



# FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS 2010

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program has helped more than 379,000 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 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.

*Activate your User ID & PIN -*

*Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state financial aid!*

## 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?

*New!*

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 (prorated if the student does not attend college full time) 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.

## 2011 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES (FRESHMEN ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL IN 2007-08)

### Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) Award

*New!*

In addition to the other requirements, students pursuing a 4-year diploma must earn a weighted 3.0 GPA using the 16 core credits required for high school graduation.

- 4 English
- 4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
  - 1 American History
  - 1 World History
  - .5 American Government
  - .5 Economics
- 1 Fine Art or Practical Art
- 1 Physical Education (to include integration of health)

## Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) Awards

**New!** In addition to the other requirements, students must earn the minimum required weighted GPA in the following required 16 credits of college preparatory coursework.

- 4 English
- 4 Mathematics\*\* (Algebra I level and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)

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Students may use up to 2 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above as well as AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA.

\*\*For 2011 and 2012 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 graduates, these courses will revert to the traditional one credit per sequence for SUS Admissions and FAS/FMS eligibility.

**New!** The 2009 Florida Legislature passed SB 1696 which permits each university's Board of Trustees to establish a tuition differential for undergraduate courses. This tuition differential (or institutional fees) will not be covered by Bright Futures.

\* To qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you must graduate 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 Web site for specific requirements.



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

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 year 2010.

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Initial Eligibility Requirements For Year 2010 High School Applicants

Initial Eligibility Requirements must be met prior to graduation from a Florida public high school or a registered FDOE private high school. Students must apply by submitting an **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application** at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) 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)

#### 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.

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

#### 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

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.)

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

(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)

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

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

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

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

#### 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

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

75 hours, as approved by the district or private school

No requirement

No requirement

### 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.

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.)

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.)

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

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

## Other Ways to Qualify

Initial eligibility criteria used in "Other Ways to Qualify" must be met by high school graduation. Contact the Bright Futures office for further details.

## Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)

- The other ways to qualify listed below must also include the community service hours requirement.
- National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists
  - National Hispanic Scholars
  - IB Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)
  - Students who have completed the IB Curriculum with best composite score of 1270 SAT or 28 ACT
  - AICE Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)
  - Students who have completed the AICE Curriculum with best composite score of 1270 SAT or 28 ACT
  - 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 1270 SAT or 28 ACT
  - GED with best composite score of 1270 SAT or 28 ACT and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 15 required credits
  - 3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of 1270 SAT or 28 ACT and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 15 required credits

## Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)

- National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists and National Hispanic Scholars who have not completed 75 hours of community service
- Students who have completed the IB Curriculum with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT
- AICE Diploma Recipients who have not completed 75 hours of community service
- Students who have completed the AICE Curriculum with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT
- 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 combined score of 1070 SAT or 23 ACT
- OR**
- Have a best combined score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT with a weighted 3.0 GPA in the above 15 required credits (documented through Florida public, FDOE-registered private, FLVS or dual enrollment transcripts)
- GED with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 15 required credits
- 3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 15 required credits

## Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)

The other ways to qualify listed below must also include a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 vocational credits in one vocational program and minimum test scores listed above.

- **3-year Career Preparatory Diploma\*\*** with 3.0 weighted GPA using the 13 core credits required for graduation listed below
  - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
  - 3 Mathematics (including Algebra I)
  - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
  - 3 Social Science (Am. Hist., World Hist., Am. Govt., and Economics)

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 13 Credits
- **3-year College Preparatory Diploma** with 3.0 weighted GPA using the 15 core credits required for graduation listed below
  - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
  - 3 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)
  - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
  - 3 Social Science (Am. Hist., World Hist., Am. Govt., and Economics)
  - 2 Foreign Language (in same language)

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 15 Credits
- **GED** with 3.0 weighted GPA using the core credits required for your selected high school graduation option (standard, career, or college)

### \*\*Note:

For other diploma options established by legislative sessions, visit [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm)