

Your KHEAA College Connection

AP, IB: Getting a head start on college

Kentucky high school students who want to get an early jump on college should check into the availability of Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs at their high school.

While both programs can lead to college credit, there are differences. IB is a structured two-year program that requires students to take certain classes and exams if they want the full IB diploma. With AP, schools choose which classes they offer, and students choose which classes they'll take.

A Commonwealth Diploma can be awarded to seniors who complete at least 22 credit units, meet all minimum requirements of the Precollege Curriculum and get a grade of "C" or better in four AP or IB courses in English, science and a foreign language, plus one other AP/IB course.

Students must also complete three AP or IB exams in those subject areas. These courses could also count as dual credit for both high school graduation and college. Students interested in getting dual credit should talk with their guidance counselor and the admissions office at the schools they're thinking about attending. AP courses are also available



through the Kentucky Virtual High School, independent study or a college or university.

Students who take AP or IB courses will be better prepared for college and can shorten college time and expenses.

For more information about AP, visit www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html. For more information about IB, visit www.ibo.org.



For help with your higher education and financial aid questions, visit www.kheaa.com

KHEAA is an EEOC employer.

Earn money for college with KEES

Students don't have to fill out any forms to earn money for higher education with a Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). A base award can be earned for each year the student achieves a GPA of 2.5 or better. A student who has earned at least one base award can also earn a bonus award with a composite score of at least 15 on the ACT or 710 on the SAT.

After each year ends, the student's high school will send GPA information to KHEAA. During that summer, KHEAA will notify students if they have earned a KEES award.



The chart below can help students figure out their KEES awards. Students should enter their freshman GPA, then see how much they earned for that GPA and enter it in the pink box. After that, they should estimate their GPAs for the rest of high school and their ACT. Add up the amounts, and they can estimate what the total award will be to help pay for each year of college.

AP		IB	
Exam Score	Bonus Amount	Exam Score	Bonus Amount
3	\$200	5	\$200
4	\$250	6	\$250
5	\$300	7	\$300

Other KEES bonus awards available

Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during any year of high school **and** who make qualifying scores on AP or IB exams can earn bonus awards with **no limit** to the number of bonus awards received.

Calculating your award

After each year of high school, KHEAA will notify you if you have earned a KEES award. If you received KEES awards for your freshman and sophomore years, enter your final GPA and the award amounts. Predict your GPA and highest ACT score for this year and your senior year for the remaining blanks.

KEES Award Amounts			
GPA	Base Amount	ACT Score	Bonus Amount
2.50	\$125	15	\$ 36
2.60	150	16	71
2.70	175	17	107
2.75	187	18	143
2.80	200	19	179
2.90	225	20	214
3.00	250	21	250
3.10	275	22	286
3.20	300	23	321
3.25	312	24	357
3.30	325	25	393
3.40	350	26	428
3.50	375	27	464
3.60	400	28-36	500
3.70	425		
3.75	437		
3.80	450		
3.90	475		
4.00	500		

	Amount	
Base Award	Freshman GPA	_____ \$ _____
	Sophomore GPA	_____ + \$ _____
	Junior GPA	_____ + \$ _____
	Senior GPA	_____ + \$ _____
Bonus Award	Highest ACT Score	_____ + \$ _____
	Qualifying AP/IB Scores	_____ + \$ _____
	Qualifying AP/IB Scores	_____ + \$ _____
	Total Estimated Award =	\$ _____

Add up your amounts, and you can estimate what your total award will be to help you pay for each year of college.

Students can check KEES awards at any time

Students can check their KEES awards at any time by logging into Zip Access at kheaa.com. First-time visitors to Zip Access must create a user ID and password by clicking on the “register now” link. If there is no record or incorrect data is found, you should notify your school’s counselor.

KHEEA updates student accounts each year as information is received from the high schools.

Here are some important KEES facts that you should be aware of:

- ❑ AP and IB courses are weighted for all students for KEES purposes, meaning an A in those classes is worth 25 percent more than other courses. Honors courses are not weighted.
- ❑ Your KEES award is not final and available for use until after you graduate from high school.
- ❑ Taking both the ACT and the SAT? The highest ACT composite or SAT (critical reading and math) score received from national tests taken before graduation will be used to determine your KEES bonus award.
- ❑ Once you’re in college, half your annual KEES award will be sent after classes begin each fall and spring semester. To get the full award, you must be enrolled full-time. To keep the full scholarship, you must earn a 2.5 cumulative GPA the first year in college and a 3.0 cumulative GPA afterwards. If you have a cumulative GPA less than 3.0 after your second year in college, your award renewal amount will be based on additional requirements, including your enrollment status and your progress toward meeting your college’s graduation requirements. “Cumulative” means all the classes taken while in school, not just those in the last semester.



Tips for doing well on the ACT

Juniors attending Kentucky public high schools will take the ACT, the nation's most widely accepted college entrance exam, on March 9. The ACT test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. Higher scores may also qualify students for a bonus award through the KEES program.

To do their best, students should follow these tips from KHEAA, which administers the KEES program:

- ❑ Study, take notes and do your homework in your regular high school classes. Retain the information you learn rather than “dumping” it after the next test.
- ❑ Take practice tests. ACT offers sample tests at www.actstudent.org, and practice tests are included in the ACT booklet school counselors receive each year. If those aren't enough, you can buy larger practice books at any bookstore.
- ❑ Take advantage of ACT classes. Many high schools and colleges offer such classes for a small fee.
- ❑ Answer the questions you're sure about first, then go back and tackle the others. But don't spend too much time on any one question.
- ❑ Remember that your first gut feeling is more often right than wrong.
- ❑ If you can eliminate one answer, you have a one-in-three chance of guessing the right answer. If you can eliminate two, you have a 50-50 chance. If you've answered the questions you're sure of and made educated guesses on others but have no clue about the rest, fill in any circle. The ACT doesn't count off for wrong answers, so you haven't hurt yourself if you guess wrong.
- ❑ Make sure you get a good night's rest the night before and you leave home early enough to get to the test site on time. And don't forget to bring some ID.



Applications for 2010–2011 Mary Jo Young Scholarship

The Mary Jo Young Scholarship provides assistance with tuition and textbook expenses for high school students enrolled in dual credit courses at a Kentucky college or university and/or Advanced Placement courses through the Kentucky Virtual High School. Students who qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches receive priority.

The scholarship pays up to \$375 for tuition for one course each semester; up to \$750 for tuition for two courses each semester; and a textbook allowance of \$125 per course.

Scholarship applications for the 2010-2011 year will be available under the Kentucky Resident Scholarship section on KHEAA's website, www.kheaa.com, beginning March 1. Students should print an application, complete their portion, and then ask their school counselor to complete the certification section before submitting the application to KHEAA. Only applications with both the student and counselor sections completed will be considered for the scholarship.



Applications should be mailed to KHEAA, Mary Jo Young Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798 and must be postmarked by May 1. For more information, please contact Danny Prather at (800) 928-8926, ext. 67399 or danprather@kheaa.com.

Helpful information

KHEAA provides other information that will help your student learn more about higher education and financial aid. A list of some of these aids is below:

Getting Started: geared to high school freshmen (only available online)

Getting Set: geared to high school sophomores (only available online)

Getting Ready: geared to high school juniors (only available online)

Getting In: (distributed to all Kentucky high school seniors and available online)

Affording Higher Education: (mailed to all high school counselors, public and college library, admissions and financial aid directors and available online)

The College Circuit (available from KHEAA and online)

