

2016-17

# Bright Futures Student Handbook

Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements



# Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements

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The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is governed by the following statutes and rule.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Florida Statutes              | <a href="#">s. 1009.53 – s. 1009.538</a> |
| State Board of Education Rule | <a href="#">6A-20.028</a>                |

**These eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.**

## Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

Students must **APPLY** for the scholarship by submitting the *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation. If a student does not apply for the scholarship by the deadline, a student **cannot** receive the scholarship! All eligibility requirements must be met by high school graduation, but scores of ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup>/P.E.R.T. tests taken through June 30 are accepted for evaluation purposes.

After submitting the FFAA, **the student is responsible for tracking application and award status online** and keeping the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) informed of any demographic or institutional changes.

The Bright Futures Scholarship will renew automatically each year (up to the scholarship limit) if the student maintains the required GPA and earns the required credit hours. See Chapter 3: 'Renewing Your Award' for more details.

## General Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education (FDOE) private high school.
- Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.
- Be accepted by and enroll in a degree or certificate program at an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term.
- If not funded in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, apply within two years of high school graduation to have your award reinstated.

*(Please refer to 'Reinstatement Requirement' section of Chapter 3 for more information regarding the reinstatement process.)*

*(Please refer to the 'Deferment of the Scholarship' section at the end of this chapter concerning students who enlist in the military or engage in a full-time religious or service obligation after graduation.)*

## Specific Requirements for the Scholarships

### Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)

### Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award or the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Graduate high school from a Florida public high school with a Florida Standard Diploma ([high school graduation requirements](#)), graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education private high school, earn a [GED](#), complete a [Home Education](#) program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school (OOS);
- Complete the required high school coursework;
- Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA);
- Achieve the required minimum score on either the ACT<sup>®</sup> or SAT<sup>®</sup> college entrance exam; and
- Complete the required number of service hours.

| Type | 16 High School Course Credits <sup>1</sup>  | High School Weighted GPA | College Entrance Exams (ACT <sup>®</sup> /SAT <sup>®</sup> ) | Service Hours |
|------|---|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| FAS  | 4 - English<br><i>(three must include substantial writing)</i><br>4 - Mathematics<br><i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i><br>3 - Natural Science<br><i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i> | 3.50                     | 29/1290  | 100 hours     |
| FMS  | 3 - Social Science<br>2 - World Language<br><i>(sequential, in same language)</i>   | 3.00                     | 26/1170  | 75 hours      |

<sup>1</sup> The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in regulation [6.002](#).

### High School Course Credits

For both scholarships, the required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements. The world language requirement can be met by demonstrating proficiencies based on scores on [Credit-By-Exam Equivalencies](#) or other university approved means. Otherwise, the high school transcript must include a world language “completer” course to show that the world language requirement has been met. Please refer to the [Bright Futures Course Table](#) for specific information on which courses count toward FAS/FMS requirements.

## High School GPA

Evaluation for Bright Futures includes an unrounded weighted high school GPA (calculated to two decimal places) in the 16 college-preparatory credits. The following courses are weighted .25 per semester course or .50 per year course in the calculation of the GPA: Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-International Baccalaureate (Pre-IB), International Baccalaureate (IB), Honors, Pre-Advanced International Certificate of Education (Pre-AICE), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) or academic Dual Enrollment. For example, whereas an ‘A’ equals 4 quality points for an un-weighted course, an ‘A’ would equal 4.5 quality points for a weighted course.

If necessary, students may use two additional credits from courses in the above academic areas, or from AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise their GPA.

## College Entrance Exams

The College Board introduced a new entrance exam (Redesigned SAT<sup>®</sup>) beginning March 2016.

- The SAT<sup>®</sup> (SAT administered prior to March 2016) combined score is the sum of the best Critical Reading and Math scores from any test sitting of this version of the ‘Old’ SAT<sup>®</sup>.
- The Redesigned SAT<sup>®</sup> (SAT administered beginning March 2016) combined score is the sum or the best Evidence-based Reading and Writing and Math from any test sitting of this version of the ‘New’ SAT<sup>®</sup>.
- The ACT<sup>®</sup> composite score is the average of the best scores across the four subject area sections from any test sitting: English, Math, Reading and Science. Composite scores ending in 0.50 will be rounded up to the next whole number.
- The ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup> exams may be taken an unlimited number of times through June 30 of the student’s graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates).
- Request test scores be sent to one of Florida’s 12 state universities, Florida state colleges (public community colleges), or public high schools when registering for the ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup> so that test scores will be sent to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) repository.

