

**FLORIDA  
BRIGHT FUTURES  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
2012 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**



**Predict Your Future...**

**Make It Happen...**

**Earn A Bright Futures Award!**

**The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program** has helped more than 550,000 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](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org), select “State Grants, Scholarships & Applications” and then select “Apply Here.” The application gives the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) 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.

**Activate your User ID & PIN - Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state financial aid!**

After submitting an *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application*, you will:

- create a PIN (Personal Identification Number) online,
- update your demographic information (on your original application), as necessary, and
- monitor your Financial Aid Recipient History (award status) online.

You are responsible for checking your application and award status. 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.

**NEW**

**Note: In addition, the submission of a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* IS NOW an annual requirement for Bright Futures eligibility. The FAFSA does not have to indicate financial need; however, must be completed and processed error free prior to a student’s first disbursement of the 2011-12 academic year. (The Florida State Programs May 15 deadline does not apply to Bright Futures.) You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Submission of the FAFSA may help you find other available financial aid as well. Visit the website at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for online processing.**

## *Your Transcript Evaluations*

Your high school will automatically submit your transcript electronically to the FDOE for evaluation two times during the year, but you submit only ONE application:

- Mid-year – after the fall term is completed and semester grades are posted. A mid-year evaluation includes fall coursework completed, spring coursework in progress, community service hours completed and test scores for test dates through January 31.

- Final – several weeks after you graduate and all grades are posted. A final transcript evaluation includes all coursework and community service hours completed, and test scores for test dates through June 30.

You may lose a mid-year award only if you do not graduate from a Florida public or FDOE-registered private high school. 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 based on the evaluation of your final high school transcript.

**Notifications** – will be posted online to your Financial Aid Recipient History.

- Mid-year notifications begin posting in March
- Final notifications begin posting in August

**Activate your User ID & PIN - Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state 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 five-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 website 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.

## 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.\* **Summer disbursements are only made if funds are available. Check our website 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 postsecondary institution.

### 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.

## 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.

## Already Have the Florida Prepaid College Plan?

You can use both the Prepaid College Plan and the Bright Futures Scholarship. See a financial aid officer at the postsecondary institution you plan to attend for details.

## What is the Academic Top Scholars Award?

The Academic Top Scholars award, announced by the Florida Department of Education before the end of the fall term after all term-one disbursements, is awarded to the Florida Academic Scholar with the highest academic ranking in each county (based on the product of multiplying the Bright Futures GPA and the highest qualifying SAT/ACT test score). The recipient receives a cost per credit hour award established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act in addition to the Florida Academic Scholars award. For current year award amounts visit: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm)

## *Accelerated High School Graduation Options*

Students may qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship using the three-year accelerated high school graduation options. For details, see your high school guidance counselor.

### *FACTS.org*

Public high school students should visit [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org) to review their academic progress toward meeting Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program eligibility requirements and State University System course requirements for college admission. Evaluations will be based on current program requirements and the most recent transcript received from a student's school district. Public high school students in grades 9-12 may access their records at [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org) by creating their own login ID and password. Private high school students may see their guidance counselors for a copy of their Bright Futures Student Evaluation Report.

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\* To qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you must earn a standard Florida high school diploma from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education private high school; however, if you are a home education student, GED recipient, or an out-of-state student due to a parent's military or public service assignment, you may still qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship (See the "Other Ways to Qualify" section in this brochure for eligibility guidelines). Contact our office or visit our website for specific requirements.

### *Make the Grade...*

### *Earn the Score...*

**Bright Futures website:** [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/)

**Office of Student Financial Assistance website:** [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)

**Toll-Free:** 1-888-827-2004      **E-mail:** [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution and receives funding within 3 years of graduation from high school.

## Initial Eligibility Requirements For Year 2012 High School Graduates

The following initial eligibility requirements must be met, in addition to earning a standard Florida high school diploma, prior to graduation from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education private high school. Students must apply by submitting an **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application** at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm) during their last year in high school, prior to their high school graduation or **forever forfeit** a Bright Futures Scholarship.

The Florida Legislature is authorized to change eligibility and funding requirements.	Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)						
<p><b>Award Amount</b></p> <p>A student may receive funding for only one award (FAS, FMS, or GSV). The highest award earned by the student will be selected.</p>	<p><b>Public and Private Institutions -</b></p> <p>All students will receive the specified award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Award amounts for the 2012-13 academic year will be available on the Bright Futures website in summer 2012, after the legislative session.</p> <p>For current year award amounts visit:  <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm</a></p>								
<p><b>Grade Point Average (GPA)</b></p> <p>Weighting for more challenging, higher level courses is prescribed by law as .50 per course per year.</p> <p>Example:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-decoration: underline;">Credit</th> <th style="text-decoration: underline;">Weighting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.00</td> <td>.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>.50</td> <td>.25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Credit	Weighting	1.00	.50	.50	.25	<p>3.5 weighted GPA using the credits listed below, combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below.</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>	<p>3.0 weighted GPA using the credits listed below, combined with the test scores listed below.</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>	<p>3.0 weighted GPA using the 16 core credits listed below for a 4-year Diploma and a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program, combined with the test scores listed below.</p> <p>(See “Other Ways to Qualify” for 3-year graduation options.)</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>
Credit	Weighting								
1.00	.50								
.50	.25								
<p><b>Required Credits</b></p> <p>See the Comprehensive Course Table on the Bright Futures website to identify courses that count toward each award level.</p>	<p>Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses.</p> <p>4 English (3 with substantial writing)            4 Mathematics** (Algebra I level and above)</p>	<p>Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses.</p> <p>4 English (3 with substantial writing)            4 Mathematics** (Algebra I level and above)</p>	<p>4-year Diploma***            Credits must include 16 core credits required for high school graduation.</p> <p>4 English            4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)            3 Natural Science</p>						

