



# 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 (7<sup>th</sup> semester) eligibility
    - June 30 for final (8<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> semester) eligibility
    - June 30 for final (8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> semester) begin March
- Final (8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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.



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# 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](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf)

Toll-free 1-888-827-2004

E-mail – OSFA@fldoe.org



Thank you!

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