



Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Initial Eligibility

Presented By
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School Counselor

State Scholarship and Grant Programs



Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs

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First-Time Applicants

Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first [Create a Student Account](#). After logging into your account, you may proceed to complete the FFAA.

Eligible Institutions

High Schools:

Verify if your high school is a participating Florida public or private high school.

Postsecondary Institutions:

Verify if the postsecondary institution you are planning to attend is eligible to disburse state aid.

NOTE: We recommend downloading the newest version of your preferred browser for the best experience. (Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Safari)

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

[Benacquisto Scholarship Program \(FAQ\)](#)

[Bright Futures Scholarship*](#)

[Effective Access to Student Education](#)

[First Generation Matching Grant](#)

[Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship*](#)

[Florida Student Assistance Grant
- Career Education](#)

[Florida Work Experience Program](#)

[Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program](#)

[José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant*](#)

[Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship](#)

[Minority Teacher Education Scholarship](#)

[Ocoee Scholarship Program](#)

[Rosewood Family Scholarship*](#)

[Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans* \(Award Amounts\)](#)

APPLICATIONS

[Florida Financial Aid Application \(FFAA\)](#)
[Reinstatement/Restoration Application](#)
[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
[Document Upload](#)

REPORTS

[Annual Report to the Commissioner - \(Archives\)](#)
[End-of-Year Reports - \(Archives\)](#)
[Bright Futures Statistical Reports](#)

RESOURCES

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[Financial Aid Terms and Definitions](#)
[Money for College Brochure](#)
[Navigating Your Financial Future](#)
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STATUTES AND RULES

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Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program



Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs

HOME Login



The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes lottery-funded scholarships to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement.



Bright Futures Student Handbook



- Requirements for Scholarship Types (FAS, FMS, GSC, GSV)
- Non-Traditional Students (home-educated, GED, mid-year, out-of-state)



- Length of Scholarship Award
- Award Amounts ([BFFAS/BFFMS Private](#))
- Transferring the Scholarship between Institutions



- Renewal Requirements
- Reinstatement/Restoration Requirements



- [Florida Academic Scholarship \(FAS\)](#)
- [Florida Medallion Scholarship \(FMS\)](#)
- [Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship \(GSC\)](#)
- [Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship \(GSV\)](#)



- [Bright Futures Brochure](#)
- [Bright Futures Course Table \(BFCT\)](#)
- [Bright Futures Credit Hour Renewal Requirement Interactive Tool](#)

APPLICATIONS

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Postsecondary Eligibility Requirements

Florida Department of Education | Office of Student Financial Assistance | 325 W. Gaines St, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400 | (888) 827 - 2004 | osfa@fldoe.org

General Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and a U. S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during senior year of high school beginning October 1, but no later than August 31 after high school graduation
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma, or its equivalent, from a Florida public high school or a registered private high school

General Requirements (Continued)

- Not have been found guilty of, or pled *nolo contendere* to, a felony charge
- Be accepted by and enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institution within five years of high school graduation
- Enroll in at least six non-remedial semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term

Bright Futures Scholarship Program Awards

Students may receive funding for ONE of the award levels:

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

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) Award Requirements

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT [®] /CLT [®] /SAT [®])	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2023-24 Graduates: 29/96/1340 2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2023-24 Graduates: 25/84/1210 2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

¹ The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002. Additional information regarding high school coursework can be found within the [Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook](#).

This is a snippet of a Bright Futures Report.

It shows which courses and grades are being used to calculate the Bright Futures GPA.

Because this student has a higher grade in his additional math course, the ADV TOPICS IN MATH is not used for BF eligibility.

