Applying for Financial Aid at KSC – 2015-16

FAFSA priority filing deadline – March 1, 2015 **KSC school code – 002590**

Explore our website: www.keene.edu/admissions/aid for comprehensive information about Financial Aid at KSC!

To apply for grants, loans, scholarships, and/or College Work-Study from Keene State College for the 2015-16 academic year, complete the following:

1. **Students & parents obtain a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically.**
   Why file on the Web?
   a. Electronic filing at www.fafsa.ed.gov is faster and more accurate than filing a paper application.
   b. Using a PIN number replaces the need for your manual signature.
2. **File the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov before March 1, 2015.**
   a. The completed FAFSA will be your application for all possible types of need-based financial aid from KSC, Pell grants, and state scholarships.
   b. The FAFSA should be completed as soon as possible after **January 1, 2015.** If actual tax information is not available before March 1, the FAFSA can *and should* be completed using estimated data. Priority consideration as an on-time applicant is dependent on the date the FAFSA is received by the Department of Education's processor. You should submit your FAFSA so that the processor receives it by **March 1, 2015.**
3. **Federal Tax Information and other documents:** The Financial Aid Office (FAO) may request supporting documentation to complete your financial aid application. This is a federal requirement in many instances and is not usually an indicator of a problem with your application.
   a. We may be required to verify that the income information you provided on your FAFSA is accurate. If this requirement applies to you, federal policy requires that you *either* use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) that is located within the FAFSA or submit copies of an official IRS Tax Return Transcript. Transcripts must be requested directly from the IRS. ***We cannot accept .pdf copies of your returns printed out from tax preparation software, copies you completed by hand, or the copies provided to you by your accountant.***
   b. If you report that you paid child support during 2014, we will ask for a signed statement to verify the amount that was paid, the name of the child(ren) it is paid on behalf of, and to whom it is paid.
   c. If you report that you collect or collected Food Stamps during 2014, we will ask for documentation to verify.
4. **Notification of financial aid award from KSC.**
   a. **First-year or transfer students** who have applied for financial aid by the March 1 priority filing deadline and have a complete aid application may normally expect to receive notification by April 30.

   PLEASE NOTE: Students who complete their FAFSA application after March 1, 2015 may not receive their Financial Aid Award notification before the May 1 Admissions Enrollment Deposit. As a result, you **may be required to make a decision regarding making that deposit before receiving an Aid Package.**

Academic Scholarships

- **First-year students** may be awarded merit-based scholarships through the admissions process and do not require a separate application. Notification is mailed by the Admissions Office and is included on your award notification.

Fees & Expenses	NH Residents	Non-Residents
Tuition (Full Time)	$10,410	$18,330
Room (multiple)	$6,126	$6,126
Board (19 meals/week)	$3,244	$3,244
Fees (all mandatory)	$2,454	$2,454
Books & Supplies (approx.)	$900	$900
Enrollment Fee (new students)	$225	$225
Damage Deposit	$100	$100
Total	**$23,459**	**$31,379**

Please Note:

- Students should also plan for their own personal and travel expenses, which are not included in the fees.
- These costs represent the actual tuition, fees, room and board costs for 2015-2016.
- Tuition, Fees, Room and Board rates are approved by the USNH Board of Trustees and are subject to change at any time.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What happens after I file the FAFSA?

After you file the FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the Department of Education. The KSC Financial Aid Office (FAO) receives this information electronically and you do not need to submit a copy to KSC. **Review your SAR to ensure that Keene State College is listed as a recipient.**

What types of financial aid are available at KSC?

Keene State College participates in all of the federal financial aid programs, and in addition, has its own grant, loan, and work programs. You may visit us online at www.keene.edu/admissions/aid for specific information about our financial aid programs. All financial aid, with the exception of academic scholarships, is awarded on the basis of financial data included on the FAFSA form.

What's next?

Acceptance of all financial aid reflected on your Financial Aid Award Notification is assumed.

a. Read and follow the instructions in the Comment section and **complete all items**.
b. If you wish to decline or reduce any award offer, you must sign and return your Award Notification with your adjustments noted.

What are the conditions of the awards? (www.keene.edu/admissions/aid > Understanding Your Award > Award Conditions)

Eligibility for financial assistance also requires that the student meet the following conditions:

a. The student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in his/her course of study. Visit our website for more information.
b. The student must notify the FAO in writing of any change in course load. Financial aid awards are based on the student's expected full time (12 credits) course load at the time of application. A change in the number of credits the student is carrying may affect the financial aid offered.
c. If the student is offered a Perkins or KSC loan, he/she will be required to attend an *in person* loan entrance counseling and promissory note signing session. KSC loan recipients are required to sign a promissory note each semester. (www.keene.edu/admissions/aid > Loans > Institutionally Administered Loans)
d. If the award notification includes a Direct loan, the student must take additional steps to actually receive the loan. It is important for the student to follow the instructions provided with the award notification.
e. The student must provide any and all additional requested information within 30 days. Failure to respond to a request for additional information will result in the deactivation of the student's financial aid application.
f. The student must notify the FAO of any change in his/her family financial circumstances. Note that this includes the receipt of any funds not reported on the original application.

Will my award amounts ever be changed?

Yes. The College reserves the right to adjust a student's financial aid awards, particularly estimated awards, if any of the following conditions exist:

a. The family provides inaccurate or under-estimated information on the FAFSA. If the FAO receives information which indicates that any of the financial data provided on the FAFSA is inaccurate, we will increase or decrease the student's awards according to any change in the student's need level. Depending upon the extent of the error(s), any part of the aid package may be changed. If this is a major concern for you, it is better to *over*-estimate your income figures to avoid any reduction in aid. Family size and number of family members in college can affect financial aid eligibility, so please read the instructions carefully. Contact our office if you have questions with specific considerations in these categories.

b. Receipt of funds (awards/scholarships) not reported on the FAFSA or not expected when the original aid offer was made.

i. Students often receive unexpected awards/scholarships from local agencies after applying for financial aid. It is the student's responsibility to notify the FAO promptly of the amount and conditions of the(se) award(s). Students can normally expect a revision to the original aid offer that may reduce a component of the award package if such scholarships are received.
ii. The FAO will usually estimate the amount of the student's eligibility for scholarship funds to be received from the student's home state. This estimate is based on the most accurate information available at the time of the original offer. Should this estimate be inaccurate, the student may receive an adjustment to other financial aid.
iii. *It is to your advantage to notify the FAO as soon as possible if either of these conditions exist to ensure that revisions are made promptly and prior to the billing due date.*

c. Changes in the family's financial situation. The FAO will review a student's financial aid package if a parent dies or becomes unemployed, separated, or divorced, or if some other circumstances negatively affecting the family's financial situation occur after the original FAFSA was filed. Students with these types of special circumstances should contact our office for instructions. (www.keene.edu/admissions/aid > Applying for Financial Aid > Special Conditions)

If I accept the aid offered, am I guaranteed these awards?

Conditions above can result in adjustments to awards. Estimated Awards are subject to change following verification.

a. If all information provided on the FAFSA is accurate, the student can normally expect that the dollar amount of the aid offer will not change for the 2015-16 award year. However, the source of the funds may change under certain circumstances. Awards are made for a one-year period only – the student must re-apply each year by our March 1 deadline – and are not guaranteed beyond that point. The amount and type of aid offered from year to year will vary depending upon the student's financial need and the availability of funds.