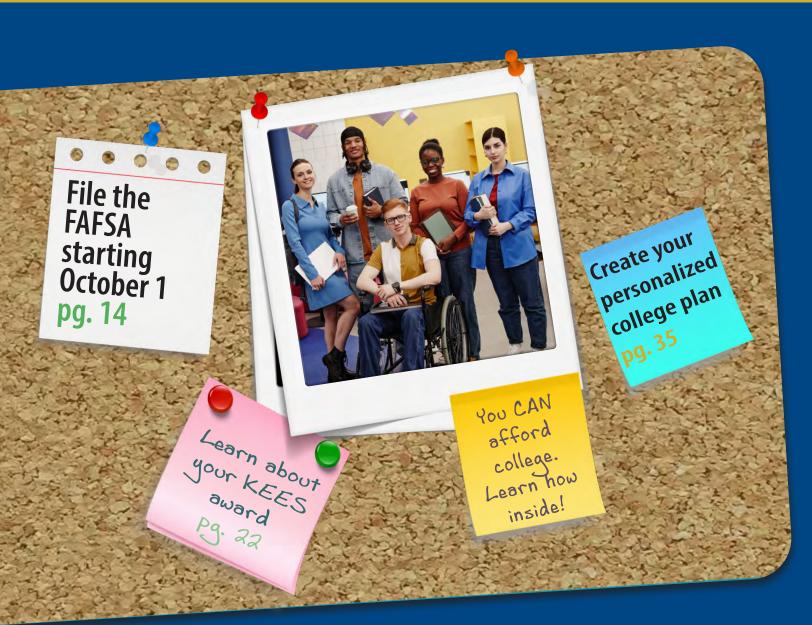
2023

# The College Circuit

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL AID





### What does your future hold?

Deciding what you want to do after high school is a big deal. Whatever your goals are, your future plans will likely involve some sort of education or additional training beyond the high school level, and it's important to plan and prepare properly.

That's why this guide was put together by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), an agency that makes postsecondary education more accessible to Kentuckians like you.

It will help you figure out:

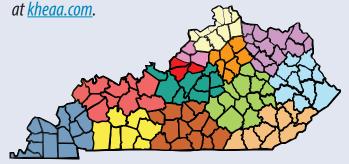
- Your options for continuing your education after high school
- How to navigate the college admissions process
- The financial aid resources available to help pay for your education

Take the time to read through this guide as you start planning for your future after high school. It will help you get where you want to go.

Words in italics are defined in the glossary starting on page 30.

## KHEAA OUTREACH COUNSELORS AND COLLEGE COACHES

KHEAA covers Kentucky's 120 counties with 13 regional outreach counselors and 32 college coaches. Find the outreach counselor for your area in the Counselors tab



**Find a KHEAA Counselor** 



## Be on the lookout for the College Info Road Show!

Visiting middle schools, high schools, adult education centers, public libraries and other sites, KHEAA's mobile classroom uses state-of-the-art technology to connect students with the information they need to research, pursue, and succeed in their educational future beyond high school. The bus is equipped with Internet access, 11 individual workstations and an instructor's screen.



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Find The College Circuit online



### What's your destination?

Your career has a lot to do with how much money you'll make. Here's how much money certain careers pay on **average** in Kentucky. Use the resources listed on page 27 to research the educational requirements of careers that interest you. (Don't expect to make this much right out of college. You need experience, too.)

### Occupations by Median Salary and Required Level of Education in Kentucky<sup>1</sup>

Professional Degree	
Orthodontists	\$208,000
Pediatricians	\$180,770
Pharmacists	\$125,310
Veterinarians	\$85,950
Lawyers	\$82,610
Doctoral Degree	
School superintendents <sup>2</sup>	\$140,536
History professors	\$63,420
Master's Degree	
Nurse Practitioners	\$99,500
Physical Therapists	\$86,020
Statisticians	\$76,770
Bachelor's Degree	
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$119,300
Financial Managers	\$96,840
Mining and Geological Engineers	\$82,370
Farm and Ranch Managers	\$68,090
Registered Nurses	\$63,060
Forensic Science Technicians	\$46,090
Graphic Designers	\$43,200
Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Motion Picture Staff	\$42,960
Public School Classroom Teachers <sup>2</sup>	\$55,016
Associate's Degree (or other 2-year degree)	
Industrial Engineering Technologists	\$54,440
Industrial Maintenance Workers	\$54,190
Postsecondary Certificate	
Electrical and Electronics Repairers,	\$57,130
Commercial and Industrial Equipment Workers	
Welders, Cutters, and Welder Fitters	\$40,980
Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	\$24,320

# List your top 3 career choices!

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



### Is minimum wage enough for you?

At \$7.25 an hour, you can expect to earn about \$15,080 a year IF you have a full-time job. Many minimum wage jobs are only part time and offer no benefits.



# Dreaming of becoming a paid influencer?

Most social media influencers need to reach 100,000 followers before they start seeing a profit. Many will need to reach 1,000,000.

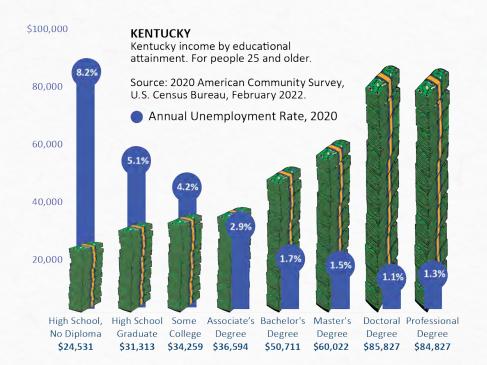
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Typical average salary in Kentucky. Source: careeronestop.org.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Source: Kentucky Department of Education, http://education.ky.gov/districts/finrept/pages/school%20district%20personnel%20information.aspx, 2020–21

### Why college?

This graph gives the 2020 median earnings of people in Kentucky over age 25 who worked year-round at a full-time job, based on their level of education, compared to the unemployment rate for each level of education.

### **Median Earnings of Kentuckians**



### **Help wanted!**

There are many highpaying jobs in Kentucky that aren't getting filled because there aren't enough people trained in those fields. Kentucky is now offering to pay for this training through the **Work Ready Kentucky** Scholarship. You can learn more about the scholarship on page 19. The table on the right provides some examples of jobs in the five "Work Ready" sectors. To learn about these and other careers, visit helpwantedky. com. To apply for the Work Ready Scholarship, visit kheaa.com.

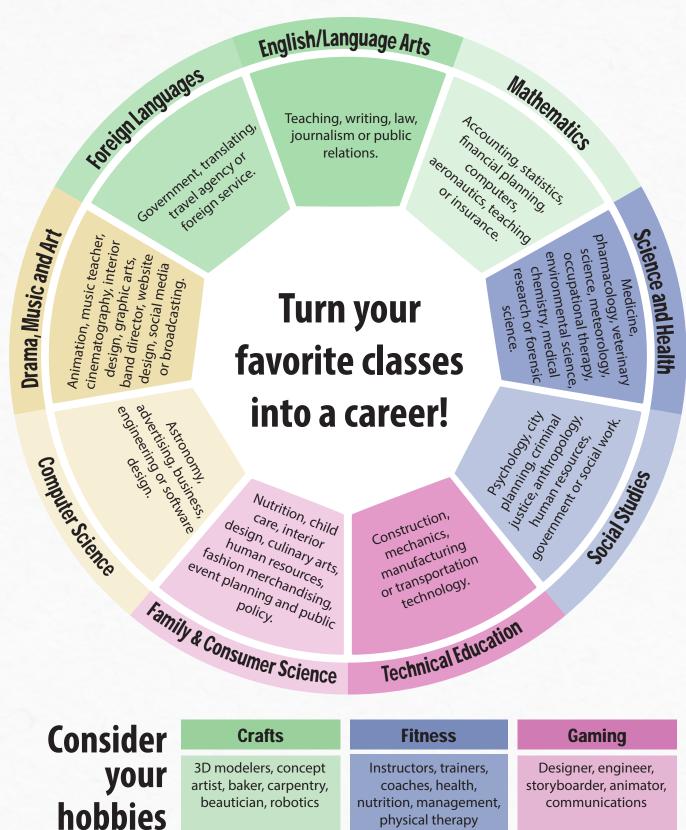
WOR	K
READ	Y
SCHOLARSHIP	

Job Title	Annual Salary*	Job Title	Annual Salary*
Adv	vanced Mai	nufacturing	
Electrical Engineering Technician	\$62,790	Industrial Technician	\$54,440
Mechanical Drafters	\$55,410	Surveying Technician	\$39,360
Business	and Inform	nation Technology	
Accountant	\$62,550	Information Security Analysts	\$77,170
Computer User Support Specialist	\$48,210	Web Developer	\$65,150
	Constructio	on Trades	
Carpenter	\$44,350	Drywaller	\$40,340
Electrician	\$51,020	Plumber	\$57,990
	Health	Care	
Medical Coder	\$40,020	Phlebotomist	\$31,270
Pharmacy Technician	\$29,550	Radiographer	\$51,900
Transportation and Logistics			
Automotive Technician	\$35,160	Agriculture Equipment Mechanic	\$37,660
Diesel Engine Specialist	\$44,670	Logistician	\$68,980

<sup>\*</sup>Typical average salary in Kentucky. Source: careeronestop.org.

### Classes to careers

The chart below shows careers associated with certain types of classes. Think about your favorite classes, then look to see related careers. Do your research to find out the educational requirements for each one.



