

November 2019

## State's ACT scores drop in latest results

The percentage of Kentucky public high school graduates who earned college-ready scores on all four sections of the ACT dropped by 2 points from 2018 to 2019.

In 2018, 20 percent of the public high school graduates were deemed college ready in English, math, science and reading. That percentage dropped to 18 percent in 2019.

To be college ready, students must have an ACT score that indicates they have at least a 50 percent chance of earning at least a B or a 75 percent chance of earning a C or better in college classes.

Nationally, the percentage of 2019 high school grads earning college-ready scores dropped to 26 percent from 2018's 27 percent.

Composite scores were also down, with the 2018 average composite score 19.9 dropping to 19.5 in 2019.

For Kentucky, white students had an average 20.2 ACT composite, while African-American students had an average 16.6 and Hispanic/Latino students an 18.1 composite.



## Students should know college's SAP standards

One important phrase in the language of student aid is satisfactory academic progress, or SAP.

All colleges that award federal student aid must have SAP standards. Those standards are based on three key areas: GPA, pace and a maximum time frame.

The GPA students are required to have may vary by school, major and whether they are undergraduate or graduate students.

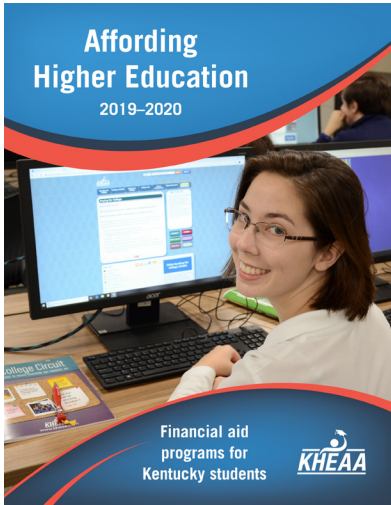
Pace means students have to pass a stated percentage of the classes they take in a given period of time. It may also vary by college.

The maximum time frame means students have to finish their degree within a given number of attempted credit hours. For example, a school requires students to pass 120 credit hours to earn a bachelor's degree. The maximum time frame might be that they have to pass those 120 hours without attempting more than 150 hours.

If students don't meet their school's SAP standards, they may not be able to receive state or federal student aid.



## ‘Affording Higher Education’ sent to schools, now online



The new edition of KHEAA's *Affording Higher Education* has been mailed to schools and libraries across the state. An online version can also be found on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

*Affording Higher Education* lists more than 6,000 financial aid programs available to Kentucky students and to students who attend

colleges and universities in the state.

The book has seven sections that list student financial aid programs provided by:

- State government
- Federal government
- Kentucky's public universities
- Kentucky's private colleges and universities
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System schools
- Trade schools
- Kentucky companies and organizations

KHEAA revises the book every year to provide the most up-to-date information we can. However, financial aid programs often change between the time KHEAA compiles the information and the book is printed.

Extra copies are available and KHEAA and provide schools with up to 10 additional copies until we run out.



## Scholarship Spotlight

### Kentucky PTA

**Eligibility:** Must be a Kentucky high school graduating senior, attend a high school with a PTA/PTSA, plan to attend an accredited Kentucky college or university and plan to pursue a degree in education. Consideration given to financial need, academic achievement, personal remarks, career plans and involvement in school and community service.

**Award:** \$500

**Number:** 1 to 5

**Deadline:** February 15

**Contact:** Kentucky PTA, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601; 502.226.6607; [kentuckypta@bellsouth.net](mailto:kentuckypta@bellsouth.net); [www.kypta.org](http://www.kypta.org)

## High school planner

### Seniors

#### December/January

- ☐ Make sure your applications were received on time.
- ☐ If you applied for Early Decision and were accepted, withdraw your applications from other schools.

## Half of young Americans think high school is enough

Nearly half of young Americans believe their high school education gave them the skills they need to get a good job after they graduate, according to a recent report from CBS and the Associated Press.

Still, more than half also think college can help them to be successful.

However, results from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey provide a broader picture.

The wage gap between those with just high school degrees and those with bachelor's degree narrowed in Kentucky from 2011 through 2017, according to the Census Bureau.

Still, the median income for someone with a bachelor's degree was 67 percent more than for a high school graduate with no college. A median is a middle value, meaning that half of the people make more than that amount, while half make less.

Unemployment shows a similar trend over the same time span.

In 2011, the unemployment rate for high school graduates was 3.0 times higher than for college grads. The rate in 2017 was 2.4 times higher.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research conducted the nationwide poll in August and September. More than 1,300 teens and young adults ages 13 through 29 responded.



## Save money by earning college credit in high school

One way to save money on higher education is to earn college credits while in high school.

High school students, whether they plan to get a technical degree or four-year degree, can take advantage of several programs that let them earn college credits. These programs include:

- **Dual credit/dual enrollment courses.** These courses let students earn both college and high school credit. In many cases, students will pay less than the college tuition rate. Some dual enrollment programs don't provide high school credit for completing the course.
- **Advanced Placement courses.** AP classes count as high school credits, but many colleges will give students college credit if they earn a certain grade on AP exams. Offered by the College Board, which provides the SAT, AP classes are widely available.
- **International Baccalaureate Diploma and Cambridge Advanced International programs.** IB and CAI, for students 16 to 19 years old, are similar to AP. Students may be able to receive college credit for the IB and CAI classes they take.