

2018 The College Circuit

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL AID



www.kheaa.com

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 college 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 admission 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.

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Be on the lookout for the College Info Road Show!

KHEAA has a mobile outreach service center, the College Info Road Show, that could be coming to your school or community. Outreach staff are on board and can help you access kheaa.com from the mobile classroom's laptop computers. Staff can also provide career information, identify colleges or universities that meet your educational goals, help find sources of financial aid, answer questions and much more!



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What's your destination?

Your career has a lot to do with how much money you'll make.

Money isn't everything. You should do what you love. But you need money to pay the bills. Here's how much money certain careers pay **on average** in Kentucky.

If you want one of these jobs, you'll need specialized training, a college degree or maybe even an advanced degree. Check out your *Individual Learning Plan (ILP)* for the educational requirements of careers that interest you. (**Don't expect to make this much right out of college... you need experience, too.**)

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 professional athlete?

The odds are low—only one in every 3,000 high school athletes becomes a pro in a major sport.³ There are many sports-related careers to choose from.

Occupations by Salary and Required Level of Education in Kentucky¹

<i>Professional Degree</i>	
Pediatricians	\$177,666
Orthodontists	\$177,003
Pharmacists	\$124,598
Lawyers	\$93,982
Veterinarians	\$83,042
<i>Doctoral Degree</i>	
School superintendents ²	\$125,958
History professors	\$72,173
<i>Master's Degree</i>	
Nurse Practitioners	\$95,145
Physical Therapists	\$84,552
Statisticians	\$78,745
<i>Bachelor's Degree</i>	
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$105,422
Mining and Geological Engineers	\$98,411
Financial Managers	\$98,135
Farm and Ranch Managers	\$65,039
Registered Nurses	\$59,171
High School Teachers	\$53,303
Forensic Science Technicians	\$41,689
Graphic Designers	\$41,210
Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Motion Picture	\$36,995
<i>Associate's Degree (or other 2-year degree)</i>	
Fashion Designers	\$66,764
Manufacturing Engineering Technologists	\$41,934
<i>Postsecondary Certificate</i>	
Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment	\$54,681
Welders, Cutters, and Welder Fitters	\$38,032
Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	\$25,168

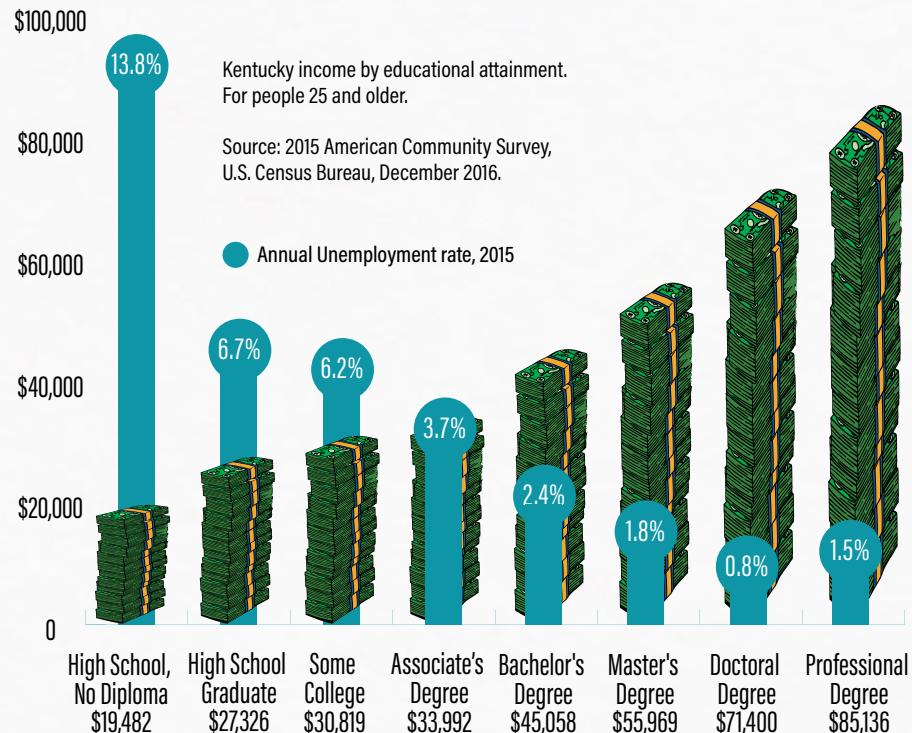
¹Source: Kentucky Career Center, Kentucky Labor Market Information, <https://kylmi.ky.gov>, 2015.

²Source: Kentucky Department of Education, <http://education.ky.gov/districts/finrep/pages/school%20district%20personnel%20information.aspx>, 2016-2017

³Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, bls.gov/ooh

Why college?

This graph gives the 2015 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.



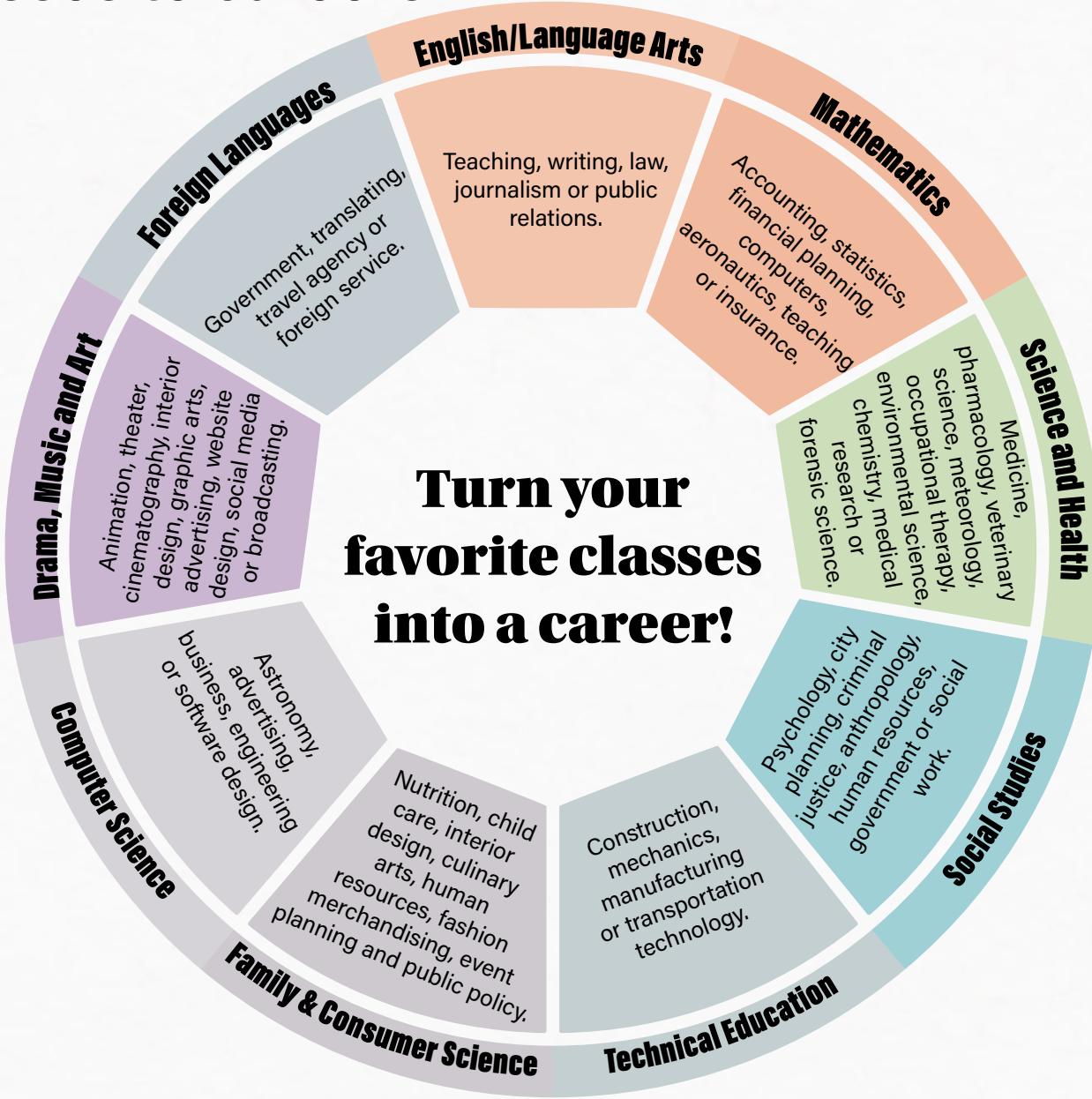
Help wanted!

