

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIPS

- ✓ It's okay to apply to colleges before you've made a final choice! You need several options to choose from when selecting a college, and applying early helps you make a good choice.
- ✓ Apply to at least one school where you: (1) know you'll be admitted, (2) can pay for it, and (3) feel you fit. Most students apply to between two and five colleges.
- ✓ You want to present yourself in the best manner possible, so be sure your online posts (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, etc.) show the positive decisions you make.
- ✓ Get to know your admissions counselors. They can help you make sure you have everything you need to complete admission to their school. You can meet some of these people by attending a college fair in your area.
- ✓ A campus visit is the best way to determine if a college is right for you. Use college visit days or breaks to visit college campuses. While you're there, ask lots of questions!
- ✓ Consider in-state schools so you can use your hard-earned KEES award!
- ✓ Don't let finances keep you from applying. You may be eligible for scholarships or other financial aid. If you have questions, talk with your parents, school counselor or college admissions representative.
- ✓ It's okay to feel confused about admissions and financial aid. We're here to help! Your school counselor is a great resource, as is the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. Visit us at kheaa.com or call 1.800.928.8926 and press zero for customer service.

ADMISSIONS APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Gather all necessary information you'll need before beginning the application process. Review the following list for items you'll need to complete most admission applications, and use this folder to collect necessary materials.

- Your biographical information:** This includes name, Social Security number, home address, valid email address, phone number, etc.
- Your parents' biographical information:** This includes valid email addresses and phone numbers. Some college may also want to know where your parents work, whether they went to college and if they did, where they went.
- High school transcript:** Use a copy of your transcript to complete information about your GPA, class rank, coursework, etc. Be sure to talk with your school counselor about sending an official transcript.
- ACT/SAT score:** This is often on your transcript. If necessary, your school counselor can help you get a copy of your test score report.
- Résumé:** Have a résumé of your activities, community service and work experience handy. If you don't already have a résumé, using your Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is a great way to create one.
- Admissions essay:** If you are applying to a college that requires an essay, write it ahead of time and have several people proofread it and give feedback. Keep it on a USB drive so you can upload it during the application process.
- Letters of recommendation:** Some colleges ask for letters of recommendation, usually from someone other than a family member, such as a teacher, counselor, coach or employer. Give whomever you ask plenty of time to write and submit a letter before the application deadline.
- Payment:** Be prepared for some colleges to charge an application fee when you apply online. Check with the college before you apply so you know how much the fee is and have a plan for how you will pay for it. Check with your school counselor for other options if you have any concerns about paying application fees.