teachers at Shelton, but prefer the teaching style at the University.

I worked closely with the professors I encountered. As professors were not actively engaged in research endeavors, a greater amount of time and focus was applied to students' academic interests, especially tutoring and office hours.

The biology teacher cares about each student and does her best to make sure that we understand the material and doesn't not try to “trick” us and wants us to succeed.

The math teachers are great at math at both institutions but if I can't understand the instructor then that really doesn't matter.

Small class sizes. Everyone spoke English.

I am currently taking a math class with a foreign teacher who I can not understand.

The teachers are more personable and more willing to help inside and outside of class. The math teachers explain things a lot better.

All math class at UA are taught by people that don't speak English.

Sometimes I miss something else important b/c I am trying to figure out what the foreign teacher said in his/her previous sentence.

The teachers there seemed more laid back and more approachable

Professors at Shelton seemed more concerned about each student whereas professors at UA seem more concerned about themselves.

Slower teaching, learn easier

I had to drop a math 121 this semester b/c I couldn't understand my teacher

Fewer people in a class room and the teachers overall really care about students doing well and learning a lot!
When one has a relationship with his/her teacher it creates a better learning environment. People learn more when a subject is taught in clear English. Because I have a learning disability in Math I knew I would have more one-on-one help at Shelton. Also, the method of teaching (no computer assignments) at Shelton was better. (Doing math assignments on the computer is not that feasible for me. The teachers at Shelton State are teachers not researchers that have to teach a class. Teachers don't consider it a hassle to help students understand things when they have questions. If a student is failing a class and he/she asks for help the teacher is quick to respond to what extra material might need to be studied.

Teaching are more in depth and they have time to listen and they are willing to help. The classes at Shelton are smaller and you have no problem understanding the teachers. I felt like the classes were smaller at Shelton. I would much rather take some classes at Shelton, such as biology, because instead of having a huge lecture class like Alabama offers, I can have a class size of 30 or less people enabling me to have more interaction with my professors.

There are some classes I have enjoyed taking at Shelton and others here at the UA. It all depends on the kind of class one is enrolled in and the teaching style of the professor. The University is not focused on the students in core class requirements. Smaller classes make the teachers more willing to get to know you and work with you in and out of class. They all speak English.

I had a teacher teaching a math based class whose first language is English. The instructor not a TA is in lab. For the academics the teachers are nicer and easier to understand but I like my major classes and teachers. Classes are much smaller and professors more available one-on-one.
5a. Better learning environment at Shelton (check all that apply)

Percent

[12.8] Facilities are better at Shelton
[68.0] Smaller class sizes at Shelton
[ 2.3] Other, please list. (see below)

27 Easier to find teachers
67 interaction
110 I enjoy classes at both campuses
133 cheaper
162 Specialized facilities such as Mac labs are stretched too thinly. There is no leeway because the school is too big to be personalized
218 Scholarship

5b. Please elaborate on the learning environment issue(s) you indicated.

6 Smaller classes were good because of the one-on-one interaction.
8 I felt more comfortable asking questions in the small class.
9 More one on one learning
10 My only concepts of college were the images I obtained from watching TV and movies. The idea of being in a class of hundred or more just did not seem very inviting to me.
18 As a 27 year old adult returning to college I wanted to start at Shelton because of the smaller class sizes. By starting off small I became acclimated to college within the first semester at Shelton and transferred to the University feeling better.
19 smaller size makes it feel like high school. this is appropriate because many of their teachers teach high school
23 Here at the UA I found some instructors to be jerks
25 I like working one on one with teachers and actually knowing people in my classes. I never felt like "just a number" at Shelton.
27 Bigger classrooms for medium size classes
30 smaller classes allow more one-on-one attention
35 I enjoy my classes being close together and not having to walk outside to classes.
40 See 4b.
42 The size of the class just allows for more one-on-one time with the teachers.
47 Smaller classes make it more fun and enjoyable to participate in class.
51 Smaller classes so that teachers are not overwhelmed.
52 The facilities are always clean and just overall are nicer than the old buildings at the university.
53 I liked the small classes because it was like the University I had just transferred to UA from
55 I think that the transition from high school to college was much smoother because I decided to attend Shelton State versus the University. I was very intimidated by the sheer size of the University of Alabama campus.
57 The classes are smaller, which is helpful because you can get the help you need
58 Shelton has smaller classes so if you get lost during a lecture you can ask the teacher to go back over the material. At the University, the classes are so large everyone cannot do this.
61 I learn better with a smaller class size where the teacher knows my name
66 classes were smaller and more intimate
67 Instructors at Shelton interact better than most at Alabama.
69 Classes are much smaller and the smaller classrooms are better environments in which to learn
70 Classes are smaller at Shelton but once you get into your main studies at UA the classes are about the same size.
75 Most classes are too large for me to actually be able to concentrate in.
76 The photography lab is a great example. Shelton's lab is MUCH more comfortable, not to mention in wonderful working condition. New equipment. Better all the way around.
Obviously classes are smaller which makes it easier to learn.