There are many high-paying 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.

Job Title	Annual Salary*	Job Title	Annual Salary*
Advanced Manufacturing			
Computer Assisted Drafter	\$43,340	Pipeline Welder	\$37,410
Machine Tool Operator	\$38,770	Surveying Technician	\$37,080
Business and Information Technology			
Accounting Recordkeeping Specialist	\$35,270	Information Security Specialist	\$72,280
Computer Support Technician	\$41,130	Web Developer	\$54,150
Construction Trades			
Carpenter	\$38,540	Heavy Machinery Operator	\$39,270
Electrician	\$50,100	Plumber	\$49,080
Healthcare			
Medical Coder	\$33,460	Phlebotomist	\$28,680
Pharmacy Technician	\$27,020	Radiographer	\$49,970
Transportation and Logistics			
Automotive Technician	\$33,850	Logistics Quality Technician	\$66,310
Collision Repairer	\$40,330	Supply Chain Specialist	\$92,010

*Typical average salary in Kentucky. Source: careeronestop.org.

Classes to careers



Precollege Curriculum Checklist

Source: Council on Postsecondary Education

You need to take the classes at right if you plan to attend a four-year Kentucky public university. Double check with the school you plan to attend for its specific requirements.

Subject	Credits Required
Language Arts	4 credits: English I, II, III, IV or AP English
Mathematics	4 credits: Must include Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry. The fourth class counts as an elective
Science	3 credits: to include life science, physical science, earth/space science (at least one lab course)
Social Studies	3 credits: to include U.S. history, geography, economics, government and civics, cultures and societies
Health	1/2 credit: to include individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, community services
Physical Education	1/2 credit: to include personal wellness, psychomotor, lifetime activity
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	1 credit: 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
Electives	5 credits (3 rigorous)*

* Rigorous electives should have academic content at least as challenging as the courses required in the minimum *diploma* requirements. Electives should be in social studies, science, math, language arts, arts and humanities, foreign language, and above the introductory level in agriculture, industrial technology, business, marketing, family and consumer sciences, health sciences, and technology education and career pathways. Electives in physical education and health are limited to one-half unit each.

The path to college checklist

Middle School

- Talk with your school counselor and parents about:
- Going to college.
- Ninth grade courses.
- College prep and honors courses.
- Academic enrichment programs.
- Start planning now, and earn good grades.
- Think about sports, performing arts, volunteer work or other activities that interest you.
- Learn about your high school's grading policy.

Freshman

- Take electives that involve your interests.
- Sign up for honors, AP or dual credit courses.
- Go to kheaa.com and register for a free, personalized account and begin exploring scholarships.
- Get involved. Keep track of your activities and achievements.

Sophomore

- Think about what career you may like. Explore careers at kheaa.com.
- Take the ACT, PSAT or SAT.
- Consider taking AP, IB, CLEP and dual credit courses.

Activities I want to try:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Log onto your account at kheaa.com to view and verify your KEEPS award amounts at the end of each school year.

The path to college checklist

Junior

Fall Semester

- Start your personalized College Plan (page 35).
- Talk with your school counselor or college coach about your college plans and financial aid.
- Take the ACT, PSAT, and SAT. Consider a prep course.
- Review and search colleges on kheaa.com and begin planning college visits.
- Decide if you should take AP exams in May.
- Research summer enrichment and honors programs.
- Set up an e-mail account with a professional address.

Spring Semester

- Attend a financial aid night to learn about available resources.
- Check your KEEES award.
- Review KHEAA's Getting In publication.
- Sign up for AP, IB, CAI or dual credit courses for senior year.
- Develop a résumé.
- Think about lining up a summer job, internship or co-op. Consider shadowing a job or volunteering in your field of interest.
- Complete your personalized copy of *Getting the Facts* at kheaa.com. (See page 28.)

KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!
Your junior year GPA is critical for college admission.

Applying to college is simple!

1. Complete admission applications.
2. Submit your high school transcript, electronically, if available.
3. Send in your ACT scores. Retake the test, if necessary, to improve your score.
4. Apply for housing and send in your deposit if living on campus.
5. Watch for your acceptance letters and follow up on any requests for information.

If you plan to graduate early, talk with your school counselor and be sure to look ahead on the timeline.

Senior**Fall Semester**

- Narrow your list of schools and schedule visits.
- Check with your high school counseling office for scholarship resources, including KHEAA's *Affording Higher Education* (See page 19).
- Take or retake the ACT or SAT.
- Complete online admissions applications.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Request recommendations from teachers, employers and counselors. Provide a résumé.
- Watch scholarship deadlines and create a calendar.
- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov as soon as possible **STARTING OCTOBER 1.** Some aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Spring Semester

- Review college acceptance letters and compare financial aid offers.
- Decide about a school and send in the deposit by May 1.
- Complete verification documents, if applicable.

Make sure you use the ".gov" site when completing your FAFSA. It's free. Other sites will charge you a fee.

- Get a summer job.
- Sign up for early registration/ orientation/housing/early start.
- Look for KHEAA's *Surviving College* publication at kheaa.com.

Summer

- Establish a contact at the college you'll be attending, such as an admissions counselor, coach or other college representative.
- Do one last check of your *KEES* award amount through your *MyKHEAA* account. Contact your high school counselor immediately if you notice an error.
- Check with your college to make sure it has received your final transcript, dual credit transcript and all necessary paperwork.
- Set up your online student account at the school you'll be attending.
- Follow your school's social media pages and feeds.
- Complete entrance counseling if borrowing student loans.

Make the most of school right now

Getting ready for college means more than learning about financial aid.

Develop good study habits.

01

Make good grades.

02

Take challenging classes.

03

Get involved.

04

Set personal goals.

05

Explore your career options.

06

Open a savings account.

07

Get organized.

08

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.

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 huge 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 admission 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 schools. Find out their admission requirements.

Where to go:

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

Graduate on time Complete at least 15 credits a semester.

Why?

You'll save money! Taking 15 credits costs the same as taking 12 credits at most of Kentucky's state universities. You're getting 3 credits for FREE!

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

You're more likely to get good grades.

You'll maximize your *KEEKS* award. You can use it for eight semesters within five years of high school graduation.

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

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



Know the courses you need to graduate and meet with your advisor to map out a plan to earn your degree on time. Visit **15tofinishky.org** for more information.

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

Your scholarship search

Scholarships can be a valuable help in paying for your college education! As you search for scholarships, be aware of these 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.
- I'm not staying in Kentucky.
- My parents make too much money.
- Scholarships are only for high school seniors.

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.
- O Check out scholarships at the colleges you are considering!
- O Check out over 7,000 scholarships nationwide using the Scholarship Search at kheaa.com.
- O Check out other reliable scholarship search websites like fastweb.com or collegegreenlight.com for first-generation students.
- O Be prepared to write an essay.
- O Create a scholarship résumé.
- O Check your ILPs scholarship search.
- O Check with your parents' or your own employer.
- O Ask the school about legacy or alumni scholarships.

**See page 27 for other
scholarship resources.**



Financial aid application process

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

Ask your school counselor about *financial aid nights*.

Speed up the process—go to fsaid.ed.gov to create an *FSA ID*. With an *FSA ID* you can apply and sign your *FAFSA* online.

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

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

Complete the *FAFSA* and submit as soon as possible starting October 1. Apply online at fafsa.gov.

If selected, turn in any other documentation your *financial aid* office needs to complete *verification*.

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

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

Create your FSA ID

1

Visit fsaid.ed.gov.

2

Enter your e-mail address, then create a username.

3

Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information and challenge questions and answers.

4

Confirm your cell phone number using the secure code, which will be texted to the number you provided.

5

Confirm your e-mail address using the secure code, which will be sent to the e-mail 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 3:

You'll have to set two challenge questions on your own. Examples: mother's/father's middle name, high school name or mascot, city of birth

FAFSA checklist

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to apply for federal, state and college-based *financial aid*. You should file a FAFSA **as soon as possible starting October 1**.

What you will need:

- Your Social Security number
- Your Alien Registration number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Valid e-mail address
- 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)
- An *FSA ID* to sign electronically. (If you do not already have one, visit fsaid.ed.gov to obtain 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).

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:

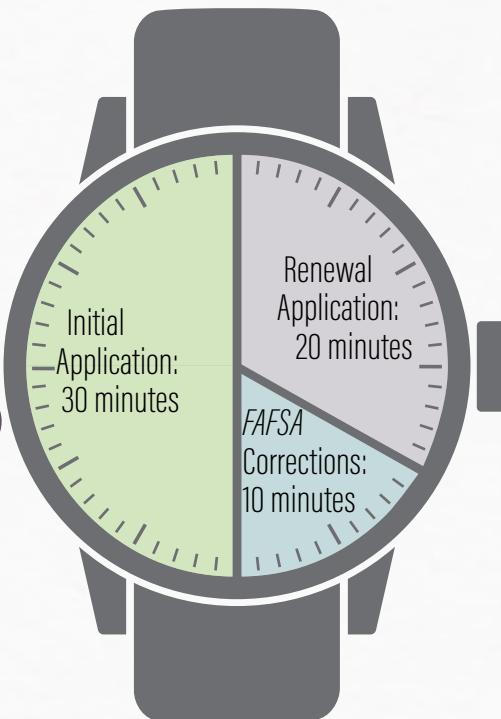
- You are age 24 or older as of January 1 of the year you plan to enroll.
- You're married.
- You're enrolled in a *master's* or *doctorate* program.
- You have children or dependents who will receive more than half of their support from you during the year you will be enrolled.
- You're an orphan or ward of the court (or were a ward of the court until age 18).
- You are in a court-ordered legal guardianship (or were until age 18).
- You are an unaccompanied minor and have been classified as homeless by a school district homeless liaison or a director of an emergency or transitional housing program.
- You're a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. "Veteran" includes a student who attended a U.S. military academy who was released under a condition other than dishonorable.

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.**

SIGN YOUR APPLICATION

All students must use their *FSA ID* to electronically sign their FAFSA. For 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 electronically sign. If one doesn't, the student could lose thousands of dollars in *financial aid*. Watch your e-mail closely for notifications and confirmations.

How long will it take?



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 state-approved 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!**

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

Federal aid program 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 renewal *FAFSA* must be filed each year that you are in college.

Programs	General Eligibility	Annual Award Amounts
Grants		
Federal Pell Grant	<i>Undergraduate student with financial need.</i>	The maximum Pell Grant for the 2017-2018 award year is \$5,920.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	<i>Undergraduate student with exceptional financial need. Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority.</i>	Up to \$4,000 per year. Amount can vary by institution.
TEACH Grant	<i>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 studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach for a listing of schools and programs.</i>	Up to \$4,000. If you do not teach as required, the grant becomes a loan and must be repaid.
Work-Study		
Federal Work-Study	<i>Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.</i>	At least minimum wage.
Loans		
Federal Perkins Loan	<i>Undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at least half-time. Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority.</i>	<i>Undergraduate:</i> Up to \$5,500 per year. <i>Graduate:</i> Up to \$8,000 per year. Based on financial need. Amount can vary by institution.
Direct Loan	<i>Undergraduate, graduate or professional student enrolled at least half-time.</i>	Depends on grade level and dependency status. Maximum for <i>undergraduate:</i> \$5,500-\$12,500; <i>graduate or professional student:</i> \$8,500-\$20,500.
Direct PLUS Loan	<i>Graduate student or parent of dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time. Credit approval required.</i>	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.ed.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 Undergraduate Study	\$7,500	\$12,500
Each Year of Graduate/Professional Study		\$20,500
Who Borrows?	Student	
Loan Limits	Annual/Cumulative	
Interest Rate*	Subsidized – 4.45% Unsubsidized – 4.45%	
Credit review	No	



First, get all the “free” money you can for school. That means grants, scholarships and work-study. Then you can get a student loan to cover the rest.

To be eligible for student *financial aid*, male students must also be registered with Selective Service at sss.gov/home/registration.

State financial aid

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—financial aid awards generally based on <i>financial need</i>. A grant usually doesn't have to be repaid.				
College Access Program (CAP) Grant	Undergraduates attending a Kentucky college or trade school at least half-time.	Up to \$1,900	FAFSA	File as soon as possible after October 1*
Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG)	Full-time undergraduates at a private Kentucky college.	Up to \$2,920	FAFSA	File as soon as possible after October 1*
Go Higher Grant	Kentucky residents age 24 or older who have <i>financial need</i> and are enrolled at a participating college less than half-time.	Up to \$1,000	FAFSA and application at kheaa.com	None
Scholarships—financial aid awards that don't have to be repaid. They are awarded based on a particular skill, ability, talent or achievement demonstrated by the recipient.				
Dual Credit Scholarship	Kentucky high school students enrolled in <i>dual credit</i> courses through a participating Kentucky college or university.	Limited to two courses, up to \$54 per <i>credit hour</i> .	Kentucky public high schools will report <i>dual credit</i> information to KHEAA for scholarship.	None
Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)	To be eligible for a KEES yearly <i>GPA</i> award, a high school student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a U. S. citizen, national or permanent resident. • Be a Kentucky resident. You are eligible if your parent or guardian maintains legal residence in Kentucky while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. • Earn at least a 2.5 <i>GPA</i> in any year of high school while meeting the KEES curriculum requirements. • Attend and graduate from a certified Kentucky high school or other approved high school. • Not be a convicted felon. Home school students are only eligible for the KEES ACT award.	Base awards from \$125 to \$500 each year of high school, ACT bonus award from \$36 to \$500, AP/IB/CAI bonus awards from \$200 to \$300.	None. KHEAA will send your KEES award to the Kentucky college where you're enrolled.	None
Early Childhood Development Scholarship	Kentucky students pursuing an approved <i>certificate</i> , credential or degree in childhood development or education who is enrolled in no more than 9 <i>credit hours</i> and is employed at least 20 hours weekly in a participating early childhood facility; or is employed as a preschool associate teacher in a state-funded preschool program.	Up to \$1,800	FAFSA and application at kheaa.com	July 15 for the fall term; November 15 for the spring term; April 15 for the summer term*
Early Graduate Scholarship Certificate	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> .	Varies. 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

* 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.