## College planning checklist

Middle School	Freshman
O Talk with your school counselor and parents	O Take electives that involve your interests.
about:	O Sign up for honors, AP, IB, CAI or dual
O Going to college.	credit courses.
O Ninth-grade courses.	O Research and apply for summer enrichment
O College prep and honors courses.	programs.
O Future careers	O Go to Kheaa.com and register for a free,
O Academic enrichment programs.	personalized account and begin exploring
O Start planning now, and earn good grades.	scholarships.
O Think about sports, performing arts,	O Get involved. Keep track of your activities and
volunteer work or other activities that	achievements.
interest you.	Sophomore
O Learn about your high school's grading policy.	O Think about what career you may like. Explore
7 0 0	careers at kheaa.com.
	O Take the ACT, PSAT or SAT.
	O Research and apply for summer enrichment
	programs.
	O Consider taking AP, IB, CAI and dual credit
Activities I want to try:	courses.
1.	Ask your school
2.	counselor about using
3,	the Work Ready
Ц,	Kentucky Dual Credit
5.	Scholarship to pay fo
	coreer and technical dual credit classes.
More detailed monthly timelines can be found on	

### **Precollege Curriculum Checklist**

Source: Council on Postsecondary Education

Subject	Credits Required*
Language Arts	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Health	1/2 credit

Subject	Credits Required*
Physical Education	1/2 credit
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	1 credit
Foreign Language***	2 credits
Electives	6 credits (3 rigorous)**

<sup>\*</sup>Courses to include by subject: Language Arts — English I, II, III, IV or AP English; Mathematics — Must include Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, fourth class counts as an elective; Science — life science, physical science, earth/space science (at least one lab course); Social Studies — U.S. history, geography, economics, government and civics, cultures and societies; Health — individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, community services; Physical Education — personal wellness, psychomotor, lifetime activity; History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts — History and appreciation of visual and performing arts, another arts course that incorporates such content, or by specialization in an art form; Foreign Language — 2 credits OR demonstrated competency

 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^{**}}\xspace$  To find out what qualifies as a rigorous elective, talk with your school counselor.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Foreign language can be taken in college.

Junior	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
O Start your personalized College Plan (page	O Attend a financial aid night to learn about
35).	available resources.
O Talk with your school counselor or college	O Check your KEES oward.
coach about your college plans and financial	O Review KHEAA's Getting In publication.
oid.	O Sign up for AP, IB, CAI or dual credit
O Take the ACT, PSAT, and SAT. Consider a	courses for senior year.
prep course.	O Develop a résumé.
O Review and search colleges on kheen.com and	O Think about lining up a summer job,
begin planning college visits.	internship or co-op. Consider shadowing a job
O Decide if you should take AP exams in May.	or volunteering in your field of interest.
O Research summer enrichment and honors	O Complete your personalized copy of Getting
programs.	the Facts at kheaa.com (see page 28).
O Set up an email account with a professional	<u> </u>
address.	

No pass, no drive!

In Kentucky, you can't get your
learner's permit or driver's license if you
don't pass four courses each semester, if you have more than nine unexcused absences or if you drop out. If you already have your permit or license, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will take it away.



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

Senior	Make sure you use the
Fall Semester	".gov" site when completi
O Narrow your list of schools and schedule visits.	your FAFSA. It's free. Othe
O Check with your high school counseling office	sites will charge you a fee
for scholarship resources, including KHEAA's	
Affording Higher Education (See page 13).	■規■
O Take or retake the ACT or SAT.	Find The Official FAFSA Site
O Complete online admissions applications.	<b>■</b> (\$400)
O Attend college foirs and financial aid nights.	Summer
O Request recommendations from teachers,	O Establish a contact at the college you'll be
employers and counselors. Provide a résumé.	attending, such as an admissions counselor,
O Watch scholarship deadlines and create a	coach or other college representative.
calendar.	O Do one last check of your KEES award
O Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student	amount through your MyKHEAA account.
Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov as soon as	Contact your high school counselor
possible starting OCTOBER 1. Some aid is	immediately if you notice an error.
awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.	O Check with your college to make sure it has
	received your final transcript, dual credit
Spring Semester	transcript and all necessary paperwork.
O Review college acceptance letters and compare	O Set up your online student account at the
financial aid offers.	school you'll be attending.
O Decide about a school and send in the deposit	O Follow your school's social media pages and
by May 1.	feeds.
O Complete verification documents if you're	O Complete entrance counseling and sign Master
asked to verify your FAFSA.	Promissory Note (MPN) if borrowing student
O Look for a summer job.	loans.
O Sign up for early registration/orientation/	
housing/early start.	If you plan to
O Look for KHEAA's Thriving in College	graduate early,
publication at khesa.com.	talk with your
	school counselor
KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!	and be sure to
KEEP TOOK GRADES OF	look ahead on the
Your junior year GPA is critical	timeline.
for college admissions.	

### Your admissions and financial aid timelines

Complete these steps your senior year of high school, or sooner if you plan to graduate early.

### **Admissions**

### **FALL**

### Financial Aid

- Research colleges and conduct campus visits.
- Attend campus preview events and college fairs.
- Put the finishing touches on your college essays.
- Complete admissions applications by the deadline.

- Attend a financial aid workshop at your school or in your community.
- Apply for scholarships through the college financial aid office.
- Research scholarship opportunities on kheaa.com.
- Create an FSA ID and complete your FAFSA at studentaid.gov as soon as possible beginning
   October 1.

### WINTER

- Check email for correspondence from colleges.
- Make note of housing application deadlines.

- Follow up on your FAFSA.
- Submit scholarship applications by the required deadline.
- Continue applying for scholarships to boost your financial aid package.

### **SPRING**

- Evaluate college acceptance letters and decide where you will go by May 1.
- Sign up and attend new student registration and orientation as early as possible.
- Notify any school you were accepted to if you won't be attending.

- Complete verification if selected.
- Evaluate award letters and use them to help make your decision.
- Accept the financial aid you need.

### **SUMMER**

 Follow your school's social media pages and feeds to stay connected.



 Do one last check of your KEES award through your MyKHEAA account on kheaa.com no more than six months after you graduate.

# 10 things you should think about when choosing a college

Rank these in order of importance to you. Feel free to add your own criteria in the blank space provided.

- Career goals: If you know what you want to major in, that helps narrow the search.
- School size: You can choose from small colleges to large universities.
- Location: You might want to go far away from home, live at home to save money, or choose somewhere in between.
- Cost: Colleges don't all cost the same.
- Financial aid: How much financial aid you get can influence which college you choose.
- Extracurricular activities: Some schools may provide more opportunities than others. Some may even offer you a scholarship to participate.
- Special programs: Maybe you'd like to study abroad for a year or participate in an internship.
- Demographics: Some schools are more diverse than others.
- Feel: Make a college visit and go where you feel comfortable.
- Requirements: Every school has its own admissions criteria.

### You CAN afford it!

Don't be scared away by the initial cost of a school. Financial aid may offset the difference. Consult KHEAA's Getting the Facts at kheaa.com (see page 28).

Consider different kinds of postsecondary education options:

### Where to go:

- O Public universities: Offer programs leading to bachelor's and master's degrees. Some offer doctorates and professional degrees.
- O Private schools: Are similar to public universities but usually smaller.
- O Community and technical colleges:
  Have diplomas, certificates and
  two-year associate's degrees you
  can use on the job or transfer to
  a four-year degree program.
- O Career and technical schools:
  Offer specialized training in careers. May offer associate's degrees or programs leading directly to jobs.
- O Apprenticeships: Give you on-thejob training and experience.

# Graduate on time Complete at least 15 credits a semester. Why?

You will save money if your school charges the same for taking 15 hours instead of 12. Check your school's tuition schedule online to make sure.

You are more likely to graduate on time and enter the workforce sooner.

You are more likely to get good grades.

You will maximize *KEES* awards. You can use it for eight semesters within five years of high school graduation.

You will avoid the cost of an extra year, which could save you thousands of dollars!

Know the courses you need to graduate, and meet with your advisor to map out a plan to earn your degree on time.

Total credits needed for your degree program ÷ 4 Years = Credits needed per year

Remember: the fewer credits you take a semester, the longer it will take you to graduate, and the more your education will cost.

### Take Advantage of Dual Credit Classes

Taking *dual credit classes* in high school can help you complete your degree in less time. A dual credit class lets you earn high school and college credit at the same time. **While you have to pay to take dual credit classes, KHEAA administers scholarships to help cover the cost. Check out page 19 for details on these programs. Even if you have to pay out of pocket for a dual credit class, the cost is often much less than what you will pay once you are in college. Talk with your school counselor for more information about dual credit classes offered at your school.** 

### Your scholarship search

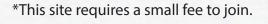
#### Common Scholarship Myths

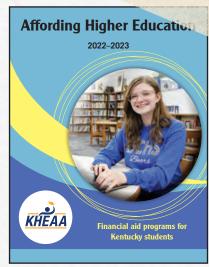
- Small scholarships aren't worth it.
- Too many people apply.
- My grades aren't good enough.
- I'm not involved in enough/any activities.
- They can only be used in Kentucky.
- My parents make too much money for me to get scholarships.
- Scholarships are only for high school seniors.
- I have to write a new essay for every *scholarship* application.

## Scholarship Search Sites and Apps

collegegreenlight.com fastweb.com kheaa.com myscholly.com\* raise.me scholarshipowl.com scholarships.com scholarships360.org thedream.us







Affording Higher Education lists more than 5,000 financial aid programs available to Kentucky students at Kentucky colleges and universities. You can find a copy at your school or public library or online at kheaa.com.

### Scholarship Checklist:

- O Check out your KEES scholarship at kheaa.com.
- O Check out the scholarships in your local area in Affording Higher Education in your counseling office or online at kheaa.com.
- Check out scholarships at the colleges you are considering!
- O Check out over 7,000 scholarships nationwide using the Scholarship Search at kheao.com.
- O Check out other reliable scholarship search websites or apps like the ones listed on this page.
- O Be prepared to write an essay.
- O Create a scholarship résumé.
- O Check with your parents' or your own employer.
- O Ask the school about leasey or alumni scholarships.

