

2016-17

Bright Futures Student Handbook

Chapter 2: What You Need to Know Now
that You are Eligible



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Table of Contents

College Notification	2
Postsecondary Enrollment Requirements	2
Length of the Scholarship Award	3
Award Amounts	4
Scholarship Funding.....	5
Scholarship Restrictions/Limitations	5
Summer Funding	5
Dropping or Withdrawing from Course(s) after Drop/Add	5
Same-term Funding at Two Different Postsecondary Institutions.....	6
Use of the Scholarship for a Partial Academic Year	6
Transferring the Scholarship between Institutions	6
Graduate School Funding	6
Website Addresses	6

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is governed by the following statutes and rule.

Florida Statutes	s. 1009.53 – s. 1009.538
State Board of Education Rule	6A-20.028

These requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

College Notification

Notification of a student's award will be made available to eligible postsecondary institution(s) via a secured internet directory of eligible students when a student's award status is official.

If the eligible Florida postsecondary institution the student plans to attend is different from the one listed on the student's Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA), the student will need to update his or her institution online. This may be accomplished by logging into the online account and accessing the [Financial Aid Recipient History](#) screen or by calling toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

A list of eligible postsecondary institutions is available for viewing on the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) [website](#).

Postsecondary Enrollment Requirements

- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution after high school graduation.
- Enroll for a minimum of six non-remedial semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term in a program of study by the end of the drop/add period.

(A student who has fewer than six total hours remaining on his/her scholarship or needs fewer than six hours to complete the first associate or baccalaureate degree, may enroll and receive funding for less than six hours.)

- If not funded in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, apply within two years of high school graduation to have the award reinstated.

(Please refer to 'Reinstatement Requirement' section of Chapter 3 for more information regarding the reinstatement process.)

Length of the Scholarship Award

Students graduating high school in 2012-13 and thereafter who did not receive funding immediately following high school graduation must apply within two years after high school graduation to reinstate the award. A Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) or Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS) may receive funding for up to five years from high school graduation for a maximum of 120 semester hours (or equivalent) toward the completion of a certificate or a first baccalaureate degree. This also applies to students in 3/2 programs who are classified as an undergraduate. Extended hours of funding are available to FAS and FMS students enrolled in a single program of study requiring more than 120 hours by submitting the following application, "[Extended Hours Application](#)."

Please refer to the following table for program length specifications.

High School Graduation Year	Number of FAS/FMS Hours Funding Available	Number of <u>GSV</u> Hours Funding Available ¹	Number of Years to Reinstate an Initial Award	Duration of Funding Available ²
2012-13 and thereafter	100% of program of study	100% of program of study, up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 hours (<i>AS, AAS, CCC, or PSAV's</i>) • 60 hours (<i>ATD's</i>) 	Within 2 years of graduating from high school	Up to 5 years from high school graduation
2011-12	100% of program of study	100% of program of study, up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 hours (<i>AS, AAS, CCC, or PSAV's</i>) • 60 hours <i>ATD's</i>) 	Within 3 years of graduating from high school	Up to 5 years from high school graduation
2010-11	100% of program of study	100% of program of study, up to 90 credit hours	Within 3 years of graduating from high school	Up to 5 years from high school graduation
2009-10	100% of program of study	100% of program of study, up to 90 credit hours	Within 3 years of graduating from high school	Up to 7 years from high school graduation

¹ Beginning with the 2016-17 high school graduates, students who earn a Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) award and attain an AS or AAS degree may receive an additional 60 hours of funding toward a qualifying BS or BAS degree program.

² For students graduating high school in 2010-11 and thereafter, if annual renewal requirements were not met due to a verifiable illness or other documented emergency (as reported by the postsecondary institution), an exception of one academic year to the renewal timeframe may be granted if a course of study is not completed after five academic years.

Award Amounts

Scholarship award amounts are set in the General Appropriations Act each year. Recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour based on award level, institution type, and credit type.

2016-17 Bright Futures Scholarship Per Hour Award Amounts			
	Credit Hour Award		Clock Hour Award
	Semester	Quarter	
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)			
4 Year	\$103	\$69	
2 Year	\$63	\$42	\$2.10
Florida Public Colleges – Baccalaureate Programs	\$71		
Career / Technical Centers	\$52	\$35	\$1.73
Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)			
4 Year	\$77	\$51	
2 Year	\$63	\$42	\$2.10
Florida Public Colleges – Baccalaureate Programs	\$53		
Career / Technical Centers	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) – 2011-12 HS Graduates and later*			
Career Certificate Program (PSAV)	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
Applied Technology Diploma Program (ATD)	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
Technical Degree Education Program (AS, AAS, CCC)	\$48	\$32	\$1.60
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) – 2010-11 HS Graduates and earlier			
4 Year	\$77	\$51	
2 Year	\$63	\$42	\$2.10
Florida Public Colleges / Baccalaureate Programs	\$53		
Career / Technical Centers	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
*GSV Initial students, as of 2012-13, and Initials and Renewals thereafter, are ONLY eligible to receive funding in these vocational education categories.			