AMER SIGN LANG 1	EL	0.50	B		FL - 1.50
AMER SIGN LANG 1	EL	0.50	B		FL - 1.50
#AMER SIGN LANG 2	EL	0.50	B		FL - 1.50
#AMER SIGN LANG 2	EL	0.50	B		FL - 1.50
#AMER SIGN LANG 3 HON	EL	0.50	D	*	
#AMER SIGN LANG 3 HON	EL	0.50	C	*	
INTENSIVE READ	EL	0.00			
INTENSIVE READ	EL	0.00			
ENG HON 1	EN	0.50	B	*	EN - 1.75
ENG HON 1	EN	0.50	B	*	EN - 1.75
ENG HON 2	EN	0.50	A	*	EN - 2.25
ENG HON 2	EN	0.50	A	*	EN - 2.25
ENG HON 3	EN	0.50	C	*	EN - 1.25
ENG HON 3	EN	0.50	C	*	EN - 1.25
ENG 4	EN	0.00			EN - 0.00
ENG 4	EN	0.00			EN - 0.00
ERTH/SPA SCI	EQ	0.50	A		SC - 2.00
ERTH/SPA SCI	EQ	0.50	A		SC - 2.00
CHEMISTRY 1	EQ	0.50	D		SC - 0.50
CHEMISTRY 1	EQ	0.50	C		SC - 1.00
GEOMETRY	GE	0.50	B		MA - 1.50
GEOMETRY	GE	0.50	B		MA - 1.50
PROB STAT W/APPS HON	MA	0.50	C	*	MA - 1.25
PROB STAT W/APPS HON	MA	0.50	B	*	MA - 1.75
ADV TOPICS IN MATH	MA	0.50	C		
ADV TOPICS IN MATH	MA	0.50	C		
ALG 2	MA	0.50	B		MA - 1.50
ALG 2	MA	0.50	B		MA - 1.50
HOPE	PE	0.50	B		
HOPE	PE	0.50	B		
2-D STUDIO ART 1	PF	0.50	A		
2-D STUDIO ART 1	PF	0.50	A		
WORLD HISTORY	WH	0.50	A		SS - 2.00
WORLD HISTORY	WH	0.50	A		SS - 2.00

How do I see my child's Bright Futures Report?

BHS School Counselors will provide a paper copy to each junior and senior during scheduled classroom lessons.

- *It is NOT viewable in HAC.*
- *It CANNOT be emailed.*
- *These reports are NOT continuously updated.*

- Bright Futures GPA is **NOT** the same as report card or transcript GPA.
- Bright Futures **weighs** honors, AP, AICE, and dual enrollment classes **equally** with 0.5 per credit earned!
- Bright Futures will also accept two additional academic electives toward the GPA calculation if it **benefits** the student.



Grade Point Average

Evaluation for Bright Futures includes an unrounded, weighted high school Grade Point Average (GPA) (calculated to two decimal places) in the 16 college-preparatory credits.

The following courses are weighted .25 per semester course or .50 per year course in calculation of the GPA:

- Honors
- Dual Enrollment
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Pre-International Baccalaureate (Pre-IB)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Pre-Advance International Certificate of Education (Pre-AICE)
- Advance International Certificate of Education (AICE)

College Entrance Exams (ACT/SAT)

Tests taken through August 31 of high school graduation year are accepted for evaluation purposes.

Students will be evaluated based on official test scores from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) repository. To ensure OSFA obtains official test scores:

- Ensure demographics on test registration and high school transcript match; and
- Request official single-sitting test scores (not superscore) be sent to one of Florida's 12 state universities, when registering for the ACT/SAT, even if the student plans to attend an institution which is not a state university.


Service Hours

- Students are responsible for submitting documentation of paid work hours or service hours.
- Students are allowed to combine paid work hours and community service hours to count towards the requirement for the Bright Futures Scholarship.
- Make a copy of all completed forms for your records.





Paystub or Letter

 **Westminster Woods on Julington Creek**
25 State Road 13, Jacksonville, FL 32259 Phone: 904-287-7300 | Fax: 904-287-7303 | WestminsterRetirement.com


To whom it may concern:

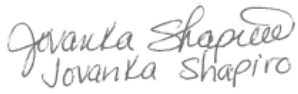
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek is a not-for-profit community service organization dedicated to providing services for older adults. Our facility offers numerous volunteer opportunities. We are pleased to verify service hours required by school and religious organizations. It is, however, the standard of this organization that we will not allow persons to serve court ordered community service in any of our communities.


Duck Shapiro graciously contributed his/her time. The staff and residents of Westminster Woods on Julington Creek wish to extend our appreciation for the work, which this volunteer has performed.

Date/s 7/3/14 - 8/8/14

Hours Worked 39

Sincerely,

Pamela Benfer
Director of Volunteers
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek
(904) 287-7181


Jovanka Shapiro

 **Quality First**
Bradenton / Cocoa / Daytona Beach / Ft. Lauderdale / Ft. Walton Beach / Jacksonville / Orlando / Pensacola / St. Petersburg / Tallahassee / Winter Park

Reflection Log

St. Johns County Student Community Service Plan

All non-optional lines on this form must be completed before the service plan is submitted for hours.

Student Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Date(s) of Service Activity/Work: _____

Social/Civic Issue/Professional Area Addressing with Service Activity (Optional): _____

Service Organization/Business: _____

Description of Volunteer/Paid Work Activity: _____

Reflection on Service Activity/Work

Attach the organization's letter on letterhead to this page for volunteer hours or a copy of your pay stub for work hours. Complete the reflection below and submit to your school counselor/designee by your graduation date. *Note: Ideally, students submit hours at least after each year in high school rather than saving them all until the end of high school.*

What impact did your service have on the social/civic issue/professional area that you identified (Optional)? _____

Identify one way the service activity/paid work could have been improved. _____

What was your favorite part of volunteering/working? _____

Would you recommend this activity/job to other students? Circle One: Yes No

I affirm that I have performed the service activity/job, meeting all requirements outlined in St. Johns County Community Service Guidelines. I understand that if I am found to have given false testimony about these hours that the hours will be revoked and endanger my eligibility for the Bright Futures Scholarship.

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Service Hours

- Student provides letterhead or pay stub and [reflection log](#) to Ms. Davis with all required signatures included.
- Please allow 1 week for hours to be updated. Students may check their hours by logging in to HAC and clicking on the registration tab.



Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC) Award Requirements

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit
- Complete 30 service hours

Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)

GSC may be funded if enrolled in a career education or certificate program.

Upon completion of an associate in science degree program that articulates to a bachelor of science degree, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor of science degree program.

Upon completion of an associate in applied science program, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor of applied science degree program.

Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) Award Requirements

- Achieve the required weighted minimum 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses
- Take at least 3 full credits in a single Career and Technical Education program
- Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the career education courses
- Achieve the required minimum score on the ACT[®], SAT[®] or Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) exams
- Complete 30 service hours

Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) Award Requirements (Continued)

Required minimum score table:

Exam Type	Sub-test	Required Score
ACT®	Reading	19
	English	17
	Mathematics	19
SAT®	Reading Test	24
	Writing and Language Test	25
	Math Test	24
P.E.R.T. (Only applies to the GSV Scholarship)	Reading	106
	Writing	103
	Mathematics	114

Required test scores follow those established by [State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.0315](#).

Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)

GSV Scholars awards may only be used at postsecondary institutions that offer:

- Applied Technology Diploma
- Technical Degree Education Program (associate in applied science or associate in science)
- Career Education Certificate Program

9TH GRADE

**What should
students do
now to
qualify for a
Bright
Futures
Scholarship?**

- Keep up with course work and establish a good high school GPA.
- Get involved in your school and community.
- Submit service/paystub hours and reflection log to Ms. Davis in 2nd floor School Counseling Office

10TH GRADE

**What should
students do
now to
qualify for a
Bright
Futures
Scholarship?**

- Keep up with course work and maintain a good GPA.
- Seek out community service opportunities.
- Submit service hours to Ms. Davis in 2nd floor School Counseling office
- Begin researching colleges.
- Begin planning for next year's courses with college and Bright Futures in mind.