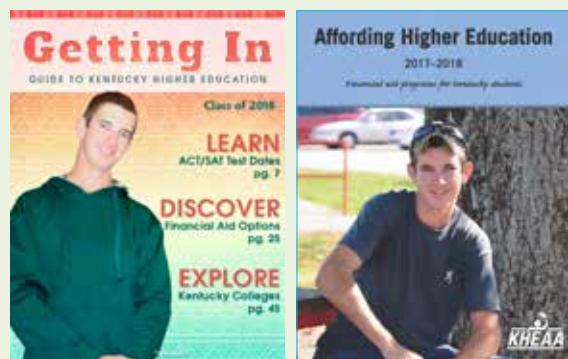
State eligibility requirements and award amounts are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, log on to kheaa.com.

Type of Aid	Eligibility	Award Amount	Application	Deadline
Kentucky Coal County Completion Scholarship	Residents of a Kentucky coal-producing county who have earned at least 60 <i>credit hours</i> toward a <i>bachelor's degree</i> . Must be enrolled at least half-time in a <i>bachelor's degree</i> program. Must be in good academic standing.	Up to \$7,770 at a nonprofit, independent college in a coal-producing county. Up to \$2,630 at a public university extension campus in a coal-producing county. Up to \$3,880 at a public or nonprofit, independent Kentucky college not in a coal-producing county.	FAFSA and application at kheaa.com	May 1
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship	Kentucky resident pursing an approved industry-recognized certificate or diploma 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.	Up to \$3,880	FAFSA and application at kheaa.com	None
Work-Study—programs that offer jobs that let students earn money to help pay for their education.				
KHEAA Work-Study	Kentucky residents attending a participating school.	At least the federal minimum wage.	FAFSA	Contact your college's Work-Study program coordinator
Conversion Scholarships/Loans—scholarships that require you to provide certain services, like working in a specific field for a specified number of years. If those services aren't provided, the scholarship converts to a loan that must be repaid.				
Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship	Kentucky residents accepted into the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine. Recipients who do not fulfill requirements must repay the scholarship plus 6 percent <i>interest</i> .	Varies	Available through the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.	July 1
Coal County Scholarship for Pharmacy Students	Kentucky residents who plan to pursue careers as pharmacists in coal-producing counties in the state. Scholarships are awarded to students who enroll at an accredited school of pharmacy in Kentucky. Recipients who do not fulfill requirements must repay the scholarship plus 6 percent <i>interest</i> .	Varies	kheaa.com	May 1

Check these out!

KHEAA's **Getting In** publication has for more information about college admissions and financial aid.

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.



The nuts and bolts of borrowing

How to apply for a student loan

Federal Direct Loan

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

Federal PLUS Loan

1. The student must fill out the FAFSA.
2. 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 studentloans.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.

5 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.

Don't borrow trouble

One major financial goal should be 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 4.45%

Initial Debt at Repayment	Monthly Payments	Total Repaid
\$ 5,000	\$ 52	\$ 6,204
\$ 10,000	\$ 103	\$ 12,408
\$ 20,000	\$ 207	\$ 24,815
\$ 25,000	\$ 258	\$ 31,019
\$ 30,000	\$ 310	\$ 37,223
\$ 40,000	\$ 413	\$ 49,631
\$ 50,000	\$ 517	\$ 62,039
\$ 75,000	\$ 775	\$ 93,058
\$100,000	\$1,034	\$124,077

Expected Salary	Maximum Manageable Monthly Payment	Manageable Education Debt
\$ 15,000	\$ 125	\$ 10,191
\$ 20,000	\$ 167	\$ 13,589
\$ 25,000	\$ 208	\$ 16,986
\$ 30,000	\$ 250	\$ 20,383
\$ 35,000	\$ 292	\$ 23,780
\$ 40,000	\$ 333	\$ 27,177
\$ 50,000	\$ 416	\$ 33,972
\$100,000	\$ 833	\$ 67,945

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-interest rates, which means you can save thousands over competitors' *loans*.

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

There's even an **Advantage Parent Loan** available for parents of *undergraduate* and *graduate students*.

- Your **FIXED** *interest* 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 automatic debit payment service.
- Applying with a creditworthy cosigner may help you qualify and/or receive a lower **FIXED** rate.
- For more information, call 800.988.6333. Visit advantagedducationloan.com to apply.
- Refinancing your student loans with the **Advantage Refinance Loan** can save you thousands of dollars in *interest*.

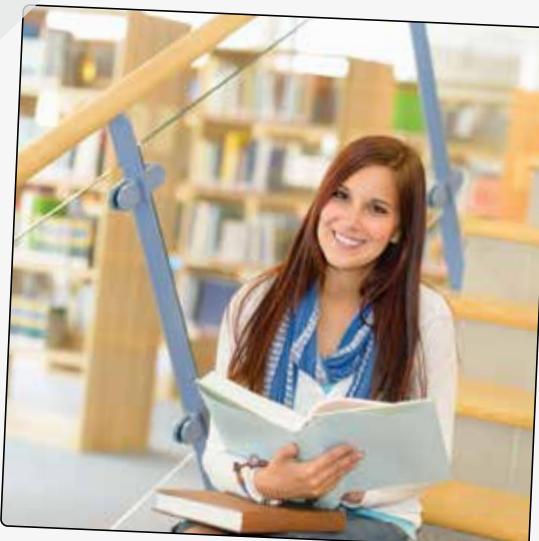
The **Advantage Refinance Loan** is available for borrowers who are in repayment and want to roll all their federal and private loans into one convenient *loan*, save on *interest* charges and get out of debt faster. Apply online for an Advantage Refinance Loan at advantagedducationloan.com.



Loan Rates

Types:	PLUS	Advantage Education Loan
Who Borrows?	Parent or Graduate Student	Student or Parent
Loan Limits	Cost of Attendance, minus aid already awarded	Cost of Attendance, minus aid already awarded
Interest Rate	7%	3.55% to 6.99%*
Credit review	Yes	Yes

*All *loans* are subject to credit approval. The *interest* rate is set at the time you choose your repayment terms and cannot be changed. KHESLC reserves the right to modify or discontinue *loan* features or benefits or discontinue *loan* programs at any time without notice.



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 better in each year of high school. An *ACT* composite score of 15 or above (or the equivalent *SAT*) will also earn you a bonus award. You must qualify for at least one *GPA* award to receive the bonus.

