

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program has helped more than 405,000 Florida students attend a postsecondary institution. The program offers three levels of scholarship awards – the Florida Academic Scholars award (FAS), the Florida Medallion Scholars award (FMS), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award (GSV). Read this brochure to find out how to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship.

Your Responsibilities

It is your job to **know** and **meet** the requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program before high school graduation and throughout your college career.

The Application

To apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you **must** submit a completed (error free) **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application** during your last year in high school (after December 1 and prior to graduation). **You must apply during your last year in high school, before graduation,* or you will forfeit all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.** To apply online, visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org, select "State Grants, Scholarships & Applications" and click on "Apply Here." The application gives the Florida Department of Education permission to evaluate your high school transcript and test scores for eligibility for state scholarships and grants, including a Bright Futures Scholarship. You may apply prior to meeting all requirements.

Note: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is NOT a requirement for Bright Futures qualification but you are encouraged to apply as it may help you find other available financial aid.

Not Sure About College?

You **should** apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship even if you are considering not going to college, are planning to go out of state, are taking a few years off, or are enlisting in the military. Eligible students have up to three years from high school graduation to begin using the scholarship.

Note: Initially eligible students who enlist in the United States Armed Forces immediately after high school graduation (within three years after separation from active duty), or students who receive a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and discontinue their education to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, commence the remainder of their seven-year renewal period upon the date of separation from active duty.

Make the Grade

It is your responsibility to earn the necessary Grade Point Average (GPA) in the **required** high school classes. Not all high school courses will qualify you for a Bright Futures Scholarship. Ask your guidance counselor or refer to the Bright Futures Web site for course information.

Earn the Score

To qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you **must** earn the minimum required test score (SAT, ACT, or CPT) for the award for which you wish to qualify.

Graduate!

You may receive early notification of your award status during your last term of high school; however, if you do not graduate,* you **will not** receive the award!

Stay Clean

You **must** not be found guilty of, or plead no contest to, a felony charge.

We Will Let You Know

After submitting an **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application**, your high school will submit your transcript for consideration during the middle of your final year and the Florida Department of Education will evaluate your eligibility. If you qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, the Florida Department of Education will notify you prior to graduation.* **However, if your GPA improves and/or other requirements are met during your final high school semester, you may then qualify for an award or higher award level. If so, you will be notified following graduation.***

Getting Your Money

The Florida Department of Education will:

- Begin funding your scholarship during the **fall term** following your high school **graduation.*** The academic year begins in the fall and ends in the summer. **Scholarship recipients are not eligible for funding during the summer term immediately following high school graduation;* thereafter, summer disbursements are only made if funds are available. Check our Web site each year for summer funding information.**
- Send scholarship funds to the eligible Florida postsecondary institution of your choice prior to the beginning of each term. The money will then be applied to your account after the last day of the drop/add period at your college.

You Must:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, **as determined by your postsecondary institution.**
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at an eligible Florida college, or enroll in a postsecondary adult vocational certificate program.
- Begin using the scholarship funds within three years of your high school **graduation.* If you enlist directly in the military after graduation,* your three-year period begins upon the date of separation from active duty.**
- Enroll for at least **six non-remedial** semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term.

Keep Up the Good Work

Remember, you must **maintain** the required cumulative GPA and earn the minimum credit hours in order to renew your scholarship each year.

We Need to Know

It is **your responsibility** to check the status of your application and your award. It is also your responsibility to provide your correct name, address, date of birth and social security number, and to **inform us of any changes.** Prior to submitting an **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application**, you should report all changes to your guidance counselor in order to update your transcript. After submitting an application, you will receive an application acknowledgement correspondence which will inform you how to create a personal User ID online to update your demographic information and monitor your financial aid history. We cannot award you with a scholarship if we cannot contact you.

Why Do We Need Your Social Security Number (SSN)?

Your SSN is essential for matching your test scores with your student records, and for matching your Bright Futures Scholarship with your college records. However, if you choose to leave your SSN blank on the **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application**, the system will generate a pseudo number. Financial assistance will not be denied for failure to disclose your SSN.

Eligibility requirements

Award Amount

A student may receive funding for only one award (FAS, FMS, or GSV). The highest award earned by the student will be selected.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Weighting for more challenging, higher level courses is prescribed by law as .50 per course per year.

Example:

Credit Weighting

1.00 .50

.50 .25

Required Credits

See the Comprehensive Course Table on the Bright Futures Web site to identify courses that count toward each award level.

The Florida Legislature is authorized to change eligibility and funding requirements.

Test Scores

Sections of the SAT, ACT, or CPT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria.

For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of January will be admissible.

For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of June will be admissible

Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)

Public and Private Institutions -

All students will receive the specified award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Award amounts for the 2010-11 academic year will be available in summer 2010 after the legislative session.

For current year award amounts visit: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm

Grade Point Average (GPA)

3.5 weighted GPA using the credits listed below, combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below.

(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)

Required Credits

Courses must include 15 credits of college preparatory academic courses.

4 English

(3 with substantial writing)

3 Mathematics*

(Algebra I level and above)

3 Natural Science

(2 with substantial lab)

3 Social Science

2 Foreign Language

(in the same language)

15* Credits

Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)

May use up to 3 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA
*2011 and future graduates must earn 4 credits of Mathematics for a total of 16 college preparatory credits.

Community Service

75 hours, as approved by the district or private school

Test Scores

Best composite score of 1270 SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only)

or

28 ACT

(excluding the writing section).

NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.

SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.

(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)

Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)

Grade Point Average (GPA)

3.0 weighted GPA using the credits listed below, combined with the test scores listed below.

(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)

Required Credits

Courses must include 15 credits of college preparatory academic courses.

4 English

(3 with substantial writing)

3 Mathematics*

(Algebra I level and above)

3 Natural Science

(2 with substantial lab)

3 Social Science

2 Foreign Language

(in the same language)

15* Credits

Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)

May use up to 3 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA
*2011 and future graduates must earn 4 credits of Mathematics for a total of 16 college preparatory credits.

Community Service

No requirement

Test Scores

Best composite score of 970 SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only)

or

20 ACT

(excluding the writing section).

NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.

SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.

(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award

Grade Point Average (GPA)

3.0 weighted GPA using the 15.5 credits listed below for a 4-year Diploma and a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 vocational credits in one vocational program, combined with the test scores listed below.

(See "Other Ways to Qualify" for 3-year graduation options.)

(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)

Required Credits

4-year Diploma**

Credits must include 15.5 core credits required for high school graduation.

4 English

3 Mathematics* (including Algebra I)

3 Natural Science

3 Social Science

(Am. Hist., World Hist., Am. Govt., and Economics)

1 Practical Arts OR 1 Performing Arts OR .5

credit in each

.5 Life Management Skills*

.5 Personal Fitness

.5 Physical Education

15.5* Credits

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)

Plus a minimum of 3 Vocational Job-Preparatory or Technology Education Program credits in one vocational program

*2011 and future graduates must earn 4 credits of Mathematics and no Life Management Skills for a total of 16 core credits.

(See "Other Ways to Qualify" for 3-year graduation options.)

Community Service

No requirement

Test Scores

Students must earn the minimum score on each section of the CPT or SAT or ACT.

Sections of different test types may not be combined.

CPT:

Reading 83

Sentence Skills 83

Algebra 72

OR

SAT Reasoning Test:

Critical Reading 440

Math 440

OR

ACT:

English 17

Reading 18

Math 19