### Create your FSA ID



2

3

4

6

Visit studentaid.gov and click on Create Account. Create a memorable username and password.

Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information and challenge answers and questions. Confirm your cell phone number using the secure code, which will be texted to the number you provided.

Confirm your email address using the secure code, which will be sent to the email address you entered when you created your FSA ID.

Keep track of your *FSA ID* since you'll use it frequently throughout the federal student aid application process each year.

Tip for Step 4: Providing a mobile phone number you have access to will make it easier to log in to Federal Student Aid online systems, unlock your account, retrieve your forgotten username, or reset your forgotten password.

### Financial aid application process

Gather your income tax returns, W-2 forms and other documents needed to show your income when you apply.

2

Ask your school counselor about financial aid nights. 3

Visit
studentaid.gov to
create an FSA ID. With
an FSA ID you can
apply and sign your
FAFSA online.

Complete the FAFSA and submit as soon as possible starting October 1.

Apply online at studentaid.gov.

Complete other applications for private, state or school financial aid programs. Watch for

6

Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) to find out your family's EFC. Make corrections and resubmit if necessary.

7

If selected for verification, turn in documentation your financial aid office needs for completion.

8

Make sure the financial aid office at each school you are applying to has all of the information needed to determine your eligibility.

deadlines!

9

Review your award letter from each school and compare the amount and types of aid that you will receive if you attend.

### FAFSA checklist

The FAFSA is used to apply for federal, state and collegebased financial aid. You should file a FAFSA as soon as possible starting October 1.

#### What you will need:

- O Your Social Security number
- O Your Alien Registration number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Valid email address or mobile phone number
- O Your most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- O An FSA ID to sign electronically. (If you do not already have one, see Create Your FSA ID on page 14.)

If you are a dependent student, you will also need most of the above information for your parent(s).

### dependent students, at least one parent must also have a different FSA ID to electronically sign the application. **BOTH** the student and

the parent must sign. If one doesn't, the student could lose thousands of dollars in financial aid. Watch your email closely for notifications and confirmations.

**SIGN YOUR APPLICATION** 

All students must use their FSA ID to

electronically sign their *FAFSA*. For

#### Are you dependent or independent?

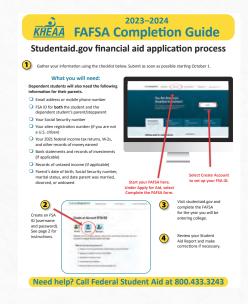
Most students entering college straight from high school are considered dependent students. You are a dependent student unless at least one of the following applies to you:

- O Were you born before January 1, 2000?
- Are you married or separated but not divorced?
- Will you be working toward a master's or doctorate degree (such as MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc.)?
- O Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
- O Do you have dependents (other than children or a spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you?
- O Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?

### At any time since you turned age 13:

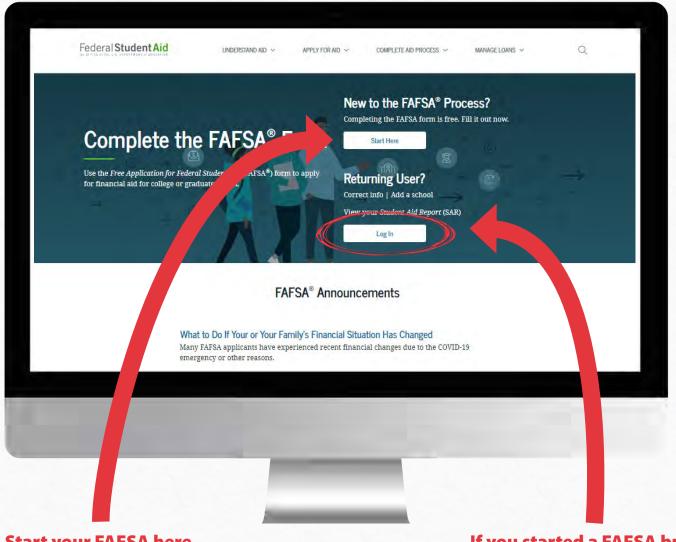
- Were both of your parents deceased?
- Were you in foster care?
- Were you a ward or dependent of the court?
- Are you an emancipated minor or are you in a legal guardianship as determined by a court?
- Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If any of the above apply to you, you're considered an independent student, which means you won't have to include your parents' financial information on the FAFSA. Your school may ask you to submit proof of your independent status before you can receive any federal student aid. If you think you have unusual circumstances that would make you independent even though none of the above criteria apply to you, talk with a financial aid officer at the school you plan to attend.



### Studentaid.gov

At Studentaid.gov, use the search feature in the top right corner. Search for FAFSA or goto https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa.



Start your FAFSA here.
Make sure you select the
FAFSA for the year that
you will enter college.

If you started a FAFSA but didn't finish, you will go here.

The first "F" in FAFSA stands for FREE! You should never pay to file your FAFSA. If you have FSA ID or FAFSA questions, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-433-3243 for help.

### Federal aid options

Eligibility for federal student aid programs is determined from the information you provide on the *FAFSA*. How much aid you receive is based on several factors, including *financial need*.

To be eligible to receive federal student aid, you must:

- Demonstrate financial need for most programs
- Demonstrate you are qualified to enroll in a postsecondary school by:
  - Receiving a high school diploma or GED
  - Completing a high school education in a stateapproved home school setting
  - Meeting other standards approved by your state
- Be working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress once in college

# Top **5** reasons for filing the *FAFSA*

- 1. You might get a grant or scholarship.
- 2. Most schools require it!
- 3. You might get work-study.
- 4. You might need a student loan.
- 5. You might be surprised at the help you get!

### Types of Financial Aid



The only way to find out how much federal student aid you are eligible for is to apply. You can apply online at studentaid.gov.

### Federal financial aid chart

To apply for any of the federal student aid programs, you must complete the FAFSA. For priority consideration, file the FAFSA as soon as possible starting October 1. A FAFSA renewal must be filed each year that you are in college.

Programs	General Eligibility	<b>Annual Award Amounts</b>
Grants — financio	al aid <mark>awards generally based on</mark> financial need. A grant usually d	oesn't have to be repaid.
Federal Pell Grant	Undergraduate student with financial need	The maximum Pell Grant for the 2022— 2023 award year is \$6,895
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Undergraduate student with exceptional financial need. Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority.	Up to \$4,000 per year. Amount can vary by institution.
TEACH Grant	Undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate student enrolled in coursework necessary to begin a career in teaching. Must agree to serve as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students. Visit <a href="https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach">https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach</a> for a listing of schools and programs.	Up to \$4,000. If you do not teach as required, the grant becomes a loan and must be repaid.
Work-Study — part-tii	me employment that lets you earn money while taking classes. You	ır job may be on or off campus.
Federal Work-Study	Full-time or part-time undergraduate, graduate or <i>professional</i> student	At least minimum wage
Lo	ans — money borrowed from the government or school and must	be repaid.
Direct Loan	Undergraduate, graduate or <i>professional</i> student enrolled at least half time	Depends on grade level and dependency status. Maximum for undergraduate: \$5,500–\$12,500; graduate or <i>professional</i> student: \$9,500–\$20,500.
Direct PLUS Loan	Graduate or <i>professional</i> student or parent of dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half time. Credit approval required.	Cost of attendance less the amount of other aid received

Federal *financial aid* eligibility requirements and award amounts are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, including *interest* rates, visit studentaid.gov.

Direct Loan Limits									
Grade Level	Dependent Status	Independent Status							
First Year	\$5,500	\$9,500							
Second Year	\$6,500	\$10,500							
Each Remaining Year of <i>Undergraduate</i> Study	\$7,500	\$12,500							
Each Year of <i>Graduate/Profession</i> Study	nal	\$20,500							
Who Borrows?	St	udent							
Loan Limits Annual/Cumulative									
Interest Rate Undergraduate — 4.99% Graduate/Professional — 6.54%									
Credit review No									

First, get all the "free" money you can for school. That means grants, scholarships and work-study. If you need more, then you can get a student loan.

### State financial aid chart

KHEAA administers the following programs to enhance higher education opportunities for Kentucky students. Since its creation, KHEAA has helped hundreds of thousands of students pay for higher education.

Type of Aid	Eligibility	Award Amount	Application	Deadline		
Grants						
College Access Program (CAP) Grant	Undergraduates attending a Kentucky college or trade school at least half time	Up to \$5,300	FAFSA	File as soon as possible after October 1*		
Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG)	Full-time undergraduates at a private Kentucky college	Up to \$3,200	FAFSA	File as soon as possible after October 1*		
Scholarships						
Dual Credit Scholarship	Kentucky high school students in grades 11–12 who are enrolled in dual credit courses at a participating Kentucky college or university.	Limited to two courses per student, up to \$91 per credit hour.	Kentucky public high schools identify dual credit students to KHEAA. After receipt, KHEAA will put links on MyKHEAA for students to submit preferences for scholarship assistance.	October 1 for fall semester; March 1 for spring semester and all other requests.		
Work Ready Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship	Kentucky high school students in grades 9–12 who are enrolled in approved career and technical education dual credit courses at a participating Kentucky college or university.	Limited to two courses per year, up to \$91 per credit hour.	Kentucky public high schools identify dual credit students to KHEAA. After receipt, KHEAA will put links on MyKHEAA for students to submit preferences for scholarship assistance	October 1 for fall semester; March 1 for spring semester and all other requests.		
Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)	Check pages 22–23 of this booklet for eligibility information.	Base awards from \$125 to \$500 each year of high school, ACT bonus award from \$36 to \$500. AP/IB/CA/ bonus awards from \$200 to \$300.	None. KHEAA will send your KEES award to the Kentucky college where you're enrolled.	None		
Early Graduate Certificate Scholarship	Public high school students who graduate in three years or less and meet minimum proficiency <i>benchmarks</i> for state-required end of course exams and ACT exam college-ready <i>benchmarks</i> .	One-year award of \$2,100. Must be used immediately following high school graduation at a Kentucky college accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.	Intent form available at education.ky.gov/ educational/AL/ earlygrad	File an intent to graduate early form before October 1 of the academic year you intend to graduate		
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship	Kentucky resident pursuing an approved industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree in a high-demand workforce sector. Qualifying sectors are healthcare, advanced manufacturing, transportation/logistics, business services/IT, and construction. Must be a high school graduate or be enrolled in or have completed a GED program, but not have earned an associate's or higher degree.	Varies. Amount equals remaining tuition after subtracting federal and state aid, up to \$182 per credit hour	FAFSA and application at www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/work_ready?main=1	Apply as soon as possible after May 1.*		

<sup>\*</sup> Awards are made based on availability of funds. Funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Receipt of application does not guarantee an award.

