

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## **Regarding Changes to Your Florida Bright Futures Scholarship**

The 2009 Florida Legislative Session resulted in several changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for the 2009-10 academic year. Additional information regarding the changes summarized below will be available on the Web site at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf) after July 1.

### **2009-10 Awards**

- Bright Futures recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour award based on:
  - award level [Florida Academic Scholar (FAS), Academic Top Scholars (ATS) Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS), or Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GSV)],
  - institution type (4-year, 2-year, or Vocational/Technical), and
  - credit type (semester, quarter, or clock hour).
- See the award amounts on the Bright Futures Web site at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/newsrenew.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/newsrenew.htm)

### **Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) Expense Allowance is No Longer Available**

- The FAS college-related expense allowance is no longer available. The Florida Legislature amended Section 1009.534(2), Florida Statutes, by removing this provision of the FAS award.

**Important!!**

### **Repayment for Courses funded by Bright Futures that are Dropped/Withdrawn**

**Important!!**

- Students will be required to repay the cost of any course dropped or withdrawn unless an exception is recommended by the financial aid office at their home postsecondary institution.
  - An exception will be based on a verifiable illness or emergency beyond the student's control.
- Repayment for the cost of dropped or withdrawn courses is required to renew a Bright Futures award for a subsequent academic year.

### **Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) Remain GSV**

- The Legislature removed the provision which allowed GSV recipients to renew as Florida Medallion Scholars.
- GSV students may receive funding for up to 90 semester hours.

**Important!!**

### **Renewal Criteria**

**Important!!**

- As of the 2009-10 academic year, Bright Futures recipients are required to meet new minimum credit hour requirements to renew their award each year. The Florida Legislature now requires **full-time** students to earn at least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours, to renew their award (prorated for part-time students) at the end of the spring term.
- **The chart below outlines the new credit hour requirement for students funded in 2009-10 and thereafter.**

## Bright Futures Credit Hour Renewal Requirements

Institution Term Type	Credit Hour Type	Student Funded (per term)	Required Earned Hours (per term)
<b>Semester</b>	Semester Hour	<b>12+ Hours</b> (Full-Time)	12
		<b>9-11 Hours</b> (Three-Quarter Time)	9
		<b>6-8 Hours</b> (Half-Time)	6
	Clock Hour	<b>360+ Hours</b> (Full-Time)	360
		<b>270-359 Hours</b> (Three-Quarter Time)	270
		<b>180-269 Hours</b> (Half-Time)	180
<b>Quarter</b>	Quarter Hour	<b>12+ Hours</b> (Full-Time)	12
		<b>9-11 Hours</b> (Three-Quarter Time)	9
		<b>6-8 Hours</b> (Half-Time)	6
	Clock Hour	<b>240+ Hours</b> (Full-Time)	240
		<b>180-239 Hours</b> (Three-Quarter Time)	180
		<b>120-179 Hours</b> (Half-Time)	120
<b>Quinmester</b>	Clock Hour	<b>180+ Hours</b> (Full-Time)	180
		<b>135-179 Hours</b> (Three-Quarter Time)	135
		<b>90-134 Hours</b> (Half-Time)	90

### Restoration

- Bright Futures recipients who do not meet the new credit hour renewal requirements will have the opportunity to restore their award in a subsequent academic year.
- **This applies to students who were funded and did not meet the minimum credit hour renewal requirements at the end of the 2009-10 academic year and thereafter.**

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](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf) after July 1 for additional information regarding recent changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Sincerely,  
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program