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COLLEGE  
CONNECTION

June 2022



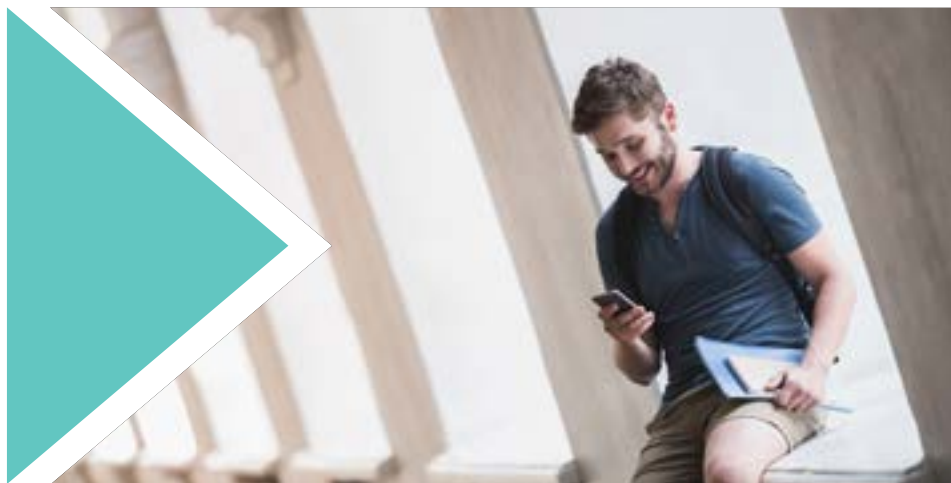
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For help with your higher education and financial aid questions, visit

[www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com)



## Students should check their KEES accounts for accuracy

Kentucky high school students and Class of 2022 graduates should check their Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) accounts for accuracy.

“Now that Kentucky high schools have reported grade point averages for the 2021–2022 academic year, students and recent graduates should check their KEES accounts to ensure their GPAs are correct,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “That will make sure they receive all the scholarship funds they’re entitled to when they go to college.”

Under the KEES program, students earn money for college by achieving good grades in high school and receiving good scores on the ACT or SAT. KEES is administered by KHEAA.

To check awards, students must sign into their MyKHEAA account on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com). If they do not have an account, they can set one up.

Students can verify that their KEES GPA is correct by taking the letter grade earned for each course taken during the school year and converting it to a 4.0 scale. On this scale, an A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, and F = 0. Pluses and minuses count the same, so an A- and an A+ are both worth 4.0 points.

Grades for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Advanced International and dual credit courses are weighted, making an A = 5.0, B = 4.0, etc.

If students find problems with their account or cannot access their KEES information, they should call KHEAA’s Customer Relations team at 800-928-8926 for assistance.



## Application for Optometry Scholarship available July 1

Kentuckians interested in becoming optometrists may apply beginning July 1 for the state's Optometry Scholarship program, administered by KHEAA.

“This scholarship will help future optometrists fulfill their dreams of being able to help those in need,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “By making these funds available, our hope is the recipients will practice optometry in Kentucky, thereby giving more of their fellow Kentuckians an opportunity to access quality eye care.”

The scholarship may be used at the Kentucky College of Optometry at the University of Pikeville; Indiana University College of Optometry in Bloomington; Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee; and the University of Alabama at Birmingham College of Optometry.

Applications for the 2023–2024 academic year will open July 1. The deadline is Dec. 1. Recipients will be notified in February 2023. Applicants must be Kentucky residents and U.S. citizens to be eligible for the scholarship program.

For more information or to apply, visit [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com). The application will not be posted online until July 1.

## Private student loans may fill the financial aid gap

Many students attending colleges and technical schools will qualify for financial aid. However, some students may find that grants, scholarships and federal loans don't cover all their educational costs.

Students who go to school less than half time generally don't qualify for state or federal financial aid programs.

Private education loans can help students whose financial aid doesn't cover all their costs or students who don't qualify for financial aid.

Because interest rates on private loans depend on the borrower's credit rating, students may have to pay higher rates than they would on federal loans. Many lenders require students to have a cosigner and require the colleges to certify that students need a loan.

Students and parents should compare private loans offered by various lenders to find the best possible deal. They should consider the Advantage Education Loan, offered by the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC).

