



## **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](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) and select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications, Application Status & Award History**, and then the appropriate option under the **Initial Student Status** heading or the **Initial Student Update** heading to view your status or update your student information. 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 record 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 Web site 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**

**Note: Eligibility for the award begins in the fall term of each academic year.**

- 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 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 Web site 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.

### Award Amounts

**Students will 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 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 Web site at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/](http://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).
- All hours will be paid at the undergraduate rate.
- No remedial course work is funded.
- A student may participate up through seven years from high school graduation (if initially funded within three years after high school graduation) or up to completion of his/her 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 and discontinues his/her education to enlist in the United States Armed Forces will commence the remainder of his/her seven-year renewal period upon the date of separation from active duty.

### Scholarship Length

#### **Available FAS and FMS Hours of Funding**

- A student may receive up to 110% of his/her program of study or 132 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) toward completion of a certificate or first baccalaureate degree, or for up to seven 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. Unused hours may not be used for further course funding after a student earns a baccalaureate degree.
- A student who is in an undergraduate program of study that requires more than 120 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) may apply for an extension of hours for funding up to 110% of his/her particular program of study. The *Application for Extended Hours of Eligibility* will be sent via U.S. mail or e-mail to the student automatically when he/she approaches the last 30 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) of his/her scholarship program.

#### **Available GSV Hours of Funding**

- A student may receive a maximum of 90 semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) toward completion of a certificate or first baccalaureate degree, or for up to seven years from high school graduation (if the student was initially funded within three years after high school graduation), **whichever comes first**.

### 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 his/her high school dual enrollment courses to his/her advantage when calculating the renewal postsecondary institutional cumulative GPA.
- Summer grades and hours completed after spring evaluation may be used if necessary to meet the scholarship renewal requirements. A student must ask a financial aid officer at the home postsecondary institution (that reported his/her spring renewal grades and hours) to submit an update to the Bright Futures office indicating the adjusted GPA and/or hours.

	Florida Academic Scholars Award	Florida Medallion Scholars Award	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award
Minimum Cumulative GPA Required for Renewal (unrounded & unweighted)	3.0*	2.75	2.75
2009-10 Minimum Hours Required Per Term Funded (full time)***	12 semester** (earned hours)	12 semester** (earned hours)	12 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.

\*\*\*Note: Beginning with the 2009-10 academic year, a student must earn at least 24 semester credit hours (or the equivalent) if enrolled full time for the entire academic year. A student enrolled full time (12 or more semester hours or the equivalent) for only one term must earn at least 12 semester hours for that term. If a student is enrolled part time for any part of the academic year, the student must earn a prorated number of credit hours.

- A student enrolled three-quarter time (9-11 semester hours or the equivalent) for a term must earn at least 9 semester hours for that term.
- A student enrolled half-time (6-8 semester hours or the equivalent) for a term must earn at least 6 semester hours for that term.
- See also, [Required Hours for Renewal](#).

A student must reimburse the postsecondary institution for the cost of course(s) dropped or withdrawn after the initial drop/add period. Non-refunded hours may affect the student's renewal eligibility.

- **A student who does not meet the minimum credit hours requirement will lose his/her eligibility for renewal for one academic year.** The student may **apply for restoration** the following academic year after the required hours are earned (for which he/she was enrolled at the level defined by the department) and the required GPA for renewal has been met. This will be the student's **one-time restoration** opportunity. Please visit [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/restorepg.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/restorepg.htm) for complete information on restoring your Bright Futures award.
- **A student who earned the FMS or GSV award in high school may not renew to the FAS award.** A student who earned the GSV award in high school may not renew to the FMS 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.

### **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 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.

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

**Bright Futures Web site: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/)**

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