



KENTUCKY

COLLEGE

*Application*

WEEK

# College Admissions Tips

- ✓ It's okay to apply to colleges before you've made a final choice! You need several options to choose from when selecting a college, and applying early helps ensure you're a good fit.
- ✓ It's wise to apply to more than one school. Make sure at least one is a school where you know you'll be admitted, can pay for it, and feel you fit. Most students apply to between two and five colleges.
- ✓ You want to represent yourself in the best manner possible, so be sure that your online profiles (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) show the positive decisions you make.
- ✓ Get to know your admissions counselors. They can help you through the process and ensure that you have everything you need to complete admission to their school. You can meet some of these people by attending a KYACAC college fair in your area.
- ✓ Visiting campus is the single best way to determine if a college is right for you. Use college visit days or breaks to visit college campuses. When you're there, ask lots of questions!
- ✓ Be sure to consider in-state schools so that you can use your hard-earned KEES award!
- ✓ Don't let finances keep you from applying. You may be eligible for scholarships or other financial aid that may help you afford college. If you have questions, talk with your parents, school counselor or college admissions representative.
- ✓ It's okay to feel confused about admissions and financial aid. We're here to help! Your school counselor is a great resource, as is the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. Visit us at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) or call the KHEAA College Access Team at 800.928.8926.

# Sample College Application Essay Questions

- Colleges use your writing sample to learn more about you as a person. Below are examples of essay topics you may see on Kentucky college applications or The Common Application.
- How can you contribute to diversity?
- Why do you believe this college is a good fit for you?
- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.

## SENIOR YEAR MADE SIMPLE!

### First Half

- Complete college applications before Winter Break!
- Know your scholarship deadlines!



### Halftime! Enjoy your Winter Break!

### Second Half

- Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 (using previous year's income information)!
- Make college decision by May 1!

# Admissions Application Checklist

It's important to gather all of the information you'll need before you begin the application process. Use this folder to collect those materials so you're well-prepared on College Application Day! Review the following list for items you'll need to complete most admissions applications.

- Your own biographical information:** Colleges will ask you questions like name, address, valid e-mail address, telephone number, etc. It's important that you know your Social Security number, not only to make application for college but also for when you file the FAFSA.
- Your parents' biographical information:** Because you're still considered a minor, colleges need to know about your parents when you apply. Be sure to know where they work, whether they went to college, and, if they did, where they went. Valid e-mail addresses and phone numbers are also necessary.

**\*\*Tip**—*A good way to ensure you have all of the biographical information required is to print off a copy of your selected college's application and fill it out on paper before applying online. Keep a copy of your "practice application" in this folder so you have it handy on College Application Day.\*\**

- ACT/SAT score:** Colleges use your ACT or SAT score to determine how prepared you are to attend their college. Be sure to have a copy of your highest or most recent score with you on College Application Day. If you need a copy of your report, your school counselor can help you get it.
- High School Transcript:** Colleges need to review the work you've done in high school. Be sure to have your school counselor send your college an official copy of your transcript. (**Note:** Many times, if your ACT score is printed on the transcript, you will not have to submit your scores separately.)
- College Résumé:** College résumés are a great way to illustrate how active you are in clubs, organizations and your community. Have yours created, edited and on-hand on College Application Day. (**Note:** A great way to create a college résumé is to use your Individual Learning Plan [ILP]. If you're not familiar with the résumé function, ask your counselor for help.)
- College Admissions Essay:** Many colleges evaluate students' writing abilities by requiring a college admissions essay with their application. Never submit a college essay unless you've revised it and had some people you trust (a parent, peer, teacher, counselor) read it and give you feedback. You want this to be an example of your best work, so make sure it's polished!

**\*\*Tip**—*Because you'll need your college résumé and admissions essay on hand when you submit your application online, you may want to save both documents to a thumb drive to bring with you on College Application Day.\*\**

- Letters of Recommendation:** Many colleges ask for letters of recommendation to learn more about you. Choose people whom you trust and feel confident can say great things about you, such as your school counselor or a favorite teacher. Don't ask a family member, since most schools want these letters to be from someone who isn't related to you. Be sure to give your references plenty of time to write and submit your letters before your application deadline. It is also wise to provide them with a copy of your college résumé so they can cite specific things you've done in your high school career.
- Payment:** Some colleges still require an application fee even if you apply online. When you arrive on College Application Day, be sure to have a method of payment, such as a credit card number, for your application fee. You can find out how much the fee is by checking the school's website. If you are having problems with the admissions application fee, please see your school counselor for options.

# College Choices

Narrow your college search to schools that you feel would be good choices for you. Use this space to list the schools you may apply to and some important information about them.

## Choice 1

College/University \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_ Size of School \_\_\_\_\_

Tuition, Room, Board, and Fees \_\_\_\_\_

## Choice 2

College/University \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_ Size of School \_\_\_\_\_

Tuition, Room, Board, and Fees \_\_\_\_\_

## Choice 3

College/University \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_ Size of School \_\_\_\_\_

Tuition, Room, Board, and Fees \_\_\_\_\_

## *Discover how much college really costs*

At KHEAA, we know money plays a big role in making a college decision. A personalized **College Cost & Planning Report** can help by estimating your college costs and financial aid for any school in the country that you wish to attend — and it's absolutely FREE.

Go to [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com) and sign in to or register for a Zip Access account to request your KHEAA **College Cost & Planning Report** today! For more information, call 1.800.928.8926, extension 7495.



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