

YOUR KHEAA COLLEGE CONNECTION

December 2015

Students should file FAFSA early to get state grants

Kentucky students planning to attend an in-state college or university this fall should file the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after the first of the year as possible. Some student aid funds are limited, and those who apply early have the best chance to receive all of the aid for which they may qualify. The FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.gov. Students who file the FAFSA online will get their results 7 to 14 days faster than those who file by mail.

If students want to file a paper FAFSA, they can get a copy by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center toll free at 800.433.3243. They can request up to three copies of the paper application and should receive their FAFSAs in three to seven days.

The FAFSA is used to apply for most need-based state, federal and institutional aid programs, including those administered by KHEAA. Students attending Kentucky colleges and universities may qualify for College Access Program (CAP) Grants. To qualify, a student must show financial need and be enrolled for at least half-time toward an associate's or bachelor's degree.

Students attending most of Kentucky's private colleges and universities may qualify for a Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG) in addition to a CAP Grant. To qualify for KTG, a student must show financial need and be enrolled full-time.

Funding for CAP and KTG is limited, with awards made to qualifying students on a first-come, first-served basis. Award amounts may change based on available funding and will be set in February.

For more information about the CAP and KTG programs, visit kheaa.com.



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



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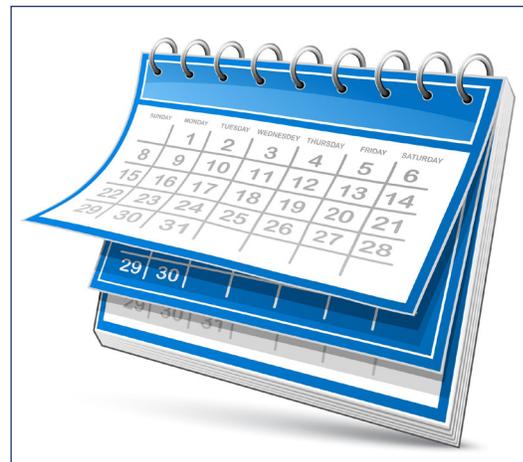


<http://bit.ly/KHEAAfacebook>

Pay attention to deadlines for financial aid

High school seniors should keep track of deadlines for applying for college financial aid. Here are some tips:

- Check with the financial aid offices of the schools to which you've applied to determine if they require any forms other than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Familiarize yourself with the FAFSA. Unless you are starting college before July 1, you cannot file the FAFSA until after the first of the year. But you should still take a look at the information it requires and make plans to attend a College Goal Kentucky session near you. Your counselor should have information about College Goal Kentucky.
- Look for scholarships using KHEAA's "*Affording Higher Education*" and a free online scholarship search. You can find a link to a free search site under the "Paying for College" tab on www.kheaa.com.
- Attend any college fairs and financial aid seminars offered at your high school or in your area. If a company charges a fee for helping with applications, remember that you can do that yourself for free. If you decide to pay for help, make sure the company is reputable by checking with the state attorney general's office or the Better Business Bureau in your area, as well as the area where the firm is located.



Seniors: stay on track for college

December/January

- Make sure your applications are received on time.
- Get your tax information together and ask your parents to get theirs ready too so you can submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1.
- If you applied for 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.

College Goal Kentucky events begin in December

College Goal Kentucky, provides free help to families applying for college financial aid. College Goal Kentucky is hosted at several locations throughout Kentucky in late 2015 through spring 2016. For the date and locations of the site nearest you, visit www.kasfaa.com/CollegeGoalKY/locations.asp. At each site students will be able to enter a statewide drawing for a chance to win one of four \$500 scholarships that can be used at any Kentucky school.



At College Goal Kentucky, financial aid professionals from Kentucky will help students and families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the form students must submit to receive federal and state student aid.

In Kentucky, grant and scholarship programs help thousands of students every year. Students who file the FAFSA as soon as possible beginning January 1 have the best chance of receiving these funds.

Students should keep these tax tips in mind

Income tax season is approaching, and students may want to consider these tips to help the process go more smoothly.

Although you may not have earned enough to be required to file income taxes, you may be able to get a refund if your employer withheld taxes from your pay. Before you file though, discuss the situation with your parents. Depending on how much they contributed to your upkeep during the year, they may be able to claim you as a dependent, which could save them thousands of dollars.



Students and parents may be able to take advantage of these programs on their federal taxes:

- **American Opportunity Credit**, available for the first four years of college.
- **Lifetime Learning Credit**, available if a taxpayer or a dependent is taking college courses to acquire or improve job skills.
- **Tuition and fees deduction**, which lets taxpayers deduct qualified education expenses paid during the year for themselves or a dependent. The expenses must be for college.
- **Student loan interest deduction**, which lets people deduct up to \$2,500 per year on federal taxes for interest paid on federal student loans.

For more detailed information about federal programs, go to www.irs.gov to download the free Publication 970 Tax Benefits for Education.

Kentucky also offers a tuition tax credit for undergraduate students who attend state colleges.

Remember that tax rules may change from year to year, so make sure you have the most up-to-date information before filing.

Pharmacy scholarship application available in January

Applications for the Coal County Scholarship for Pharmacy Students will be available on www.kheaa.com in early January.

The scholarship provides financial aid to Kentucky residents who plan to work as pharmacists in coal-producing counties in the state. To be eligible, a student must:

- Be a resident of a Kentucky coal-producing county.
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an accredited school of pharmacy in Kentucky.
- Work one year as a full-time, licensed pharmacist in a Kentucky coal-producing county for each year the scholarship is awarded.
- Repay the scholarship plus interest if the program or service requirement is not completed.



For more information about the scholarship and other state financial aid programs, view the KHEAA-administered programs under the “Paying for College” section on www.kheaa.com or email grants@kheaa.com.

