

Acknowledgements

This publication was designed and prepared by the staff of the North Central Area Health Education Center (NC AHEC) with funding provided by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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What is an AHEC?

AHEC stands for Area Health Education Center. In Kentucky, there are eight unique Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) with a common mission: to improve the health of communities by developing an adequate, well-distributed, and trained healthcare workforce. The AHECs in Kentucky are dedicated to recruiting, training, and developing a diverse healthcare professional workforce and improving the supply and distribution of these professionals across each region, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

RECRUIT

AHECs promote health careers to students of all ages:

- Offering health-related presentations in schools
- Coordinating health career camps with hands-on and interactive activities
- Participating in school and career fairs
- Compiling and sharing reliable and high-quality information resources
- Assisting students interested in health occupations find enrichment activities and educational programs

TRAIN

AHECs support current students who will become our healthcare professionals as they complete their training in underserved communities:

- Arranging their clinical rotations with community-based preceptors
- Providing housing away from their academic campus, when needed
- Supporting travel to clinical locations in a qualified rural or urban underserved area

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AHECs provide free-of-charge continuing education opportunities and information resources for healthcare professionals and schools' educators, in rural areas, to stay up-to-date with their respective credentials:

- Coordinating presentations and online educational events for continuing education credit
- Meeting the education and training needs of health providers and school educators
- Collaborating with community partners to develop and to offer quality educational events and conferences



AHECs in Kentucky

The goals of the Kentucky Area Health Education Centers program are to improve the distribution, quality, utilization and efficiency of healthcare personnel. AHEC connects the academic health education programs at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville with medically underserved communities throughout the Commonwealth. This unique university/community partnership brings together educators, community practitioners, health institutions and agencies along with health professions students to address Kentucky's long-standing healthcare access problems.

The Kentucky AHEC System is a cooperative endeavor of the University of Louisville Health Science Center and the University of Kentucky Medical Center. With state and federal funding, eight AHECs are maintained at strategic locations throughout the state.

The following offices are under the direction of the University of Louisville School of Medicine:

South Central AHEC (Bowling Green)

Western KY University
1906 College Heights Blvd. #41038
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1038
Phone: (270) 745-3325
Fax: (270) 745-5928
www.wku.edu/scahec

West AHEC (Madisonville)

Baptist Health Madisonville
200 Clinic Dr., 3rd Floor
Madisonville, KY 42431
Phone: (270) 824-3442
Fax: (270) 824-3457
www.baptisthealth.com/madisonville/

Purchase AHEC (Murray)

Murray State University
Room 225 Wells Hall
Murray, KY 42071
Phone: (270) 809-4123
Fax: (270) 809-4125
www.purchaseahec.org

Northwest AHEC (Louisville West End)

Family Health Center - Portland
2215 Portland Avenue, Suite 326
Louisville, KY 40212
Phone: (502) 778-1607
Fax: (502) 774-1833
www.louahec.org

The following offices are under the direction of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine:

Northeast AHEC (Morehead)

316 W. Second St, Suite 203
Morehead, KY 40351
Phone: (606) 783-6506
Fax: (606) 784-2767
www.neahec.org

Southeast AHEC (Hazard)

