

KHS College & Career Planning Guide Class of 2025

ENLIST * EMPLOY * ENROLL

Wherever you plan to go after high school graduation—whether you're headed to college, the workforce, or the military—staying on track to earn your high school diploma and knowing the next steps for your chosen path is extremely important. In this guide, you will find information to help you stay organized and on track to reach your goals after graduation.

TOPICS INCLUDED:

Senior Year Timeline

ACT

SCOIR

College Visits

College 101

Paying for College

More Post High School Options

This guide belongs to: _____

My postsecondary destination is:

___ University ___ Community College-Transfer ___ Community College
___ Trade Program ___ Military ___ Workforce

College Options:

College Success Team:

Many people will be involved in helping you search for and apply to colleges, trade programs, military, etc. Below is a place you can keep up with their names, emails, and phone numbers.

Role	Name	Contact
College & Career Counselor	Lyndsey Donnell	Ph: 865-539-8670 Email: lyndsey.donnell@knoxschools.org
School Counselor		Ph: Email:
College Access Coach (TN Achieves)	Hayley Clark	Ph: Email: hayley@tnachieves.org
College Admissions Office		Ph: Email:
Military Recruiter		Ph: Email:
Supportive Classroom Teachers		Ph: Email:
Other	Alison Morris (transcripts, graduation, etc.)	Ph: 865-539-8670 Email: alison.morris@knoxschools.org

Senior Year Planning Calendar

SUMMER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prepare a resume (use SCOIR account - accomplishments and achievements section) -If you are a student athlete and D1/2 recruiters have contacted you, register with the NCAA eligibility center so you are able to take official visits (there is a fee).
AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Apply for TN Promise Scholarship at https://www.tn.gov/tnpromise.html -Both Parent & Student should create an FSA ID for FAFSA Completion at https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch -Make sure you have logged into SCOIR and update your account. -Create a habit to check both your KCS email and a personal email every day. -Follow @KarnsCounseling on Instagram and Facebook.
SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Check SCOIR weekly (there is an app) to sign up for college visits to KHS. -Attend Financial Aid Night with your parent in <u>September</u>. -Take advantage of TN College App Week and apply to as many TN colleges as you have time for...it's free for one week only! -Apply to community college (Pellissippi, Roane State) / TCAT for Fall admission. These applications are always free. -Make sure to submit your official transcript to every school you apply to— use the QR code on back of this guide. You can also find the QR code in the College & Career Office or the Counseling Office.
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Take the in-school ACT and send scores to 4 colleges (free). -Pay attention to deadlines for scholarship application to specific colleges. Some have separate applications with different deadlines. -Plan campus visits/tours during Fall Break and complete essays and personal statements. -Continue signing up for in-school college visits through your SCOIR account.

Senior Year Planning Calendar

NOVEMBER	<p>-11/1 TN Promise Scholarship Application Deadline</p> <p>-11/1 Application Priority Deadline for UTK (for scholarship consideration)</p> <p>-Complete all other college applications.</p>
DECEMBER	<p>-12/1 Scholarship Application Deadlines for many colleges</p> <p>-2025-2026 FAFSA opens! For Fall 2025 enrollment in college, be sure you complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA. File your FAFSA as early as possible to improve your chances of qualifying for the most grant, scholarship, and work-study aid.</p> <p>-Attend the FAFSA Help Workshop at KHS in <u>October</u>.</p> <p>-Retake the ACT if needed (national test date-register at act.org) for scholarships.</p>
JANUARY	<p>-Attend your mandatory TN Promise meeting at KHS on <u>January 29</u>.</p> <p>-Attend the FAFSA Help Workshop at KHS in <u>January</u></p> <p>-Many private scholarships have Spring deadlines. Check the KHS Scholarship guide often. Also, use sites like Going Merry and Fastweb for trusted scholarship searches.</p>
FEBRUARY	<p>-Schedule college visits if you need a “last look” before you make your final decision.</p>
MARCH	<p>-Finish up all of those scholarship applications and essays!</p>
APRIL	<p>-If attending community college (Pellissippi or Roane), complete the advising process.</p> <p>-Deadline to complete the FAFSA for the TN Promise Scholarship.</p>
MAY	<p>-5/1: Traditional decision day for 4 year colleges. Deadline to let a college know you are attending Fall 2025. Usually requires a room/tuition deposit (exception is community colleges).</p> <p>-Complete a FINAL transcript request form with the Counseling Office</p> <p>-Enjoy all the fun activities at the end of your senior year and GRADUATE!</p>



Test Dates 2024-2025

Test Date	Deadline to Register
September 14	August 9
October 26	September 20
December 14	November 8
February 8	January 3
April 5	March 28
June 14	May 9
July 12	June 6