## Service Hours

Students must complete volunteer service hours during high school and by high school graduation. Service hours may include, but are not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours must be documented in writing, and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization. Each public school district and private school establishes approved activities and the process for documentation of service hours.

## Other ways to qualify

Students who have demonstrated academic merit through a recognition program may be eligible for Bright Futures without having to meet one or more of the requirements. Note: Both AICE and IB Diplomas must be earned prior to high school graduation (August 31). Please refer to the table below for how to qualify based on one of the merit recognition programs.

| Merit Recognition Program  | College Entrance Exams<br>(ACT®/SAT®) | Service Hours | Bright Futures Award |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| National Merit® Finalists and Scholars                           |                                       | 100 hours     | FAS                  |
|  |                                       | 75 hours      | FMS                  |
| National Hispanic Scholars                                       |                                       | 100 hours     | FAS                  |
|  |                                       | 75 hours      | FMS                  |
| Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) - Diploma |                                       | 100 hours     | FAS                  |
|  |                                       | 75 hours      | FMS                  |
| International Baccalaureate (IB) - Diploma <sup>1</sup>          |                                       |               | FAS                  |
| AICE - Curriculum  | 29/1290                               | 100 hours     | FAS                  |
|  | 26/1170                               | 75 hours      | FMS                  |
| International Baccalaureate (IB) - Curriculum <sup>1</sup>       | 29/1290                               |               | FAS                  |
|  | 26/1170                               |               | FMS                  |

<sup>1</sup> Students meet the service hour requirement through the IB curriculum.

### AICE Curriculum

Complete a minimum of 12 AICE credits\* identified by the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in three academic areas as follows:

- Two credits from Group 1 – Mathematics and Sciences
- Two credits from Group 2 – Languages
- Two credits from Group 3 – Arts and Humanities
- Six additional credits in any combination from the above three Groups, or from Group 4 (Global Perspectives).

\*Students earn one credit by completing one AICE full credit course and another credit for taking the corresponding AICE examination.

### IB Curriculum

- Complete a minimum of 10 credits identified by the International Baccalaureate Organization:
  - Two credits each in three of the following areas and one credit each in the remaining three areas: Language Arts, World Language, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics and Arts/Electives. (Each of these credits must be an IB or AP course. Pre-IB courses do not meet IB curriculum requirements.)
  - One credit in Theory of Knowledge
- Complete the Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) requirement
- Complete an extended essay.

## Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)

The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) can only be used to fund a career education or certificate program. Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Meet the [General Requirements](#) for Bright Futures;
- Achieve the required weighted minimum 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses;
- Take at least 3 full credits in a single Career and Technical Education program;
- Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the career education courses;
- Achieve the required minimum score on the ACT<sup>®</sup>, SAT<sup>®</sup>, or Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) exams (see table below); and
- Complete 30 service hours.

### College Entrance Exams

Exam types cannot be combined; a student must qualify based on each sub-test score for a single exam type. Sub-test scores from different test dates may be used to meet the test requirement. Scores taken through June 30 of the student's senior year (for a regular graduate, or January 31 for a mid-year graduate) will be accepted for Bright Futures evaluation. There is no limit to the number of times a student may retake the test prior to June 30 of the student's graduation year.

Request test scores be sent to one of Florida's 12 state universities, Florida state colleges (public community colleges), or public high schools when the student registers for the ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup> so that test scores will be sent to the FDOE repository.

| Exam Type   | Sub-test | Required Score |
|---|----------|----------------|
| ACT <sup>®</sup>                                  | English  | 17             |
|   | Reading  | 19             |
|   | Math     | 19             |
| SAT <sup>®</sup>                                  | Reading  | 440            |
|   | Math     | 440            |
| P.E.R.T.<br>(Only applies to the GSV Scholarship) | Reading  | 106            |
|   | Writing  | 103            |
|   | Math     | 114            |

### Service Hours

Students must complete volunteer service hours during high school and by high school graduation. Service hours may include, but are not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours must be documented in writing, and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization. Each public school district and private school establishes approved activities and the process for documentation of service hours.

## Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC) – New for 2016-17 High School Graduates

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The Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award (GSC) can only be used to fund a career education or certificate program. Upon completion of an associate in science degree program that articulates to a bachelor of science degree, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor of science degree program. Upon completion of an associate in applied science program, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor of applied science degree program.

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Meet the [General Requirements](#) for Bright Futures;
- Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit; and
- Complete 30 service hours.

### Service Hours

Students must complete volunteer service hours during high school and by high school graduation. Service hours may include, but are not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours must be documented in writing, and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization. Each public school district and private school establishes approved activities and the process for documentation of service hours.

## Non-Traditional Students

### Home-Educated (HE) Students

All home-educated students must be **registered with the district** where they live for grades 11 and 12. In addition, students must meet the [General Requirements](#) for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. If the student was not registered as home-educated with the district for grades 11 AND 12, but has the required transcripts and test scores, he/she may be able to apply as a Florida [GED Diploma](#) recipient.

#### Required Documentation

- **Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)** – Students must submit a completed FFAA online during the final year in a home education program (no later than August 31). After submitting the FFAA, **the student is responsible for tracking application and award status online** and keeping OSFA informed of any demographic or institutional changes.
- **Exam Scores (ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup>)** – Students may test through June 30 of the final year in a home education program (or through January 31 of the final year for a mid-year applicant). Submit scores in one of the following ways:
  - Request test scores be sent to one of Florida’s 12 state universities or Florida state colleges (public community colleges) when the student registers for the ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup> so the scores will be sent to the FDOE repository.
  - Mail an official copy (no photocopies) of the test scores in the original sealed envelope to the attention of ‘Home Ed’ at the address at the end of this chapter.
- **Service Hours** – Documentation of volunteer service hours must be submitted to the district home education office where the student is registered as a home-educated student. The district will certify the hours to FDOE through an electronic process. Service hours must be performed during high school and completed by high school graduation.

The FDOE provides the following guidelines for students in a home education program:

- Service hours may not be hours that benefitted the student financially or materially, or be service to family members, defined as parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and spouses, including all step relations.
- The agencies where the service hours were earned must provide documentation on agency letterhead of the number of hours and dates of service completed.

## General Educational Development (GED) Students

Documentation outlined below is required for the initial eligibility evaluation of students who earn a Florida high school equivalency diploma (commonly known as the Florida GED diploma) and wish to be evaluated for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

To be determined eligible for the scholarship, GED students must meet the high school coursework and grade point average requirements before taking the GED exam. Eligibility for a scholarship will be determined in the academic year in which the GED is earned. For additional information on the GED, applicants may wish to visit DOE's [website](#) regarding the GED.

### Required Documentation

- **Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)** – Students must submit a completed FFAA online during the final year prior to taking the GED (no later than August 31). After submitting the FFAA, **the student is responsible for tracking application and award status online** and keeping OSFA informed of any demographic or institutional changes.
- **Exam Scores (ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup>/P.E.R.T.)** – Test scores taken through the end of June of the academic year in which the student takes the GED exam will be admissible. Please note, P.E.R.T. scores are only applicable to the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship. Submit scores in one of the following ways:
  - Request test scores be sent to one of Florida's 12 state universities or Florida state colleges (public community colleges) when the student registers for the ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup> so that test scores will be sent to the FDOE repository.
  - Request a school counselor submit test scores on the high school transcript.
  - Mail an official copy (no photocopies) of the test scores in the original sealed envelope to the attention of 'GED' at the address at the end of this chapter.
- **Transcripts** – Submit (in any combination) an official transcript to the FDOE by the student's Florida public high school, FDOE-registered private high school, Florida Virtual School and/or dual enrollment coursework from a Florida state college or university. The required coursework must be completed and the minimum grade point average earned before the Florida GED exam is taken.
- **GED** – Florida GED diploma will be verified by the FDOE. Please follow the GED verification process outlined by the FDOE GED [website](#).
- **Service Hours** – Documentation of volunteer service hours must be submitted to the FDOE-OSFA. Service hours must be performed during high school and completed by the GED date. The hours must not have been service to family members. The agency or agencies where the service hours were earned must provide documentation of the number of hours and dates of completed service.