180 Taylor Ridge Rd, Suite 101
Hazard, KY 41701
Phone: (606) 487-0135
Fax: (606) 487-0153
www.southeastkyahec.com

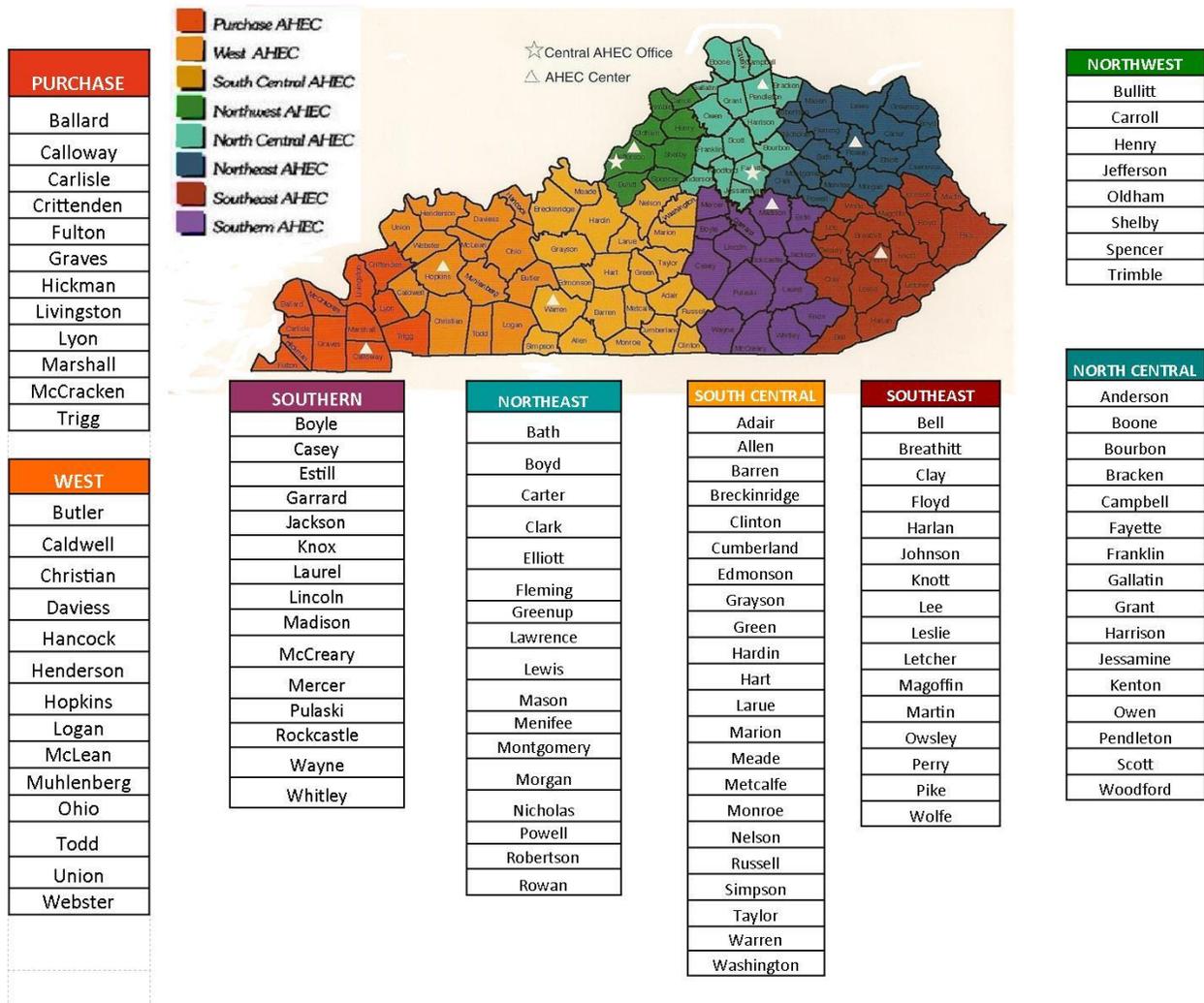
Southern AHEC (Mt. Vernon)

Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center
P.O. Box 1770, 145 Newcomb Avenue
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456
Phone: 606-256-0950
Fax: 606-256-1066
www.soahec.org

North Central AHEC (Covington)

131 East Fifth St.
Covington, KY 41011
Phone: (859) 442-1191
Fax: (859) 581-0589
www.northcentralkyahec.org

AHEC County Regions



If you are interested in one of our programs, contact the AHEC in your county where you work or attend school. Each AHEC is staffed by a Center Director and staff that will assist students and provide information about the area. Each regional office serves as a focal point for all student activity in their designated areas. Students from both universities are welcome at any of the locations.