Facilities are better because they are newer. Class size is a real plus, more one on one at Shelton.

The class sizes were smaller at Shelton, but that is not always helpful. It is easier for students to act out in a smaller class setting. It is also more obvious when the teachers show favoritism.

See question 4b.

smaller classes make it easier to learn, and provide more opportunities from teacher.

they actually try to help you when help is needed.

I like the smaller class rooms because the teacher gets more involved in helping the student. There is no computer program that teaches you. You get to ask the TEACHER questions and have him/her help you out. Bama is ok as far as class room size goes.

The largest class I was enrolled in at Shelton had 35 students. I always felt free to ask questions and express opinions. In contrast, several classes I have enrolled at the UA have had 75 or more students enrolled.

Everything is in one place.

I dropped a history at UA because there were over 200 people in the class, so I took a history at Shelton with 30 people in it and got an A.

smaller classes mean more one on one

I like smaller class sizes

Smaller classes make it easier to pay attention

I liked that the class size was smaller

I like more one on one time.

Shelton is so clean and the class sizes are much smaller.

The facilities at Shelton are a lot newer and in better shape than some at Alabama.

Although the classes ARE smaller, when I transferred to UA I discovered that class size doesn’t matter because a student can approach a teacher with concerns at ANY TIME.

I enjoyed the smaller class sizes.

less people in a class is always a good thing.

Smaller classes were one of the reasons I went to Shelton, but it is not that big of a deal.

For the most part Shelton has a much nicer facility.

Smaller classes means I on I attention and you get to know your fellow students better. These factors make for better grades and much easier to understand the material.

101 classes usually had less than 50 students per class and at night the classes were even smaller.

you can hear better and group discussions

Teachers get on a more personal level ay Shelton and want to help you.

Ties in to more personal contact

smaller classes mean more one-on-one interaction

It’s not hard to interact with students because of the smaller classes.

Newer building at Shelton and the classrooms were a good size to fit the number of students in each class.

Shelton is student friendly than UA.

30-40 people per class at Shelton

easier to learn

I enjoyed the closeness of everyone there.

Not the case all the time.

I did not want big classes for my core classes

smaller classes enable you to communicate with teachers much easier

easier to get to know your teacher

I feel now that I'm getting more for my money at the University

The learning environment at Shelton State was composed of students with what seemed to be--for the majority--a lesser drive to learn than what I have witnessed on campus at UA.

It helps because you become more acquainted with other students when there is only 20-30 people in the class rather than 300.

The classes are newer, more air conditioned, better desks

You don’t feel intimidated, professor's won't move on until everyone understands. Isn't that what you're paying for anyway?

The classes at Shelton felt like you were back in high school I was not as impressed with the environment there as I was at the UA.
216 teachers at Shelton know who is in class and have more to go on than a number grade
221 Classes were smaller, thus making a learning environment or in-class discussion possible.
222 all the halls and rooms are exactly the same and its always cold
224 more one on one attention
227 The biology and chemistry classes aren't as big as over here!
228 Better learning environment
232 Shelton is brand new compared to some of the 50 or more year old buildings at the university
236 Smaller class sizes helps students to better understand because there is more one-on-one help with the
237 instructor.
242 Because of the smaller classes the teacher has more time to spend one-on-one they are not overloaded with
244 students.
248 The Shelton campus is very nice, but that is not what I really care about. I like the smaller class size
249 because I can have more contact with the teachers and other students.
252 Shelton did not break down classes into lectures with over 200 students per class, so more one on one time
256 for the basic classes that really mattered.
258 all of my classes had less than 30 students
260 Yes, the UA has some really nice facilities, much better than Shelton. But when you are in a class of 300
262 people- well it really doesn’t matter. And you will not learn as much either because the teacher can not give one on
266 read 4b
6a. Curriculum easier at Shelton (check all that apply)

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<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Thought I would get a higher grade by taking the course(s) at Shelton</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>[52.3]</td>
<td>Thought I would learn more and understand it better.</td>
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<td>[ 7.9]</td>
<td>easier to get the classes for major</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explained better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>did not know what I wanted to do</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Classes are easier</td>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Thought I would learn more and understand it better.</td>
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<td>59</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Explained better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>better understanding of subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>clearer expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>I was more comfortable since was an older student</td>
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<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE IN THE CURRICULUM TAUGHT AT THE TWO INSTITUTIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>classes were taught that are not offered at Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>168</td>
<td>grading</td>
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<tr>
<td>178</td>
<td>the courses are easier at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>208</td>
<td>Curriculum was more exciting with real interactions,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>lower tuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>I would be able to take the class in an amount of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>241</td>
<td>classes are obviously easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Courses at Shelton are generally easier and less stressful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>The professors go slower and you can understand better.</td>
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<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Some classes at UA are unnecessarily hard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Math dept at UA sucks. They don't post their teachers on the class schedule because no one would sign up for all the crappy foreign teachers. (Is their not any American Calculus teachers out their).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>I don't think you would necessarily get a different grade at Shelton, you still have to work for your grade. I just think the teachers there are more realistic about their expectations of what you should have learned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Some of the classes are easier to take at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>some UA instructors tend to grade a too hard for certain courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>I understood the subject matter better there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>I actually did receive higher grades at Shelton because the learning environment is better. Because the classes are smaller, not all tests have to be multiple choice and the instructors can give test questions that allow students to think critically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>It seems like a lot of professors make the class harder than it should be. It's almost like some of them are on a power trip. When I took some of these classes at Shelton the teachers understood that you had a life outside of school (i.e. work).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Again, this is not the primary reason I took the class here, but I have heard that most classes are easier at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Look at my GPA from Shelton, compared to my GPA from the UA. Enough said. Classes are smaller therefore learning is much easier, and much more enjoyable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6b. Please elaborate on the curriculum issue(s) you indicated.