Mail or fax supporting documentation to the attention of 'GED' to the address at the end of this chapter.

## Out-of-State (OOS) Students

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**Eligibility Criteria:** A Bright Futures Scholarship requires a standard Florida high school diploma, unless the student earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on A) military or B) public service assignment away from Florida.

**Program Requirements (no substitutions):**

1. Meet the [General Requirements](#) for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.
2. Have one parent who is a Florida resident and is: A) serving active duty in the military or B) on public service assignment away from Florida during the student's last year of high school.
3. Submit a completed [Florida Financial Aid Application \(FFAA\)](#) online during the last year in high school (no later than August 31).
4. Submit official high school transcript(s)
5. Submit **ACT**<sup>®</sup>/**SAT**<sup>®</sup> test scores.
6. Submit documentation for OOS assignment.
7. Submit [Declaration of Florida Residency](#).
8. Submit Proof of Dependency.
9. Submit Documentation of Service Hours.

Select [Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the Out-of-State Student](#) for a manual with further explanation of required documentation.

## Mid-Year Graduates

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A mid-year graduate is a student who graduates September 1 through January 31 of an academic year **and** seeks funding for the spring academic term following graduation. Students who graduate early but do not seek funding until a subsequent academic year are not considered mid-year graduates for Bright Futures.

The student graduating early and seeking funding for the spring term must submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) by August 31 PRIOR TO the intended graduation date. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this application deadline. The student must meet the scholarship requirements in effect for the academic year in which he/she graduates. (Example: A December 2016 graduate must meet the 2016-17 scholarship eligibility requirements as well as the general program requirements as outlined earlier in this document.)

Service hours completed by high school graduation and test scores for test dates through January 31 will be considered in a mid-year graduate's Final Evaluation. A student's Final transcript evaluation MUST include a graduation date.

If determined eligible as a mid-year graduate, a student may receive funding for the spring term, if enrolled. *These students will be evaluated for renewal of their scholarships at the end of the next academic year of funding.*

If a student does not graduate mid-year as planned and wishes to apply as an end-of-year graduate, the student must submit a new FFAA after the new application opens on December 1.

## Sending Electronic Transcripts

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If the student's high school is able to send secure electronic transcripts (or if the high school contracts with a third-party transcript service), an official transcript may be emailed to: OSFA.Transcripts@fldoe.org.

We do not accept faxed, photocopied, or unofficial transcripts. Only official transcripts sent to the FDOE via this secured method from the originating school or transcript service may be used in an official evaluation for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

**NOTE:** *Public high schools automatically send student transcripts to FDOE for BF evaluations.*

## Notification of Eligibility

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### **Early Evaluations (7<sup>th</sup> Semester) – Postings may begin in March**

All students whose transcripts are submitted electronically to the FDOE for an official early evaluation (based on academic progress in the middle of the last year of high school and test scores for tests taken by January 31) will receive an eligibility or ineligibility determination, with the award status notification posted to their online account.

Students cannot lose an award based on early evaluation unless they fail to earn a standard Florida high school diploma from a Florida public or FDOE-registered private high school.

### **Final Evaluations (8<sup>th</sup> Semester) – Postings may begin in July**

All students whose final transcripts are submitted (following the student's last term in high school) will receive an award status notification (eligibility or ineligibility determination) posted to their online account.

**NOTE:** Students awarded an IB or AICE Diploma will receive notifications of eligibility determination in early fall after a list of IB and AICE Diploma recipients has been received by these respective organizations. Students who earned five CAPE industry certifications will receive notifications in late fall after an official file has been received from FDOE.

### **The Process**

The award (or ineligibility) determination will be posted to a student's online Financial Aid Recipient History (FARH) screen and is viewable by the student. Login credentials will be sent to the student after the FFAA is submitted and enable a student to:

- view award status (eligibility determination);
- view/update demographic information;
- view/update postsecondary institution;
- view the amount disbursed each semester;
- view the spring renewal GPA;
- monitor hours remaining for the year and for the scholarship; and
- view all correspondence posted and/or sent from the FDOE.