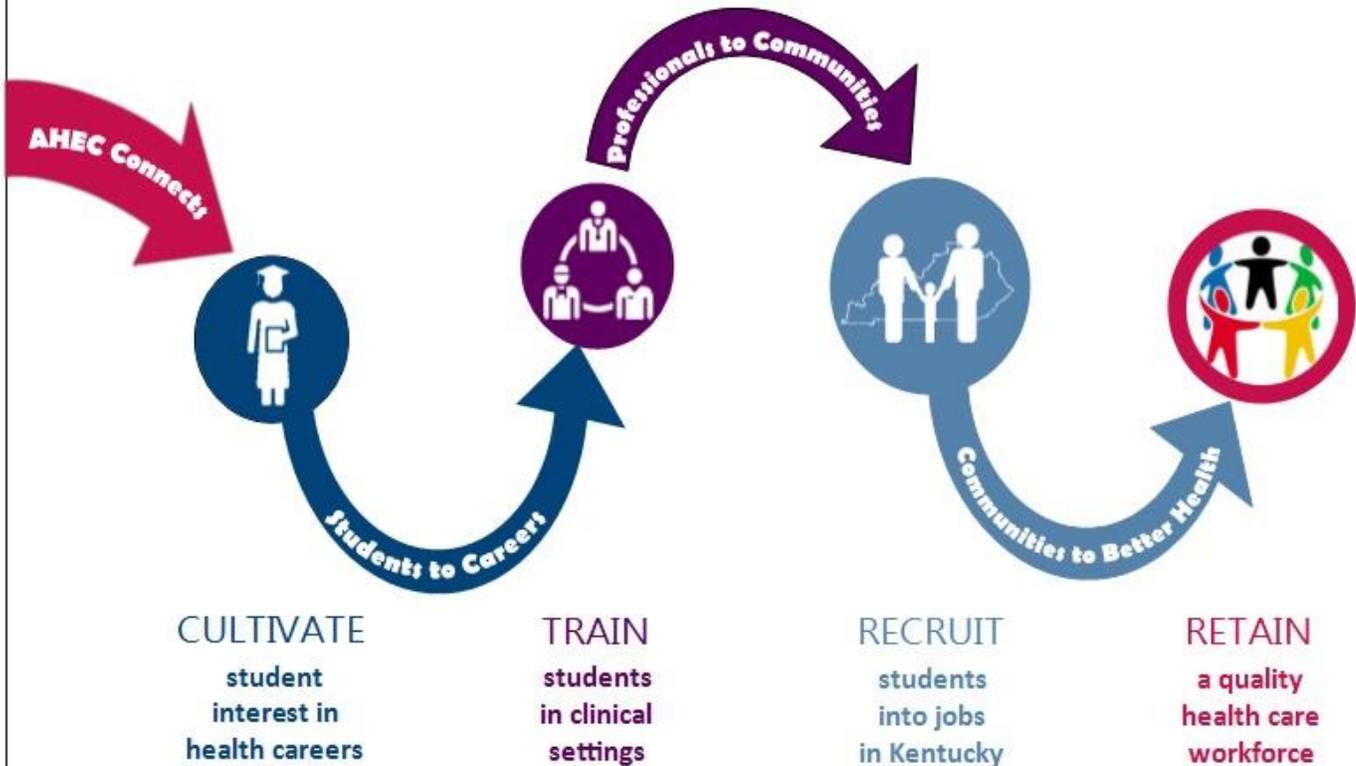
<p>University of Louisville AHEC Office University of Louisville School of Medicine Instructional B-Building, Room 231 500 South Preston Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202 Phone: (502) 852-3317 Fax: (502) 852-5261 http://louisville.edu/medicine/ahec/</p>	<p>University of Kentucky AHEC Office College of Medicine 138 Leader Ave, Room 144 Lexington, KY 40506-9983 Phone: (859) 323-8018 Fax: (859)323-1043 https://ahec.med.uky.edu/</p>
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AHEC at Work

**From Pipeline to Placement,
Here's How It Works:**



www.northcentralkyahec.org



Health Careers Clusters

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Individuals pursuing a career in the Biotechnology Research and Development pathway will be involved in bioscience research and development as it applies to human health. These scientists may study diseases to discover new treatments or invent medical devices used to directly assist patients or to improve the accuracy of diagnostic tests.

Bachelors	Molecular Technologist
Masters	Biomedical Engineer
	Biotech Research Scientist
	Pharmaceutical Formulation Specialist

CLINICAL LABORATORY

Careers in the clinical laboratory are highly skilled professions, even though they are not personally involved with patients. Tests are usually done on clinical specimens in order to obtain information about the health of a patient as pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. Other professionals in this field focus on collecting, processing and analyzing biological specimens, and performing laboratory procedures related to common diseases and conditions.