6       The classes don’t vary too much in the level of competitiveness. I studied just as hard at Shelton as I do at UA.
9       It is easier at Shelton
11      The classes did not involve "busy work" reading… The teachers make sure you understand a concept before moving on to new material.
19      Shelton is horrible about advising, also about career information and making sure students are on the right track
23      There is more one on one help at Shelton.
24      Because of the lower teacher to student ratio I did feel like I would do better at Shelton than at the university.
25      I knew my grades would be better at Shelton because I got one on one time with my teachers and I didn't have to make an appointment to speak with them.
27      Don’t have foreign teachers to teach classes
35      Courses at Shelton are generally easier and less stressful.
41      The professors go slower and you can understand better.
47      Some classes at UA are unnecessarily hard.
49      Math dept at UA sucks. They don't post their teachers on the class schedule because no one would sign up for all the crappy foreign teachers. (Is their not any American Calculus teachers out their).
52      I don't think you would necessarily get a different grade at Shelton, you still have to work for your grade. I just think the teachers there are more realistic about their expectations of what you should have learned.
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74      Again, this is not the primary reason I took the class here, but I have heard that most classes are easier at Shelton
76      Look at my GPA from Shelton, compared to my GPA from the UA. Enough said. Classes are smaller therefore learning is much easier, and much more enjoyable.
I thought the teacher would care more if I made a good grade or not at Shelton, not necessarily that it was easier.

The majority of the classes aren’t as difficult as they are at Shelton.

More one on one attention.

I thought math would be easier there

I thought that I would get higher grades in subjects like Math, Economics, and Statistics. I’m really bad in those subjects and Shelton seemed to teach them on a more elementary level.

Classes were easier.

if you need help then you will receive a better grade

Generally at Shelton, the instructor is clear about what he/she expects. At UA, requirements tend to be open to interpretation.

Less going on. You don’t always have to be checking the internet (bamamail, webCT, college homepage, etc.) to see what’s going on. You find out what to do in class; teacher goes over it and you might/might not get homework.

Everything that I’ve taken at Shelton I’ve done well in, whereas I’ve struggled in some of my UA classes that were not major/minor related.

Summer classes are easier there. They have math professors that speak English -- clearly spoken English!

I thought I could get a better grade there and I got an A. It doesn’t get much better than that.

I think everyone thinks that a community college is going to be easier than a university.

classes at Shelton are much easier at Shelton

has a rep for being easier

Since teachers help more grades are higher

classes are easier at Shelton, but they are not as challenging at the university

Easier than Biology class at UA

On some classes, why struggle through a class at UA that doesn't mean anything to your major!

Even though this is definitely not true at this point (as the curriculum is the same if not harder at SSCC) you typically hear of such, which might seem deceiving because why else would UA approve it as a transfer if it were truly easier?

Thought I might, however that was not the case. It’s still hard if you don’t put in maximum effort, which being at SSCC for a class I actually laxed off more than I would have at the University.

I dropped AC 210 at UA because I was about to fail. I took it at Shelton and got an A.

Teachers make the information easier and more enjoyable to learn. They also will work with you about extra credit if you have a bad test day.

Shelton is easier

Because of smaller class sizes, you have more one-on-one time with your teacher, so you feel like you can get extra help more conveniently than at Alabama. The teachers here don’t care if you fail their class.

not that the classes were easier, but that teachers took more time with you to make sure you understood what was being taught.

Certain classes ARE easier at Shelton, pure and simple. I am sure I am paying for loss of the quality as we speak!

Usually the material is the same but more time is spent on helping the student understand since there are people in the classroom that may not be up to par.

What can I say except that Shelton seems to be easier, not as tough.

Shelton is just as hard as UA believe me they try to make it good and hard in most classes (math 121 was offered on a computer at Shelton when I took it)

I heard that Shelton was easier, but I found out it is just as difficult.

Because it is more personal and the instructor interact to help you more.

I thought I would learn more by having smaller classes.