An Advantage Education Loan is especially attractive when compared with a Federal PLUS Loan for parents and for graduate and professional students.

The interest rate on PLUS Loans for the 2022–2023 academic year is 7.54 percent. In addition, PLUS Loan borrowers will have a 4.228 percent origination fee. On a \$10,000 loan, the student will receive only \$9,577.20

The highest interest rate on Advantage Loans is 6.48 percent, and KHESLC charges no origination fees. The student will get the entire \$10,000 and pay less interest over the life of the loan.

Visit [advantageeducationloan.com](http://advantageeducationloan.com) for more information about Advantage Education Loans.

# CPE approves 2022–23 tuition, new programs

The Council on Postsecondary Education gave final approval to public university and college tuition and mandatory fees for the 2022–23 academic year. The action came at CPE’s June 17 meeting.

The approved tuition rates and increases are:

- Eastern Kentucky University, \$10,144, 0.9 percent.
- Kentucky State University, \$8,954, 1.8 percent.
- Morehead State University, \$9,500, 1.0 percent.
- Murray State University, \$9,732, 1.9 percent
- Northern Kentucky University, \$10,592, 1.9 percent.
- University of Kentucky, \$12,859, 2.0 percent.
- University of Louisville, \$12,520, 1.2 percent.
- Western Kentucky University, \$11,112, 1.1 percent.
- KCTCS, \$5,700, 1.6 percent.

The CPE board also approved three new university programs and was apprised of six new programs being offered by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. New programs for KCTCS are approved by CPE staff without board action.

The new programs are:

- University of Kentucky, bachelor’s degree in leadership for community education and human learning.
- Northern Kentucky University, master’s degree in educational leadership.
- University of Louisville, master’s degree in applied philosophy.
- Hopkinsville Community College, associate’s degree in computerized manufacturing and machining.
- Maysville Community and Technical College, associate’s degrees in human services, aviation maintenance technology, education, and health science technology.
- Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College, associate’s degree in medical laboratory technician.

# Dolan elected as member of Kentucky ACT Council

Kim Dolan, KHEAA’s director of outreach, has been named a member of the Kentucky ACT Council.



**KIM DOLAN**

“ACT state councils provide opportunities for ACT to support a variety of K–12, postsecondary and workforce initiatives that are important to Kentucky,” said Dr. Kurt Burkum, senior director of government relations and policy research at ACT.

“Kim will bring a fresh perspective on how ACT can work collaboratively to improve the educational and workforce landscape in Kentucky.”

The ACT organization is best known for its college entrance exam, which Kentucky high school juniors take each spring.

“Kim is a valuable asset to KHEAA and instrumental in facilitating college access and success for students and families across the Commonwealth,” said Diana Barber, KHEAA’s interim executive director. “We are excited about the shared goals she and the ACT council can accomplish together.”

The council oversees the efforts of the Kentucky ACT State Organization. That group works with educators and workforce leaders to promote education and career planning in the state.



## Not sure about plans after high school? File the FAFSA

Even students who aren't sure if they want to get technical training or go to college should consider filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. That's true even if they want to sit out the fall semester.

The FAFSA will tell them how much federal and state financial aid they can expect if they do decide to further their education.

The best way to file the FAFSA is online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Students who haven't set up an account yet must first set up an account at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

The FAFSA will ask students to provide information about their income and assets. If they're considered dependent students — as nearly all recent high school graduates are — their parents must also provide income and asset information for the FAFSA.

Students must file the FAFSA to qualify for such programs as Federal Pell Grants, Federal Direct Loans and Federal Work-Study. The form is also used to apply for many Kentucky scholarship and grant programs and for many financial aid programs administered by colleges and trade schools.

## Earning certificates pays off for working Kentuckians

A new report shows that Kentuckians who earn a post-high school certificate will more likely find jobs — and make more money — than they did before they received their certificate.

According to the report from the Council on Postsecondary Education, workers with a certificate earn about 14 percent more and get higher raises.

The report focused on Kentuckians who have earned one postsecondary certificate and who were employed before pursuing their certificate. By focusing on this group of students, the study authors could compare their subjects' earnings and employment after completing their certificates to their prior earnings and employment.

The study found certificate earners who studied a STEM field experienced the highest earnings increase followed by health care professions and skilled trades.

