We hope you are as excited as we are about your future as a Golden Bear!

First and foremost, congratulations on your student’s acceptance to KU! This is truly a wonderful place to be with caring individuals in many offices willing to help and guide you, including Student Accounts & Financial Aid Services. We wanted to share financial information and opportunities with you early on, so you have all the chances to make this process as smooth, and affordable, as possible!

**Advanced Registration Deposit payments**
If your student hasn’t already paid the Advanced Registration Deposit (ARD) to commit to attending KU in Fall 2020, please do so! That payment gets the ball rolling on all of the other great resources from New Student Orientation, Housing and more! MyKU is where you will pay the ARD.

**Student Accounts vs. Financial Aid Services – who are we?**
*Student Accounts* is the office that prepares billing, provides payment plans, accepts payments, collects and credits your outside scholarships, processes refunds when due and can help with calculations when you get confused. *Financial Aid Services* is the office that will help you with the FAFSA, aid requirements, Verification documents, awarding of the aid, loans, grants and more!

**Billing**
Billing in higher education can be a bit different than you would expect. We bill by semester, not the academic year. Bills are prepared and due before the semester starts. Billing is online only in MyKU (never mailed). Students are emailed to their KU email account when the bill is ready. Students can sign parents up to get those communications as well - see below. Financial Aid that is approved and cleared will show as a courtesy credit on the bill (more about that at Orientation) so if you have aid, that will reduce what you may need to pay by the due date. 

An overview of the billing process is online to view at any time! Fall 2020 bills are due August 6th, while Spring 2021 bills are due January 2nd.

**Payment Methods**
We offer a variety of payment methods after the ARD has been paid to accepted the offer of admission. More information will be provided at Orientation. These include, E-checks online for FREE, Credit Cards (2.75% non-refundable processing fee), 529 plans, payment plans, loans, grants and more!

**Payment Plans – Open NOW!**
While we won’t be billing for the Fall 2020 semester until late June, or after the student is enrolled in classes, we do have Fall payment plans open now! Payment plans start as a 6-payment plan, then reduce to a 5-payment plan, and so on. If you wait until we bill for Fall in late June, the plan at that time would be the 4-payment plan, but if you wait until the due date of August 6th, then you only have the option of a 3-payment plan. As you can see, planning in advance and being proactive is advantageous. Payment Plan information is online. It is really easy to sign up on the Payment Dashboard. You can access the dashboard at MyKU > KU Financial Account tile > Payment Dashboard.
**Payment Plan Amount Needed**

We do not yet know the actual costs for the 20/21 academic year (the Board of Governors officially sets the tuition over the summer), so you will have to use estimates. We suggest using this year’s costs and reduce it by your awarded aid package (half of it is for Fall as the award package is for the full academic year). The payment plan can be adjusted up, or down, after the actual bills come out at no additional fee!

**Additional Loans**

If you are still unable to afford the amount calculated out of pocket, you can look at various additional loans. Apply for these loans such as Parent PLUS loans or Alternative loans no sooner than June, so your credit check doesn’t expire. We list these additional loan options online if you would like to start to review and compare them; interest rates, repayment options all vary. Applying in June will allow the courtesy credit for the loan to show on the account before the due date. Remember, loans can take up to 2 weeks to show on the account from your final approval, so don’t wait too long to apply. Additional questions on these options would be directed to Financial Aid Services.

**Parent Access to Billing communications**

Students will log into MyKU > KU Financial Account tile > Payment Dashboard and navigate to the bottom left box – Parent PINS. Students can add a parent or two to get emails and even text messages when bills and statements are prepared online. These bills and statements are right on that same Payment Dashboard. This is only for billing communications. NOTE: In order to arrange for parents to call us for information, the student will have to have a signed FERPA release on file. The Authorization to Access Student Records is completed by the student and submitted to the Registrar’s Office and lasts one year (just like HIPAA in the doctor’s office).

**Guide for First Time Students – Financial items**

Student Accounts has a great resource online that will be updated throughout the summer to show information to help new students and families meet the financial obligations. Please feel free to check this informative website as needed.

**Outside Scholarship awards**

Non-KU offered scholarships that students receive should be forwarded to Kutztown University Office of Student Accounts. Award letters will let us add courtesy credits until the funds arrive. You are welcome to mail, fax (610-683-4674), or scan/email these to us after you have made your commitment.

In closing, the most important thing I can share is our willingness to help! If you are confused, need guidance or help with calculations, reach out! We are ready to help even in these uncertain times. If you haven’t yet made your deposit to attend KU, take that step today and join us to see what it means when we say, It’s Good to Be Golden!

All my best in good health and education,

Wendy A. Pursell
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