I was not pleased with the curriculum because I felt I would be getting a better education at UA, but I could not afford UA and had to take night classes when I attended.

The smaller classes at Shelton State make it easier to learn and make good grades.

their classes are easier.

Specialized classes that make college fun are not always offered here. For example, I took a screen printing class, just one, I now have my own t-shirt company making more than my part time job.

Classes are better taught at Shelton so I thought I would get a better grade.

I have gotten higher grades at Shelton (with the exception of Math).
I believe that the curriculum for sociology was just as it would be here at the UA. They don’t try and cover 8 chapters at a time. To me, they focus more on what we need to know and not on trying to get through the whole textbook.

Same classes but simply better instruction in some cases.

I’m not sure why, but many of the courses at Shelton include the same material as UA but whether the teaching styles, size of classrooms, etc. are better, it is simply easier to learn there, especially in such classes as MATH!!!!

I knew I would do better by taking math at Shelton because it is taught by a teacher instead of a computer. Teachers tend to want to help more at Shelton.

Most professors at the UA don’t speak English and/or do not correlate the information of their lectures with their tests.

Classes are MUCH easier at Shelton. They "baby" their students!

Much easier learning environment.

My GPA has dropped since I transferred to Bama.

My Shelton GPA was higher.

The equivalent course at UA is extremely difficult and it should not be.

My GPA from my Shelton transcript was a 3.5, which includes two Ds.

I thought that I would have better teachers and make better grades at Shelton.

Because the classes were more seemingly more elementary I felt as if I would get a better grade in those harder classes if I took them at Shelton.

I felt that coming from high school to the university would be a big step. I felt I had a greater chance of success by starting at Shelton. Also I took a math course at Shelton because I have been warned about the difficulty of math at the university.

I did get a better grade at Shelton.

Some of the UA professors try and make courses harder than they have to be—they choose a teaching style that we don’t understand when they could teach the course differently and the students could possibly understand better.

I took American History I & II and I made a B & A and I don’t think I would have made that at U of A.

Tuition is lower, therefore I didn’t have to work two jobs outside of school to pay to go to class, thus making my class participation higher and my grades better.

Better learning environment plus teacher and student relationship equals better grades.

More one-on-one help.

The classes are more one on one so therefore you can receive help therefore helping you to learn more.

Generally, the classes are easier.

I took biology for majors at Shelton last summer because I was afraid to take it in a huge lecture class at Alabama. I didn’t think I could make as good a grade because I would have less contact with my teacher.

Statistics, Western Civ, and Econ are the classes I took there.

The courses at Shelton are somewhat easier and the teachers seem to operate in a more open and personal manor. While not completely unlike HS, it seems instructors there make an effort to reach out to students to assist them.

Easier teachers.

The curriculum isn’t necessarily easier, but most people get better grades at Shelton (most that I know anyway).
7a. Other

Percent
[13.2] Counselor/advisor recommended I take classes at Shelton
[20.7] Friends went to Shelton
[23.7] I am more comfortable at Shelton than UA
[ 8.6] Other, please list. (see below)

19 It was easier because I did not know what I wanted my major to be
53 Cheaper for summer
55 I received scholarships from Shelton State
67 price and presentation techniques
83 Not so overwhelming
102 Easing into college
110 the atmosphere is less congested

115 I WAS ABLE TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
118 Started at Shelton after high school and took some stuff that didn't transfer, so did get some laziness out of me.
130 had to decide on career cheaper
133

162 Classes were offered there that I couldn't take here.
Better summer schedule, night classes, they can work with your schedule more.
210 high school coach
214 no Friday classes
218 Scholarship
235 Forced to take the class at Shelton in order to keep up with what I need in order to get my degree because course was not offered at a time in which I could work and go to school.
237 to take harder classes during the summer and basically get ahead
238 I just take courses there during the summer so that my load during the school year won't be so tough

7b. Please elaborate on the other issue(s) you indicated.