Test Fees**

ACT	\$69
ACT with writing	\$94

**If you receive free or reduced lunch, ask your counselor about requesting a fee waiver.

Register at act.org

Registering for the ACT is more than just signing up for a test. The information you provide is used to make recommendations for majors and careers. Here's what you'll need:

- About 45 minutes to complete the registration process
- Karns High School Code: 431-108**
- A credit card or fee waiver
- A laptop or desktop computer is preferred
- Your high school course list and grades
- Your interests – our interest survey will match you to academic programs and jobs you might enjoy
- Up to four colleges and universities to send your score reports for free during registration (additional score reports can be purchased later)
- Your photo to upload during registration or later

Your Scores

- Most scores are available through your ACT account within 2 weeks after testing (or 5 week for the writing test) but can take up to 8 weeks from the testing date.

Test Prep Options

ACT offers test prep for every learning style with live video lessons, interactive practice questions, full-length practice tests, and on-demand tutorials. Explore your test prep option, including a free practice test, at act.org/prep.

SCOIR

SCOIR: What is it?

SCOIR is a college search engine website that breaks down the college application process into more manageable steps. Every student at KHS has a SCOIR account already. If you have never logged into SCOIR, you should have an invite email in your KCS email inbox.

STEP 1: The first thing you need to do is register your account. Follow the steps in your invite email.

STEP 2: Build your profile. Go to “My Profile” from the top menu and make sure your personal details and academic overview are accurate. Add activities, achievements, and a personal bio. You can use this info to build a resume when needed!

STEP 3: Discover colleges. Go to the “Discover” page and add a few preferences. You can explore college profiles, search for virtual tours, see visits to KHS, etc. When you find a school you like, FOLLOW is to save it to My Colleges.

SCOIR does have a mobile app for iOS.

NOTE: If you need help accessing your account or didn't get an email invitation, contact Mrs. Donnell (lyndsey.donnell@knoxschools.org) and you will be sent an invite. Please do not go to SCOIR's website and create an account, as it will not be connected to KHS.

We will use SCOIR all year to schedule college visits to KHS. Check your dashboard often so you can sign up to meet with colleges you are interested in applying or attending. All college visit meetings are done in small groups and take place in the College & Career Office in the Library (Mrs. Donnell). Once you sign up through SCOIR, Mrs. Donnell will send you a pass to attend the meeting.

COLLEGE VISITS

WHY SHOULD I SCHEDULE A COLLEGE TOUR?

A college tour allows students to ask questions, meet other prospective students and understand the college on a deeper level. How you feel about a school once you visit in person may affect the direction your college search and application process takes. College visits help you refine your search. A tour can also help if you need to have a college interview or write a supplemental essay about why you want to attend. Finally, having your name on the tour rosters can mark what many admissions officers call “demonstrated interest.”

What Questions Should I Ask?



1. What is the average class size of freshman classes?
2. Do you have an honors college?
3. Ask your tour guide why they chose that particular school?
4. What is the social scene like?
5. What majors are popular?

When Should I Visit?

We hope you made a few college visits as juniors or over the summer. If not, it's okay...you still have time! You can find tour schedules and registration links on each college's website. Check under the admissions tab under the headings of “campus visit” or “campus tour.” At KHS, you have two days you can use as College Visit Days that will be excused. We encourage you to try to schedule visits during school breaks or visit multiple schools in one day. Example: Schedule a tour at UT, Pellissippi, and South College here in Knoxville. Head to Middle Tennessee and visit MTSU then check in at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville on your way back.

College 101

You are going to come across a lot of new terms when you start the college application process. Hopefully, this guide will help you navigate through.

Admission Tests: Also known as college entrance exams, these are tests designed to measure students' skills and help colleges evaluate how ready students are for college-level work. The ACT and the SAT are two standardized admission tests used in the United States. The word "standardized" means that the test measures the same thing in the same way for everyone who takes it.

Associate's Degree: A degree, like a diploma, awarded after completing the requirements of a specific course of study, typically done in 2 years.

Bachelor's Degree: A degree, like a diploma, awarded after completing the requirements of a specific course of study, typically done in 4 years.

Certificate: Award for completing specific training for a career, typically done at a trade school.

Class Rank: A measurement of how your academic achievement compares with that of other students in your grade. This number is usually determined by using a weighted GPA that takes into account both your grades and the difficulty of the courses you've taken. ***Knox County School's board policy does not rank students. As a result, we only report decile.***

College: A smaller post-secondary school, or college, that offers fewer majors and degrees, typically 4+ year programs.

College Application Essay: An essay that a college requires students to write and submit as part of their application. Some colleges offer applicants specific questions to answer, while others simply ask applicants to write about themselves. Colleges may refer to this as a "**personal statement.**"

Common Application: A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are members of the Common Application association. You can fill out this application once and submit it to any one — or several — of the nearly 700 colleges that accept it.