## Deferment of the Scholarship

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Students who enlist in the military, or engage in a full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months may defer the commencement of their scholarship. The 2-year eligibility period and 5-year renewal period will commence upon separation from active duty or the religious or service obligation. Please see the *Reinstatement* section of Chapter 3 for more information. The religious or service obligation provision is only valid for initial funding and does NOT allow a student extension of time if they have already received a disbursement.

## Website Addresses

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)                                  | <a href="https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/ua/sawstua_uaf orm.asp">https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/ua/sawstua_uaf orm.asp</a>   |
| Track Application and Award Status  | <a href="https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/home/ApplyHere.asp">https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/home/ApplyHere.asp</a>   |
| High School Graduation Requirements                                       | <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements/">http://www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements/</a>   |
| State University System admission requirements found in regulation 6.002. | <a href="http://www.flbog.edu/documents_regulations/regulations/6%20002_finalversion.pdf">http://www.flbog.edu/documents_regulations/regulations/6%20002_finalversion.pdf</a>                               |
| National Merit <sup>®</sup> Finalists and Scholars                        | <a href="http://www.nationalmerit.org/">http://www.nationalmerit.org/</a>   |
| National Hispanic Scholars  | <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about/nhrp.html">http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about/nhrp.html</a>   |
| Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) - Diploma          | <a href="http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-aice-diploma/">http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-aice-diploma/</a> |
| International Baccalaureate (IB) - Diploma                                | <a href="http://www.ibo.org/diploma/">http://www.ibo.org/diploma/</a>   |
| ACT <sup>®</sup>  | <a href="http://www.actstudent.org/">http://www.actstudent.org/</a>   |
| SAT <sup>®</sup>  | <a href="https://sat.collegeboard.org/home">https://sat.collegeboard.org/home</a>   |
| P.E.R.T.  | <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/common-placement-testing.stml">http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/common-placement-testing.stml</a>                 |
| Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the Out-of-State Student   | <a href="http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/PDF/BFOOSGuide.pdf">http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/PDF/BFOOSGuide.pdf</a>   |
| FDOE GED Website  | <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/hse">http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/hse</a>   |
| Declaration of Florida Residency  | <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/pdf/decflores.pdf">http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/pdf/decflores.pdf</a>   |

## OSFA Mailing Address

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Attn: **GED *or* Out-of-State Applicant**

Florida Department of Education  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1314  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Fax: 850-487-1809

2016-17

# Bright Futures Student Handbook

Chapter 2: What You Need to Know Now  
that You are Eligible



# Chapter 2: What You Need to Know Now That You are Eligible

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The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is governed by the following statutes and rule.

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Florida Statutes              | <a href="#">s. 1009.53 – s. 1009.538</a> |
| State Board of Education Rule | <a href="#">6A-20.028</a>                |

**These requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.**

## College Notification

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Notification of a student's award will be made available to eligible postsecondary institution(s) via a secured internet directory of eligible students when a student's award status is official.

If the eligible Florida postsecondary institution the student plans to attend is different from the one listed on the student's Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA), the student will need to update his or her institution online. This may be accomplished by logging into the online account and accessing the [Financial Aid Recipient History](#) screen or by calling toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

A list of eligible postsecondary institutions is available for viewing on the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) [website](#).

## Postsecondary Enrollment Requirements

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- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution after high school graduation.
- Enroll for a minimum of six non-remedial semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term in a program of study by the end of the drop/add period.

*(A student who has fewer than six total hours remaining on his/her scholarship or needs fewer than six hours to complete the first associate or baccalaureate degree, may enroll and receive funding for less than six hours.)*

- If not funded in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, apply within two years of high school graduation to have the award reinstated.

*(Please refer to 'Reinstatement Requirement' section of Chapter 3 for more information regarding the reinstatement process.)*

## Length of the Scholarship Award

Students graduating high school in 2012-13 and thereafter who did not receive funding immediately following high school graduation must apply within two years after high school graduation to reinstate the award. A Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) or Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS) may receive funding for up to five years from high school graduation for a maximum of 120 semester hours (or equivalent) toward the completion of a certificate or a first baccalaureate degree. This also applies to students in 3/2 programs who are classified as an undergraduate. Extended hours of funding are available to FAS and FMS students enrolled in a single program of study requiring more than 120 hours by submitting the following application, "[Extended Hours Application](#)."

