Bright Futures Scholarship Program and Florida PrePaid College Plan (2015-16)
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements by providing funding to attend postsecondary institutions in Florida.

- There are three award levels
  - Florida Academic Scholar (FAS)
  - Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS)
  - Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GSV)

- There are Grade Point Average, Test Score and Community Service requirements for each level.

- Both the requirements and level of funding are subject to legislative change, and have changed significantly over time.
Bright Futures Basic Eligibility Requirements

- Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen as determined by the postsecondary institution
- Earn standard Florida high school diploma or equivalent from a Florida public high school or FDOE registered private school
- Accepted by, and enrolled in, a degree or certificate program at eligible Florida postsecondary institution within two years of HS graduation
- Enrolled in at least 6 non-remedial semester hours (or equivalent) per term and maintain minimum GPA
- Not guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge
# Bright Futures Academic Eligibility Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>16 High School Course Credits</th>
<th>High School Weighted GPA</th>
<th>College Entrance Exams (ACT®/SAT®)</th>
<th>Service Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| FAS  | 4 - English (three must include substantial writing)  
4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level)  
3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory) | 3.50 | 29/1290 | 100 hours |
| FMS  | 3 - Social Science  
2 - World Language (sequential, in same language) | 3.00 | 26/1170 | 75 hours |

1 The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in regulation 6.002.
2 Home-educated students without official transcripts must score a 27/1220 to meet the FMS award requirement.

**High School Course Credits**

For both scholarships, the required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements. 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. Please refer to the Comprehensive Course Table for specific information on which courses count toward State University System admission requirements.
Florida Academic Scholars Award

Grade Point Average
- 3.5 weighted GPA (not rounded) in required 16 HS Credits

Required Credits
- 4 English (3 must include substantial writing)
- 4 Math (at or above Algebra I level)
- 3 Natural Science (2 must have substantial laboratory)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in same language)

Service Hours
- 100 hours approved by district (pre-approved/recorded)
Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)

Test Scores

- 1290 SAT Reasoning Test or 29 ACT composite
- ACT scores rounded up for scores with .5 and higher
- Writing sections not used in composite*
- SAT Subject Tests not used
- Deadlines (tests taken by)
  - January 31 for Early 7th semester eligibility
  - June 30 for Final 8th semester eligibility

* Bright Futures uses the best section score from any sitting of the same entrance exam to give the student the best possible overall composite score.
Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)

Grade Point Average
- 3.0 weighted GPA (not rounded) in required 16 HS credits

Required Credits
- 4 English (3 must include substantial writing)
- 4 Math (at or above the Algebra I level)
- 3 Natural Science (2 must have substantial laboratory)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in same language)

Service Hours
- 75 hours approved by district school
Florida Medallion Scholars Award

Test Scores

- 1170 SAT Reasoning Test or 26 ACT
- ACT scores rounded up for scores with .5 and higher
- SAT Subject Tests not used
- Writing sections not used in composite
- Deadlines (tests taken by):
  - January 31 for Early 7th semester eligibility
  - June 30 for Final 8th semester eligibility
Bright Future Award Amounts (2014-15)

- All awards are flat rate per credit hour. Students will receive specified award amounts established annually by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act*

- Current year Award Amounts (4 Year University Rates)*
  - Florida Academic Scholars Award = $103.00 per credit hour
  - Florida Medallion Scholars Award = $77.00 per credit hour

*Refer to the OFSA website for specific information related to awards http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm

Note. No Bright Futures funds are available during the summer semester.
Bright Future Award Amounts (2014-15)

What does this amount represent?

- **FAS**
  - $103/credit hour at 4 year college
  - $3090 per year full-time student (estimated)

- **FMS**
  - $77/credit hour at a 4 year college
  - $2310 per year full-time student (estimated)

Total estimated total Cost of Attendance at UF is $20,550 (2014-15). Other public universities differ slightly.
Applying for Bright Futures

- Bright Future Applications began on December 1, 2014
- Instructions for applying were sent home in mid-December. Additional copies of instructions are located in your packet
- Pine View is asking **ALL** students to make an initial application regardless of whether they intend to attend in-state AND to submit verification of the initial application by January 20:

**Bright Futures** The online application for Bright Futures is now open. In a break with past practice we are asking students to apply for Bright Futures from home and not here at Pine View. We are continuing to require that all students register regardless of whether you plan to attend a Florida university. Enclosed is an information sheet directing you to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) website. You will also find instructions for completing the application. Please sign up and provide verification to us by January 20, 2015.
STATE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAMS

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), administers a variety of state-funded grants and scholarships to assist Florida residents with the cost of their postsecondary education. Below is a list of grant and scholarship programs administered by OSFA.

- Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grant
- Bright Futures Scholarship
- First Generation Matching Grant
- Florida Incentive Scholarship
- Florida Fund for Minority Teachers
- Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)
- Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)
- Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant
- Florida Work Experience Program
- José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant
- Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship
- Rosewood Family Scholarship
- Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans Award Amounts

State Scholarship and Grant Calendar  
Brochure: Money for College

http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/home/uamain.htm
The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes three lottery-funded scholarships to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement.

Bright Futures Student Handbook:

Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements
- Requirements for the Three Scholarship Types (FAS, FMS, GSV)
- