

2009-10 High School Graduates

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Regarding Changes to Your Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

*Please read this notice carefully so that you fully understand the changes to
Bright Futures and how they affect you.*

To All Initial Bright Futures Recipients:

The 2011 Florida Legislature passed legislation requiring all Bright Futures eligible students to file the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) annually. The Florida State Programs deadline of May 15 does not apply to Bright Futures.

The 2010 Florida Legislative Session resulted in several changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program which affects your eligibility and use of the scholarship. These changes are still in effect and are outlined below along with some of the important changes made during the 2009 Florida Legislative Session. Additional information regarding the changes summarized below is available on the website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf.

Award Amounts

Students will continue to receive a flat cost per credit hour award during the **2011-12** academic year. Link here for the [2011-12 Bright Futures award amounts](#).

Bright Futures awards may be prorated if the appropriation is not sufficient to cover the full cost of the awards.

Dropped/Withdrawn Courses

Students must continue to refund the cost of any **dropped or withdrawn** Bright Futures funded course to the institution. Dropped/withdrawn courses may affect your renewal eligibility. Please visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/renewpg.htm for additional renewal information.

Hours of Funding Available

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) who graduate from high school in the 2009-10 academic year and thereafter are eligible to receive funding for up to 100% of their program of study, up to 120 credit hours.

Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) who graduate from high school in the 2009-10 academic year and thereafter are eligible to receive funding for up to 100% of their program of study, up to 90 credit hours.

Restoration

- 2009-10 high school graduates eligible for a Bright Futures award who lose the award due to an insufficient GPA during the student's first year of funding will be permitted a one-time restoration opportunity.
- Students who DO NOT meet the minimum earned hours requirement upon renewal (end of spring term) will NOT be permitted a restoration opportunity.
- Students who fail to meet the minimum GPA requirement after their first year of funding will NOT be permitted a restoration opportunity.

Please visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/restorepg.htm for additional restoration information.

Graduate Study

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) who complete their baccalaureate degree in the 2010-11 academic year or after in 7 semesters or fewer (or the equivalent in credit hours) may receive funding for 1 term of graduate study, not to exceed 15 semester hours, paid at the undergraduate rate.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact our office toll-free at 1-888-827-2004. Please visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf for additional information regarding recent changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Sincerely,

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program