### The nuts and bolts of borrowing

### How to apply for a student loan

#### **Federal Direct Loan**

- 1. Fill out the FAFSA at studentaid.gov.
- 2. Use your college's online student account to accept, decline or reduce your *financial aid* award options.
- 3. Complete online student *loan entrance* counseling at **studentaid.gov**. You have to do this before the funds can be sent to the school.
- 4. Sign a *Master Promissory Note (MPN)*. You can get a paper *MPN* or do it online at **studentaid. gov**. The *MPN* is not an application but a legal, binding contract that you will repay the *loan*.

#### **Federal PLUS Loan**

- 1. The student must fill out the FAFSA.
- A graduate student or the parent of a dependent undergraduate student must fill out the PLUS Loan application from the school's financial aid office or online at studentaid.gov.
- 3. The U.S. Department of Education will perform a credit check at no charge.
- 4. The funds are disbursed directly to the school.

### Quick Tips for Minimizing Student Loan Debt

- 1. Finish on time.
- 2. Avoid changing college majors.
- 3. Take advantage of work-study or part-time employment.
- 4. Get free money from scholarships.
- 5. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible starting October 1.

### **Borrow responsibly**

One major financial goal is to finish college owing as little money as you can. But when you take out a student loan, you're borrowing against your future earnings.

Check with the career services or placement office at your school to get an idea of your expected salary based on your major and the year you'll graduate.

Your monthly payment should be no more than 10% of your monthly gross salary.



### Estimated Payments at 4.99% over 120 months.

Monthly payments are rounded up.

Initial Debt at Repayment	Monthly Payments	Total Repaid
\$ 5,000	\$ 53	\$ 6,361
\$ 10,000	\$ 106	\$ 12,722
\$ 20,000	\$ 212	\$ 25,444
\$ 25,000	\$ 265	\$ 31,805
\$ 30,000	\$ 318	\$ 38,166
\$ 40,000	\$ 424	\$ 50,888
\$ 50,000	\$ 530	\$ 63,610
\$ 75,000	\$ 795	\$ 95,415
\$100,000	\$1,060	\$127,220

Expected Salary	Maximum Manageable Monthly Payment	Manageable Education Debt
\$ 15,000	\$125	\$12,500
\$ 20,000	\$167	\$16,700
\$ 25,000	\$208	\$20,800
\$ 30,000	\$250	\$25,000
\$ 35,000	\$292	\$29,200
\$ 40,000	\$333	\$33,300
\$ 50,000	\$416	\$41,600
\$100,000	\$833	\$83,300

### **Advantage Education Loans**

When you're heading to college and need additional money to pay expenses, we can help! **The Advantage Education Loan for students and parents** is Kentucky's only state-based *loan*.

The *loans* have fixed rates, which means you could save thousands over competitors' *loans*.

Advantage Education Loans are great options when you need more money for college. If you have exhausted your *grant*, *scholarship* and federal *loan* options, it's good to know there are more options for you.

**Advantage Parent Loans** are available for parents of *undergraduate* and *graduate students* with the same great rates and benefits.

- O Your FIXED rate is based on the repayment plan selected, your credit history and other factors. Your *interest* rate will be reduced further if you use our autopay service.
- Applying with a creditworthy cosigner may help you qualify and/or receive a lower FIXED rate.
- O For more information, call 800.988.6333. Visit **AdvantageEducationLoan.com** to apply.
- Refinancing your student loans with the Advantage Refinance Loan could save you thousands of dollars.

The Advantage Refinance Loan is available for borrowers who are in repayment and want to roll all their federal and private student loans into one convenient *loan*, save on *interest* charges and get out of debt faster. Apply online for an Advantage Refinance Loan at AdvantageEducationLoan. com.



	PLUS Loan	Advantage Education Loan
Who Borrows?	Parent or Graduate Student	Student or Parent (Undergraduate, Graduate or Professional level)
Loan Limits	Cost of Attendance, minus aid already awarded	Cost of Attendance, minus aid already awarded
Interest/APR	7.54%	3.09% to 6.48% APR*
Credit review	Yes (only on parent loan)	Yes

\*APRs are representative samples for educational purposes only and may not reflect current or actual loan rate offers or available percentage rates. Your actual APR will depend upon your credit transaction and credit history and will be determined once a credit decision is made.



### **Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship**

The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) provides Kentucky high school students with money for tuition and education-related expenses. Check out the frequently asked questions below to learn more about the program.

#### How do I earn KEES money?

Just earn a 2.5 *GPA* or **KEES Award Amounts** better in each year of **GPA** Award ACT Bonus high school. j Amount Score **Amount** An ACT 4.00 \$500 \$500 28 or composite \$475 3.90 above score of 15 3.80 \$450 \$464 27 or above 3.75 \$437 \$428 26 3.70 \$425 25 \$393 (or the 3.60 \$400 24 \$357 equivalent 3.50 23 \$375 \$321 SAT) will 22 3.40 \$350 \$286 also earn 3.30 \$325 21 \$250 you a bonus 3.25 \$312 20 \$214 3.20 \$300 19 \$179 award. You 18 3.10 \$275 \$143 must qualify 17 3.00 \$250 \$107 for at least 2.90 \$225 16 \$71 one GPA 15 2.80 \$200 \$36 award to 2.75 \$187 **Amounts are** 2.70 \$175 receive the subject to change 2.60 \$150 based on available bonus. funding. 2.50 \$125

**Students who are eligible for free or reducedprice lunches, based on family income**, during any year of high school can earn additional bonuses by making qualifying scores on Advanced Placement (*AP*), International Baccalaureate (*IB*) or Cambridge Advanced International (*CAI*) exams.

	anced ement		ational aureate	Cambridge Advanced International			
Exam Score					Exam Score	Bonus Amount	
3	\$200	5	\$200	е	\$200		
4	\$250	6	\$250	c or d	\$250		
5	\$300	7	\$300	a*, a or b	\$300		

# KEES awards are funded by Kentucky Lottery revenue.

### Do I have to attend a certain high school or take specific classes?

All students who are Kentucky residents and attending certified public or private high schools in Kentucky are eligible to earn *KEES* money. Homeschooled students and students attending noncertified high schools are eligible for only an *ACT* bonus award.

You do not have to take certain classes to earn *KEES*. *AP*, *IB*, *CAI* and *dual credit* courses are weighted on a five-point scale for *KEES* purposes, meaning an 'A' in those courses is worth more than others.

#### Do I have to apply for the scholarship?

No, there is no application! Your school will report your *GPA* to *KHEAA* at the end of each school year, and *KHEAA* will notify you about your award.

### What should I do if my award information is incorrect?

Ask your high school counselor to make the necessary changes.

### What happens to my KEES if I graduate from high school early?

If you graduate in three years, you will be awarded the equivalent of a fourth year of *KEES*, which will be the average of the awards you earned in the first three years of high school.

### How long do I have to use my KEES?

You can receive *KEES* for up to eight academic terms in an *undergraduate* degree program. It must be used within five years of high school graduation. Active duty service members may request an extension.

<b>My KEES Goal</b> Fill in your <i>GPA</i> and your base and bonus awards. Add them up to determine your annual <i>KEES</i> award.								
	GPA	Amount						
<u>Freshman</u>								
Sophomore								
<u>Junior</u>								
Senior								
Highest ACT Score								
*AP or IB Test Score								
Total Award for Each Year of College		=						
x 4 years		=						

<sup>\*</sup>For sample purposes only. Actual award may be higher if multiple qualifying *AP* or *IB* test scores are earned.

#### How good do my grades have to be in college?

You must keep your grades up in college to continue to receive your *KEES* each term. These are the rules to keeping your *KEES*:

- Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA your first year of college to keep your award your second year.
- Have a 3.0 cumulative GPA after your second year to keep your full award for the next year.
- After your second year, if your GPA is between a 2.5 and 3.0, you'll still get your full award IF you have met your college's requirements for being on track to graduate.
- After your second year, if your GPA is between a 2.5 and 3.0 AND you didn't meet the on track requirements at your college, you'll receive half of your KEES award for the next year as long as you are enrolled full time.
- After your second year, if your GPA is below a 3.0, you didn't meet on track requirements and you are enrolled less than half time, you will not receive your KEES for the next year.

Even if you lose your *KEES* money for one year, you can regain your award by bringing your cumulative *GPA* back up, getting back on track to graduate and meeting enrollment requirements.

### How do I get my KEES once I graduate high school?

You must enroll at a participating college or participate in a registered apprenticeship or qualified workforce training program in Kentucky. KHEAA will send your *KEES* money directly to the college — half each term — once your enrollment has been confirmed. The college will credit your account or may send you a check if you are paid in full.

To get the full amount, you must be a full-time student. If you're enrolled at least half time, you'll receive a proportionate amount.

#### Where can I use my KEES award?

KEES awards can be used at any participating accredited public or private school in Kentucky, including community and technical colleges.

Students who participate in a registered apprenticeship program may be able to receive reimbursement for their apprenticeship expenses from their KEES award. For more information, visit KHEAA's website at http://bit.ly/keesapprentice.

### Can I use KEES money out of state?

If your *undergraduate* program of study is not available at a public school in Kentucky, you may be able to use your *KEES* money at an out-of-state public school if the state participates in the Academic Common Market (ACM). Learn more by visiting **cpe.ky.gov** and searching "Academic Common Market."



### Where can I go for more information about KEES?

Additional information about the *KEES* program can be found at **kheaa.com**. Go to **kheaa.com** and select "Sign In" to create a personalized My KHEAA account. You will be able to access all of your KEES award information. Be sure to check once a year for accuracy.

### Top 10 tips for getting college aid

- Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible starting October 1 by going to **studentaid.gov**.
  - Apply for EVERY type of aid.
- Make good grades.
  - Retake your ACT/entrance exams to improve your score.
- Talk with a college financial aid administrator.
  - Look for free information about financial aid.
- Learn about student loans.
  - Talk with your school counselor.
- Save for college.
  - Beware of scams.

Do as much community service as possible and keep track of everythina! Colleges and scholarship committees love students who give back to their communities.

Ask your parents if they have taken advantage of qualified state tuition programs. The Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust lets parents save over several years for tuition and other education-related expenses. Visit **kysaves.com** or call 877-598–7878 for more information.

If you think you're being scammed, call the attorney general's office at 888.432.9257 or visit ag.ky.gov.

### **Service learning**

National service and volunteer programs provide opportunities to serve your country in a variety of areas including **AmeriCorps** working with youth, protecting the environment, providing disaster relief, improving healthcare and more. Many programs may also offer scholarships, grants or educational awards to help pay for college. Check out the Corporation for National and Community Service at nationalservice.gov to learn about AmeriCorps and other opportunities, including the Kentucky College Coaches Program.

### Financial aid mistakes

### Spending money up front.

All the financial aid information you need is out there free of charge.

### Not applying for scholarships.

Money that you don't have to repay is the best type of financial aid.

### Not filing the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is the most important tool in receiving *financial aid*. Most people qualify for some kind of aid.

### Waiting until the last minute to turn in applications.

Many grant programs only have a certain amount of money to give to students.

### Accepting the wrong financial aid package.

Review what each school is giving you to make sure you know your obligations.

### Skipping negotiations.

If you don't feel your family's *financial need* was represented accurately, explain any special circumstances.

### Being a bad consumer.

Be sure to shop around for a loan provider to make sure you're getting the lowest possible rates and the best repayment benefits.

### Spending the wrong money.

Taking money out of a retirement account or paying for higher education with a credit card can put you into financial trouble.

### Forgetting to include other expenses.

*Tuition* isn't the only thing you'll be paying for when you go to college. You'll also need money for membership dues, food away from the dining hall, a computer and transportation.

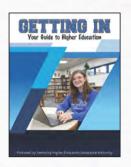


Beware of paying for *financial aid* information. Most information is FREE from your school counselor, library, at kheaa.com or at the *financial aid* office of the college you plan to attend.

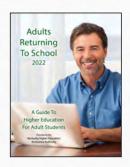
### Where to find more information

KHEAA provides free college and financial aid information to the students and residents of Kentucky. Below are some publications that we publish in addition to *The College Circuit*. (You can find information about *Affording Higher Education* on page 13.)

#### **Booklets**



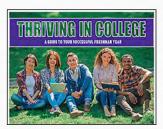
**Getting In** has information about college admissions and financial aid.



Adults Returning to School is geared to nontraditional students and contains valuable information to help adults who want to go to college.



**It's Money, Baby** is a road map to your money. The 32-page booklet includes sections about: wants vs. needs; banking; credit; insurance; and identity theft.



**Thriving in College**, a guide to students' first year in college, helps students adjust to the college experience.

### **Flyers**



Introduces students to high school basics.



Explores options for students interested in attending a technical school.

### **Brochure**



Information about the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship.

All the publications on this page can be requested by clicking on the Order Form on the left-hand column of the Publications page on kheaa.com or calling us toll free at 800.928.8926, or emailing us at publications@kheaa.com. You can also download additional online-only publications.

### Online resources

These free online resources will help you on the way to college. Check for helpful apps in the App Store or Google Play Store.

### **College Preparation**

**bigfuture.collegeboard.org** — The College Board college planning site

**campusprideindex.org** — National listing of LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities

**cappex.com** — College exploration

**imfirst.org** — Resources for first-generation college students

**knowhow2transfer.org**\_— Transfer information for Kentucky institutions

**parchment.com** — Electronic transcripts

#### **Financial Aid Information**

**collegegreenlight.com** — College and scholarship search for first generation and underrepresented students

**studentaid.gov** — *FAFSA* on the Web and federal student aid programs

**kysaves.com** — KY Saves 529 education savings account

### Test Prep

**actstudent.org** — The ACT college entrance exam site

**freerice.com** — Answer guiz guestions for charity

**march2success.com** — ACT prep

#### Other

**bls.gov/ooh** — Occupational Outlook Handbook

**gedplusky.org** — Earn a GED and college certificate at the same time

**getschooled.com** — High school graduation resources

**kheaa.com** — Career exploration, college preparation, *financial aid* processes and estimating tools

**khesic.com** — Kentucky student loans and borrower services

**thedream.us** — Resources for DREAMers

**thinkcollege.net** — Resources for students with intellectual disabilities.



Kygoestocollege.com offers resources for schools and organizations interested in enhancing their college-going culture through initiatives like Close the Deal, FAFSA Completion Challenge, College Decision Day and Kentucky College Application Campaign.

The site offers tools to help school counselors, community leaders or college access providers implement one or more of these programs, as well as resources for students who are going through the college application and *financial aid* process









### **Military Benefits**

### Post-9/11 Bill and Montgomery Bill

Qualified individuals must choose between these two bills. For comparison information, visit benefits.va.gov/gibill.

### **Yellow Ribbon Program**

Participating institutions may offer additional funds to individuals on Post 9/11 GI Bill. For more information, visit

benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow\_ribbon/yellowribbon info schools.asp.

### **Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)**

ROTC *scholarships* come from Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

### **Kentucky National Guard Tuition Award**

Students apply through the Boone National Guard Center.

### Check out kheaa.com

KHEAA's website will help you navigate the career exploration, college preparation and financial aid processes.

### **Planning for College**

Explore career options, use grade-specific planner timelines, learn about entrance and placement tests, consider your college admissions options, compare school criteria and access *Your KHEAA College Connection* newsletters.

### **Picking a School**

Find Kentucky-specific school information, plan campus visits and tours, and request your personalized copy of the KHEAA Getting the Facts report.

### **Paying for College**

Discover the real costs of college, get an indepth overview of state and federal *financial aid* programs, learn how to apply for aid and search for *scholarships*.

### **College Life**

Discover how to succeed as a college student and adopt healthy habits.

### **Money Management**

Learn how to avoid money troubles, play interactive games, refer to online resources and learn about your borrower rights and responsibilities.

#### **Other Resources**

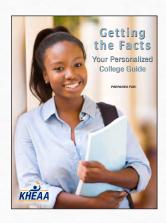
Watch career videos, web resources, link to publications, and plug into the Kentucky labor market information.

#### **KEES**

Learn about the *Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)* and access your personal account.

### Get a free plan!

KHEAA's Getting the Facts is a personalized report for Kentucky students and families, which gives a customized breakdown of college costs and estimated financial aid based on the student's college



choices and the family's financial circumstances. Find instructions on how to access this tool on **kheaa.com**.



Click on the Sign In button in the top right-hand corner of the **kheaa.com** home page to access or register for a free, personalized account. Use this customized tool to:

- View and verify your KEES award amounts
- Request a copy of Getting the Facts
- Apply and check the status of state grants and *scholarships*
- Complete the KHEAA Verify process
- Print your Master Promissory Note (MPN)

Be sure to remember your usernames and passwords — you'll use them a lot!

### Social media

Potential employers and admissions counselors often look at social media profiles when making selection decisions.

Here are some tips to protect yourself in the social media age:

Be sure to create and use a professional email address!

Make your contact information private. Never post your phone number, address or email address. Don't list your exact date

Manage who can view images of you. Untag photos if necessary.

and place of birth. Don't answer any personal questions in quizzes!

Create several "friends" lists to manage who sees particular information about you.

Limit who can search for your profile on Internet search engines.

Be careful about who can see your status updates. And don't swear!

Don't announce you're going on a trip ahead of time on social media.

Don't tell people where you are every waking moment.

Change your password frequently.

Use social media responsibly and encourage your parents to do the same.

### **Follow KHEAA**



















### Glossary

Α

**Accreditation** Approval of a school or program by a federally recognized agency that has determined that standards have been met.

**ACT** The test required or accepted at all public and many private universities in Kentucky. It has four sections — English, math, reading and science reasoning — and an optional writing exam. Scores are used for admissions purposes, awarding *scholarships* and placing students in special programs and honors courses.

**ACT College Readiness Standards** A guide that helps teachers, counselors, parents and students understand their progress in gaining the necessary skills in English, mathematics, reading and science that are needed for success beyond high school.

**AP** The Advanced Placement Program lets high school students study college-level subjects for advanced placement and/or credit upon entering college.

