

Kentucky Higher Education
Assistance Authority
P.O. Box 798
Frankfort, KY 40602-0798
Tel: 800.928.8926
www.kheaa.com
publications@kheaa.com

COUNSELOR CONNECTION

Volume XXV, No. 10
MAY 2016

May 31 is deadline to register for college access events

May 31 is the deadline for schools to register for KHEAA's Close the Deal and Kentucky College Application Campaign for the 2016–2017 school year.

These programs are traditionally held in the fall for high school seniors. Both try to get students in all grades excited about attending college.

Close the Deal brings together schools, community leaders, business representatives and local students to set and meet goals for college and future careers.

The Kentucky College Application Campaign was formerly called Kentucky College Application Month. It gives seniors hands-on help in applying for college.

Schools can participate in one or both of these programs. Schools that register receive news and updates, have access to training opportunities and get free promotional materials. Participating is fun and easy and can be done with little to no cost.

Please keep these basic guidelines in mind:

- Schools must plan and implement their own programs. At a minimum, this means setting aside time and space, as well as enlisting school, college and community volunteers.
- KHEAA Outreach staff will be available to assist on a first-come, first-served basis.
- By registering, schools agree to complete a short survey and to share basic event data with KHEAA. This helps KHEAA measure the programs' impact.

Late registration will be available, but schools that register after May 31 will not be guaranteed free materials. Please [register](#) now.

For more information, contact Assistant Director of Outreach Services Kim Dolan at 502-329-7206 or kdolan@kheaa.com.

With this edition:

Included with this *Counselor Connection*, 2017-2018 FAFSA Infographic and Senior Calendar fliers.

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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AID, SCHOLARSHIP AND MONEY TIPS!
WWW.BIT.LY/KHEAAFACEBOOK

Deadline for KHEAA essay contest approaching

A rising junior at one of Kentucky's public or private high schools will win a \$500 scholarship and a photo shoot at his or her school through the Promote Your School scholarship contest, sponsored by KHEAA.

The school must participate in the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program to be eligible.

To enter, the student must submit an essay no more than 200 words long and cannot mention the student's name, school, county or community. The essay topic must be shown at the top of the page. The student's name, address and high school must be listed at the bottom of the essay. The student must be a junior during the 2016–2017 school year. For essay topics and additional information, visit kheaa.com/website/contest/rules.

Photos from the winning school will be used in KHEAA publications and on KHEAA websites.

To enter, mail your essay to KHEAA Publications, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602. You may also email your essay to publications@kheaa.com or fax it to 502.696.7574. The winner will be chosen by a committee of KHEAA employees. The deadline for submissions is May 31.

Students from schools that have been featured the past five years are not eligible for this year's contest. Those schools are Lexington STEAM Academy, Somerset Christian, J. Graham Brown, Sacred Heart and Bowling Green.

Council sets tuition ceilings for state's colleges and universities

The Council on Postsecondary Education has set 2016-17 tuition ceilings for in-state undergraduate students.

The ceiling was set at 5 percent for the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. The council approved an increase of up to \$432 each for Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University and Western Kentucky University.

The state's community and technical colleges can increase their tuition costs up to a \$9 per credit hour. The council also approved three new academic programs: a master's in applied statistics at UK, a master's in athletic training at Murray State and a post-bachelor's certificate in emergency management and homeland security for NKU.

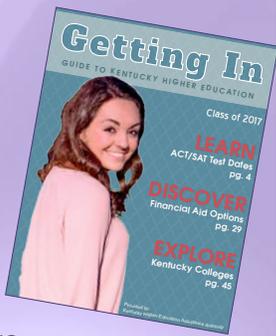
PROMOTE YOUR SCHOOL

Scholarship Essay Contest

Write the winning essay –

**Earn \$500 for college...
...and a PHOTO SHOOT
for your school!**

Deadline: May 31
Get the details at
www.kheaa.com/website/contest/rules



Make college more affordable by saving on intangible costs

When it comes to comparing the costs of various colleges, remember that on the broadest level, costs can be tangible or intangible. To save money, follow these tips from KHEAA.

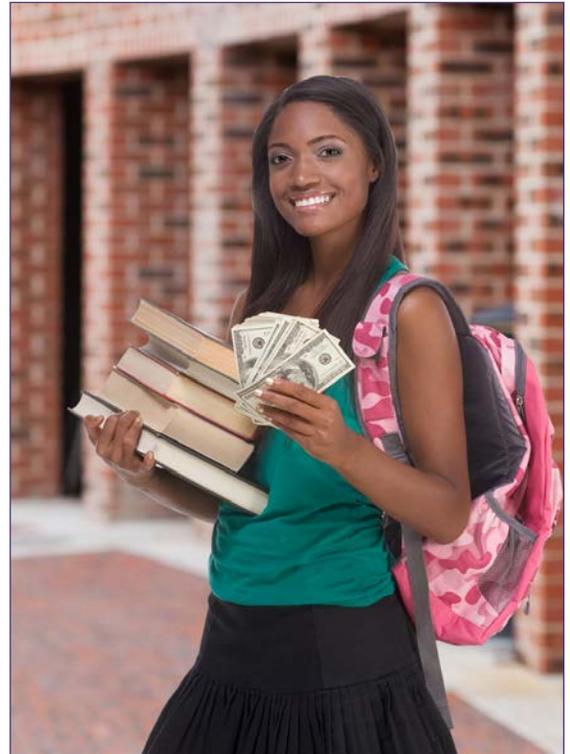
Tangible costs include tuition and fees and room and board.

