

March 2022

Counselor *Connection*



KHEAA publishes the *Counselor Connection* to share information about student financial aid, college preparation and college planning. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to publications@kheaa.com.



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Students, parents should take verification seriously

The federal government requires many students who submit the FAFSA to verify the information they reported. The U.S. Department of Education chooses the students whose FAFSA information is verified.

The parents of dependent students will be required to provide information. Nearly all 2022 high school graduates will be considered dependent students.

Verification ensures that the students who really need financial aid to pay for college or technical training receive it. Students chosen for verification must complete the process before they can receive financial aid, so families should prepare to provide the requested information as quickly as possible.

As soon as students are notified their FAFSA is being verified, they should begin the process. Putting it off will only lead to frustration if the process isn't finished when classes are ready to start.

First-time student loan borrowers must complete counseling

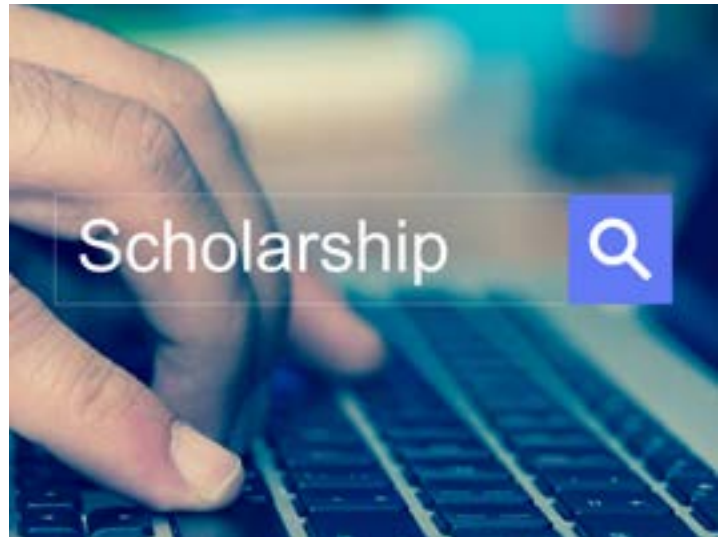
Students who are borrowing their first federal student loans for the coming academic year must complete entrance counseling.

Many students take out loans to help them pay for higher education. Entrance counseling helps them understand the responsibility that goes along with borrowing money and have a plan for repaying the loans.

The U.S. Department of Education requires borrowers to complete entrance counseling before they can receive loan funds.

The department offers online counseling at studentaid.gov under the Complete Aid Process tab. The counseling should take between 20 to 30 minutes. Borrowers should check with their college to see if the federal counseling session is accepted as some schools have alternate counseling program requirements.

After borrowers finish their programs, they will be required to take exit counseling to learn about their rights, responsibilities and repayment options.



KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach presentations

KHEAA Outreach will continue to provide live help this spring via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Some sessions will include Kentucky-specific as well as general information.

The schedule is:

March 21: For the Win: Outreach Counselors Play Financial Aid Blank Slate, **YouTube**

March 28: [For the Win: FAFSA Family Feud](#), **Webinar**

April 4: Smart Money: If I Could Turn Back Time, **Facebook**

April 11: Smart Money: How to Be Financially Savvy, **Twitter**

April 25: [Smart Money: Paying for College](#), **Webinar**

May 2: Decisions, Decisions: Making Your College Choice, **Facebook**

May 9: Decisions, Decisions: Planning for Junior/Senior Year, **Twitter**

May 16: Decisions, Decisions: Education Loans, **YouTube**

May 23: [Decisions, Decisions: Beyond the Final Step](#), **Webinar**

All sessions begin at 6 p.m. Central.

The links are:

www.facebook.com/KHEAA/

www.twitter.com/KHEAA/

www.youtube.com/user/KHEAAMascot/

Following these tips will help students with college writing

Students who continue their education after high school will most likely find that they have to write a lot. That's especially true of students getting two- and four-year degrees, but it may also apply to students in technical programs.