**Apprenticeship** A system for training a new generation of tradespeople with on-the-job experience and study.

**Associate's degree** Generally awarded after 60 *credit hours*, usually two years of study.

**ASVAB** (The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) Used by all branches of the military to determine how qualified you are to enlist, as well as your qualification for certain military jobs and your signing bonus.

B

**Bachelor's degree** Generally awarded after a minimum of 120 *credit hours*, usually four to five years of study.

**Benchmarks** "Must have" competencies in English language arts and mathematics for success in college.

(

**Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) Certificate of Education** An international *diploma* that students can earn by completing the CAI program. It is similar to the *AP* and *IB* programs.

**Candidates Reply Date Agreement** Lets a student defer an attendance decision at participating colleges until May 1. It gives students time to get responses from the colleges they have applied to before deciding which one they want to attend.

**Career clusters** Groups of related occupations and careers. This gives schools a guide for relating learning to the knowledge and skills required for groups of careers.

**Certificate** (1) Given in a nondegree program, usually in a vocational or technical area, to prepare for a specific occupation. Certificate programs generally last 6 to 12 months. (2) Given in specialized areas to people who have completed *master's*, *doctorate* or *professional degrees*.

**CLEP** The College–Level Examination Program offers subject examinations or general examinations. Some colleges use the scores to award *credit by examination* to entering freshmen.

**Commuter students** Students who live at home instead of on campus.

**Common App** An *undergraduate* college admission application that applicants may use to apply to a number of member colleges and universities.

**Conversion scholarship/loan** Requires recipients to provide certain services or pay back the funds received with *interest*.

**Core classes** A set of subjects or courses that make up a required portion of a curriculum.

### Are you ready?

Kentucky college readiness standards are based on English, math and reading scores on the *ACT*. If you

Benchmarks
English 18
Math 19
Reading 20

don't meet the benchmark in one of these areas, your college may ask you to take an entrance exam to determine how to place you in classes and if you will need *transitional courses*.

NOTE: National ACT College Readiness Standards are currently higher than Kentucky's requirements. National benchmarks are: English, 18; math, 22; reading, 22; and science, 23. Be sure to check with the college you plan to attend to make sure your scores meet their standards. **Cost of attendance** The total cost of attending a particular college for one year. It includes direct costs (tuition, fees, room and board) and indirect costs (books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses, etc.).

**Credit by examination** Process in which students can earn credit for college-level knowledge by passing a test. The *CLEP*, *AP*, DANTES (military) and other programs allow students to earn college credit this way.

**Credit for life experience** Process in which students receive credit for college-level knowledge gained through life experience.

**Credit hour or clock hour** Unit of measurement for an educational program. While most community colleges and four-year colleges and universities use *credit hours*, many *proprietary schools* use clock hours.

#### D

**Dependency override** Authority given to financial aid administrators to change a student's status from dependent to independent in cases involving unusual circumstances.

**Diploma** Given in a nondegree program, usually a vocational or technical field, to prepare for a job. Diploma programs are generally 9 to 18 months long. This diploma is not the same as the diploma you receive when you graduate from high school.

### Who's who?

**Admissions counselor:** A college or university employee who advises students during the admissions process.

**School counselor:** Someone who works in elementary, middle and high schools to provide academic, career, college access and personal/social support to K-12 students.

**Financial aid counselor:** A college or university employee who is involved in the administration of *financial aid*.

**KHEAA Outreach counselor:** A KHEAA staff member who helps students and families plan and prepare for education after high school. KHEAA services are free.

**Direct PLUS Loan** A *loan* provided to parents or stepparents of eligible dependent *undergraduate* students or to *graduate/professional* students who need additional *financial aid* to pay college expenses.

**Doctorate** A degree that usually takes three or more years after a *bachelor's* to complete.

**Dual credit program** Program in which courses satisfy high school graduation requirements and earn college *credit hours*.

**Dual enrollment** A student enrolled in two distinct academic programs or educational institutions concurrently.

#### E

**Early action** Lets students apply to their preferred school and receive a decision before the normal response date.

**Early decision** Requires students to make a commitment to enroll in a school if they're admitted. Students must withdraw all other applications and make a nonrefundable deposit. One disadvantage to early decision is that it may mean students have less leverage if they appeal their *financial aid package*.

**Entrance counseling** Ensures students understand the terms and conditions of their loans and know their rights and responsibilities.

**Expected family contribution (EFC)** Amount the student and family are expected to pay toward yearly college costs. The amount is derived from *need analysis* of the family's income and assets.

#### F

**FAFSA** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the *need analysis* form all students must complete when applying for federal and state student aid. Some colleges use the FAFSA to award *scholarships*. The best way to file is online at **studentaid.gov**, although a limited number of the paper version may be available.

**Financial aid** Money from state and federal governments, colleges, private organizations, associations and companies to help pay the costs of a college education or technical training.

**Financial aid package** Total *financial aid* a college awards a student. It may consist of several types of aid, including *grants*, *scholarships*, *loans*, *work-study programs* and others. *Financial need*, availability of funds, *institutional aid* policies and the number of students who need financial assistance all influence a student's financial aid package.

**Financial need** The amount of higher education expenses that a student's *expected family contribution (EFC)* falls short of paying. Financial need equals the cost of education minus the EFC.

**FSA ID** Comprised of a username and password and can be used to log in to the *FAFSA* and certain Federal Student Aid websites.

#### G

**GPA** A grade point average is the sum of the graded points earned (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) divided by the numbers of hours attempted for courses taken during a semester.

**General Educational Development (GED)** Classes that can lead to a high school equivalency diploma for adults who did not earn one. Recipients must pass four tests that assess their knowledge of language arts, social studies, science and math to earn the diploma.

**Getting the Facts** A college planning tool that gives students and families a personalized breakdown of college costs and estimated *financial aid*. You can access your free report by logging in to your account at **kheaa.com**.

**Graduate student** Student who has earned a *bachelor's degree* and is working toward a *master's, doctorate* or *professional degree*.

**Grant** Financial aid award, generally based on financial need, to help pay the cost of higher education. A grant generally does not have to be repaid.

#### ı

**IB** The International Baccalaureate Program lets students earn college credit while in high school. Some schools require students to participate for two years, others allow them to take classes only one year.

**Individual Learning Plan (ILP)** A system to help high school students plan their courses and activities as they prepare for higher education and career.

**Institutional aid** Student *financial aid* administered by the college or *proprietary* trade school.

**Interest** A charge for a *loan*, usually a percentage of the amount borrowed.

**Internship/practicum** A program that provides the student with the opportunity to earn academic credits through a planned work experience, usually to learn about a specific career area.

**IRS Data Retrieval** A tool that allows applicants who have already filed their federal income tax returns to prefill the answers to some questions on their *FAFSA* by transferring data.

#### K

**Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)** A *scholarship* students can earn for their good grades and *ACT* score. No application required.

**Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA)** State agency that helps students plan and pay for college by providing *financial aid* programs and free materials and information.

**Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC)** A public, nonprofit corporation that provides education loans for students and parents.

**Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment (KOSSA)** An assessment system based on standards identified by employers across the state. All public high schools and technical schools must include these standards in their instructional programs.

**Kentucky Online Testing (KYOTE)** A program that measures whether a student is prepared for college-level learning.

**KHEAA Verify** An electronic service that conducts *FAFSA verification* for select schools.

#### L

**Legacy scholarship** A *scholarship* offered to family members of alumni of a college or university.

**Loan** Money borrowed to help pay higher education costs. Loans must be repaid with *interest*.

#### M

**Major** Primary academic field of study in college.

**Master's degree** A degree that takes at least a year after the *bachelor's* to complete.

**Master Promissory Note (MPN)** A legally binding contract between a borrower and a lender. It establishes the conditions under which a student or parent borrows money and the terms under which it must be repaid. The MPN is good for 10 years if the student doesn't change schools.

**Median** The middle value of a set of numbers.

**Merit-based** *Financial aid* based on academic, athletic or some other type of achievement.

**Minor** Secondary academic field of study in college.

**MyKHEAA** A personalized online account for students at **kheaa.com**.

#### N

**Need analysis** Used to determine how much students and their families can reasonably be expected to pay toward college expenses. Updated each year by the federal government and other organizations to reflect changes in the economy.

**Need-based** *Financial aid* based on the government's *need analysis* formula.

#### 0

**Orientation** A period of time at the beginning of the academic year at a university during which a variety of events are held to orient and welcome new students.

#### P

**Parchment Exchange** A secure network allowing high schools, *postsecondary* institutions and employers to securely transmit electronic transcripts.

**Postsecondary** "After high school." Postsecondary education can be received at a college, university, community and technical college, proprietary school or off campus.

**Precollege curriculum** Specific credits high school students are required to complete for admission into Kentucky's public universities.

**Private student loan** An education *loan* from a lender other than the U.S. Department of Education. It can be from a public agency, bank, credit union or other lender.

**Professional degree** A degree in such fields as dentistry, law and medicine. These usually take at least six years to complete.

**Professional Judgment** The authority of financial aid administrators to make adjustments to certain data elements on the FAFSA in cases involving special circumstances with a family's income or assets.

**Proprietary schools** Privately owned schools that provide a wide range of courses of study, such as cosmetology, business and broadcasting. Programs range from two to 24 months and lead to *certificates*, *diplomas* or degrees in a variety of subjects.

#### R

**Registration** The process in which students plan their courses for the next semester or term, meet with their advisors and then register for classes.

**Résumé** A document outlining a person's educational and work background, as well as special skill sets and training, often used to get a job.

**Rolling admission** Applicants are often notified of their acceptance or rejection within a few weeks of applying. A college with rolling admission typically accepts applications for as long as spaces are available.

