

# YOUR KHEAA COLLEGE CONNECTION

March 2016

## Students, parents should take verification seriously

The federal government requires many students who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to verify the information on the FAFSA.

Used to apply for most federal and many state student aid programs, the FAFSA asks detailed questions about the income and resources of students. Parents are required to provide their information as well if their children are dependent students. Students are considered dependent if they are undergraduate students under 24 years old, not married, have no dependents of their own, are not veterans or were not orphans or wards of the court until age 19.

The college or, in some cases, an agency working with the college will contact students to let them know if their data is being verified.

Students and parents need to take that process seriously.

IF YOU'RE  
SELECTED FOR  
VERIFICATION,  
YOU WON'T  
RECEIVE YOUR  
FINANCIAL AID  
UNTIL YOU  
COMPLETE THE  
VERIFICATION  
PROCESS.



Students chosen for verification cannot receive their financial aid until they have completed the process. As soon as they are contacted, they should provide all information required. Putting it off will only lead to frustration if the process isn't finished when classes are ready to start.

If students have decided not to attend a college that asked them for documentation, they should let the college know so it will stop requesting information.

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



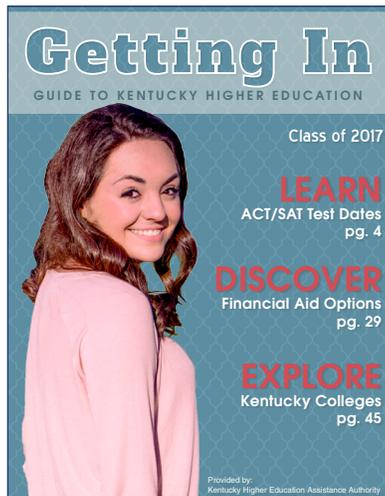
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## Deadline for essay contest approaching

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/intro](http://kheaa.com/website/contest/intro).

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](mailto: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.

## Private, home school students can use free ILPs

Kentucky students who attend private schools or who are home schooled have free access to Individual Learning Plans (ILP) from KHEAA.

KHEAA works with Career Cruising, which provides the ILP the state uses in all public schools, to give private and home school students in grades 6 through 12 the same planning tool.

ILPs let students explore careers, set up education plans, create résumés and establish personal goals to become college and career ready.

A private or home school student who wants to set up an ILP should log in on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com). Private schools that want to set up accounts for their students should contact their regional outreach counselor. Contact information can be found behind the Counselors tab at [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com) by selecting KHEAA Outreach Services, then Outreach Counselors.

## Go Higher Grant helps adults earn college credit

Adult Kentuckians interested in taking college classes may be eligible for a Go Higher Grant from KHEAA.

The maximum award amount is \$1,000.

Recipients must be at least 24 years old and be enrolled less than half time at a participating Kentucky college. They must show financial need and be U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents. They must also be working on their first undergraduate degree.

To apply, students must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be found at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). They must also submit a Go Higher Grant application, which can be found on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com) by clicking on the "Paying for College" tab, choosing "KHEAA-Administered Programs" and clicking on the link to the grant.

For more information, please contact Sheila Roe at 800.928.8926, ext. 67393, or [sroe@kheaa.com](mailto:sroe@kheaa.com).

## May 15 is deadline to apply for dual credit scholarship

May 15 is the deadline for high school students to apply for the Mary Jo Young Scholarship. Students and schools will be notified of scholarship awards as soon as possible after June 1.

The scholarship pays up to \$420 per course for up to two courses per semester, plus textbook reimbursement of \$125 per course, for students enrolled in dual credit courses at a Kentucky college or university. To be considered, a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Be a Kentucky resident.
- Be a high school junior or senior during the 2016-2017 academic year.
- Have at least an 18 ACT composite or at least a 2.5 GPA for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Priority is given to students eligible for free and reduced price lunches.

Students who receive a 100% dual credit tuition waiver as part of the agreement between the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Office of Career and Technical Education may use their award to cover their \$50 administrative fee.

To apply, students must sign in at [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com), select the MyKHEAA account link, choose “Apply Online for Scholarships” from the menu on the left, click on the Mary Jo Young Scholarship application link, and follow the instructions from there. They will receive a confirmation message when they have completed the process. Students using MyKHEAA for the first time will need to click on the “Register now” link to create an account before they can apply.

For more information, contact Danny Prather at 800.928.8926, ext. 67399, or [danprather@kheaa.com](mailto:danprather@kheaa.com).

## Scholarship available to those providing early childhood education

Kentucky’s child care providers and those who train child care providers may be eligible for the Early Childhood Development Scholarship to further their college education.



The application deadline for summer classes is April 15. The deadline for fall classes is July 15.

The scholarships are available to those who work at least 20 hours per week in a participating early childhood facility. Kentuckians employed as a preschool associate teacher in a state-funded preschool program are also eligible.

Recipients must be working toward an associate’s or bachelor’s degree in early childhood education or other approved credential. Depending on funding, the scholarship will pay up to \$1,800 for tuition each year. Students may not take more than nine hours of classes per semester.

The scholarship is administered by KHEAA, the agency that administers state aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES).

