



Congratulations!

You have earned a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

To benefit the most from your award, please read the following important scholarship information.

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

To Access your Bright Futures Record

You may access your Florida Bright Futures record using the User ID and PIN issued to you by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) in response to your completed *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA). Visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain. Find **Student Quick Links**, and then select **View Student Financial Aid History** to access your status, disbursement information, and notifications. To retrieve your User ID and PIN, select **Get My User ID and PIN**.

Activate your User ID and PIN-Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state financial aid!

College Notification

- If the eligible Florida postsecondary institution you plan to attend is different from the one you listed on your FFAA, you will need to inform Bright Futures. This may be accomplished online by following the directions above for accessing your Bright Futures history screen or by calling toll-free at 1-888-827-2004. A list of eligible postsecondary institutions is available for viewing on the OSFA website listed above.
- To receive a timely disbursement, indicate the postsecondary institution you will attend by the following dates: Term 1 - August 15, Term 2 - December 15, Term 3 - February 15.

Scholarship Funding

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

Enrollment Requirements

- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, 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 and either receive the first disbursement or apply for reinstatement by the third academic year after high school graduation. Contact the Bright Futures office or view the website for details and deadline dates.
- 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.
- Submit the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) annually. Note: You do not have to indicate need; however, the FAFSA must be complete and processed error free prior to the first

disbursement of your award. (The Florida State Programs May 15 deadline does not apply to Bright Futures.) Visit the website at www.fafsa.ed.gov for online processing.

- **Awards are funded fall through spring terms of each academic year.**
 - Beginning with the 2012-13 academic year, the Florida Legislature established the Innovation Academy at the University of Florida. This is a pilot program which aligns on-campus student enrollment and the availability of instructional facilities. Students enrolled in the Innovation Academy who are eligible to receive Bright Futures Scholarships can receive the scholarship funding in the spring and summer terms but will not receive the scholarship for attendance during the fall term.

Award Amounts

Students receive the specified (cost per credit hour) award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.

The current year award amounts for Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholar (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS), and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GSV) public and private school recipients attending 4-year, 2-year, semester hour, quarter hour, and clock hour institutions may be viewed on the Bright Futures website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/ by selecting **Award Amounts**, under the **Student Quick Links** heading.

Scholarship Limitations

- A maximum of 45 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) may be funded in one academic year, fall, spring (and summer, only if funds are available).
- No remedial course work is funded.
- A student may participate up through five years from high school graduation (if initially funded within three years after high school graduation) or up to completion of a first baccalaureate degree program, **whichever comes first**.
- A student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school will begin the three-year eligibility period for his/her initial award upon the date of separation from active duty. A student who is receiving a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, discontinues enrollment and enlists in the United States Armed Forces, will commence the remainder of the five-year renewal period upon the date of separation from active duty.

Scholarship Length

Available FAS and FMS Hours of Funding

- A student may receive funding for up to 100% of the length for a program of study or 120 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) toward completion of a certificate or first baccalaureate degree, or for up to five years from high school graduation (if the student was initially funded within three years after high school graduation), **whichever comes first**. This also applies to students in 3/2 programs (programs that terminate in the award of a post baccalaureate degree or the simultaneous award of baccalaureate and post baccalaureate degrees) who are classified as undergraduate. Graduate or undergraduate classification is determined by the postsecondary institution.
- If a course of study is not completed after five academic years, an exception of one year to the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable illness or other documented emergency.

Graduate Study for an FAS or FMS Recipient

- An FAS or FMS recipient who graduates with a baccalaureate degree earned in the 2010-11 academic year or thereafter, in seven or fewer semesters, or the equivalent, may receive funding for ONE semester of graduate study, not to exceed 15 credit hours paid at the undergraduate rate.

Available GSV Hours of Funding

- A GSV recipient may receive funding for up to 100% of the number of credit hours required to complete up to a maximum of 90 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) toward completion of a career certificate (or first baccalaureate degree),
or
- A GSV recipient may receive funding up to five years from high school graduation (if the student was initially funded within three years after high school graduation), **whichever comes first**.
- If a course of study is not completed after five academic years, an exception of one year to the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable illness or other documented emergency.

Scholarship Renewal

Renewal Requirements

- A student who receives funding during the current academic year (fall through spring) is automatically evaluated for renewal at the end of the spring term. Renewal cumulative GPA and hours requirements are outlined in the table below.
- The postsecondary institution where a student is enrolled as degree- or certificate-seeking is the home postsecondary institution. The home postsecondary institution determines the courses to be included in each student's renewal postsecondary institutional cumulative GPA.
- A student may request that a financial aid officer at the home postsecondary institution use high school dual enrollment courses if it is an advantage when calculating the renewal postsecondary institutional cumulative GPA.
- A student who does not meet, upon renewal evaluation (end of spring term), the annual minimum renewal GPA requirement **in the first year of funding** will be permitted a one-time restoration. A student who does not meet the minimum earned hours requirement, upon renewal evaluation (end of spring term), during the first year of funding will be **terminated** from the scholarship. A student who fails to meet the minimum GPA requirement after the first year of funding will be **terminated** from the scholarship.

	Florida Academic Scholars Award	Florida Medallion Scholars Award	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award
Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded & unweighted)	3.0*	2.75	2.75
Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Full Time (12+ hours)	12 semester** (earned hours)	12 semester** (earned hours)	12 semester** (earned hours)
Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Three-quarter Time (9-11 hours)	9 semester ** (earned hours)	9 semester** (earned hours)	9 semester** (earned hours)
Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Half Time (6-8 hours)	6 semester ** (earned hours)	6 semester** (earned hours)	6 semester** (earned hours)

*Florida Academic Scholars with 2.75-2.99 will renew as Florida Medallion Scholars.

**Or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours.

- A student must reimburse the postsecondary institution for the cost of Bright Futures funded course(s) dropped or withdrawn after the initial drop/add period. Non-refunded hours may affect the student's renewal eligibility.
- Only after a student's first year of scholarship funding may they use summer courses to meet the scholarship renewal GPA requirements, NOT HOURS. Hours must be earned at the end of the spring term renewal evaluation time period. This is considered the student's one-time restoration opportunity. A student must ask a financial aid officer at the home postsecondary institution (that reported spring renewal grade and hours) to submit an update to the Bright Futures office indicating the adjusted summer cumulative GPA.
- **A student who earned the FMS or GSV award in high school may not renew to the FAS award.** Eligibility for an initial Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award is based on meeting academic course and community service requirements by high school graduation and test score requirements by June 30 of the student's graduation year.

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 includes 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.

Postsecondary Institutional Appeal For Students Who Do Not Meet Renewal Requirements

- The student may request that the **financial aid office at the home postsecondary institution** he/she attended conduct a review of the courses included in the cumulative GPA.
- In the case of illness or emergency beyond the student's control, the student may provide pertinent documentation regarding the illness or emergency to the appropriate home postsecondary institution.
- The home postsecondary institution will review the student's request and send recommendation of approval/denial. Appeal request guidelines may be obtained through the financial aid office of a student's postsecondary institution.
- An institutional academic progress appeal is to be filed within 30 days of the date of the ineligibility notice sent to the student or by the date established by the institution's financial aid office, whichever is later. Ineligibility notices are posted to the student's Financial Aid Recipient History web screen during the summer following spring evaluation.

OSFA, Bright Futures toll-free: 1-888-827-2004

Bright Futures website: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/