Please refer to the following table for program length specifications.

| High School Graduation Year | Number of FAS/FMS Hours Funding Available | Number of <u>GSV</u> Hours Funding Available <sup>1</sup>   | Number of Years to Reinstate an Initial Award | Duration of Funding Available <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 2012-13 and thereafter      | 100% of program of study                  | 100% of program of study, up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72 hours (<i>AS, AAS, CCC, or PSAV's</i>)</li> <li>• 60 hours (<i>ATD's</i>)</li> </ul> | Within 2 years of graduating from high school | Up to 5 years from high school graduation  |
| 2011-12                     | 100% of program of study                  | 100% of program of study, up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72 hours (<i>AS, AAS, CCC, or PSAV's</i>)</li> <li>• 60 hours <i>ATD's</i>)</li> </ul>  | Within 3 years of graduating from high school | Up to 5 years from high school graduation  |
| 2010-11                     | 100% of program of study                  | 100% of program of study, up to 90 credit hours   | Within 3 years of graduating from high school | Up to 5 years from high school graduation  |
| 2009-10                     | 100% of program of study                  | 100% of program of study, up to 90 credit hours   | Within 3 years of graduating from high school | Up to 7 years from high school graduation  |

<sup>1</sup> Beginning with the 2016-17 high school graduates, students who earn a Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) award and attain an AS or AAS degree may receive an additional 60 hours of funding toward a qualifying BS or BAS degree program.

<sup>2</sup> For students graduating high school in 2010-11 and thereafter, if annual renewal requirements were not met due to a verifiable illness or other documented emergency (as reported by the postsecondary institution), an exception of one academic year to the renewal timeframe may be granted if a course of study is not completed after five academic years.

## Award Amounts

Scholarship award amounts are set in the General Appropriations Act each year. Recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour based on award level, institution type, and credit type.

| 2016-17 Bright Futures Scholarship<br>Per Hour Award Amounts   |                   |         |                  |
|--|-------------------|---------|------------------|
|  | Credit Hour Award |         | Clock Hour Award |
|  | Semester          | Quarter |                  |
| <b>Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)</b>   |                   |         |                  |
| 4 Year   | \$103             | \$69    |                  |
| 2 Year   | \$63              | \$42    | \$2.10           |
| Florida Public Colleges – Baccalaureate Programs   | \$71              |         |                  |
| Career / Technical Centers   | \$52              | \$35    | \$1.73           |
| <b>Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)</b>  |                   |         |                  |
| 4 Year   | \$77              | \$51    |                  |
| 2 Year   | \$63              | \$42    | \$2.10           |
| Florida Public Colleges – Baccalaureate Programs   | \$53              |         |                  |
| Career / Technical Centers   | \$39              | \$26    | \$1.30           |
| <b>Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) – 2011-12 HS Graduates and later*</b>   |                   |         |                  |
| Career Certificate Program (PSAV)  | \$39              | \$26    | \$1.30           |
| Applied Technology Diploma Program (ATD)   | \$39              | \$26    | \$1.30           |
| Technical Degree Education Program<br>(AS, AAS, CCC)   | \$48              | \$32    | \$1.60           |
| <b>Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) – 2010-11 HS Graduates and earlier</b>  |                   |         |                  |
| 4 Year   | \$77              | \$51    |                  |
| 2 Year   | \$63              | \$42    | \$2.10           |
| Florida Public Colleges / Baccalaureate Programs   | \$53              |         |                  |
| Career / Technical Centers   | \$39              | \$26    | \$1.30           |
| *GSV Initial students, as of 2012-13, and Initials and Renewals thereafter, are ONLY eligible to receive funding in these vocational education categories. |                   |         |                  |