The top Florida Academic Scholar in each district, where the student last attended, is awarded a bonus per credit hour award. Only the Florida Academic Scholars who receive funding at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution during the fall term following high school graduation are considered for the bonus award. Florida Academic Scholars are ranked based on the product of their Bright Futures weighted GPA and their best combined SAT® or composite ACT® test score as reported for their Florida Academic Scholars eligibility.

2016-17 Academic Top Scholars Per Hour Award Amounts			
	Semester	Quarter	Clock
	\$44	\$29	\$1.47

Scholarship Funding

Students do not receive funds directly from the Florida Department of Education. The financial aid office at the eligible Florida postsecondary institution the student attends is responsible for calculating the award and disbursing the funds after the end of the drop/add period each term.

Awards are funded fall through spring terms of each academic year (spring and summer, if the student is enrolled in a spring/summer cohort program at the University of Florida).

The institution determines if study abroad is covered by Bright Futures. The study must be approved by the institution and be a part of the student's program of study.

Scholarship Restrictions/Limitations

- A maximum of 45 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) may be funded in one academic year (fall through spring).
- All hours are paid at the undergraduate rate.
- No remedial course work is funded.
- GSV awards may only be used at postsecondary institutions that offer an applied technology diploma, technical degree education program (associate in applied science or associate in science), or a career certificate program.

Summer Funding

Unless otherwise mentioned, Bright Futures awards are not available for the summer term.

Students enrolled in the spring/summer cohort at University of Florida who are eligible to receive Bright Futures Scholarships can receive the scholarship in the spring and summer terms but will not receive the scholarship for attendance during the fall term.

Dropping or Withdrawing from Course(s) after Drop/Add

A student must reimburse the postsecondary institution for the cost of course(s) dropped or withdrawn after the initial drop/add period. The student will be ineligible to renew his/her Bright Futures award for any subsequent academic year until repayment or a satisfactory arrangement to reimburse the institution is made. After repayment, those hours are returned to the student's hours remaining for funding purposes.

Due to verifiable illness or emergency, a student may make a written appeal to the home postsecondary institution for hours dropped or withdrawn after the last day of the drop/add period.

Same-term Funding at Two Different Postsecondary Institutions

If a student plans to take coursework at a postsecondary institution other than the student's home postsecondary institution (where the student is enrolled as degree- or certificate-seeking), he/she must notify the financial aid office at his/her home institution. The home postsecondary institution is the one from which Bright Futures funds are disbursed and grades and hours reported for that term. Both the home postsecondary institution and the institution where the student is enrolled as a transient student must be eligible Bright Futures institutions.

Use of the Scholarship for a Partial Academic Year

A student may choose to enroll and receive Bright Futures funding for only one term during the academic year. Renewal criteria include completion of a minimum of 12 semester hours (or the equivalent) per term funded for a full-time student or a prorated number of credit hours for a part-time student and the minimum institutional cumulative GPA requirement. (See renewal requirements in Chapter 3.)

Transferring the Scholarship between Institutions

Awarded students may receive Bright Futures funding only at eligible Florida postsecondary institutions. A student may login to access the online system or call OSFA toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 to transfer the scholarship to another eligible Florida postsecondary institution. To receive timely disbursements, OSFA must be notified of institution changes by August 15 for Term 1 (fall), December 15 for Term 2 (spring), and February 15 for Term 3.

Graduate School Funding

A FAS or FMS scholarship recipient, who graduates with a baccalaureate degree in seven or fewer semesters, or in 105 semester hours or fewer, may receive funding for one semester of graduate study, not to exceed 15 credit hours paid at the undergraduate rate. Graduate school funding must be used within the student's five year award timeframe (within five years from high school graduation).

Website Addresses

Financial Aid Recipient History	https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/disb/SAWMELGaudit.asp
Eligible Postsecondary Institutions	https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/admin/SAWELIGPSI_ByProg.asp
Extended Hours Application	http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/pdf/BF_EXTHRS_Application.pdf