KEES Award Amounts			
GPA	Award Amount	ACT Score	Bonus Amount
4.00	\$500	28 or above	\$500
3.90	\$475	27	\$464
3.80	\$450	26	\$428
3.75	\$437	25	\$393
3.70	\$425	24	\$357
3.60	\$400	23	\$321
3.50	\$375	22	\$286
3.40	\$350	21	\$250
3.30	\$325	20	\$214
3.25	\$312	19	\$179
3.20	\$300	18	\$143
3.10	\$275	17	\$107
3.00	\$250	16	\$71
2.90	\$225	15	\$36
2.80	\$200		
2.75	\$187		
2.70	\$175		
2.60	\$150		
2.50	\$125		

Amounts are subject to change based on available funding.

Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price 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.

Advanced Placement		International Baccalaureate		Cambridge Advanced International	
Exam Score	Bonus Amount	Exam Score	Bonus Amount	Exam Score	Bonus Amount
3	\$200	5	\$200	e	\$200
4	\$250	6	\$250	c or d	\$250
5	\$300	7	\$300	a*, a or b	\$300

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

All students attending certified public or private high schools in the state of Kentucky are eligible to earn *KEES* money. Home school students and students attending non-certified 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 to fill out! 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.



My KEES Goal

Fill in your *GPA* and your base and bonus awards. Add them up to determine your annual *KEES* award.

	GPA	Amount
<u>Freshman</u>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Sophomore</u>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Junior</u>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Senior</u>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Highest ACT Score</u>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>*AP or IB Test Score</u>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Total Award for Each Year of College</u>	=	<input type="text"/>
<u>x 4 years</u>	=	<input type="text"/>

*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* for 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. 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.

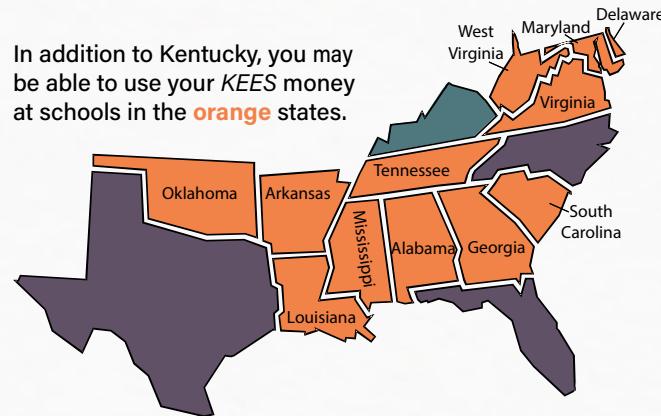
To get the full amount, you must be a full-time student. If you're enrolled at least half-time, you'll receive a proportionate amount.

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.

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. To check your *KEES* account online, 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

01

Submit the *FAFSA* as soon as possible starting October 1 by going to fafsa.gov.

02

Apply for **EVERY** type of aid.

03

Make good grades.

04

Retake your *ACT*/entrance exams to improve your score.

05

Talk with a college *financial aid* administrator.

06

Look for free information about *financial aid*.

07

Learn about student loans.

08

Talk with your school counselor.

09

Save for college.

10

Beware of scams.



KENTUCKY
Education Savings Plan Trust

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.

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

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 filling out 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 lender 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.

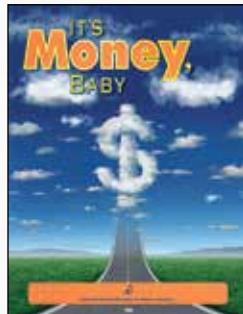
Tuition isn't the only thing you'll be paying for when you go to college. You'll also need money for membership dues, food away from the dining hall, a computer and transportation.

 **Never pay anyone for *financial aid* information.**
The information is FREE from your school counselor, library, online 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. One of the main ways we do this is to provide publications, printed or online, to schools and individuals. Below are some publications that we publish in addition to *The College Circuit*. (You can find information about our booklets, *Affording Higher Education* and *Getting In*, on pages 18 and 19.)

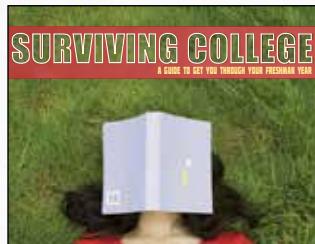
Booklets



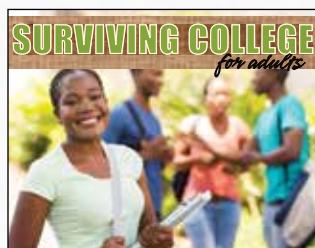
It's Money, Baby is a road map to your money. The 32-page booklet includes sections about: wants vs. needs; banking; credit; insurance; and identity theft.



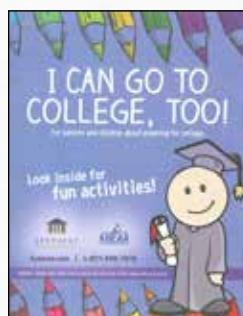
Adults Returning to School is geared to nontraditional students and contains valuable information to help adults who want to go to college.



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

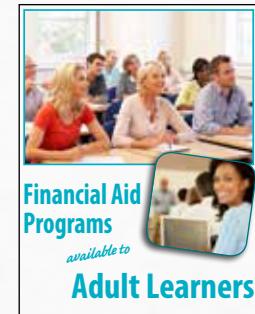
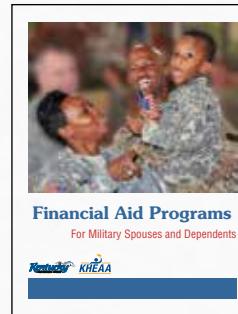


Surviving College for adults, a guide to adult students' first year in college, helps students adjust to the college experience.



I Can Go to College, Too! is an activity book for parents and children about planning and saving for college.

Flyers



List *financial aid* programs available to military veterans, military spouses and dependents, and adult students.



Introduces students to high school basics.

Explores options for students interested in attending a technical school.

Brochures



Information about the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship.



Information about KHEAA's website.

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, ext. 67214, or emailing us at publications@kheaa.com.

Online resources

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

actstudent.org – The ACT college entrance exam site

aoky.kctcs.edu – Accelerating Opportunity Kentucky

bigfuture.collegeboard.org – The College Board college planning site

bls.gov/ooh – Occupational Outlook Handbook

cappex.com – College exploration

collegeboard.org – The College Board

collegeup.org – FAFSA completion and paying for college

collegegreenlight.com – College search and application process

ed.gov – U.S. Department of Education

fafsa.gov – FAFSA on the Web

fafsa4caster.ed.gov – Tool that estimates *financial aid*

fastweb.com – College scholarship search

fsaid.ed.gov – FAFSA Federal Student Aid ID

getschooled.com – High school graduation resources

imfirst.org – Resources for first-generation college students

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

khesci.com – Kentucky student loans and borrower services

kysaves.com – Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT)

kyvu.org – Kentucky Virtual Campus

kyvc4k12.org – Kentucky Virtual Campus for K-12 students

march2success.com – ACT prep

parchment.com – Electronic transcripts

studentaid.ed.gov – Federal student aid programs

thinkcollege.net – Resources for students with disabilities.



KENTUCKY
goes to college

Kygoestocollege.com offers resources for schools and organizations interested in enhancing their college-going culture through initiatives like Close the Deal 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

KnowHow2Transfer.org

KnowHow2Transfer.org provides students, families and advisors with a central location for information on the transfer process, institutional transfer policies, degree program requirements, transfer *scholarships* and transfer contact information.