**Room and board** Lodging and food. For students living on campus, these costs are part of a dorm room and a meal plan. These costs are part of a student's total cost of attendance.

#### 5

**Satisfactory academic progress** A school's written standard of how it expects students to progress. To continue receiving federal student aid, the student has to meet certain requirements regarding grade level, credits earned and *GPA*.

**SAT** A college entrance exam with multiple-choice questions in math and critical reading sections and an optional essay. Scores are used for admissions purposes and in awarding *scholarships*.

**Scholarship** A *financial aid* award to help pay for higher education. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid and are normally based on ability, talent or achievement.

**Student Aid Report (SAR)** Document produced from information provided on the *FAFSA* and sent to the student. The SAR reports your eligibility for aid and *expected family contribution (EFC)*.

**Study abroad** An arrangement that allows students to complete part of their degree program through educational activities outside the United States.

**Subsidized Federal Direct Loan** On a subsidized *loan*, the federal government pays the *interest* while you're in school and during a six-month grace period. This means you have more money to spend on your education. To qualify, you have to apply for *financial aid*, show *financial need* and receive a *loan*.

**Superscore** The result of taking the highest subscores (scores from the English, math, reading and science sections) from various *ACT* test dates to get a new higher score.

#### Т

**Transitional courses** Classes you must take and pay for to get ready for college-level work in basic subjects. They do not count toward your degree.

**Transcript cumulative** Academic record that lists courses taken, grades received and credits or *credit hours* received.

**Tuition** The amount schools charge for instruction and for the use of certain school facilities, such as libraries.

#### U

**Undergraduate** College student who has not yet earned a degree.

**Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan** On an unsubsidized student loan, you have to pay the loan *interest* monthly or quarterly. The *interest* can also be capitalized quarterly, semiannually, annually or one time just before you enter repayment.

**Unweighted GPA** *GPA* that does not include any extra points earned for dual credit and *AP/IB/CAI* classes.

#### V

**Verification** A process used to verify certain information on the *FAFSA* to ensure its accuracy.

#### W

**Waiver** Arrangement under which a school does not charge specific costs if a student meets certain qualifications.

**Weighted GPA** *GPA* that includes any extra points earned for dual credit and *AP/IB/CAI* classes.

**WorkKeys** A measure of Kentucky students' college and career readiness. Students must receive a silver or higher on applied math, locating information and reading for information tests to meet state *benchmarks*.

**Work-study** Employment that lets students earn money to help pay the cost of higher education.

### **Scavenger Hunt Answers**

- 1. Students, Parents, Adult Learners, *Financial Aid* Professionals, Counselors, Military and Veterans
- 2. Your career pathway is the route you take and the choices you make to reach your career goals. Ask yourself:
- What have I learned in my life that interests me as a career?
- How do I get to a career in those fields?
- Do I need to go to college or technical school? If I do, what do I need to do now so I can get into college or technical school?
- When I finish, what jobs will I be qualified to do?
- Do I know someone who can help me reach my goal?

What personal, community and school resources and networks do I have that can help me prepare for my career?

- 3. Public universities, private schools, technical schools, public two-year colleges
- 4. Yes. So you can save assessment and search results, access personal *financial aid* information, and complete a *Getting the Facts* report.
- 5. Grants, *scholarships*, student loans, *conversion scholarships*/grants, *work-study* and *tuition waivers*
- 6.10
- 7.16
- 8. KEES Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship
- 9. \$50,711
- 10.62%
- 11. October of the 12th grade
- 12. KEES balance
- 13. Planning for college, selecting a school, paying for college, distance learning, transferring, repaying your loans, publications
- 14. Answers will vary.

#### **Postsecondary Puzzler Answers**

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# Activities

## My college plan!

List the top three rea	asons why you want to	go to colle	ge:						
1.		2	2. 3.						
List the top three factors you will use to choose your college:									
1. 2. 3.									
List the top three career interests you have:									
1.		2.				3.			
How have/will you prepare for college?									
Courses	1.		3.		5.			7.	
taken:	2.		4.		6.			8.	
Test Scores (ACT, SAT	T, etc.):								
Extracurricular Activ	ities:								
1.		3				5.			
2.		4				6.			
List your top college	choices:	1.		2.	3.		4.		5.
Admissions Requirer	ments:								
Application Deadline	2:								
Open House/Previev	v Days:								
Scholarship Requirer									
Scholarship Deadline	5.								
How will you pay for	r college?								
How much is your K	EES scholarship? (You o	can find thi	s at <b>kheaa</b> .	.com.) \$					
File the FAFSA in Oct	ober! (You can do this	at <b>stude</b> n	rtaid.gov.)						
Other scholarships!	(You can search for sch	olarships a	t <b>kheaa.c</b> c	om.)					
1.									\$
2.									\$
3.									\$
4.									\$
5.									\$
6.									
You can get an estimate of your <i>financial aid</i> with the <i>Getting the Facts</i> at <b>kheaa.com!</b>									
Choose a college and	d make a deposit!								
Register for classes?		Sign up for	orientation	? 🗖	Confirm hou	using?			
Check out KHEAA's Thriving in College to help you prepare for a successful college experience!									

**Good luck and best wishes from KHEAA!** 

(800) 928-8926 kheaa.com

### Reality check

### Pretend you're 25 years old...

What will you drive? Want a sports car? Get a job as a physical therapist, and you can probably afford it. Become a sales rep, and we see you in a sleek sedan. The job you get and the car you drive are often tied to how much education you have. Answer these questions to find out what kind of life is in your future.

#### 1. Housing:

### I'd like to (circle one)

- a. rent a one-bedroom apartment
- b. rent a two-bedroom apartment
- c. own a two-bedroom house
- d.own a four-bedroom house

#### 2. Transportation:

#### I'd like to drive (circle one)

- a.a small, fuel-efficient car
- b. convertible
- c. full-size pick up
- d.full-size SUV

#### 3. Food:

### I'd like to (circle one)

- a. buy groceries and cook all my meals
- b. eat all of my meals at fast food restaurants
- c. cook some meals and eat out some

### 4. Clothing

### I normally shop (circle one)

- a. at a thrift store
- b. at a box store (i.e. Target, Walmart, etc.)
- c. at a department store
- d. for designer clothes

#### 5. Phone:

### I'd like to (circle one)

- a. have a smart phone with unlimited talk, text and data
- b. have a smartphone with unlimited talk text, but a limited data plan

#### 6. Insurance:

### I plan to purchase (circle one in each group)

#### Car

- a.full coverage (required if you're making a car payment)
- b. partial coverage

#### Home

- a. renter's insurance
- b. homeowner's insurance (required if you have a mortgage)
- c. no rental insurance

#### Medical

- a.l plan to continue my education after high school, so the job I hold is likely to help pay my insurance premium.
- b. I do NOT plan to continue my education after high school, so the job I hold is NOT likely to provide insurance as a benefit.

#### 7. Entertainment:

### My entertainment will be (circle all that apply)

- a. a movie four times a month
- b. sporting events three times a month
- c. streaming subscription (ex. Hulu)
- d.biking, rollerblading hiking and other outdoor sports
- e. attending a concert once a month

### 8. Educational plans

### Highest level of education you plan to obtain (circle one)

- a. high school graduate
- b. some college or associate's degree
- c. bachelor's degree
- d.master's degree
- e. doctorate
- f. professional degree

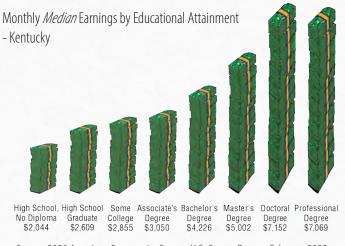
### Add up your monthly expenses

Are your expenses greater than your earnings? If so, you either need to cut back on your costs or earn more money. How much money do you need to make to have the life you want? How much education do you need to earn that much money?



### Now, do the reality check on the right.

Find the level of education you selected on question 8 on the chart below to see your monthly pay before taxes.



Source: 2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, February 2022.

### **Reality Check**

Find the monthly *median* earnings for the level of education you plan to obtain in the chart above. Now subtract your total monthly expenses to find out how much money you'll have at the end of each month. If you don't have enough money to cover your expenses, you'll need to adjust your lifestyle or your career path.



<u>Earnings</u>	\$	
_	Expenses	
<u>\$</u>	·	
_ =	\$	**

\*\*Positive amount? Congratulations! You're living below your means and are on your way to responsible money management.

**Negative amount?** Try again. This time reduce costly options and choose to get the education you'll need to afford the lifestyle you want.

<sup>\*</sup>The amount of money you borrow for school will depend on many factors, including the number of years you attend school, the degree you obtain, the school you attend, your financial need and other financial aid received.

# Activitie

## **Scavenger hunt**

Use this booklet and resources at **kheaa.com** to find the answers.

1.	List categories of users who can get helpful information on <b>kheaa. com</b> .	8.	What KHEAA <i>scholarship</i> pays students for the good grades and <i>ACT</i> scores they earn in high school?	
	1.)       3.)         2.)       4.)			
2.	What four things should you know to plan your career pathway?	9.	How much money might someone with a <i>bachelor's degree</i> expect to make in Kentucky each year? \$	
	1.)       3.)         2.)       4.)	10.	What percentage more might someone with a <i>bachelor's degree</i> expeto make than someone with just a high school diploma?%	
3.	What are the four different types of colleges?			
	1.)       3.)         2.)       4.)	11.	During what month and year in high school should you file the FAFSA of theth grade.	
4.	Do you have to sign in to use <b>kheaa.com</b> to its fullest potential? Why/why not?	12.	12. What is the most important thing you can obtain through your <i>MyKHEAA</i> account while in high school?	
5.	What types of <i>financial aid</i> are discussed on <b>kheaa.com</b> ?	13.	Name four of the areas of interest on <b>kheaa.com</b> for adults who want to return to school.	
	1.)       4.)         2.)       5.)         3.)       6.)		1.) 3.) 2.) 4.)	
6.	How many questions must you answer to register on <b>kheaa.com</b> ?	14.	Who is your school counselor?	
7.	How many <i>career clusters</i> are available through <b>kheaa.com</b> ?			