NEW

		<p>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab) 3 Social Science 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)</p> <p>16 Credits</p> <p>May use up to 2 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA</p> <p>**For 2011 and 2012 high school graduates only, the sequence of Algebra Ia and Ib and the sequence of Applied Math I and II may count as two credits for high school graduation, State University System (SUS) Admissions and FAS/FMS eligibility. For 2013 and later high school graduates, these courses will revert to the traditional one credit per sequence for SUS Admissions and FAS/FMS eligibility.</p>	<p>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab) 3 Social Science 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)</p> <p>16 Credits</p> <p>May use up to 2 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA</p> <p>**For 2011 and 2012 high school graduates only, the sequence of Algebra Ia and Ib and the sequence of Applied Math I and II may count as two credits for high school graduation, State University System (SUS) Admissions and FAS/FMS eligibility. For 2013 and later high school graduates, these courses will revert to the traditional one credit per sequence for SUS Admissions and FAS/FMS eligibility.</p>	<p>3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics) 1 Fine OR Identified Practical Art OR .5 credit in each 1 Physical Education (to include integration of health)</p> <p>16 Credits</p> <p>Plus a minimum of 3 Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program, taken over at least 2 academic years</p> <p>(See “Other Ways to Qualify” for 3-year graduation options.)</p>
<b>NEW</b>	<b>Community Service</b>	<b>100</b> hours, as approved by the district or private school	<b>75</b> hours, as approved by the district or private school	<b>30</b> hours, as approved by the district or private school
<b>NEW</b>	<b>Test Scores</b>	<p>Best combined score of <b>1270</b> SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) Or Best composite score of <b>28</b> ACT (excluding the writing section).</p> <p>NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.</p>	<p>Best combined score of <b>980</b> SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) Or Best composite score of <b>21</b> ACT (excluding the writing section).</p> <p>NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.</p>	<p>Students must earn the minimum score on each section of the <b>SAT</b> or <b>ACT</b>.</p> <p>Sections of different test types may not be combined-</p> <p>SAT Reasoning Test: Critical Reading 440 Math 440</p> <p>Or ACT: English 17 Reading 18</p>

<p>through the end of June will be admissible.</p> <p><b>Note: FAS and FMS test score requirements are increasing for future graduates. See the Bright Futures website.</b></p>	<p>SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.</p> <p>(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)</p>	<p>SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.</p> <p>(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)</p>	<p>Math 19</p> <p>Or CPT:</p> <p>Reading 83</p> <p>Sentence Skills 83</p> <p>Algebra 72</p> <p><b>PERT availability to be announced.</b> Until the FDOE approves PERT eligible scores, take the SAT, ACT, or CPT at your location.</p>
<p><b>NEW</b></p> <p><b>Other Ways to Qualify</b></p> <p><b>Initial eligibility criteria used in “Other Ways to Qualify” must be met by high school graduation. Contact the Bright Futures office for further details.</b></p>	<p>The other ways to qualify listed below must also include the community service hours requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists</li> <li>National Hispanic Scholars</li> <li>IB Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)</li> <li>Students who have completed the IB Curriculum with best composite score of <b>1270 SAT or 28 ACT</b></li> <li>AICE Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)</li> <li>Students who have completed the AICE Curriculum with best composite score of <b>1270 SAT or 28 ACT</b></li> <li>Students who have attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41, F.S., registered with the district during grades 11 and 12, and have a best composite score of <b>1270 SAT or 28 ACT</b></li> <li>GED with best composite score of</li> </ul>	<p>The other ways to qualify listed below must also include the community service hours requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists</li> <li>National Hispanic Scholars</li> <li>IB Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)</li> <li>Students who have completed the IB Curriculum with best composite score of <b>980 SAT or 21 ACT</b></li> <li>AICE Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)</li> <li>Students who have completed the AICE Curriculum with best composite score of <b>980 SAT or 21 ACT</b></li> <li>Students who have attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41, F.S., registered with the district during grades 11 and 12, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a best combined score of <b>1070 SAT or 23 ACT</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The other ways to qualify listed below must also include a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program, minimum test scores listed above, and the community service hours requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3-year Career Preparatory Diploma***</b> with 3.0 weighted GPA using the 14 core credits required for graduation listed below</li> </ul> <p>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</p> <p>4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)</p> <p>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</p> <p>3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics)</p> <p>14 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3-year College Preparatory Diploma***</b> with 3.0 weighted GPA using the 16 core credits required for graduation listed below</li> </ul>

	<p><b>1270 SAT or 28 ACT</b> and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of <b>1270 SAT or 28 ACT</b> and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a best combined score of <b>980 SAT or 21 ACT</b> with a weighted 3.0 GPA in the above 16 required credits (documented through Florida public, FDOE-registered private, FLVS or dual enrollment transcripts)</li> <li>• GED with best composite score of <b>980 SAT or 21 ACT</b> and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> <li>• 3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of <b>980 SAT or 21 ACT</b> and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> </ul>	<p>4 English (3 with substantial writing)  4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)  3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)  3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics)  2 Foreign Language (in <u>the same language</u>)</p> <p>16 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GED</b> with 3.0 weighted GPA using the core credits required for your selected high school graduation option (standard, career, or college)</li> </ul> <p>***Note:  For other diploma options established by legislative sessions, visit <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrquire.htm">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrquire.htm</a></p>
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**Verification of Receipt** (This is not the application for the scholarship.)

I verify that I have received and read the initial eligibility requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for the 2011-12 academic year.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this verification portion to your high school guidance counselor.