Community College: A post-secondary school that can be small or large, offering 2 year degrees or certificates.

Decile: A decile system is one in which one (1) is the highest or top 10 percent while 10 is the lowest with the one hundred percent. For example, if a student is in the second decile, then the student GPA is in the top 20 percent of the class.

Deferred Admission: Permission from a college that has accepted you to postpone enrolling in the college. The postponement is usually for up to one year.

Early Action (EA): An option to submit your applications before the regular deadlines. When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early action plans are not binding, which means that you do not have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action.

Early Decision (ED): An option to submit an application to your first-choice college before the regular deadline. When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. **Early decision plans are binding.** You agree to enroll in the college immediately if admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs. You, your parents, and your school counselor must all sign the Early Decision agreement prior to submitting your college application.

College 101

You are going to come across a lot of new terms when you start the college application process. Hopefully, this guide will help you navigate through.

Fee Waiver: Generally given to students who demonstrate financial need. However, some schools will allow any student to avoid paying the application fee if they meet certain requirements, such as making an official on-campus visit or applying during free-application week. Students can expect a fee waiver if they receive government assistance based on their participation in programs for low-income families. Additionally, some schools do not charge a fee to apply.

Financial Aid: Money given or loaned to you to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations.

Freshman: Students in their first year of college. When you apply to a 4 year college, you are usually directed to the Freshman application on the college's website.

Grade Point Average (GPA): A number that shows overall academic performance. It's computed by assigning a point value to each grade you earn. *See also Weighted Grade Point Average.*

Graduate Student: A student who has a bachelor's degree and is studying at a more advanced level.

Official Transcript: The official record of your high school coursework sent directly to a college to which you are applying. Your high school transcript is usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

Open Admission: A policy of accepting any high school graduate, no matter what his or her grades are, until all spaces in the incoming class are filled. *Almost all two-year community colleges have an open-admission policy.* This includes Pellissippi State.

Priority Date or Deadline: The date by which your application — whether it's for college admission, student housing or financial aid — must be received to be given the strongest consideration.

Rolling Admission: An admission policy of considering each application as soon as all required information (such as high school records and test scores) has been received, rather than setting an application deadline and reviewing applications in a batch. Colleges that use a rolling admission policy usually notify applicants of admission decisions quickly.

Self Reported Academic Record (SRAR): In the application, a student lists the courses and associated grades that have been attempted, or will be attempted, for high school college credit. It replaces the high school **transcripts** used by the Office of Admissions during the initial admissions process in most cases. Later on in the application process, the student will have to send a transcript.

Trade School: Post-secondary school designed to train students in a specific job in a skilled trade field.

Undergraduate: A college student who is working toward an associate or a bachelor's degree.

University: A larger post-secondary college with a multitude of major and degree options, typically 4 year + programs.

Waiting List or Waitlisted: The list of applicants who may be admitted to a college if space becomes available. Colleges wait to hear if all the students they accepted decide to attend. If students don't enroll and there are empty spots, a college may fill them with students who are on the waiting list.

Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA): A grade point average that's calculated using a system that assigns a higher point value to grades in more-difficult classes. For example, some high schools assign the value of 5.0 (instead of the standard 4.0) for an A earned in an AP class.

Paying for College

When considering options to pay for school, remember:
Free money first, your money second and borrowed money last.

1. FREE MONEY – Scholarships & Grants

*Nonconditional Scholarship/Grant – Free money without any requirements. Typically grants are need-based while scholarships are merit-based.

*Conditional Scholarship/Grant – Scholarships or grants with conditions you must meet or you will lose the aid and possibly owe money back. Check if your assistance has any requirements and what the penalty is for not meeting those conditions.

2. YOUR MONEY – Savings, Work Study or a Job

*Savings – Common college saving accounts like 529s, and general savings accounts. Use the most restrictive account first.

*Federal Work Study – Offered as part of your federal financial aid, work study provides part time jobs for students with financial need.

3. THEIR MONEY – Federal and Private Student Loans

*Federal Student Loans – Types of federal loans include: Direct Subsidized Loans; Direct Unsubsidized Loans; and Direct Parent Plus Loan

*Private Student Loans – Private student loans can have high variable interest rates and are not required to offer the same repayment benefits as federal student loans. Private loans generally cost more and typically require a credit check.

In order to be eligible for any scholarships, grants, work study programs, or student loans, you must first complete a

FAFSA

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

You can complete your 2025-2026 FAFSA beginning in December of 2024.