6 I like to take summer classes at Shelton.
8 They suggested taking the class at Shelton because they knew it would be cheaper for me.
12 At the time, I was more comfortable at Shelton. Now, I like the UA.
25 I am from a small town. Shelton is a smaller school--I wanted to go there before I even tried coming to UA. I felt it would be wiser to do the college thing in steps.
30 it is more comfortable in a smaller class than a larger class
35 Shelton is smaller and a more pleasant environment.
47 I was not as intimidated to go to Shelton as I was to go to UA.
49 Its a good place to get going in your college career. Especially to get your basics over with.
51 Why pay twice as much for the same classes I can take somewhere else and get a better understanding of the material.
67 price and presentation techniques are better at Shelton
77 Smaller school don’t have to walk everywhere. Everything is all together.
83 Going from high school to Shelton wasn’t quite so overwhelming as going it would be to go straight to UA.
86 friends started @ Shelton and were able to transfer as juniors. I liked that, so I did the same
95 I had many friends that went to Bama first and they told me it would be better if I spent my first two years at Shelton, because coming from a smaller school I would like the class setting more and I did. It kind of eases you into the college environment.
97 I was much more comfortable at Shelton than I am at UA. As a student at UA, most of the time I feel that I'm just another customer. Some of this feeling I attribute to the fact that I am an older student and the college experience is geared more towards younger students.
102 Shelton was a good place to start college, especially as a less than exceptional student in high school. I was able to start at my own pace and "catch up." This made starting at UA an easier transition.
107 As an adult student with a family, I tend to fit in better and am more comfortable with students at Shelton vs. UA.
115 THE ADMINISTRATION AT SHIELTON IS MUCH MORE PERSONAL WITH THE STUDENT BODY THAN THE ADMINISTRATION IS AT UA. THE PRESIDENT AND DEANS WERE ALL VERY FRIENDLY AND KNEW MANY STUDENTS BY NAME
116 I knew other students who went to Shelton and got better grades
I learn better in more of a one-on-one setting.
I went to Shelton because my FRIENDS were going, that’s ALL. BIGGEST mistake of my life. When I transferred to UA I had a TON of elective courses. I was behind in Math because they told me not to take it since I "didn’t like it."
The atmosphere is more comfortable because it is not as big.
No one used to speak to me at UA, at Shelton someone had a smiling face and kind word.
UA seems to have too many sororities and fraternities. It seems to me that if you are not involved in these activities you have nothing to offer the university.
I knew other people that would be taking my classes with me over the summer so I felt more comfortable.
If students want to take a class and the class is not at a particular time that fits everyone’s schedule they can move it. Here the sky would fall first.
My counselor talked with a dean at Shelton to let me enroll in their classes, even though classes had begun earlier than UA summer classes. This was done b/c I couldn’t take that class I needed here due to schedule conflict.
I don’t feel pressured there. The atmosphere is so much calmer.
Most of my teachers that I had as a senior in high school recommended going to Shelton for a easier and a stress-free transition from high school to college.
I feel more at ease at Shelton.
I felt the transition from high school to college would be much easier going through Shelton before going to UA.
all my friends were there.
It feels more "homey" there.
you are just another person at UA, but at Shelton you are a student.
I felt like I was in high school again (not a good thing).
I am from Tuscaloosa and many of my High School friends went to Shelton State.
I was more comfortable taking core classes at Shelton than UA.
The class was a public speaking course and the class size at Shelton was less than 30 making it much less stressful.
Many people advised me to take classes at Shelton to get them out of the way and because they were easier and had better teachers.
My high school coach told me that it would be a good idea to start at Shelton.
Friends that had gone during the summer told me the classes were less demanding. This doesn’t mean I learned nothing though. It was just a less stressful environment and I didn’t feel as pressured going to a community college.
The other Social Work Students who had to take the econ class took it at Shelton.
Shelton has a more relaxed atmosphere you feel more at home.
I was more comfortable transitioning from high school to college life at a smaller college.
Because the course I need are either offered to seldom and never at a time when I could work I had to give up my job. If Sheldon State had some of the course I need at the present I would go.
Instead of jumping into the college scene I thought Shelton would better prepare me for the larger classes and larger work load.
Tuition is too high here so I am going back to Shelton a choice I have made and has been recommended.
I was more comfortable at a smaller school where classes were not miles away, but within the same building.
Shelton was easier to handle for me straight of high school the university seemed very daunting at the time and funds were low.

Shelton is a good stepping stone for those who aren't ready to go on to large universities right out of high school. The expenses are also very affordable and economic.

One of the major reasons I went to Shelton is primarily because I thought that was my only option. I never considered myself as U.A. material because that concept was never instilled in me. I knew I needed something more than a GED to get ahead in life.

The UA is a big jump from high school and some students are not ready for the jump. I was one of them. Basically, Shelton is hit or miss. I've had teachers there who know what they are talking about. These are usually very good professors. However I've had too many profs that are just horrible. Some people go to Shelton because they think it's easier.

I transferred to UA from Shelton so I don’t know if I apply to this survey. I went to Shelton to ensure a full scholarship at UA.

I chose Shelton because the cost is much lower and I don't feel as if high school prepared me(and others) well enough for the transition into a large university. I thought that Shelton would ease the transition.

I think Shelton is a great college and I would hope that the University would be honored to have students from Shelton as transfers. The students are definitely prepared when they get here.

It was a mistake to take classes at Shelton because I am in engineering and would like more transfer hours. I transferred so many electives that leaves me with not many more transfer hours.

I wish that UA would not hire teachers that the students can not understand b/c of there lack of ENGLISH speaking skills.

The main reason for me taking classes at Shelton was that the course wasn't offered that semester at UA or I couldn't work it into my schedule. The classes have seemed smaller at Shelton but this may be due to the fact that I mainly took only summer and

The math dept should be required to list the names of the teachers on the schedule of classes. Some students have a harder time understanding foreign people than others. We are paying for the class we should know who is teaching it.