- Learn how courses transfer.
- Chart a *bachelor's* degree.
- Use the Transfer Planning Guide.

Military Benefits

Post 9/11 Bill & Montgomery Bill

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

Yellow Ribbon Program

Yellow.ribbon@va.gov

Reserve Officers' Training Corps. (ROTC)

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

Kentucky National Guard

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, check your coursework against Kentucky's *Precollege Curriculum*, check out KHEAA's comprehensive *Getting In* publication, learn about entrance and placement tests, consider your college admission 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 in-depth 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 freshman, adopt healthy habits, check out things to do and get a plan for making good grades.

Money Management

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

Other Resources

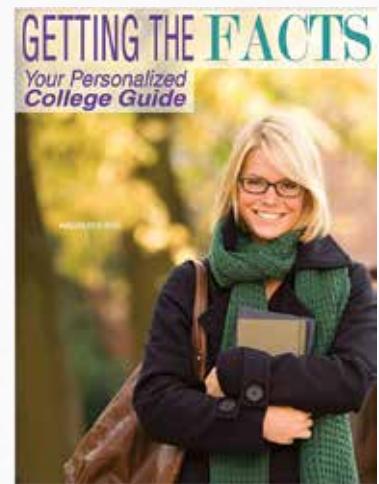
Watch career videos, link to other helpful web resources and plug into the Kentucky labor market information.

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 specific college choices and the family's unique financial circumstances. Find step-by-step instructions on how to access this valuable college planning 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*
- Access the *KHEAA ILP* for private and home school students
- 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 networking

Increasingly, potential employers and admissions counselors use the content on social networking profiles sites when making selection decisions.

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



Service learning

National service and volunteer programs provide opportunities to serve your country in a variety of areas including 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's website at nationalservice.gov to learn about AmeriCorps and other opportunities, including the Kentucky College Coaches Program.



Glossary

A

Accreditation Approval of a school or program by an 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.

Associate's degree 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.

C

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 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*.

Benchmarks	
English	18
Math	19
Reading	20

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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*.

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*.

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 fafsa.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. You can get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.

Glossary (continued)

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 five tests that assess their knowledge of language arts/writing, language arts/reading, 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.

I

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) An online 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 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 Occupational Skills Standards Assessment (KOSSA) An assessment system based on standards identified by employers across the state. Kentucky has standards and assessments in agriculture, business and marketing, health science, human services, information technology, communications, construction, transportation, technology and engineering and manufacturing. 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

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies the initial academic eligibility and amateur status of all college-bound student athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics.

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.

O

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.

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, this would include a dorm room and a meal plan. Allowances for these costs are part of a student's total cost of attendance.

S

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.

SAT Subject Tests One-hour tests in specific subjects such as mathematics, science, English or foreign languages. More selective schools require two or three for freshman placement.

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)*.

Glossary (continued)

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.

T

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 *AP/IB/CAI* classes.

V

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

W

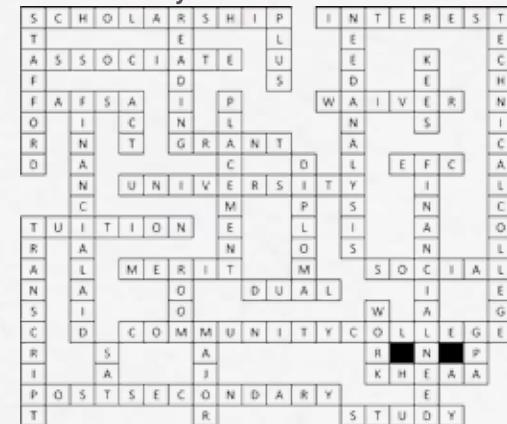
Waiver Arrangement under which a school does not charge specific costs if a student meets certain qualifications.

Weighted GPA *GPA* that includes any extra points earned for *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.

Postsecondary Puzzler Answers



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. Use the Distance Search at https://www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/distance_search?main=1 to answer.

- 7.10
- 8.16
9. KEES - Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship
10. \$45,058
11. 57%
12. October of the 12th grade
13. KEES balance
14. Planning for college, selecting a school, paying for college, distance learning, transferring, repaying your loans, publications
15. Answers will vary.

Your college plan!

List the top three reasons why you want to go to college:

1.	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 taken:	1.	3.	5.	7.
	2.	4.	6.	8.

Test Scores (ACT, SAT, etc.):

Extracurricular Activities:

1.	3.	5.
2.	4.	6.

List your top college choices:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
----	----	----	----	----

Admission Requirements:

Application Deadline:

Open House/Preview Days:

Scholarship Requirements:

Scholarship Deadline:

How will you pay for college?

How much is your *KEES scholarship*? (You can find this at kheaa.com.) \$

File the *FAFSA* in October! (You can do this at fafsa.gov.)

Other *scholarships*! (You can search for *scholarships* at kheaa.com.)

1.	\$
2.	\$
3.	\$
4.	\$

You can get an estimate of your *financial aid* with the *Getting the Facts* at kheaa.com!

Choose a college and make a deposit!

Register for classes? Sign up for *orientation*? Confirm housing?

Check out KHEAA's *Surviving 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 an expensive sports car? Get a job as an anesthesiologist, 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. energy-efficient (small) 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

- a. thrift store
- b. discount chain
- c. department store
- d. name-brand clothes

5. Phone:

I'd like to (circle all that apply)

- a. have a cell phone with a basic package
- b. have a cell phone with a package that includes extra minutes and texts
- c. have a cell phone with unlimited minutes and texts
- d. have a smartphone with unlimited minutes, texts and a 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. I 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. browsing the Internet and watching cable TV every night
- d. biking, rollerblading hiking and other outdoor sports
- e. attending a concert once a month

8. Educational plans: (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

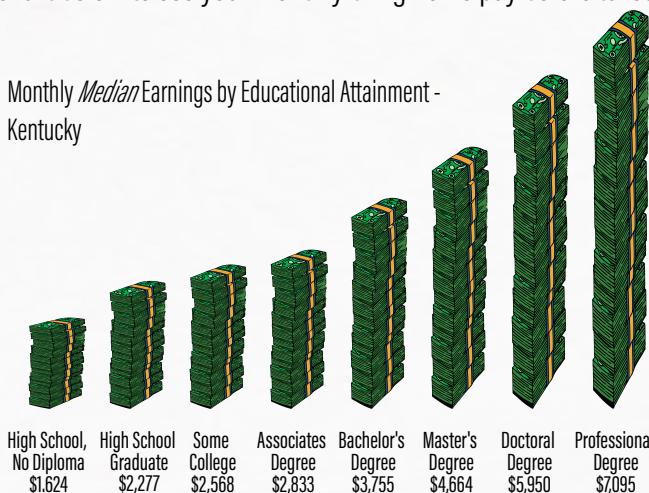
Are your expenses greater than your earnings? If so, you either need to cut back on your costs or earn more money. How much money do you need to make to have the life you want? How much education do you need to earn that much money?

