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CONNECTION  
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For help with your higher education and financial aid questions, visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com)



# State increases funding for dual credit classes

Over the next two school years, Kentucky high school juniors and seniors who want to take dual credit courses before they graduate will have access to more scholarship money.

“Kentucky students can now receive scholarship awards for up to 12 college-level dual credit courses during the 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 school years,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “Taking dual credit coursework is a great way for high school students to get a jump start on college, lessen their high education costs and reduce the time it takes to earn a degree.”

KHEAA administers the Dual Credit Scholarship, which is open to students in public and private high schools and home schools. Students in public and private high schools can apply through their schools. Home-schooled students must complete and submit an application found on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

Changes made during the 2022 legislative session allow high school juniors and seniors to receive scholarship funding for up to two general education dual credit courses per year for the next two school years. Kentucky public school students in grades 9 to 12 are also eligible for scholarships to cover two dual credit courses each year taken as part of a career and technical education pathway.

For complete details on the Dual Credit Scholarship and Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship programs and for the home-school application, visit [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com), then click on the Paying for College tab and the link to KHEAA-Administered Programs.

## Students can receive more funds for technical training

Kentuckians who want to earn two-year degrees or certificates in certain technical fields may be able to receive more scholarship help starting this school year, thanks to legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed by Gov. Andy Beshear.

“Kentucky students are no longer limited to four semesters of awards from the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program,” Beshear said. “Now, their eligibility continues until they have earned 60 credit hours or completed their associate’s degree, whichever comes first.”

The change also allows students who have intellectual disabilities and are enrolled in Kentucky Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) programs to receive scholarships.

Dr. Kathy Sheppard-Jones, executive director of the Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky, said those students have long been underrepresented in higher education.

“Working together, we can help to ensure that Kentucky’s higher education system is welcoming of students with intellectual disabilities, increasing opportunities for their success in academics, employment and community engagement,” she added.

The scholarship can be used in five high-need fields: health care; advanced manufacturing; transportation/logistics; business services/IT; and construction. It can also be used for CTP programs that lead to a credential, certificate, diploma or degree.

For complete details, visit [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com), click on the Paying for College tab and the link to KHEAA-Administered Programs.

To learn more about CTPs, visit the [Kentucky Supported Higher Education Partnership](http://Kentucky Supported Higher Education Partnership).



**Outreach Counselor Kevin Wilson** talked with visitors to the KHEAA booth at an earlier state fair.

## Visit KHEAA at the state fair

Kentuckians attending the state fair in Louisville Aug. 18–28 can pick up free student financial aid information at KHEAA’s College Info Road Show booth in the South Wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center.

“I urge anyone interested in continuing their education after high school to take this opportunity to stop by the College Info Road Show to find out more about their options,” Gov. Andy Beshear said.

At the fair, students and parents can also register to win a \$529 college savings account from KY Saves 529, the state’s official education savings plan, administered by KHEAA. For more information about KY Saves 529, visit [kysaves.com](http://kysaves.com).

KHEAA staff will be on hand to answer questions from students, parents, school counselors and other college access providers.

Visitors to KHEAA’s booth can pick up free copies of *The College Circuit*, *Thriving in College*, *Adults Returning to School* and other publications. Students and families can also learn how to request a free copy of “Getting the Facts,” a personalized report that helps students estimate how much financial aid they may receive at the schools they want to attend.

## Admissions essay quality may affect financial aid

Some colleges require high school seniors to submit an essay as part of the admissions process. That essay may also help when it comes to paying for college

“The quality and thoughtfulness of a college admissions essay can play an important part in a student’s acceptance to their preferred school,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “Students should take the extra time to proofread and revise their essay several times, if necessary, and have a teacher, school counselor or parent review the essay before they submit it.”

Essays help schools learn more about students by giving them a chance to set themselves apart from other applicants. The more exclusive the college, the more important the essay may be in admissions decisions. An essay that stands out from the rest may make the school want a student enough to offer more financial aid.

Some schools let students submit nontraditional essays such as poems, song lyrics or videos, which allow students to display their creativity. Students should confirm with the school that nontraditional essays will be accepted before they submit one.