Certificate	Phlebotomist
Associates	Medical Laboratory Technician
Bachelors	Medical Laboratory Scientist – many specialties
Masters	Genetic Counselor
	Laboratory Manager
	Pathology Assistant
Doctorate	Hematologist (see Medical)
	Pathologist (see Medical)

DENTISTRY

Dentistry is a branch of medicine that is concerned with the study, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral cavity, the maxillofacial area and the adjacent and associated structures. Essentially, dentistry is directed at oral care and dental health maintenance. The field of dentistry offers various career options at multiple educational and professional levels. Using a team approach, dental health providers are committed to preventing oral health problems.

Certificate	Dental Assistant
Associates	Dental Hygienist
	Dental Laboratory Technician
Bachelors	Dental Hygienist
Doctorate	Dentist
	Dental Specialties

Health Careers Clusters

FORENSICS

Forensic scientists contribute to legal debates by applying scientific methods to the investigation of legal problems. Health care providers in this field include doctors, dentists and toxicologists. In many cases, they serve as frontline workers at the scene of a disaster or crime. The field of forensic science draws from a number of scientific branches, including physics, chemistry, and biology, with its focus being on the recognition, identification, and evaluation of physical evidence.

Bachelors	Chemist Forensic Engineer	
Masters	Chemist Forensic Toxicologist	Forensic Engineer Physical Anthropologist
Doctorate	Odontologist (see Dental) Pathologist (see Medical)	

HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Health administration professionals work to administer, lead and manage healthcare systems, such as hospitals, hospital networks or large healthcare systems. These dedicated individuals work closely with other healthcare professionals to ensure that patients receive the best possible care. Healthcare administrators work to create a stable flow in organizations and must be skilled in financial planning, human resources management, public relations, and long range planning.

Certificate	Coding/Billing (see HIT) Medical Interpreter	Medical Assistant Record Technician (see HIT)
Associates	Health Information Technology Medical Secretary	Medical Assistant
Bachelors	Health Administrator	
Masters	Health Administrator	

MEDICAL IMAGING

Medical imaging capture images of broken bones, tissue abnormalities or even unborn babies in pregnant women. You can choose to work in one of two areas of medical imaging: Radiology (using radiation to obtain images) and sonography (using sound waves). Professionals in the field of radiologic and imaging science provide the healthcare team with diagnostic and therapeutic services. Using radiation, radio-activity, ultrasound and other methods, they produce images, explore body functions and structure, and provide diagnoses.

Associates/Bachelors	Diagnostic Medical Sonographer Nuclear Medicine Technologist Polysomnographic Technologist Radiologic Technologist	Radiation Therapist
Doctorate	Radiologist (see medical)	

Health Careers Clusters

MEDICAL

Medical doctors examine, diagnose and treat patients. They can specialize in a number of medical areas, such as pediatrics, anesthesiology or cardiology, or they can work as general practice physicians. Becoming a medical doctor requires earning a doctoral degree in medicine and participating in clinical rotations. A desire to learn is essential because healthcare providers must keep up with new advances in technology, equipment, procedures and medications.

Masters
Doctorate

Physician Assistant
Chiropractor
Medical and Surgical Specialties
Physician
Podiatrist

MENTAL AND HUMAN SERVICES

Working with individuals and/or groups of all ages, health professionals in this field help children, adolescents and adults deal with a variety of life stresses and problems, including addiction/substance abuse; problems with self-esteem; aging-related mental health issues; family, parenting or marital problems; grief, anger or depression; and other emotional or behavioral issues. Their responsibilities may include mental health promotion, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with psychological disorders, or serving as a bridge between people and resources needed to help resolve challenges.

Associates
Bachelors

Masters

Human Services Professional
Chaplain
Human Services Professional
Social Worker
Chaplain
Psychologist
Social Worker
Doctorate
Psychiatrist (see Medical)
Psychologist

Health Careers Clusters

NURSING

Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, facilitation of healing, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations. The profession of nursing offers a wide range of career opportunities through different levels of education and professional practice.