WWW.STUDENTAID.GOV

COMPLETING YOUR FAFSA

Step 1-CREATE FSA ID

Create a FSA ID, a username and password combination that allows you to sign your FAFSA form electronically. Both student and parent have to create separate FSA IDs. Your FSA ID also can be used to sign loan contracts and to access certain information online. Be careful not to mix up parent and student FSA IDs, otherwise it can delay the process! www.studentaid.gov

Step 2-FILL OUT YOUR FAFSA APPLICATION

Since some states and schools have limited funds for financial aid, you should get a head start and complete your FAFSA form as soon as possible and stay updated on changes to the FAFSA requirements. www.studentaid.gov

Step 3-FILL OUT YOUR STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS SECTION

This is your full name, date of birth, social security number, and other personal information. Enter your name exactly as it appears on your social security card. If you are a parent entering information on a student's FAFSA form, remember that the questions are for the student.

Step 4-SELECT THE SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE YOUR FAFSA INFORMATION

Add every school you are considering in the "School Selection" section. You can add up to 10 schools at a time. You can also remove schools at any time to make room for new schools. If you don't apply to or get accepted to an institution, they can disregard your FAFSA. Keep in mind that the schools you list will use your FAFSA information to determine the type and amounts of aid available for you.

Step 5-ANSWER THE DEPENDENCY STATUS QUESTION

Now, you will answer questions to determine whether you need to provide parent information on your FAFSA form. These questions will determine whether you are considered a dependent student to determine the extent of eligibility for federal student aid. If you qualify as a dependent student, you will have to report parent information. Otherwise, you will skip to Step 7.

Step 6-FILL OUT THE PARENTAL DEMOGRAPHICS SECTION

If you qualify as a dependent student, you will need to fill out the parent demographic information.

Step 7-SUPPLY THE REQUIRED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The FAFSA form asks for financial information, including information from tax forms and balances of savings and checking accounts. If you are a dependent, your parents will provide their financial information into your FAFSA form.

Step 8-SIGN AND SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA

Once you complete the FAFSA form, you can sign your FAFSA form online with your FSA ID. If you are a dependent, your parent must sign the form as well.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Information about scholarships and other post-high school opportunities is listed in the ***KHS Scholarship Spreadsheet***, updated monthly. (You can get to the spreadsheet using the QR code on back of this guide.) We encourage you to explore every tab! Most scholarships opportunities can be found online using powerful search engines based on a personal profile you complete on the site. Places of worship, philanthropic organizations, schools, etc. are excellent sources of scholarships. Watch for announcements regarding local scholarships.

Note: One of the best sources of scholarship and financial aid information is the **Financial Aid and Scholarship Office** at the college to which you are applying. Be sure to visit each college's website and follow that individual school's instructions regarding required forms and deadlines.

Also, when searching for scholarships, please be aware that scholarship scams do exist. You should never pay anyone to do a scholarship search or complete financial aid forms (FAFSA) for you.

Scholarship Resources

Trusted Scholarship Search Engines	Government Aid
www.goingmerry.com	www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastweb.com	https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/tsac-student-portal.html
www.ecampustours.com	https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college.html
www.scholarships.com	https://www.collegefortn.org/
www.collegefortn.org	
www.chegg.com	
www.dosomething.org	

MORE POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Military



Army
Navy
Air Force
Marines
Coast Guard

Community College



Local Community Colleges:

Pellissippi State CC
Roane State CC
Walters State CC
Cleveland State CC

Vocational /Technical/ Trade School



Local Schools:

Tennessee College of
Applied Technology (TCAT)
Tennessee School of Beauty
Nascar Technical Institute
Southeast Lineman Training Center

Career



**Area Businesses Hiring High School Students
and Graduates without a college degree:**

**Food City
Kroger
Chick-Fil-A
Regal Entertainment Group
Local daycares**

Tennessee Public Universities

*Source: Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book 2022-2023

Austin Peay State University
Clarksville, TN
www.apsu.edu
Average ACT: 21.2

University of Tennessee Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN
www.utc.edu
Average ACT: 23.2

East TN State University
Johnson City, TN
www.etsu.edu
Average ACT: 22.4

University of Tennessee Health Science
Center
Memphis, TN
www.uthsc.edu
Average ACT: 21

Middle TN State University
Murfreesboro, TN
www.mtsu.edu
Average ACT: 22.5

University of Tennessee Knoxville
Knoxville, TN
www.utk.edu
Average ACT: 26.9

Tennessee State University
Nashville, TN
www.tnstate.edu
Average ACT: 18.2

University of Tennessee Martin
Martin, TN
www.utm.edu
Average ACT: 21.6

Tennessee Tech University
Cookeville, TN
www.tntech.edu
Average ACT: 23.6

University of Tennessee Southern
Pulaski, TN
www.utsouthern.edu
Average ACT: 21.3

University of Memphis
Memphis, TN
www.memphis.edu
Average ACT: 20.8

*For more information about Tennessee
colleges and universities, visit
CollegeforTN.org*