## KHEAA Outreach schedules Facebook, Twitter sessions

KHEAA Outreach has scheduled two Facebook and Twitter events for August.

The schedule is:

**Aug. 1:** Beating the Heat: Gearing Up for Fall, *Facebook*

**Aug. 15:** Beating the Heat: No Stress Seniors *Twitter*

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

The links are:

[www.facebook.com/KHEAA/](http://www.facebook.com/KHEAA/)

[www.twitter.com/KHEAA/](http://www.twitter.com/KHEAA/)



JOPLIN RICE



KEITH RITCHIE

## KHEAA adds outreach counselors in 2 regions

Joplin Rice and Keith Ritchie have returned to KHEAA as regional outreach counselors.

Rice grew up in Powell County. He has a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Kentucky and a master’s in public administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

Joplin’s territory covers Casey, Clark, Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Laurel, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Owsley, Powell, Pulaski and Rockcastle counties.

Rice can be reached at [jrice@kheaa.com](mailto:jrice@kheaa.com) or (502) 229-1147.

Ritchie grew up in Northern Kentucky. He has a bachelor’s in broadcasting from Eastern Kentucky University and a master’s in applied behavior science from Wright State University

Ritchie’s territory covers Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Henry, Kenton, Owen, Pendleton and Trimble counties.

Ritchie can be reached at [rkritchie@kheaa.com](mailto:rkritchie@kheaa.com) or (502) 753-9354.

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## Tips to help students improve their writing

Students who continue their education after high school will most likely find that they have to write a lot. That's especially true of students getting two- and four-year degrees, but it may also apply to students in technical programs.

These tips will help students do better on their assignments and tests:

- Make sure you understand the assignment and turn in everything the professor wants. If you're supposed to include a works cited page, make sure you do.
- Have a main idea, and make sure that the idea is clear throughout what you write.
- Support the main idea with examples. If you're analyzing a character in a book, use examples from the book to support your point.
- Organize what you write. If you have time, make a list of the points you want to make. You can even make a formal outline if that will help. For an essay question on a test, take a moment to organize your thoughts before you start writing.
- Address only one idea at a time, doing so in a separate paragraph.
- Use proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. A comma you leave out or put in the wrong place can change the entire meaning of what you wrote. "Let's eat Grandma" means something entirely different from "Let's eat, Grandma."
- Use spell check, but remember that it may not tell you that you have "to" where you're supposed to have "too."
- Proofread, proofread, proofread! That often makes the difference between a bad grade, a so-so grade and a great grade.



- Turn papers in on time. Some professors will drop you a letter grade for a late paper. Some won't accept them at all.
- Professors have a lot of essays to read. Make sure your papers hold their interest.
- If you're struggling, many campuses have a writing lab with instructors who can help you sharpen your skills.

## Scholarship Spotlight

### Early Graduate Certificate Scholarship

**Eligibility:** Must be a Kentucky public high school student who graduates in three years or less, file an intent to graduate early before October 1 of the academic year the student intends to graduate and meet minimum proficiency benchmarks and ACT exam college-ready benchmarks.

**Award:** Varies; nonrenewable. Must be used the year immediately following high school graduation at a Kentucky 2- or 4-year college accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

**Deadline:** Before October 1 of graduation year

**Contact:** School counselor or [www.education.ky.gov/educational/AL/earlygrad](http://www.education.ky.gov/educational/AL/earlygrad)

# Match, fit are important for college completion

**BILL DeBAUN**

**National College Attainment Network**

Of the students who entered college in the fall of 2015, about 60 percent completed a degree or certificate six years later. Just three out of every five students who jump through all of the hoops wind up with a credential six years later.

Our college completion leak starts well before the first college semester, and we can address that problem. One of the most important things is to help students wind up at the right school in the first place.

Research by NCAN and the Vela Institute found that 81.3 percent of students had another postsecondary school within 50 miles of their high school that had a higher completion rate than the school the student attended. The average student from a lowest-income high school had a nearby postsecondary choice with a projected completion rate nearly 37 percentage points higher than the school the student first attended.