Intangible costs include everything else: textbooks and supplies; computers; and personal items, such as shampoo, clothes, entertainment, laundry, and other expenses.

Students can save money, sometimes a lot of money, by controlling the costs of their lifestyle. That doesn't mean skimping on shampoo, soap, food and doing their laundry. But they can cut costs by finding sales or using coupons. Always be looking out for buy one, get one free deals.

They can also save quite a bit of money by cutting back on treats such as entertainment and dining out. Doing those things less often will make them even more special when they do treat themselves.

Remember: The less they spend on the intangibles, the less they'll have to take out in student loans. That means that after they graduate they can afford more of the things they enjoy.



Grant will help state redesign college remedial classes

A \$326,000 grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation in Louisville will help the state redesign remedial courses for college students. The grant was awarded to the Council on Postsecondary Education.

The redesign is based on the "corequisite" model of education. That model lets students enroll in courses that count toward graduation if the students receive tutoring, mentoring or supplemental instruction.

Many students unprepared for college work take up to two to three semesters of remedial work before taking courses that count toward graduation. The more remedial classes needed, the greater the risk students will drop out. Having to take remedial classes also means students take longer to earn their degrees. West Virginia, Tennessee and Indiana have successfully piloted corequisite models.

2017–2018 FAFSA Changes

Apply online starting
October 1, 2016.

Don't wait until
January 2017!



fafsa.gov
800-4-FED-AID



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID



* To be considered for state grants, file the 2017–2018 FAFSA as soon as possible starting October 1, 2016.



School Year Attending College

July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018

FAFSA Submission Date*

Beginning October 1, 2016

Income Information From

2015



Create an FSA ID

- Students need to create their FSA ID — a username and password — before they start the FAFSA.
- If the student is dependent, at least one parent must set up an FSA ID and use it to electronically sign the FAFSA. The student and parent will need different email addresses. Students should not use their high school email addresses.
- For help, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid

SIGN YOUR APPLICATION!

- All students must use their FSA ID to electronically sign their FAFSA.
- For dependent students, at least one parent must electronically sign the application using their own FSA ID. Failure of BOTH required parties to electronically sign will result in an incomplete submission and could cost families thousands of dollars in aid eligibility!
- Watch your e-mail closely for notifications and confirmations.

fsaid.ed.gov

fafsa.gov

KHEAA can help with college planning and financial aid. Ask us how!

800-928-8926
kheaa.com



Senior calendar

August/September

- ❑ Ask colleges you're interested in to send you admissions information.
- ❑ If you're applying for Early Decision, start filling out the forms to meet the college's deadline.
- ❑ If you haven't taken the ACT/SAT or if you think you can do better, register.
- ❑ Get with your counselor to find out about the financial aid sources available to you. Use KHEAA's *Affording Higher Education*. Copies are sent to high school counselors, high school libraries and public libraries.

October/November

- ❑ Ask your parents to get their tax return information ready so you can submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1.
- ❑ Meet with college admissions 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 Early Decision, most schools want the applications submitted about now.
- ❑ 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 they require in addition to the FAFSA.

December/January

- ❑ Make sure your applications were received on time. See previous page for admissions and financial aid checklists.
- ❑ If you went Early Decision and were accepted, withdraw your applications from other schools.

February/March

- ❑ Submit midyear grades if the colleges you've applied to require them.
- ❑ Send in any deposits that are required.
- ❑ If you've been accepted by more than one college but haven't heard from your first choice, contact that school about a decision before you make any nonrefundable deposits to other schools.
- ❑ If you've decided on which school to attend, notify that college of your decision. Let any other colleges that have accepted you know about your decision.

April/May

- ❑ Follow up on your financial aid package.
- ❑ If you're going to need student loans, compare the benefits offered by the various lenders your college uses.
- ❑ Take AP tests if you're enrolled in AP courses.
- ❑ If you're on a waiting list at a school you really want to attend, ask the director of admissions how to strengthen your application.

June

- ❑ Let your high school counselor know which school you're going to so the school can send in final grades, class rank and proof of graduation.
- ❑ Send thank-you notes to counselors, teachers and others who helped you through the process.
- ❑ Prepare a budget for the coming school year.



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