



Bright Futures Initial Eligibility Criteria for 2009-10 High School Graduates

Florida Department of Education

Assisting Students With Their Future



Bright Futures Scholarship Awards

Students may receive funding for ONE of the three awards:

- Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)
- Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)



Florida Academic Scholars Award

- GPA
 - 3.5 weighted GPA in required college preparatory credits (not rounded)
- Required Credits
 - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
 - 3 Math* (Algebra I level and above)
 - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
 - 3 Social Science
 - 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)

May use up to 3 additional credits from courses in these academic areas and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise GPA.

* 2011 and future high school graduates must earn 4 Math credits



Florida Academic Scholars Award

- Community Service
 - 75 hours – approved by district or private high school
- Test Scores
 - 1270 SAT Reasoning Test or 28 ACT
 - Writing sections not used in composite
 - Deadlines (tests taken by):
 - January 31 for mid-year (7th semester) eligibility
 - June 30 for final (8th semester) eligibility
 - ACT scores rounded up for scores with .5 and higher
 - SAT Subject Tests not used



Florida Academic Scholars Award

Other ways to qualify must also include 75 community service hours:

- National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists
- National Hispanic Scholars
- IB Diploma (based on exams taken before high school graduation)
- IB Curriculum with 1270 SAT or 28 ACT
- AICE Diploma (based on exams taken before high school graduation)
- AICE Curriculum with 1270 SAT or 28 ACT
- Home Education, registered with District Grades 11 & 12 with an SAT of 1270 or ACT of 28
- GED meeting the coursework, GPA and test score Requirements
- 3-year Standard College Preparatory Program meeting the coursework, GPA and test score Requirements



Florida Medallion Scholars Award

- GPA
 - 3.0 weighted GPA in required college preparatory credits
- Required Credits
 - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
 - 3 Math* (Algebra I level and above)
 - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
 - 3 Social Science
 - 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)

May use up to 3 additional credits from courses in these academic areas and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise GPA.

* 2011 and future high school graduates must earn 4 Math credits

Florida Medallion Scholars Award

- Test Scores
 - 970 SAT Reasoning Test or 20 ACT
 - Writing sections not used in composite
 - Deadlines (tests taken by):
 - January 31 for mid-year (7th semester) eligibility
 - June 30 for final (8th semester) eligibility
 - ACT scores rounded up for scores with .5 and higher
 - SAT Subject Tests not used



Florida Medallion Scholars Award

Other ways to qualify:

- National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists*
- National Hispanic Scholars*
- IB Curriculum with 970 SAT or 20 ACT
- AICE Diploma*
- AICE Curriculum with 970 SAT or 20 ACT
- Home Education, registered with District Grades 11 & 12 and 1070 SAT or 23 ACT
- GED meeting the coursework, GPA and test score Requirements
- 3-year Standard College Preparatory Program meeting the coursework, GPA and test score Requirements

* Who have not completed 75 community service hours



Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award

- GPAs
 - 3.0 weighted GPA in the core credits required for graduation
 - 3.5 unweighted GPA in 3 vocational credits in one vocational program



Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award

- Required Credits (4-year diploma)
 - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
 - 3 Math* (including Algebra I)
 - 3 Natural Science
 - 3 Social Science (American Government, World History, American History, and Economics)
 - 1 Practical Arts or Performing Arts OR .5 in each
 - .5 Life Management Skills*
 - .5 Personal Fitness
 - .5 Physical Education
- *2011 and future high school graduates must earn 4 Math credits and no Life Management

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award

- Test Scores* (Minimum section scores in one test type must be met.)
 - **CPT**
 - 83 Reading
 - 83 Sentence Skills
 - 72 Algebra
 - **SAT Reasoning Test**
 - 440 Critical Reading
 - 440 Math
 - **ACT**
 - 17 English
 - 18 Reading
 - 19 Math

*Test types cannot be mixed and matched.



Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award

Other ways to qualify:

- 3-year Career Preparatory Diploma with 3.0 weighted GPA in 13 core credits required
 - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
 - 3 Math (including Algebra I)
 - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
 - 3 Social Science (American History, American Government, World History, and Economics), and
- 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 vocational credits in one vocational program

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award

Other ways to qualify, continued:

- 3-year College Preparatory Diploma with 3.0 weighted GPA using 15 core credits required
 - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
 - 3 Math (including Algebra I level and above)
 - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
 - 3 Social Science (American History, American Government, World History, and Economics)
 - 2 Foreign Language (in the same language), and
- 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 vocational credits in one vocational program



Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award

Other ways to qualify, continued:

- GED with 3.0 weighted GPA in core credits for selected HS graduation option (standard, career, or college), and
- 3.5 unweighted GPA in 3 vocational credits in one vocational program



Award Amounts

Public and Private Institutions in Florida

- Students will receive the specified award amounts established annually by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.
- There is no longer a college-related expense allowance for the FAS award.
- Funding begins the **fall** following high school graduation.
- For current year award amounts visit:
www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm



Academic Top Scholars Award

- One FAS Award Recipient per County
- Ranked on BF GPA and SAT/ACT Score
- Established annually by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act, in addition to the Florida Academic Scholars award, prorated by term and hours
- Determined end of fall term following HS graduation and after term one disbursements
- Students and High School notified in November



General Eligibility Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen as determined by your postsecondary institution
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution
- Begin using the scholarship funds within three years of high school graduation (unless you enlist in the military)
- Must graduate from a Florida public high school or FDOE-registered private high school (for GED, Out-of-State & Home Education exceptions see www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf)
- Must not be found guilty of, or plead no contest to, a felony charge
- Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours



How to Apply

- Students must complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) **before high school graduation**, or forever forfeit BF eligibility
- FFAA closes August 31
- Submit **ONE** application – update as needed using your FFAA security (User ID and PIN)
- www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

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

Eligibility Evaluations

Completed twice a year:

- After 7th semester/mid-year (fall term) based on:
 - coursework completed,
 - coursework in progress for spring semester, and
 - test scores for tests taken through January 31.
- After 8th semester (graduation) based on:
 - coursework completed, and
 - test scores for all tests taken through June 30.

NOTE: Tests taken after January 31 will not be considered until the evaluation of the final transcript. Your final transcript must also show the coursework and GPA requirement has been met.

Eligibility Notifications

- Mid-year (7th semester) begin March
- Final (8th semester) begin
 - June - for tests taken through April for **FAS awardees only**
 - August - for tests taken through June **for all other awardees)**
- Will be sent by e-mail only
- Students are encouraged to monitor their award status online.



Track your Progress

- Public high school students – Visit www.FACTS.org and choose “High School Students” from the main menu, and then “Check Bright Futures Scholarship Eligibility.”
- Private high school students – Ask your guidance counselor for a copy of your Bright Futures Student Evaluation Report and Key.



Check Your Status

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf



In 1997, the Florida Legislature created the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. This Florida Lottery-funded scholarship rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding for them to pursue postsecondary educational and career goals in Florida.

Students: Activate Your User ID and PIN
Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state financial aid!

Students should regularly check online:

1. to update contact information,
2. to view all communications from OSFA, and
3. to view the status of their application and awards.

Use the **Check Your Status** tool immediately below to login using your User ID and PIN.



Assisting Students With Their Future



Student Report Cards

Section 1009.531 (4), *Florida Statutes*

Public high school student report cards must contain a disclosure that the grade point average calculated for purposes of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program may differ from the grade point average on the report card.

Questions?





For More Information

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf

Toll-free 1-888-827-2004

E-mail – OSFA@fldoe.org



Thank you!

Assisting Students With Their Future