The data show that where students enter college matters as much as whether they do so and that changes in where they attend can have a big effect on whether they finish their program.

That brings up the concepts of academic “fit” and “match.” Match is how a student’s academic profile (GPA, admissions test scores, etc.) matches with a school’s student body. “Fit” describes how well a college meets a student’s other needs and preferences (location, size, academic and extracurricular programming, and more).

NCAN offers a series of resources to help districts, schools, programs, and practitioners guide students to the schools that best meet a student’s fit and match:

- The Fit & Match Toolkit offers thoughts on how to track fit and match.
- This blog post documents Springfield (MA) Public



Schools’ professional development around fit and match and summer melt.

- Achieve Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools created a Match & Fit List Builder that districts with a StudentTracker subscription with the National Student Clearinghouse can use.
- NCAN’s eLearning unit on college fit and match looks at the concepts, platforms, and strategies that can increase students’ likelihood of getting to the school that best meets their aspiration and ability.

If more students received postsecondary advising based on fit and match, we’d probably see completion rates rise over time.

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*Bill DeBaun is NCAN’s senior director of data and strategic initiatives. KHEEA and NCAN are working together on the Gates Postsecondary Pathways Project.*



## Eating right, exercising can lead to success on campus

One way students can help themselves be successful at college is to eat healthy foods and get adequate exercise.

Liquid calories should be avoided. Alcohol, soda and sugar-laden coffee are full of empty calories. Studies reported by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute of Health link energy drinks with heart problems, so students should think twice before using them.

Another good habit is to healthy snacks in the dorm room or apartment. Peanut butter, apples and trail mix are good options to have on hand.

Having a regular meal schedule will also help. Students should give themselves enough time to eat slowly. If they're headed toward the school cafeteria or food court, they should decide what they're going to eat before they get there. If they plan to eat a grilled chicken salad, they're less likely to get a burger and fries.

Students need to exercise. Regular exercise not only makes people feel better, it reduces stress. Exercise also improves memory and can boost thinking skills.

Many colleges have a student activities center with workout rooms; basketball, tennis, handball, and other courts; and a running/walking track. The cost of using those facilities is generally included in the mandatory fees schools charge in addition to tuition.

## Dep't of Education makes changes to studentaid.gov

The U.S. Department of Education has made several changes to its studentaid.gov website in recent days.

All users creating their first-time account must now set up one or more two-step verification methods (text, email or authenticator app). Once one or more two-step verification methods are set up, users will receive a secure code each time they log in to studentaid.gov.

Existing customers will have the option to add two-step verification to their account in "Settings."

Beginning in November, all current users must set up two-step verification if they have not already done so. This requirement will be implemented on a rolling basis to minimize impacts to customers and the department's contact centers. More information will be provided in the fall.

### Public Service Loan Forgiveness

The department has added a PSLF Employer Search which lets customers search for qualifying PSLF employers. The search provides easy-to-follow prompts and guides users through the process. Users will receive a message about next steps if their employer qualifies for PSLF, does not qualify for PSLF, or isn't listed in the database.

### Other changes

The department has also made changes to:

- Borrower defense application experience
- Income-driven repayment (IDR) plan landing page
- Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- PLUS Application
- Status Center
- "Submit a Complaint"

# ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
Sept. 10, 2022	Aug. 5, 2022	Aug. 19, 2022
Oct. 22, 2022	Sept. 16, 2022	Sept. 30, 2022
Dec. 10, 2022	Nov. 4, 2022	Nov. 11, 2022
Feb. 11, 2023	Jan. 6, 2023	Jan. 20, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023

# SAT National Test Dates

Aug. 27, 2022	July 29, 2022	Aug. 16, 2022
Oct. 1, 2022	Sept. 2, 2022	Sept. 20, 2022
Nov. 5, 2022	Oct. 7, 2022	Oct. 10, 2022
Dec. 3, 2022	Nov. 3, 2022	Nov. 22, 2022
March 11, 2023	Feb. 10, 2023	Feb. 28, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023



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