

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2018 GRADUATES

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education private high school.
- Be accepted by, enroll in a degree or certificate program, and be funded at an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institution within 2 years from the student's year of high school graduation.
(*Students who enlist in the military may defer the commencement of their scholarship. The 2-year eligibility period and 5-year renewal period will commence upon separation from active duty.*)
- Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.
- Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term.

Florida Academic, Medallion and Gold Seal Scholars Awards GPA Calculations for Scholarship Eligibility

The grade point average calculated by the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program evaluation system to determine initial eligibility is based on the weighting of certain courses. The following courses are weighted .25 per semester course or .50 per year course.

- Courses identified in the Course Code Directory as Advanced Placement, Pre-International Baccalaureate, International Baccalaureate, Honors, Pre-Advanced International Certificate of Education (Pre-AICE), or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) or academic Dual Enrollment. For example, whereas an 'A' equals 4 quality points for an unweighted year-long course, an 'A' would equal 4.5 quality points for a weighted year-long course.

If necessary, students may use two additional credits from courses in the above academic areas, or from AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise their GPA.

Deadlines for Meeting Eligibility Requirements

Test score requirements must be met before the end of June of student's graduation year. All other requirements must be met by the date of graduation.

Mid-year Graduates

A mid-year graduate is a student who graduates between September 1st and January 31st of an academic year. The student must submit the *Florida Financial Aid Application* by August 31st PRIOR TO the intended graduation date. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this application deadline. The student must meet the scholarship requirements in effect for the academic year in which he/she graduates. (Example: A December 2014 graduate must meet the 2014-15 scholarship eligibility requirements as well as the general program requirements.)

Service hours completed by high school graduation and test scores for test dates through January 31 will be considered in a mid-year graduate's Final Evaluation. A student's Final transcript evaluation MUST include a graduation date.

If a student does not graduate mid-year as planned and wishes to apply as an end-of-year graduate, the student must submit a *new* FFAA after the application opens on December 1.

FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS AWARD

Specific Requirements for Florida Academic Scholars

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- ◆ Graduate high school from a Florida public high school with a Florida Standard Diploma, graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education private school, earn a GED, complete a Home Education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school (see Out-of-State Students section on the Bright Futures website for more details).
- ◆ Complete 100 hours of documented community service. Students must be a high school student (students are considered a high school student beginning in the summer before 9th grade) and complete the required paperwork, signed and approved by the high school community service designee. These hours must be completed by the date of graduation. (Students who complete the IB curriculum meet the service hour requirement through their IB curriculum.)

In addition, meet one of the following:

- ◆ Earn an unrounded, *weighted* minimum 3.5 GPA using the 16 high school academic courses that are aligned with the State University admission requirements (see High School Course Credits below for specifics) *plus* earn a 1290 SAT or 29 ACT test score; *or*
- ◆ Earn an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma; *or*
- ◆ Complete the IB curriculum *plus* earn a 1290 SAT or 29 ACT test score; *or*
- ◆ Earn the AICE Diploma; *or*
- ◆ Complete the AICE curriculum *plus* earn a 1290 SAT or 29 ACT; *or*
- ◆ Be a National Merit or Achievement Scholar or Finalist, *or*
- ◆ Be a National Hispanic Scholar;

High School Course Credits

For the Florida Academic Scholars, the required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements: 4 English (*three must include substantial writing*); 4 Mathematics (*at or above the Algebra 1 level*); 3 Natural Science (*two must have substantial laboratory*); 3 Social Science and 2 World Language (*sequential in the same language*) The world language requirement can be met by demonstrating proficiencies based on scores on Credit-By-Exam Equivalencies, or other university approved means. Otherwise, the high school transcript must include a world language “completer” course to show that the world language requirement has been met.

Award Level and Length for Florida Academic Scholars

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. Student must be initially funded within two years after high school graduation. A Florida Academic Scholar 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 students enrolled in a single program of study requiring more than 120 hours by submitting an Extended Hours Application (available on the Bright Futures website).

FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS AWARD

Specific Requirements for Florida Medallion Scholars

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- ◆ Graduate high school from a Florida public high school with a Florida Standard Diploma, graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education private school, earn a GED, complete a Home Education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school (see Out-of-State Students section on the Bright Futures website for more details).
- ◆ Complete 75 hours of documented community service. Students must be a high school student (students are considered a high school student beginning in the summer before 9th grade) and complete the required paperwork, signed and approved by the high school community service designee. These hours must be completed by the date of graduation. (Students who complete the IB curriculum meet the service hour requirement through their IB curriculum.)

In addition, meet one of the following:

- ◆ Earn an unrounded, *weighted* minimum 3.0 GPA using the 16 high school academic courses that are aligned with the State University admission requirements (see High School Course Credits below for specifics) *plus* earn a 1170 SAT or 26 ACT test score; *or*
- ◆ Complete the IB curriculum *plus* earn a 1170 SAT or 26 ACT; *or*
- ◆ Earn the AICE diploma; *or*
- ◆ Complete the AICE curriculum *plus* a 1170 SAT or 26 ACT; *or*
- ◆ Be a National Merit or Achievement Scholar or Finalist, *or*
- ◆ Be a National Hispanic Scholar

High School Course Credits

For the Florida Medallion Scholars, the required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements: 4 English (*three must include substantial writing*); 4 Mathematics (*at or above the Algebra 1 level*); 3 Natural Science (*two must have substantial laboratory*); 3 Social Science and 2 World Language (*sequential in the same language*) The world language requirement can be met by demonstrating proficiencies based on scores on Credit-By-Exam Equivalencies, or other university approved means. Otherwise, the high school transcript must include a world language “completer” course to show that the world language requirement has been met.

Award Level and Length for Florida Medallion Scholars

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. Student must be initially funded within two years after

high school graduation. A Florida Medallion Scholar 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 FMS students enrolled in a single program of study requiring more than 120 hours by submitting an Extended Hours Application (available on the Bright Futures website).

FLORIDA GOLD SEAL VOCATIONAL SCHOLARS AWARD

Specific Requirements for Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- ◆ Graduate from high school with a Standard Diploma;
- ◆ Earn an unrounded, weighted minimum 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses;
- ◆ Take at least 3 full credits in a single Career and Technical Education program;
- ◆ Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the career education courses;
- ◆ Complete 30 hours of documented community service. Students must be a high school student (students are considered a high school student beginning in the summer before 9th grade) and complete the required paperwork, signed and approved by the high school community service designee. These hours must be completed by the date of graduation. (Students who complete the IB curriculum meet the service hour requirement through their IB curriculum.)
- ◆ Earn the following scores:

Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) – Reading 106, Writing 103, Math 114, *or*
SAT – Verbal 440, Math 440, *or*

ACT – Reading 19, English 17, Math 19

Award Level and Length for Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars

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. Student must be initially funded within two years after high school graduation and may receive funding for up to five years from high school graduation. 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. Students may be funded for 100% of a program of study, up to:

- 72 hours for Technical Degree Education (AS, AAS, CCC) and Career Certificate Programs (PSAV) programs
- 60 hours for Applied Technology Degree (ATD) programs

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Financial Aid/Florida Bright Futures
Please disregard earlier information sheets

727-588-6013
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The Florida Legislature could change scholarship requirements during any legislative session. For further information and updates, please refer to the Bright Futures website at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm>. Information supplied is the most current at this time.