The top Florida Academic Scholar in each district, where the student last attended, is awarded a bonus per credit hour award. Only the Florida Academic Scholars who receive funding at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution during the fall term following high school graduation are considered for the bonus award. Florida Academic Scholars are ranked based on the product of their Bright Futures weighted GPA and their best combined SAT<sup>®</sup> or composite ACT<sup>®</sup> test score as reported for their Florida Academic Scholars eligibility.

| 2016-17 Academic Top Scholars<br>Per Hour Award Amounts |          |         |        |
|---|----------|---------|--------|
|   | Semester | Quarter | Clock  |
|   | \$44     | \$29    | \$1.47 |

## Scholarship Funding

Students do not receive funds directly from the Florida Department of Education. The financial aid office at the eligible Florida postsecondary institution the student attends is responsible for calculating the award and disbursing the funds after the end of the drop/add period each term.

Awards are funded fall through spring terms of each academic year (spring and summer, if the student is enrolled in a spring/summer cohort program at the University of Florida).

The institution determines if study abroad is covered by Bright Futures. The study must be approved by the institution and be a part of the student's program of study.

## Scholarship Restrictions/Limitations

- A maximum of 45 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) may be funded in one academic year (fall through spring).
- All hours are paid at the undergraduate rate.
- No remedial course work is funded.
- GSV awards may only be used at postsecondary institutions that offer an applied technology diploma, technical degree education program (associate in applied science or associate in science), or a career certificate program.

## Summer Funding

Unless otherwise mentioned, Bright Futures awards are not available for the summer term.

Students enrolled in the spring/summer cohort at University of Florida who are eligible to receive Bright Futures Scholarships can receive the scholarship in the spring and summer terms but will not receive the scholarship for attendance during the fall term.

## Dropping or Withdrawing from Course(s) after Drop/Add

A student must reimburse the postsecondary institution for the cost of course(s) dropped or withdrawn after the initial drop/add period. The student will be ineligible to renew his/her Bright Futures award for any subsequent academic year until repayment or a satisfactory arrangement to reimburse the institution is made. After repayment, those hours are returned to the student's hours remaining for funding purposes.

Due to verifiable illness or emergency, a student may make a written appeal to the home postsecondary institution for hours dropped or withdrawn after the last day of the drop/add period.

## Same-term Funding at Two Different Postsecondary Institutions

If a student plans to take coursework at a postsecondary institution other than the student's home postsecondary institution (where the student is enrolled as degree- or certificate-seeking), he/she must notify the financial aid office at his/her home institution. The home postsecondary institution is the one from which Bright Futures funds are disbursed and grades and hours reported for that term. Both the home postsecondary institution and the institution where the student is enrolled as a transient student must be eligible Bright Futures institutions.

## Use of the Scholarship for a Partial Academic Year

A student may choose to enroll and receive Bright Futures funding for only one term during the academic year. Renewal criteria include completion of a minimum of 12 semester hours (or the equivalent) per term funded for a full-time student or a prorated number of credit hours for a part-time student and the minimum institutional cumulative GPA requirement. (See renewal requirements in Chapter 3.)

## Transferring the Scholarship between Institutions

Awarded students may receive Bright Futures funding only at eligible Florida postsecondary institutions. A student may login to access the online system or call OSFA toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 to transfer the scholarship to another eligible Florida postsecondary institution. To receive timely disbursements, OSFA must be notified of institution changes by August 15 for Term 1 (fall), December 15 for Term 2 (spring), and February 15 for Term 3.

## Graduate School Funding

A FAS or FMS scholarship recipient, who graduates with a baccalaureate degree in seven or fewer semesters, or in 105 semester hours or fewer, may receive funding for one semester of graduate study, not to exceed 15 credit hours paid at the undergraduate rate. Graduate school funding must be used within the student's five year award timeframe (within five years from high school graduation).

## Website Addresses

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|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Financial Aid Recipient History     | <a href="https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/disb/SAWMELGaudit.asp">https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/disb/SAWMELGaudit.asp</a>                       |
| Eligible Postsecondary Institutions | <a href="https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/admin/SAWELIGPSI_ByProg.asp">https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/admin/SAWELIGPSI_ByProg.asp</a>           |
| Extended Hours Application          | <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/pdf/BF_EXTHRS_Application.pdf">http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/pdf/BF_EXTHRS_Application.pdf</a> |

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