# Activitie

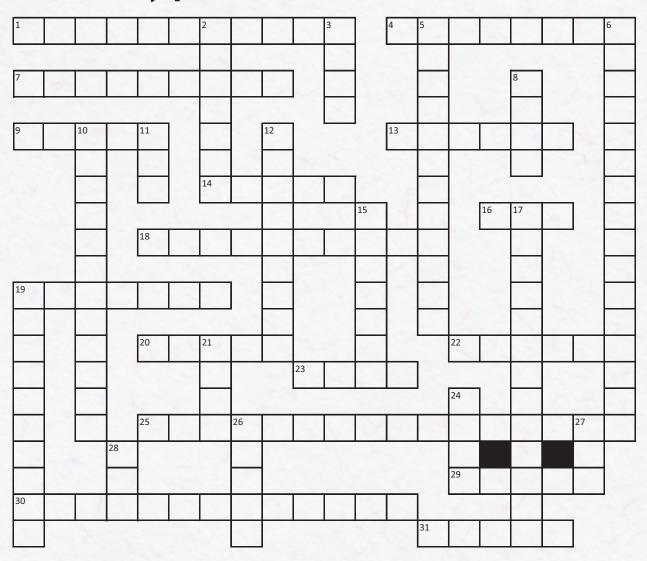
### The search is on

Χ Ε D Ν C Ε D Р C Ε M Ε Ν Ε Α Ν Ν Ρ S Α Τ Μ Ν D K U Ρ F S Α Ε S Τ S G C 0 S D Ν D Κ Ε Ε S D R L Ρ K U Ν Τ Α S Ε R 0 Ρ Χ Ε S G Ν W L Ζ Ρ C S Ρ S 0 C Ε D Τ Χ Τ K L U L Α Ν Ρ P R Ρ 0 D F Ε 1 Τ C J Υ Α U Τ Α Ν Ν M K R ٧ U G Q S ٧ Ν K Η Ε Α U Ε Τ Ν S Ε Τ U G 0 Α Н Α 0 0 Α L 0 0 R U ٧ Ε S Τ C 0 U Ν 1 Τ Υ C 0 L Ε G Ε Τ M M L В R Κ S В Α Τ Ν 0 C Н D W C R Α Τ Τ S Ε D U Ε R 0 Ε S Н L Η Α Η S Τ Χ Χ Ε S Χ Ε Τ R K L S 0 R R C 0 U Ε I G C Ρ R F Κ Τ 0 0 R Α R K C ٧ Τ Ρ G Ε F S S M Υ Τ Ν M K Ν S S C 0 Α S Α Τ 0 Η R Η -Η S U Α R Τ U 0 V 0 C Ν D C C Η Α Р Τ S C R Τ S D В C Υ Ν C Ν Ε D Υ Τ 0 D D Ε 0 Τ G G 0 C C C Ε Υ

You just learned a lot of new words, and there are more to come. Now it's time to put your knowledge to the test. See how many of these college-planning terms you can find in the puzzle.

Advanced Placement	EFC	KEES	Scholarship
ACT	FAFSA	KHEAA	Technical College
Associate's Degree	Financial Need	Need Analysis	Transcript
Certificate	Grant	Plan	Tuition
Community College	ILP	PLUS Loan	University
Conversion Loan	Interest	Postsecondary	Waiver
Diploma	Institutional Aid	SAT	Work Study

### Postsecondary puzzler



#### **ACROSS**

- Aid award based on talent or grades
- 4. Money charged on a loan
- 7. Two-year degree
- 9. Federal financial aid form
- 13. Type of aid that waives some costs
- 14. Aid award based on need
- 16. What your family is expected to pay
- 18. A school that offers advanced degrees
- 19. Charge for instruction
- 20. \_\_\_\_-based aid
- 22. With "studies," possible 26 Down
- 23. \_\_\_-credit course

- 25. Public two-year school (two words)
- 29. Agency that helps you plan for college
- 30. Any education after high school
- 31. See 24 Down

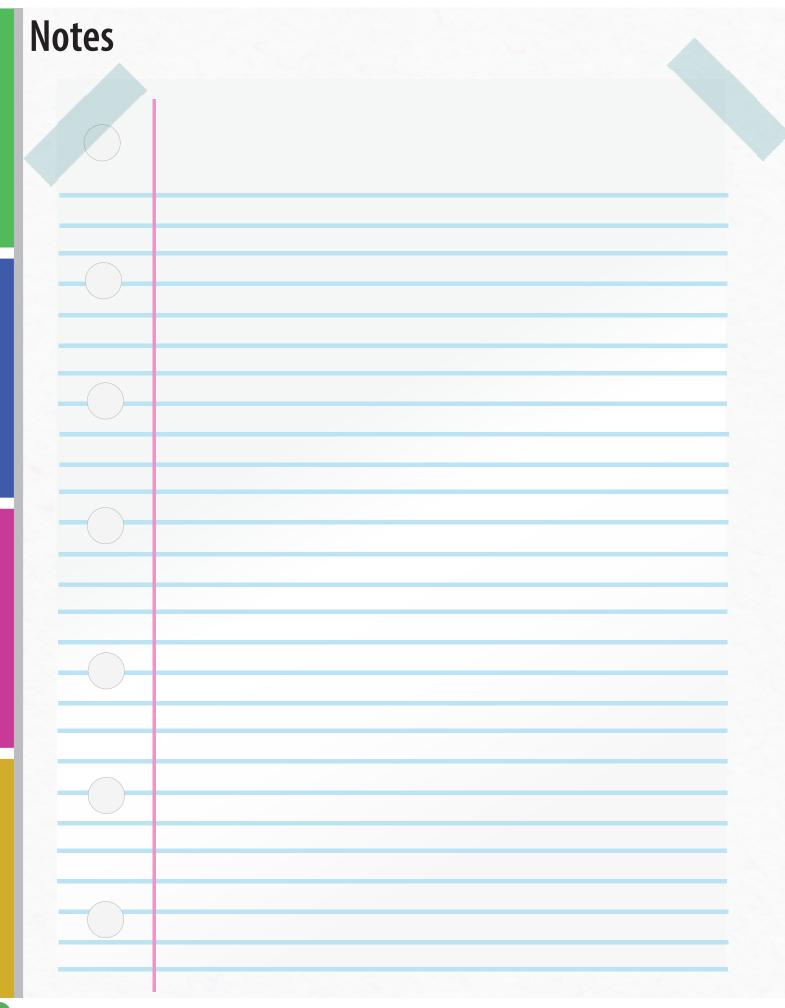
#### **DOWN**

- 2. Section on 11 Down
- 3. Federal loan for parents
- 5. Determines how much financial aid you need (two words)
- 6. School for training in specific fields (two words)
- 8. Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship
- 10. Money to help pay for college (two words)

- 11. College entrance exam
- 12. Advanced \_\_\_\_
- 15. Earned in nondegree program or in high school
- 17. Cost of education minus 16 Across (two words)
- 19. Shows your grades credits, etc.
- 21. \_\_\_ and board
- 24. With 31 Across, way to earn money at college
- 26. Primary academic field of study in college
- 27. You need at least a 2.5 one of these to earn an 8 Down award
- 28. College Board entrance exam

(Answers on page 34.)





### Family tips

You may be wondering how you can help your student during the college-planning process. Here's a checklist with some tips to get you started.

#### Start saving for college now.

You can use the College Savings Calculator at kheaa.com to estimate how much you'll need to save each month to cover the future cost of a college education. Visit kysaves.com for information about Kentucky's 529 plan.

- Attend college visits, job fairs, college nights and financial aid nights with your student. Check into such career options as apprenticeships and internships.
- Talk with your student about selecting a school.

Look for one that is within your budget and offers them the program and environment they're looking for. Narrow down your options using KHEAA's Getting the Facts tool. (See page 28.)

### Meet key deadlines.

Remember that different colleges will have different deadlines for applications, deposits, academic requirements, financial aid, etc.

### Complete the FAFSA.

Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible starting October 1 of your student's senior year. Kentucky grants are awarded to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

### Know your *EFC*.

Your expected family contribution (EFC) is how much your family is expected to contribute toward your student's college education each year. As a general rule, the lower a family's EFC, the more financial aid a student is eligible for. Your EFC is based on a formula set by Congress, using the information you provide on the FAFSA.

#### Apply for *scholarships* and *grants*.

These generally don't have to be repaid, so students should try to get as many scholarships and grants as possible. You and your student can explore scholarships at kheaa.com.

### **Understand your loan options.**

The majority of students, however, now need loans to help pay college costs. Many people also take out loans to help their children. That means students and families need to be informed consumers. (For more information about loans, see pages 20-21.)

### Help your student keep track of the applications process.

Many students apply to more than one school, so it can be expensive. If you can't afford to pay an application fee, see if the school is willing to waive it.

### Review the Student Aid Report (SAR).

Make sure the SAR you receive is accurate.

### Compare *financial aid* award letters.

Make sure both you and your student understand how much is free aid (scholarships, grants, etc.), how much is loans and how much you will be expected to pay. Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions.

### Work with your student to set up a budget.

The budget should show what financial aid will cover, how much you'll pay and how much your student will contribute through work and student loans



# We're here to help!









### **Our mission**

Helping Kentucky students and families prepare, plan, and pay for higher education.



Work Ready
Kentucky
Scholarship