To apply, students must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an Early Childhood Development Scholarship application. The FAFSA is available at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). The scholarship application is available at [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com). To complete the scholarship application, students must set up a KHEAA account. After registering, sign in, then select Apply Online for Scholarships.

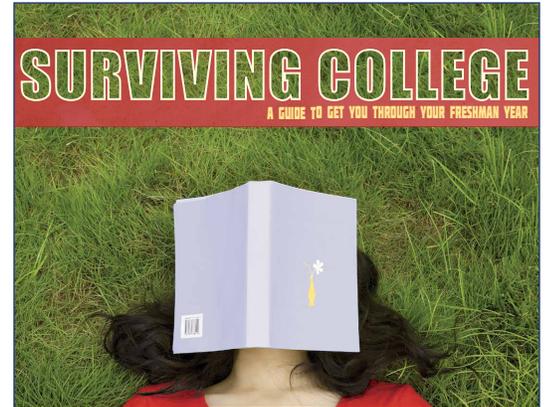
For more information, contact Danny Prather at 800.928.8926, ext. 67399, or [danprather@kheaa.com](mailto:danprather@kheaa.com).

# ‘Surviving College’ booklets can help freshmen, adults

“Surviving College,” a guide that helps college freshmen succeed during their first year on campus, is available free from KHEAA.

The 36-page booklet includes sections about:

- Majors and class schedules.
- Staying healthy and safe on campus.
- Learning styles and study tips.
- Campus life.
- Financial basics.



KHEAA also provides “Surviving College for Adults,” geared toward nontraditional students.

To order a free copy, email [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com). Please include your mailing address.

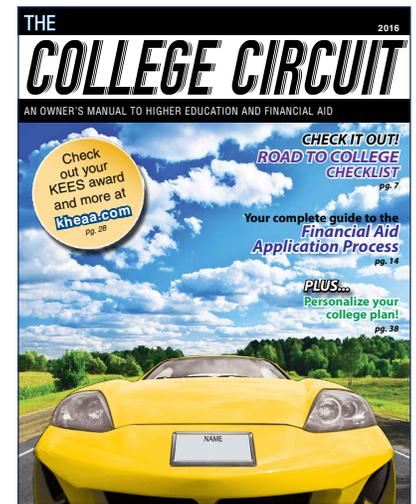
Online versions of both are available on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

# Free booklet helps students, parents plan for college

Kentuckians planning for higher education will find “The College Circuit,” a booklet published by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), to be a useful resource.

It can be used by students ranging in age from middle school to adults. Parents and counselors can also use it to help their students plan and pay for college. The booklet includes information about careers, college preparation, state and federal financial aid, tips for parents, online resources and a template for setting up a personal college plan.

Students and families will also find detailed information about the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program. The booklet shows the steps involved in applying for federal student aid and provides guidance on borrowing student loans.



To request copies, please email [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com) or use the order form on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

## Senior Year Planner

- Submit mid-year grades if the colleges you’ve applied to require them.
- Send in any required deposits.
- 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.

# State ranks 8th in nation in degree, credential growth

The Council on Postsecondary Education's "Kentucky Completion Report" shows that total degrees and credentials awarded grew 59 percent over a 10-year period, from 39,203 awards in 2003-04 to 62,339 awards in 2012-13. This growth at Kentucky's public two-year, four-year and independent sectors ranked eighth in the nation.

Kentucky's largest 10-year growth, at 159 percent, was in undergraduate workforce certificates. The number of certificates grew by more than 12,000 awards between 2004-05 and 2013-14, according to the report.

When it comes to fields of study, the greatest growth was in workforce trades, up 111 percent; health, up 85 percent; and STEM, up 51 percent.

Associate degrees also made significant gains with a 52 percent increase, while bachelor's degrees grew steadily at 24 percent.

From 2004-05 through 2013-14, the growth in total degrees and credentials awarded in Kentucky rose 53 percent, up from 42,773 in 2004-05 to 65,481 in 2013-14. However, there is cause for caution since the pace of growth is slowing.

The growth in total awards was led by the two-year public sector with 101 percent increase, climbing from 15,741 awards in 2004-05 to 31,715 awards in 2013-14. These gains were bolstered by steady increases by the independents at 43 percent and four-year publics at 20 percent.

The mix of degree and credential types awarded in Kentucky shifted as the number of degrees and credentials awarded grew, according to the report.

The largest shift occurred in the share of certificates awarded. In 2004-05, undergraduate certificates accounted for only 19 percent of all degrees and credentials awarded, but by 2013-14, undergraduate certificates climbed to 31 percent of all postsecondary degrees and credentials awarded in Kentucky.

The second largest shift came in the share of baccalaureate degrees awarded. In 2004-05, baccalaureate degrees represented 41 percent of total awards, but fell to 33 percent of all awards by 2013-14.

Men earned fewer degrees and credentials than women but their attainment growth in the past five years outpaced that of women.

The number of degrees and credentials earned by Hispanic students increased 125 percent overall since 2004-05.

The report, including conclusions and recommendations, is available at <http://cpe.ky.gov/info/>.