Dr. Rollins receives honorary degree from Morehead

Dr. Carl Rollins, KHEAA’s executive director, received an honorary doctor of public service degree at Morehead State University’s fall commencement on December 12.

An advocate for education in Kentucky for many years, Rollins was mayor of Midway, a Woodford County magistrate and a state representative from the 56th District (Woodford and parts of Franklin and Fayette counties).

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Rollins was chair of the House Education Committee and was on the budget review subcommittees on primary and secondary education and postsecondary education.

Rollins has also received the Kids First Advocacy Award from the Kentucky School Boards Association.



Dr. Carl Rollins (2nd from right) is pictured here with (from left) Rep. Mike Denham, MSU President Dr. Wayne D. Andrews and Rep. Rocky Adkins.

Marion County High student wins iPad

Marion County High School student Arnez Wilson was the winner of KHEAA's iPad sweepstakes held in November. The contest was open to Kentucky residents who visited the KHEAA Facebook page, online at www.facebook.com/KHEAA, and answered a question about college.

KHEAA outreach counselor Toni Wiley presented Wilson with the iPad at MCHS on December 10.

KHEAA plans to hold another iPad giveaway in February.



KHEAA Outreach Counselor Toni Wiley and iPad winner Arnez Wilson

High school artists can enter eco-art contest

Kentucky high school artists can enter the 2015-2016 Eco-Art Contest sponsored by the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP). The contest, in its seventh year, recognizes students for artwork about Kentucky's environment. The works of art are used by DEP for environmental education across the state.

Students can submit drawings, paintings, prints, mixed media works, sculptures or photographs. There will be one winner for each type of art in each of three categories: conservation, pollution prevention and environmental protection.

A nomination form must accompany each work of art. For more information and for a nomination form, visit <http://dca.ky.gov/LGGS/Pages/ecoart.aspx> or call 800-926-8111.

Nominations will be accepted until midnight February 28. All nominations must be emailed to envhelp@ky.gov. A digital picture of each artwork nomination must accompany each form submitted. All students enrolled in Kentucky public and private high schools for the 2015-2016 academic year are eligible. Winners will be notified in March, and winning entries will be displayed in the training center.

A press release will be sent statewide announcing the winners, and an article will be published in Land, Air & Water with photos of the winning artwork and a description of the artists.

All of the winning artwork and the artists from the 2014-15 contest can be seen at <http://bit.ly/1k2ATdN>.



Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection

Simpson County students win 'Keep Kentucky Kids Safe' contest

Franklin-Simpson High School students Ben Byrum and Zach Tant have won the 2015 Keep Kentucky Kids Safe public service announcement (PSA) contest. Each will receive a



Ben Byrum and Zach Tant

\$250 Amazon gift card, compliments of the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI). You can view the winning PSA <https://youtu.be/vI9KlenZuOk>.

Finishing second was a video submission produced by a group of students from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington. The students were Rest Aliu, Praise Aliu, Tatyonna Williams, Lori Martinez, Riley Brown, and Haley Hall. The team wins a \$100 amazon.com gift card donated by the Kentucky Pharmacists Association. The second-place PSA is online at <https://youtu.be/o2OMlrxDDrs>.

The contest was sponsored by Attorney General Jack Conway as part of a statewide prescription drug abuse awareness and prevention initiative.

The first-place video will also be included with anti-drug PSAs that the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy distributes to television stations across Kentucky.

Kentucky schools named to national AP honor roll

Six Kentucky public school districts and the Archdiocese of Louisville have been named to the sixth Annual Advanced Placement Honor Roll, according to the College Board.

They are among 425 public and private districts in the United States and Canada that have shown a commitment to expanding access to AP coursework while also improving student performance.

The Kentucky public school districts are Berea, Boyle County, Bullitt County, Fort Thomas, Hopkins County and Logan County.

The Archdiocese of Louisville, Fort Thomas and Logan County have received the award multiple years in a row.

Inclusion on the honor roll is based on AP data from 2013 to 2015. During that period a district must:

- Increase participation in or access to AP by certain percentages based on the size of the district.
- Increase or maintain the percentages of exams taken by African-American, Hispanic and Native American students.
- Improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students from 2013 to 2015 who scored at least a 3, unless more than 70 percent of a district's AP students were already scoring a 3 or higher.

There are more than 30 AP courses available to high school students. The highest score on an AP exam is 5.

ACT launches multi-year dual credit initiative

ACT is launching a multi-year effort to increase the number of high school students in dual credit programs across the country.

Based on a thorough analysis of existing laws and research on dual credit programs, ACT released *Using Dual Enrollment to Improve the Educational Outcomes for High School Students*, a policy brief outlining recommendations to help boost enrollment in these programs.

ACT research shows that high school graduates who enter college with dual credits are more likely to succeed in college and to complete a bachelor's degree more quickly than students who enter college without such credits.

Yet students from lower-income families are the least likely to have access to dual credit courses, even with a recent \$20 million infusion of Pell Grants to help those students pay for such courses.

The report shares four recommendations:

- Developing consistent funding mechanisms.
- Ensuring high quality instruction for those courses.
- Offering additional support for students in dual credit classes.
- Using online resources to promote greater access.

ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee Required)
February 6, 2016	January 8, 2016	January 15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 18, 2016
June 11, 2016	May 6, 2016	May 20, 2016

SAT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee Required)	
		Mail	Phone/Online
January 23, 2016	December 28, 2015	January 8, 2016	January 12, 2016
March 5, 2016	February 5, 2016	February 19, 2016	February 23, 2016
May 7, 2016	April 8, 2016	April 22, 2016	April 26, 2016
June 4, 2016	May 5, 2016	May 20, 2016	May 25, 2016