Earnings increases are largest among students who took more credits while earning their certificate. Students who took 15 or more credits in their fields of study have earnings increases that are about twice as large as those who completed certificates with fewer credits related to their fields of study.

According to CPE, Kentucky is a national leader in short-term certificate granting, awarding about four times the national average.

The complete report can be accessed at [cpe.ky.gov](https://cpe.ky.gov).

## FAFSA app being discontinued

The U.S. Department of Education will no longer provide its app for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The last day the app can be used is June 30.



# 2023 seniors can take ACT free for second time in fall

Incoming Kentucky high school seniors who have previously taken the ACT can take the test a second time for free during a statewide ACT retake day in the fall.

The date of the free retake day will be designated by the Kentucky Department of Education. More information on the date and locations will be provided in the coming months.

“This is an education-first administration, and our goal is to provide opportunities for Kentucky’s kids to succeed in their goals of a postsecondary education,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “Research shows that by retaking the ACT, students are more likely to raise their score, which allows them to pursue more scholarships. With the best budget in 25 years, this is a chance for us to remove barriers for our students and help them achieve a brighter future.”

The ACT is the admissions exam used by Kentucky to measure a student’s level of readiness for college in core academic content areas, including English, mathematics, reading and science. The current price for the ACT in Kentucky is \$37 for online testing and \$38 for paper-based testing.

In addition to boosted scores, the ACT retake opportunity is expected to increase the number of students pursuing a postsecondary education.

“I was a lot more comfortable when I took the ACT for the second time,” Frankfort High School junior Ella Luking said. “Because so much of your result is based on understanding how to take the test and knowing what to expect, it’s reassuring to have two chances to do your best.”

Research has shown that students from across the country were impacted by disruptions from the pandemic, which negatively impacted ACT scores. An additional test has been found to result in an increased score and a better outcome for students.



For KEES award purposes, KHEAA accepts the highest composite score students earn on an ACT or SAT exam taken before they graduate from high school.

Students, families and educators can access more information on the ACT by visiting the Kentucky [ACT website](#).

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## KHEAA sets social media schedule for this summer

KHEAA Outreach has scheduled four Facebook and Twitter events for July and August.

The schedule is:

**July 5:** Summer Blast: College Choice Hot List, **Facebook**

**July 18:** Summer Blast: Cooling Off on Campus, **Twitter**

**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/)



## Scholarship Spotlight

### Early Childhood Education Scholarship

**Eligibility:** An applicant must:

- Be a Kentucky resident and a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident.
- Be enrolled in a qualifying early childhood program of study at a participating institution.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Be employed at least 20 hours per week in a participating early childhood facility or as a preschool associate teacher in a state-funded preschool program.
- Not be eligible for state or federal training funds through Head Start, a public preschool program or First Steps.
- Have no unpaid financial obligation to KHEAA or to any other Title IV program.
- Agree to a service commitment.

**Award:** Varies

**Number:** Varies

**Deadline:** July 15 for fall; Nov. 15 for spring

**Contact:** For complete information or to apply, visit [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

## Students should become familiar with credit scores

Students should understand how their credit score will affect their lifestyle.

Although there are several scoring methods, the most widely accepted one comes from FICO. Your FICO score ranges from 300 to 850. These items make up your FICO score:

- 35 percent is based on your payment history. Early payments will have a higher number than on-time payments, which will have a higher score than late payments.
- 30 percent is based on outstanding debt. This outstanding debt is how much you owe on loans, mortgages, credit cards, etc. Having a lot of credit cards can hurt your score, especially if you're near your borrowing limit.
- 15 percent is based on the length of time you have had credit. The longer you have been borrowing and making payments on time, the better your score.
- 10 percent is based on new credit. Opening several new accounts will have a negative effect on your score. Also, the more inquiries you have on your credit report in a year, the lower your score will be.
- 10 percent is based on the types of credit you currently have. It helps to have a mix of loan types. If you have a credit card, an installment loan will even out the credit.

Two people each borrow \$20,000 over 60 months to buy cars. One has a 760 credit score and gets a 4.5% interest rate. The other has a 640 credit score and pays 7.5% interest. See who pays more interest over the life of the loan.



## ACT National Test Dates

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

## SAT National Test Dates

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



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# Get help paying for college



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