I think it is ignorant for the university to ticket off campus drivers when more than half of the parking lots have been destroyed and more parking decals are issued than spots. Plus tuition has been raised again; for what reason? I think money.

If UA would lower their prices (specifically summer terms) then more people would attend UA. Also small class size and more times are offered at Shelton.

After taking Anatomy at Shelton and now taking Anatomy II at UA, I will say that the setup of Shelton’s Anatomy class makes learning easier.

The biggest problem I have with instructors at Alabama is most do not present material in a way I can understand it. When I finish a class at Shelton I know I am ready for the next class (even if it is at Alabama). I don’t feel that way when I finish most

UA is an excellent school and I am extremely proud to be a University of Alabama student; however I believe Shelton has a more comfortable learning environment.

My main problem was money. I live on my own and pay for everything myself. Through grant money and working I was able to attend Shelton for 3 years with out taking student loans. When I graduate from Alabama I will have attended here for 2 years.

I basically because it is cheaper, but the environment at UA is much better. they focus more in learning Shelton is just like passing by.

UA needs more night classes starting around 5pm or later.

I don’t like some of the parking violations that the transportation services gives tickets for. I parked in supposedly what was a no parking zone across the street from the Ten Hoor parking lot but there was no sign and I didn’t see why it even would be so

I think that in the case of students are smart they just are unsure of the costs associated with attending the University and how financial aid works. I wish I would have started at the university. I hated Shelton I felt like I was in Grade 13 with
If you don't understand some of my comments or just want me to elaborate more email me and I will be glad to do so.

I would like to add that I count it a blessing to have the opportunity to get a college education at UA. Even though there are many things that I would like to change I will still be proud to tell anyone that I graduated from UA.

I went to Shelton straight out of high school to play baseball. However while I was there the classes were easier for the most part because I could communicate clearly with my teachers.

I have been to both and I like both of them. The difference to me was that Shelton classes were smaller and the scheduling of classes was rather easy. I personally like both.

My situation is less than ordinary, due to being in a military family. However, knowing people that go to Shelton State, and speaking with them, I have found that money is a big issue.

I have only taken summer school classes at Shelton- but the classes there are much easier and help raise your GPA!

It is a challenge to be the oldest person in your classes. I must admit that everyone has treated me with respect.

Classes are also easier... And since a lot of people don't care much about learning stuff in the core courses the take them at Shelton...

My experiences with the university have been great for the most part. I enjoy being apart of such a great tradition

THE PROGRAMS AT SHELTON ARE VERY ORGANIZED. AT UA THAT IS THE MAJOR COMPLAINT I HAVE HAD. THINGS ARE NOT VERY ORGANIZED ONCE YOU GET INTO A PARTICULAR COLLEGE AND IT IS VERY HARD TO GET ANSWERS. ALSO, UA CHARGES FOR THE LITTLE THINGS SUCH AS A TRAN

It boiled down to SSCC being cheaper than UA. Which is ok, because they are different and UA probably has to charge more.

I would NEVER recommend ANYONE to go to Shelton. You end up taking classes that may not transfer correctly then when you go to a REAL University you are just screwed. You are in a TOTALLY different environment than a REAL University campus.

I don't have to leave for class thirty minutes early just to find a parking space. The classes cost a fraction of what UA classes cost.

I went to Shelton mainly due to schedule and money issues. Shelton's curriculum was sometimes like 13th grade rather than college.

Shelton by far is an easier solution for summer classes, but I would not take any upper level or degree classes there since I know they are not up to par with the universities standards.

I have had several horrible experiences at the U.A. nevertheless I hope to improve my studying in an independent way.

I think we've covered it all... for now

Shelton's classes are not as hard as UA and it doesn't require as much studying.

Speaking from experience I found that UA did not offer programs for transfer students to get involved with the University. I was very active at Shelton and after transferring to the university

I attended Shelton for a number of reasons when I did, but I feel I am getting a better, well-rounded education at UA. I wish I could say I had started out at the University as a freshman, but I didn't and now regret that.

One thing I really dislike about Alabama is that they don't charge tuition based on classes. That eats up all of my financial aid which I could have used to help me buy books.

Price was the ultimate determining factor.

The overall atmosphere at Shelton seems more diverse than Alabama does as far as people of different incomes and experiences. That is valuable because many lessons are not taught by the teacher but by other students that may be taking a class.

Elaborating on teaching styles: Also, I feel that I should receive the service most conducive to me. I understand that making a student understand may be very difficult, however we (the students), after all, are the ones paying for this.

I believe that many students go to Shelton in order to begin college on a more paced level. It does help when they have classes scheduled at times that are more convenient for students, especially those that work and have families or other obligations.

The main thing is the teacher interaction and language problems at UA.
I love Alabama, but there isn't enough parking spaces, some of the professors have attitudes that they could care less if we pass or fail. At Shelton, the teachers try their best to find out what the problem is.

