



# Financial Aid Award Guide 2015-16

## Congratulations again on your acceptance to Keene State College.

The information in this brochure should help you better understand your enclosed award letter. If you have questions about your award or the financial aid process at Keene State, please call, email, or look at our web page. Like us on Facebook, too, for even more information and support. We look forward to welcoming you to campus.



### How to read your Award Letter

Both the top and bottom paragraphs contain important information about your awards. Please make sure you read it thoroughly.

**Budget:** A representation of the entire *cost to attend* for the academic year: includes billed costs (e.g. tuition and fees, room and board), but also unbilled expenses like travel and books.

**EFC:** Expected Family Contribution, as calculated by the FAFSA.

**Need:** The difference between the above two numbers is defined to be your family's "need." We use this number as a guideline to create financial aid packages.

**All Federal and Institutional Financial Aid** (as listed on your award letter): Your student account will be credited each semester with the amount indicated in the Award section of this letter (*with the exception of Work Study*).

**Perkins or Keene Tuition Loan:** If you are awarded a Federal Perkins or KSC Loan you will receive instructions about signing a promissory note. For these awards to remain part of your financial aid package and to remain a credit on your student account, you must complete the promissory note process.

**State Grants:** These awards are not credited to your student account until the check is actually received by the College. The payment of semester charges in the amount of the grant/scholarship can be deferred if the amount appears on your award letter. State grants are estimated based on each state's program and are awarded by your state agency.

**Federal Work Study:** Work-study awards are never credited to your student account and we do not guarantee employment or find positions for students. This



award simply serves as an indication to a potential employer of the student's eligibility to be paid from an individual department's Work Study budget. More information is available at [www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/employment](http://www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/employment).

### Signing and Returning your Award Letter:

Acceptance of all awards reflected on your Award Letter is assumed. If you do not wish to accept all or any portion of the awards offered to you, please indicate on the Award Letter the awards you are reducing or declining, and sign and return the Award Letter to our office. Loans will not be originated for students who do not deposit.

### Verification of Financial Information

The US Department of Education or KSC may select you for verification. If selected, you will have to submit either official copies of your IRS tax transcripts or use the Data Retrieval Tool on your FAFSA and provide other documentation as requested. Existing awards are subject to change if documentation differs from the information provided on the FAFSA. If you do not provide the information requested, your financial aid award(s) will be cancelled after 45 days of request.

**Keene**  
STATE COLLEGE

Financial Aid Office  
Elliot Center  
229 Main Street  
Keene, NH 03435  
603-358-2280  
[financialaid@keene.edu](mailto:financialaid@keene.edu)  
[www.keene.edu/admissions/aid](http://www.keene.edu/admissions/aid)



Photos by Ann Card, Mark Corliss, Lynn Roman '05

**Keene**  
STATE COLLEGE

Keene State College Financial Aid Office

## Conditions of Your Award

Financial Aid awards are based on information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All awards are contingent upon the following:

- The College receiving the expected level of *federal and state* funding.
- The student maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the College in its publications and on its website.
- The student promptly informing the Financial Aid Office of any change in the student's or the family's financial situation. Please note that this includes the receipt of any local or private scholarships.
- The student immediately reporting any change in the expected course load. A change in course load could result in a revision to this aid offer.

## Additional Funding Resources

- **Outside Scholarships:** You must forward your official notification of any outside scholarships to our office as soon as you receive it. These awards are not credited to your student account until the check is actually received by the College. The payment of semester charges in the amount of the grant/scholarship can be deferred if the amount appears on your award letter. Other awards may be adjusted if mandated by federal regulation.
- **Federal Student and Parent (PLUS) Direct Loans:** Direct Student Loans are included on your award letter if you are eligible to receive them. Parents can apply for the Direct PLUS Loan online on or after June 1 at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Applications received less than two weeks before the bill deadline cannot be guaranteed as available funds for your balance. Please see the "Direct

Lending" section of this brochure for more information about Direct Loans.

- **Alternative Loans:** Applications can be completed starting June 1. Applications received less than two weeks before the bill deadline cannot be guaranteed as available funds for your balance. We must be notified by your lender that your loan is approved and guaranteed before you can deduct the net loan amount from your charges.

You can find more information about all loan programs, including current origination fees, at [www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/borrowing/](http://www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/borrowing/).

**Please Note:** The borrowing limit for the PLUS and Alternative Loans is your Cost of Attendance at KSC minus your other financial aid.

## Direct Lending

### Federal Direct Student and Parent PLUS Loans

We are a Direct Lending school. Student Loans are included on your award letter if you are eligible to receive them. Parents can apply for the Direct PLUS Loan online after June 1. Applications received less than two weeks before the bill deadline cannot be guaranteed as available funds for your balance. Please visit our website for more specific information regarding both new and returning borrowers: [www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/borrowing](http://www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/borrowing)

You are considered a **new borrower** if during the **2014-15** academic year:

You *did not* borrow a Direct Student/Parent Loan.

**OR**

You *did not* have any Direct Student/Parent Loan funds disbursed to your account.

**OR**

You were required to use an *endorser* on your PLUS loan application.



## NEW Student Borrowers:

You *must* —

1. Complete an electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) and
2. Complete *entrance counseling*.

## NEW Parent Borrowers:

You *must* —

1. Have a *completed* 2015-16 FAFSA (for your dependent student) on file with KSC and
2. Complete a PLUS loan application/credit authorization and Master Promissory Note (MPN).

All Direct Loan requirements (for student and Parent PLUS borrowers) may be completed online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

Please visit our website for more specific information for **returning borrowers:** [www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/borrowing](http://www.keene.edu/admissions/aid/borrowing)

## Ombudsman

If you have questions or issues with any of the Title IV federal financial aid programs you may contact the federal *ombudsman* at 877-557-2575 or [www.sfahelp.ed.gov](http://www.sfahelp.ed.gov). This person has been appointed by the US Department of Education to act on behalf of students in the resolution of Title IV federal financial aid program issues.

## Appeals for Additional Financial Aid

Appeals are only heard on the basis of extreme changes in financial status and must be made in writing. Federal guidelines clearly indicate that a dependent student and their parents (and step-parents) have the primary responsibility to contribute to the cost of education.

## Deadlines

The FAFSA must be received at the federal processor by March 1 each year to meet KSC's priority deadline. The Student Aid Report (SAR) will be mailed to you and will list the date of receipt. Keene State College must be identified on your SAR by our priority deadline to be considered an on-time applicant.

Late applicants should not expect to receive financial aid from any sources other than Direct Loans, Pell Grants (if eligible) and some other loan programs (Federal Parent PLUS and/or private loan programs).

Each state grant program also has a deadline for eligibility for their own programs. State grant deadlines are listed in the FAFSA instructions, but are not related to the KSC's March 1 deadline.

**For more information** about KSC's Financial Aid Program, visit [www.keene.edu/admissions/aid](http://www.keene.edu/admissions/aid).

**For questions about your Bill or Payment options**, please contact the Student Accounts Office directly at (603) 358-2263 or [studentaccounts@keene.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@keene.edu).