Certificate	Certified Nursing Assistant
Associates	Registered Nurse, ASN
Bachelors	Registered Nurse, BSN Registered Nurse, First Assistant (FA) (see Advanced Nursing Options)
Masters	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioner) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (see Advanced Nursing Options) Flight Nurse (see Advanced Nursing Options) Midwife (see Advanced Nursing Options) Registered Nurse, MSN
Doctorate	Doctorate of Nursing Practice (see Advanced Nursing Options)

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Dietetics is the science of how food and nutrition affects human health. The field of dietetics has a strong emphasis on public health and a commitment to educating all Americans about the importance of making proper dietary choices. Dietitians and nutritionists are experts in the use of food and nutrition to promote health and manage disease. They advise people on what to eat in order to lead a healthy lifestyle or achieve a specific health-related goal.

Certificate	Lactation Consultant
Associates	Dietetic Technician
Bachelors	Dietetic Technician Food Scientist Nutrition Specialist – many options
Masters	Dietitian
Doctorate	Human Nutritionist

PHARMACY

Pharmacists dispense prescription medications to patients and offer expertise in the safe use of prescriptions. They also may conduct health and wellness screenings, provide immunizations, oversee the medications given to patients, and provide advice on healthy lifestyles.

Certificate	Pharmacy Technician
Associates	Pharmacy Technician
Doctorate	Pharmacist

Health Careers Clusters

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health is defined as the science of protecting and improving community health by way of preventive medicine, health education, sanitation strategies, monitoring of environmental hazards and the collection and research of disease and injury data to develop strategies for prevention. Rather than focusing on diagnosing and treating disease in individuals, public health professionals seek to improve the health of communities through prevention and health promotion.

Bachelors	Biostatistician Environmental Health Specialist Health Educator
Masters	Biostatistician Environmental Health Specialist Epidemiologist Health Educator
Masters	International Health Specialist Midwife
Doctorate	Epidemiologist International Health Specialist Preventive Medicine Physician (see Medical)

THERAPY AND REHABILITATION

Therapy and rehabilitation are the application of any medical, psychiatric, psychological or alternative process designed to promote health and well-being of an individual with the goal of helping him or her achieve the highest level of function, independence, and quality of life possible. Therapists work with individuals who have conditions that are mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabling. They assess the nature and extent of the problems and help the individuals manage them in order to develop, recover, or maintain daily living and work skills.

Certificate	Massage Therapist	
Associates	Massage Therapist Occupational Therapy Assistant Physical Therapy Assistant Respiratory Therapist	
Bachelors	Athletic Trainer Respiratory Therapist	Recreation Therapist
Masters	Art Therapist Dance Therapist Recreation Therapist Speech and Language Pathologist	Athletic Trainer Occupational Therapist
Doctorate	Audiologist Occupational Therapist Physical Therapist	

Health Careers Clusters

VISION

Ophthalmologists, optometrists and opticians all provide eye care services. An ophthalmologist is a physician (doctor of medicine, MD, or doctor of osteopathy, DO) who specializes in the medical and surgical care of the eyes and visual system and in the prevention of eye disease and injury. An optometrist is a health service provider who is involved primarily with vision problems. Optometrists are specifically educated and trained by an accredited optometry college in a four-year course, but have not attended medical school. An optician is a technician who makes, verifies and delivers lenses, frames and other specially fabricated optical devices and/or contact lenses upon prescription to the intended wearer.

Associates	Optician
Doctorate	Ophthalmologist (see Medical)
	Optometrist

ADDITIONAL HEALTH CAREERS

The healthcare industry is filled with endless possibilities when it comes to choosing a career. You can work with patients or with papers, give a shot or give a shoulder to lean on. If you are interested in the healthcare field, there is a job to fit your dreams and experience level. Jobs in healthcare range from physician to pharmacist to physical therapist.

Certificate	Electrocardiogram (EKG) Technician Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
Associates	Electrocardiogram (EKG) Technician Medical Aesthetician Mortician Paramedic Surgical Technician Veterinary Technician
Bachelors	Exercise Physiologist Mortician Orthotist/Prosthetist Science Writer Veterinary Technician
Masters	Acupuncturist Biomechanist Exercise Physiologist Health Science Librarian Medical Illustrator Perfusionist
Doctorate	Veterinarian

Career Inventory

This inventory serves as a preliminary assessment with suggestions for possible health career options. Think about what you like to do and see—this can help you identify a career area and begin planning for your future.

Personality Type	Description	Health Career Options
Realistic	<p>Enjoys working with animals, tools or machines; generally, avoids social activities like teaching, nursing, and informing others.</p> <p>Values practical things you can see and touch.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biomedical Engineer ▪ Medical Laboratory Scientist ▪ Dental Assistant ▪ Perfusionist ▪ Veterinarian ▪ Veterinarian Technician
Investigative	<p>Enjoys math or science solving problems, investigating, conducting research.</p> <p>Has great skills at analyzing mathematical or scientific activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biologist ▪ Chemist ▪ Medical Laboratory Technician ▪ Cytotechnologist ▪ Dentist ▪ Environmental Health Scientist ▪ Forensic Scientist ▪ Genetic Counselor ▪ Pharmacist ▪ Phlebotomist ▪ Physician
Artistic	<p>Enjoys using images, material, music, words, movements, as well as systems and programs to express oneself and designing and crafting things.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creative Art Therapist ▪ Medical Illustrator ▪ Medical Interpreter ▪ Medical Librarian ▪ Music Therapist ▪ Recreational Therapist
Social	<p>Enjoys working with others, doing things to help people, and reaching out.</p> <p>Has good skills at teaching, counseling, nursing or giving information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Athletic Trainer ▪ Community Health Worker ▪ Human Services Professional ▪ Health Educator ▪ Nurse ▪ Psychologist ▪ Social Worker
Enterprising	<p>Enjoys leading, encouraging and working in a business setting as a leader.</p> <p>Solves problems by taking risks. Instead of doing research this person relies on intuition and creativity about what would work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Information Technology ▪ Health Information Administrator ▪ Healthcare Administrator ▪ Social/Human Services Professional
Conventional	<p>Enjoys organizing, following procedures planning events, and working with numbers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biostatistician ▪ Coder ▪ Epidemiologist ▪ Health Science Librarian ▪ Medical Secretary ▪ Medical Transcriptionist

For more detailed information visit www.careerkey.org and U.S. Department of Education. These sources provide excellent information about matching your personality with the perfect career.

Financial Aid Resources

Organization	Website	Description
Federal Student Aid , an office of the U.S. Department of Education	www.fafsa.gov	It is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The form asks for a great deal of detailed information about the financial situation of the student's family. It can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.
Federal Student Aid	www.studentaid.ed.gov Click on the Types of Aid tab	This section explains and lists what are the different types of financial aid, such as grants and scholarships from the federal government, state government, your college or career school, or a private or nonprofit organization.
Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA)	www.kheaa.com	KHEAA is a public corporation and governmental agency created to improve access to college and technical schools. KHEAA administers several financial aid programs and disseminates information about higher education opportunities.
Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)	www.kheaa.com Select <i>Sign In</i> to check your KEES account	KEES is your key for free money for college. KEES provides Kentucky high school students with money for tuition and education-related expenses. Need a GPA of 2.5 or better in each year of high school to get it.
KnowHow2GOKy	www.knowhow2goky.org	KnowHow2GoKy is designed to encourage Kentucky students of all ages to prepare for college and a career.

Financial Aid Resources

Organization	Website	Description
Fastweb	www.fastweb.com	Fastweb is a scholarship finder to help you pay for school. It also offers information about colleges and additional financial aid.
FinAid	www.finaid.org	FinAid site offers a comprehensive guide of student financial aid information, advice and tools. It is free for all users.
Scholarships	www.scholarships.com	Students can find money for college as well as learn about the entire financial aid process. This site is widely-used and trusted free college scholarship search and financial aid information resources nationwide.
CHEGG	www.chegg.com	Students can search for free scholarships, browse course reviews, get 24/7 study help and rent textbooks for a fraction of the cost of your bookstore. This site is one big education-redefining student hub.
Cappex	www.cappex.com	This site offers a variety of scholarship resources, and college search.
Mapping Your Future	www.mappingyourfuture.org	Mapping Your Future is a nonprofit organization committed to helping students, families, and schools navigate the higher education and student loan processes through trusted career, college, and financial aid counseling and resources.
Explore Health Careers	www.explorehealthcareers.org	This site is a free, multi-disciplinary, interactive health careers website that gives students comprehensive information about the health professions.