11TH GRADE

**What should
students do
now to
qualify for a
Bright
Futures
Scholarship?**

- Keep up with course work and maintain a good GPA.
- Check service/work hours in HAC. You should have at least 100 hours by now.
- Submit service hours to Ms. Davis in 2nd floor School Counseling office
- Schedule meetings with college representatives and ask questions about financial aid and Bright Futures.
- Begin planning for next year's courses with college and Bright Futures in mind.
- Take SAT or ACT and send scores to a Florida public university.

12TH GRADE

What should students do *now* to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship?

- Review your Bright Futures Report.
- See your school counselor if there are any errors on your transcript.
- Take note of what is “Missing” to qualify for each award.
- Take steps to improve your Bright Futures GPA if it is borderline.
- Submit any remaining service hours by winter break.
- Take or re-take SAT or ACT and report your scores to a Florida public university.

12TH GRADE

**What should
students do
now to
qualify for a
Bright
Futures
Scholarship?**

- **APPLY!**
- **APPLY ON OCTOBER 1ST!**
- **DO NOT WAIT TO APPLY!**
- Students do not have to be eligible for Bright Futures to apply. You can apply now and become eligible by graduation.
- **You will NOT be eligible if you do not APPLY!**



Bright Futures Evaluation Process and Award Notification

Evaluation Periods

- There are two evaluation periods:
 - Early Evaluation
 - Final Evaluation
- Transcripts should be submitted within 30 days of the end of each semester

Early Evaluation

Students cannot lose an award based on early evaluation unless they fail to earn a standard Florida high school diploma from a Florida public or FDOE-registered private high school.

Early Evaluation is based on:

- Required coursework and GPA through 7th semester
- Coursework in progress for 8th semester
- Service hours earned through January 31
- Test scores for tests taken through January 31

Final Evaluation

Final Evaluation is based on:

- All required coursework and GPA completed by high school graduation
- Service hours completed by a high school graduation
- Test scores for all tests taken through June 30 of high school graduation year
- High school graduation date associated with earning a standard high school diploma

Eligibility Notifications – Senior Year

- Upon creation of a Student Account, students will receive a User Name and Password.
- Students must check their online account for award notices – **students are responsible for keeping their demographic information updated and tracking their application and award status.**
- OSFA will post official award eligibility or ineligibility determinations to student online accounts.
- Students awarded IB or AICE Diplomas will receive notifications of eligibility determination in early fall after a list of AICE and IB Diploma recipients has been received. **These students must have filled out a FFAA prior to August 31 to receive the award.**

Award Amounts

- FAS scholars attending a public institution will receive an award to cover 100% of tuition and specific fees.
- FMS scholars attending a public institution will receive an award to cover 75% of tuition and specific fees.
 - **(New)** Beginning with the fall 2021 term, FMS students attending a Florida College System institution (28 State/Community Colleges) who enroll in an associate degree program will receive an award to cover 100% of tuition and specific fees.

Award Amounts (Continued)

- FAS and FMS students attending a nonpublic institution will receive a comparable amount as noted in the Private Award Chart accessible through the Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 2, page 4
<https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter2.pdf>
- For the GSC and GSV awards, students will receive the specified award amounts established annually by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.
- For current year award amounts, visit
<https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN>



Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

Application Dates

- The *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) for current high school seniors seeking funding for the 2024-25 academic year is open from **October 1, 2023** through **August 31, 2024**
- For Bright Futures eligibility consideration, students must complete the FFAA no later than **August 31** after graduation
- Students must complete the FFAA no later than **April 1** before graduation for:
 - José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant (JM)
 - Rosewood Family Scholarship (RFS)
 - Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased of Disabled Veterans (CSDDV)*
 - Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship (FFSS)
 - Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program (OCOE)

**CSDDV applications will be accepted after April 1; however, may not receive priority funding due to being a late applicant*

www.FLDOE.org

For More Information

- Visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org
- Contact Customer Service at 888-827-2004
- Email OSFA@fldoe.org
- www.FloridaStudentFinancailAid.org/FASTER/
- FSTR@fldoe.org

Pedro Hernandez

Outreach Director

850-245-1821

Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org



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