\$ _____	1. Housing a. \$475 b. \$600 c. \$900 d. \$1,200
\$ _____	2. Transportation a. Compact, \$250 b. Convertible, \$480 c. Full-size pick-up, \$550 d. Full-size SUV, \$700
\$ _____	3. Food a. \$250 b. \$450 c. \$300
\$ _____	4. Clothing a. \$25 b. \$50 c. \$100 d. \$200
\$ _____	5. Phone a. \$35 b. \$70 c. \$100 d. \$125
\$ _____	6. Insurance CAR a. \$100 b. \$50
\$ _____	HOME a. \$20 b. \$30 c. \$0
\$ _____	MEDICAL a. \$160 b. \$300
\$ _____	7. Entertainment a. \$32 b. \$100 c. \$42 d. \$0 e. \$70
\$ _____	8. Education* a. \$0 c. \$150 e. \$300 b. \$50 d. \$250 f. \$450
Miscellaneous Expenses	
\$ 350	Utilities (electric, water, sewer, gas, cable and Internet)
\$ 150	Gas
\$ _____	Savings It is best to save 10% of your income
\$ _____	Other (credit cards, etc.)
\$ _____	Total Monthly Expenses

Now, do the reality check on the right.

*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.

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



Based on information from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey

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.**

Earnings	\$
- Expenses	\$
=	\$ **

****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.

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 **kheaa.com**.

1.) _____ 3.) _____
2.) _____ 4.) _____

2. What four things should you know to plan your career pathway?

1.) _____ 3.) _____
2.) _____ 4.) _____

3. What are the four different types of colleges?

1.) _____ 3.) _____
2.) _____ 4.) _____

4. Do you have to sign in to use **kheaa.com** to its fullest potential? _____ Why/why not? _____

5. What types of *financial aid* are discussed on **kheaa.com**?

1.) _____ 4.) _____
2.) _____ 5.) _____
3.) _____ 6.) _____

6. Which college is closest to your home and which one is farthest away from your home? How many miles for each?

1.) _____
2.) _____

7. How many questions must you answer to register on **kheaa.com**? _____

8. How many *career clusters* are available through **kheaa.com**? _____

9. What KHEAA *scholarship* pays students for the good grades and *ACT* scores they earn in high school?

10. How much money might someone with a *bachelor's degree* expect to make in Kentucky each year? \$_____,_____._____

11. What percentage more might someone with a *bachelor's degree* expect to make than someone with just a high school diploma? ____ %

12. During what month and year in high school should you file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? _____ of the _____th grade.

13. What is the most important thing you can obtain through your *MyKHEAA* account while in high school?

14. Name four of the areas of interest on **kheaa.com** for adults who want to return to school.

1.) _____ 3.) _____
2.) _____ 4.) _____

15. Who is your school counselor?

(Answers on page 34)

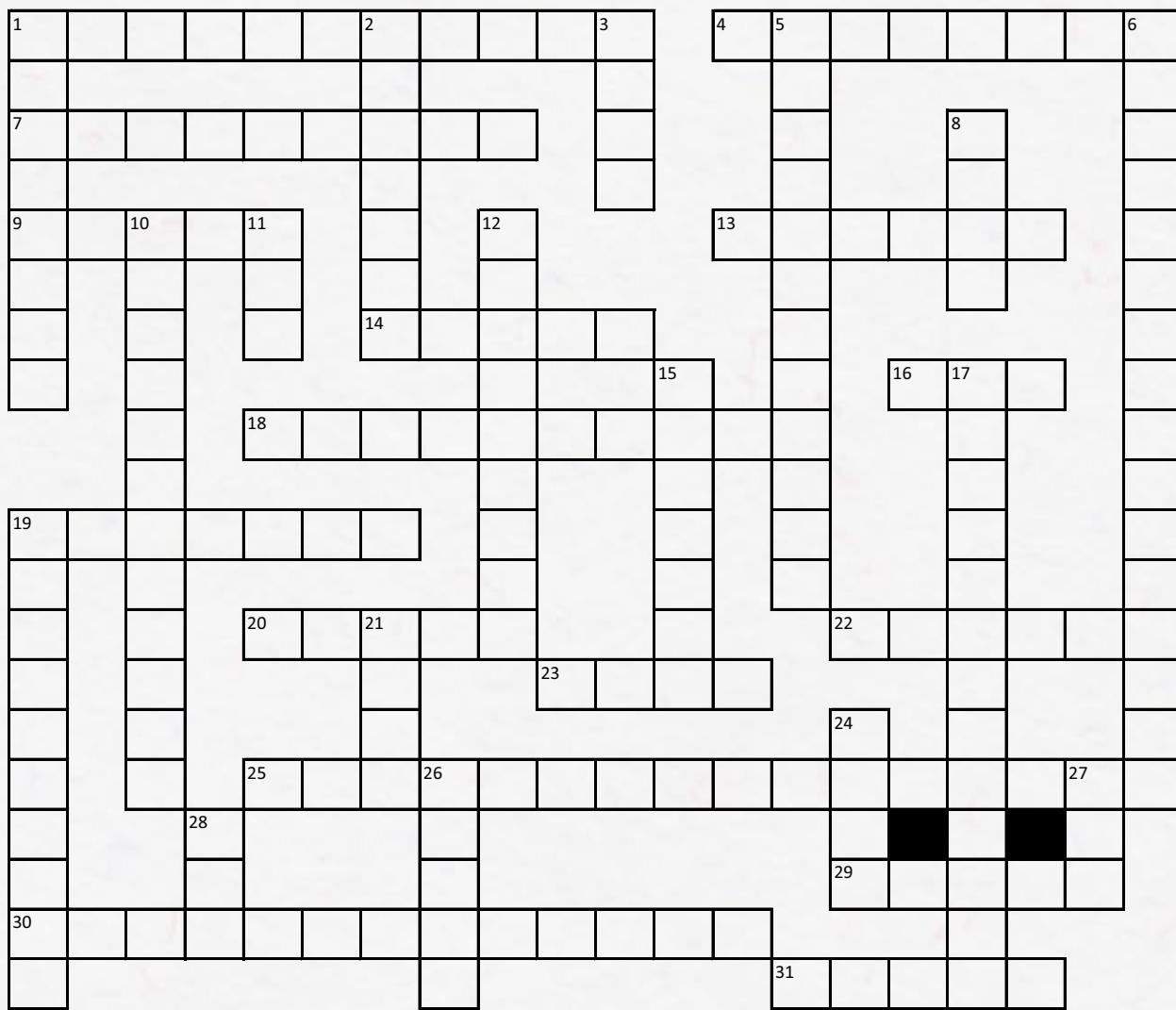
The search is on

X	E	A	D	V	A	N	C	E	D	P	L	A	C	E	M	E	N	T	E
P	N	N	P	S	A	T	M	N	D	K	U	L	P	F	A	F	S	A	E
Y	I	S	T	S	G	C	O	S	I	D	N	L	D	K	E	E	S	D	R
P	N	K	U	N	W	I	T	I	A	S	E	R	O	L	P	X	E	S	G
D	T	Z	X	P	T	K	C	S	L	P	L	U	S	L	O	A	N	C	E
F	E	P	P	I	T	C	J	Y	A	U	T	A	R	N	P	N	M	O	D
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R	A	R	N	O	A	K	U	E	I	G	C	P	R	F	K	W	T	O	O
E	M	Y	P	C	A	T	V	N	T	M	P	G	E	F	S	K	I	N	S
V	O	S	C	H	O	L	A	R	S	H	I	P	H	A	T	I	F	L	S
I	L	V	S	O	F	C	U	A	N	D	C	R	C	T	U	H	I	O	A
N	P	T	R	A	N	S	C	R	I	P	T	F	P	S	D	B	C	A	Y
U	I	F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L	N	E	E	D	Y	T	A	N	O
V	D	J	L	Y	R	A	D	N	O	C	E	S	T	S	O	P	T	W	G
E	G	E	L	L	O	C	L	A	C	I	N	H	C	E	T	E	E	G	Y

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.

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

Postsecondary puzzler



ACROSS

1. 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

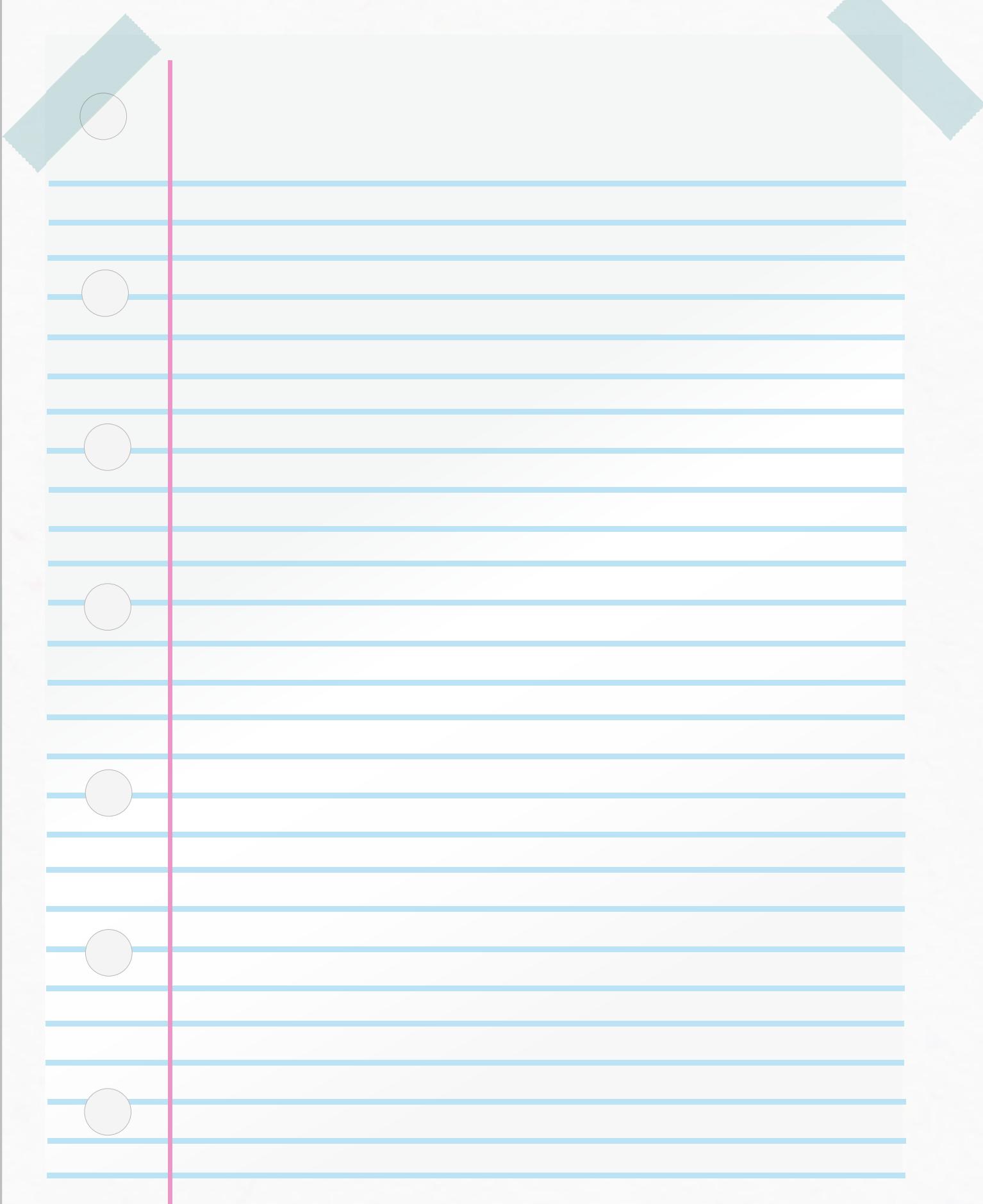
1. Type of federal *loan*
2. Section on 11 Down
3. Federal *loan* for parents
5. Determines how much *financial aid* you need (two words)
6. School for training in specific fields (two words)
8. *Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship*
10. Money to help pay for college (two words)
11. College entrance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

Notes



Notes



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.

- **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 the 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 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (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 page 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 after the *FAFSA* is processed 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.**

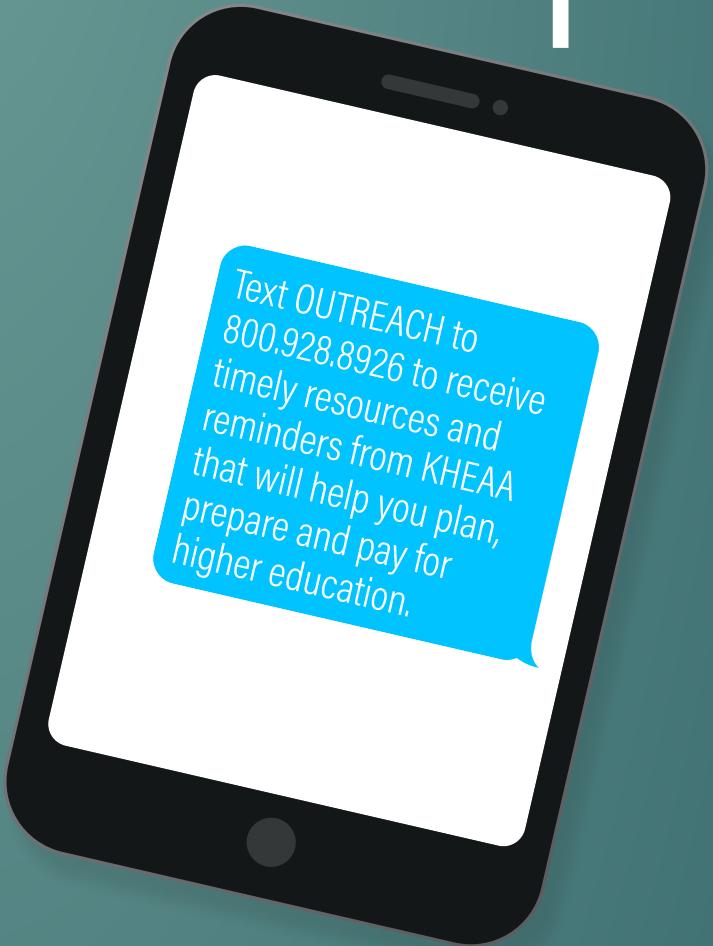
The budget should show what *financial aid* will cover, how much you'll pay and how much your student will contribute through work and student *loans*.

We're here to help!

Our mission

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) is a state government agency established by the General Assembly to improve access to higher education.

Our mission is to provide resources to make higher education accessible to Kentucky's current and future generations.



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and
follow us
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KHEAA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Offices in Frankfort
and Louisville**
800-928-8926
kheaa.com