These tips will help students do better on their assignments and tests:

- Make sure you understand the assignment and turn in everything the professor wants. If you're supposed to include a works cited page, make sure you do.
- Have a main idea, and make sure that the idea is clear throughout what you write.
- Support the main idea with examples. If you're analyzing a character in a book, use examples from the book to support your point.
- Organize what you write. If you have time, make a list of the points you want to make. You can even make a formal outline if that will help. For an essay question on a test, take a moment to organize your thoughts before you start writing.
- Address only one idea at a time, doing so in a separate paragraph.
- Use proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. A comma you leave out or put in the wrong place can change the entire meaning of what you wrote. "Let's eat Grandma" means something entirely different from "Let's eat, Grandma."
- Use spell check, but remember that it may not tell you that you have "to" where you're supposed to have "too."
- Proofread, proofread, proofread! That often makes the difference between a bad grade, a so-so grade and a great grade.
- Turn papers in on time. Many professors will drop you a letter grade for a late paper. Some won't accept them at all.
- Professors have a lot of essays to read. Make sure your papers hold their interest.
- If you're struggling, many campuses have a writing lab with instructors who can help you sharpen your skills.



Scholarship Spotlight

Alabama Music Educators Association

AMEA Eleanor Nation FAME Scholarship

Eligibility: The applicant must:

- intend to register as a full-time music education major at an Alabama university in the fall.
- have attended Future Alabama Music Educators (FAME) at an AMEA Professional Development Conference.
- have an AMEA member as a music teacher.

In addition, the applicant must submit:

- an application.
- a sealed, official high school transcript.
- at least three letters of recommendation (one from a current music teacher, the others from any appropriate source).
- an essay of no more than 1,200 words on what factors influenced them to become a music education major and why all students should have access to music education.

Award: \$1,000

Number: 1

Deadline: Must be received in mail by May 31

Contact: Garry Taylor, AMEA Executive Director, 1600 Manor Drive NE, Cullman AL 35055; www.myamea.org

ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Scores Available
June 11, 2022	May 6, 2022	TBD
July 16, 2022	June 17, 2022	TBD

SAT National Test Dates

May 7, 2022	April 8, 2022	May 20, 2022
June 4, 2022	May 5, 2022	July 13, 2022



State ranks 2nd in increase in total FAFSA completions

Alabama ranks second nationally in its increase in FAFSA completions this year, according to Dr. Jim Purcell, executive director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. Overall, the state ranks 22nd in total percentage of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA.

Purcell updated the ACHE board on Alabama's FAFSA completion project at the board's March 11 meeting.

The latest figures show that 43 percent of Alabama's high school seniors have completed the FAFSA. Research shows that 92 percent of seniors who complete the FAFSA enroll in a college or university after they finish high school, Purcell said.

Most colleges and universities require students to file the FAFSA to determine if they qualify for financial aid. Purcell said that data from the National College Attainment Network show that Alabama ranked 15th in unclaimed Federal Pell Grant aid last year, losing out on a projected \$68 million.

ACHE has set up a [website](#) showing the progress on FAFSA completion for the state, districts and high schools.

ACHE OKs 13 new programs

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved 13 new programs at nine colleges and universities at its March 11 meeting. The new programs are:

- **Chattahoochee Valley Community College**, associate's degree and certificate in emergency medical services-paramedic; associate's degree in medical laboratory technician.
- **Gadsden State Community College**, associate's degree and certificate in dental assistant.
- **Lurleen B. Wallace Community College**, associate's degree in building construction.
- **University of Alabama in Huntsville**, bachelor's degree in child, family, and community development.
- **University of South Alabama**, bachelor's degrees in marine sciences and in environment science and sustainability.
- **University of North Alabama**, bachelor's degree in respiratory care, doctoral degree in nursing.
- **Athens State University**, master's degrees in accounting and in interdisciplinary studies.
- **University of Montevallo**, master's degree in applied instruction.
- **University of Alabama at Birmingham**, doctoral degree in mechanical engineering.