

Counselor Connection

October 2020



Admissions essay may mean more financial aid

Some colleges, especially private schools, require an essay as part of the admissions process for college freshmen. That essay may also help when it comes to paying for college.

Generally, the more exclusive the college, the more important the essay may be in admissions and financial aid decisions.

Essays let schools learn more about students by giving them a chance to set themselves apart from other applicants.

“Students should put time and effort into an admissions essay,” Governor Andy Beshear said. “Schools want students who can express themselves clearly, using proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. It may take several drafts to get it right, but the essay needs to be well written and free of errors.”

Students who must write an essay as part of the admissions process should have a teacher, school counselor or parent review the essay before it is submitted to the college.

Some schools let students submit nontraditional essays such as poems, song lyrics or videos. That lets students show their creativity.

In This Edition

Registration for Real World Design Challenge is open	2
KHEEA to hold webinars about financial aid	2
KHEEA continues hosting social media outreach	2
High school planners	3
Scholarship Spotlight	3



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KHEEA 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.

Registration for Real World Design Challenge open

The deadline for students in grades 9–12 to register as a team for the Real World Design Challenge is November 20.

The challenge gives students a chance to work on real-world engineering challenges as a team. Each year, teams are asked to address a challenge that confronts the nation's leading industries. Students will use professional engineering software to develop their solutions and presentations to demonstrate the value of their solutions.

This year's challenge is to design a small unmanned package delivery system for use in a city environment, create a theory of operation and develop a business plan for the system's commercial operations.

Teams are made up of 3–7 students. Each team needs a coach who is a teacher or other adult to help organize the team and act as the point of contact for the team. Team members can be changed or added during the registration period if needed. Coaches may have as many teams as they want, but students may only be on one team.

Students can register to enter as a team at <http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org/>.

KHEAA to hold webinars about financial aid

During the fall semester, KHEAA Outreach is offering a series of webinars about financial aid and financial literacy. The schedule is:

- **Adults Returning to College**, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
- **It's Money, Baby: A Guide to Financial Literacy**, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

All times listed are Eastern time.

To register for a webinar, visit <https://kygoestocollege.com/>. That page also has links to videos of previous webinars.



KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

KHEAA Outreach will continue to provide live help in November via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Some sessions will include Kentucky-specific as well as general information. The schedule is:

- **Oct. 20:** Real Talk: Real Life Getting In, **Facebook**
- **Oct. 21:** Real Talk: Ways to Pay, **Twitter**
- **Oct. 22:** Real Talk: Admit Me, **Instagram**
- **Oct. 27:** FAFSA Follow Up: KASFAA Panel, **Facebook**
- **Oct. 28:** FAFSA Follow Up: Frequently Asked Questions, **Twitter**
- **Oct. 29:** FAFSA Follow Up: Discussing Dependency, **Instagram**
- **Nov. 4:** Standing Out: Completing Those College Applications, **Twitter**
- **Nov. 5:** Standing Out: The Importance of Community Service, **Instagram**
- **Nov. 10:** Financial Aid Round Up: Paying for College 101, **Facebook**
- **Nov. 12:** Financial Aid Round Up: Boarding the ScholarSHIP, **Instagram**
- **Nov. 17:** Next Steps November: Checking In, **Facebook**
- **Nov. 18:** Next Steps November: Navigating Verification, **Twitter**
- **Nov. 19:** Next Steps November: Keeping Up Over Break, **Instagram**

All sessions begin at 3 p.m. Eastern, 2 p.m. Central.

The links are:

www.facebook.com/KHEAA/

www.twitter.com/KHEAA

www.instagram.com/kheaoutreach/?hl=en

High school planners

Seniors

November

- Complete the FAFSA if you haven't already done so.
- Meet with college representatives at college fairs or when they visit your school.
- Attend a financial aid seminar if your school offers one.
- If you haven't picked a college yet, narrow your list by visiting schools and talking with students. You should probably talk with your parents too.
- If you're going through the regular admissions process, it's time to ask teachers to write recommendations and to polish your admissions essay if you have to write one.
- Check with each school's financial aid office to see what financial aid forms are needed.

Scholarship Spotlight

Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship

Eligibility: Must have at least a 3.0 GPA and submit an application, a transcript

- 500-word composition indicating student's career objectives and major goal in life
- A letter signed by the sponsoring DAR chapter regent
- Background information about the student's curriculum, school and civic activities, hobbies and interests.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: January 1

Contact: School Counselor