I love The University of Alabama and I do intend on graduating with degree from there (which I am having a hard time selecting my major). I think Shelton provides better instruction when it comes to the core classes and the resources at Shelton are easier.

I wanted to be here as a freshman but was not allowed.

I love being here at Alabama! However, I felt that starting college at a school that was cheaper and had smaller freshman classes would best benefit me. After transferring though, I see that not all Alabama classes are HUGE.

The money situation is my only argument to enroll at Shelton rather than UofA. I enjoy the University much better overall.

I love attending the UA. There are just a few inconveniences like parking and teachers that don't speak English well. I'm sure that they are very smart and understand the material very well but they are very difficult to follow when they are lecturing.

I think that the math department at UA needs a lot of help. There needs to be something done about the foreign teachers. They cause students to receive lower grades when they are capable of doing better.

Mainly I feel as if the way we are allowed to register is not entirely fair. I understand that the upper division students should get to register first but I was very disappointed to find out that other students could register early if they called early.

Mainly, I wanted my first year classes in Tuscaloosa to be not so difficult so that I could adjust to the transition from high school/home life to college/living on my own life.

Shelton State was a great school, although I did not feel challenged there. I chose it because of the lower cost first and evening classes second. UA is by far a better school that has challenged me to be better than I was.

There's no where to park on UA's campus. Every time I park I get a ticket. Why do all the girl's wear 4-inch heels to class at UA?

All around, Shelton State is a good place to make a start in college. Getting accepted is a given, advisers are readily available, the cost is reasonable, and it is a nice facility in general.

I do not think that Shelton State offers much but I felt more comfortable with math classes because of the interaction between the student and teacher. It seems as though teachers at the University are very impersonal with their students.

I would have much rather attended UA, but my financial situation prevented me from doing so. I like UA so much better than Shelton, the people at UA are friendlier.

I needed Econ 111, and only Econ 111. At UA you are required to take Econ 110 before you can take Econ 111. I refuse to waste my time and money on a class I don't need, don't want, and don't have to take somewhere else.

Although I started at Shelton for many reasons (i.e. undecided major, inexpensive tuition, etc.) my grades are better at UA than at Shelton. The professors and staff at UA have always been more encouraging, available.

I am glad I started out at Shelton. I believe I was better prepared to move on to a bigger campus and university setting. UA is more fast-paced than Shelton and a lot more spread out, obviously. I loved Shelton, but I really enjoy the atmosphere of Alabama.

Because so many courses I need are only offered once a year I have found meeting my course requirements has been far more stressful than need be.

The UA has too many students in the science classes and it doesn't give the professor a chance to actually interact with the students and help them as much as they would like.

Honestly, Shelton is easier and cheaper. It's a waste of money if not on scholarship to attend UA when I or anyone else can take the same courses at Shelton and probably make a higher grade.

I still made C's in the classes. They were just as hard; I thought it would be easier, but I was wrong.

Look some people can't go to school and work. Shelton has night classes UA Doesn't. I have had to drop out of school to go to work cause I have no money and have used up all my resources for money and grants just don't pay the bills.

Are there any scholarship opportunities based on grades or needs here at the UA (have applied and got none). Good students leave or have left the UA because of cost of attendance otherwise, this is a good institution.

Shelton State will give you the same education for one third of the price than the University of Alabama.
for core curriculum, it is much wiser to take the first year of college at Shelton. The classes transfer to UA but are cheaper and easier.

I really enjoy the University since I graduated from Shelton and I still take classes there. There are many plus columns about the UA too. But I am sorry to say the quality of teaching and instruction is nowhere near the same.

I love Alabama but I cannot understand my math teacher and Shelton is less expensive.

The main reason I went to Shelton is due to financial reasons. I felt like I would get the same quality of education and it was a tremendous amount cheaper.

The only reason I took classes at Shelton (other than math) is because it's so much cheaper. I pay for school out of my own pocket and the price difference is extraordinary.
Structured responses sorted by percentage of reply

What were the reasons you took classes at Shelton State Community College rather than The University of Alabama?  N = 266

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87.6%</td>
<td>It is less expensive at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>More one-on-one interaction with teacher(s) at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>Smaller class sizes at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.3%</td>
<td>Thought I would get a higher grade by taking the course(s) at Shelton**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>Parking is not a problem at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>No language problems with teacher(s) at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>Overall teaching style is better at Shelton (i.e., better teachers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>Able to take night/weekend courses at Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.7%</td>
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<td>20.7%</td>
<td>Friends went to Shelton</td>
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<td>16.2%</td>
<td>Shelton location was more convenient</td>
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<td>14.3%</td>
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<td>13.2%</td>
<td>Counselor/advisor recommended I take classes at Shelton</td>
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<td>12.8%</td>
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<td>7.9%</td>
<td>Course(s) at UA were filled</td>
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<td>7.9%</td>
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<td>5.6%</td>
<td>Personal conflict (e.g., children, health, etc.)</td>
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Red = COST  
Green = Learning environment  
Orange = Convenience

These results indicate that cost is the single most dominating factor for UA students in choosing to enroll at SSCC. However, the numerous factors associated with learning environment, as a whole, perhaps play an even larger role in drawing students to our two-year neighbor. Issues dealing with convenience played a smaller, but notable role, while blatant deficiencies at UA were negligible in comparison to other issues.
What courses, where, and when?

Tables 1 and 2 below relate the terms in which students transferred courses to UA from SSCC broken down by the UA equivalent course that was transferred. Keep in mind the delayed response from when a class is actually completed at SSCC and when it is applied at UA. In most cases the student will transfer credits immediately following completion of the course, but this is not always the case and a student may wait and transfer simultaneously numerous courses completed over many terms.

A number of conclusions can be made from this data. First, it is clear that students transfer a large percentage of courses during the fall term (e.g., 20014, 20024, 20034) implying completion of many of these courses over the summer. Second, it is also evident that the frequency of transferred classes increases markedly after a student’s sophomore year. Lastly, the courses most often taken at SSCC are business classes in accounting, statistics, and economics, followed by mathematics, history, and biology in arts and sciences.
Table 1.

UA Equivalent Courses Taken at Shelton by Term Applied:
Fall 2000 Freshmen Cohort

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Fall 2001 Freshmen Cohort

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Table 3 shows the frequency of courses transferred to UA by institution for the freshmen cohorts of 2000 and 2001. Shelton State Community College stands far above all other institutions in courses transferred, followed by Jefferson State Community College.

Table 3.
Frequency of Courses Taken for Transfer by Institution:
Fall 2000 and Fall 2001 Freshmen Cohorts

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Table 4.
UA Equivalent Courses Taken for Transfer by Institution:
Fall 2000 and Fall 2001 Freshmen Cohorts

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Twenty-three courses <2
Table 4 relates the most frequent courses transferred from other top institutions behind SSCC. This information shows that courses taken at these institutions differ markedly than courses taken at SSCC. Courses in the arts and sciences are much more represented at these schools than at SSCC, which is more business oriented.

Table 5 breaks down the first major of the students in the freshmen cohorts that have transferred credits from any institution. Not surprisingly, given the number of business classes transferred from SSCC, pre-business majors dominate both cohorts, followed by pre-major studies, pre-med, and pre-education.
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Students Transferring Credits from All Institutions by Major

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Thoughts and conclusions

It is understandable that the University would like to retain its students and have them complete all of their classes at UA. That is ideal, but unattainable. In an era of increasing tuition costs and aspirations of increased enrollment an institution such as Shelton State Community College can be seen as a companion instead of a competitor. With the law of supply and demand, balance and counterbalance, it seems that SSCC is a much needed “relief value” for struggling UA students- whether their struggle is financial,

“I would have much rather attended UA, but my financial situation prevented me from doing so. ”

“UA tuition is too high.”

“It is so much cheaper to take the first 2 years there.”

“Price was the ultimate determining factor.”

convenience (courses/scheduling, parking),

“I believe that many students go to Shelton in order to begin college on a more paced level. It does help when they have classes scheduled at times that are more convenient for students, especially those that work and have families or other obligations.”

“Shelton by far is an easier solution for summer classes…”

“The after work hours were very convenient.”

“Courses taught only one semester at UA are taught all 3 semesters at Shelton.”

“I never had a problem parking at Shelton.”

“As a disabled person I NEVER had to be concerned with the problem of having to walk very far to get to class. All classrooms, computer labs and libraries are under one roof.”

learning environment,

“Obviously classes are smaller which makes it easier to learn.”

“Mainly, I wanted my first year classes in Tuscaloosa to be not so difficult so that I could adjust to the transition from high school/home life to college/living on my own life.”

“Shelton was easier to handle for me straight of high school the university seemed very daunting at the time…”

“Shelton is a good stepping stone for those who aren't ready to go on to large universities right out of high school.”
atmosphere,

“The overall atmosphere at Shelton seems more diverse than Alabama does as far as people of different incomes and experiences. That is valuable because many lessons are not taught by the teacher but by other students that may be taking a class.”

“The atmosphere is more comfortable because it is not as big.”

“I enjoyed the closeness of everyone there.”

“It feels more ‘homey’ there.”

or language.

“The main thing is the teacher interaction and language problems at UA.”

“It doesn’t matter how smart a student is if he can’t understand what the teacher says it is nearly impossible to learn. The language barrier is the biggest reason I got out of engineering.”

“...there are no language problems there unlike UA.”

“Many of the teachers there have English as their first language which makes learning easier.”

One student said it best relating the interconnectivity between the schools stating, “I personally like both.”

Efforts should be made to address any deficiencies at UA that cause students to go elsewhere, such as language problems, course availability, etc., but the bridge that exists between UA and SCC needs to be maintained and strengthened in order for the University to meet its enrollment goals and foster retention.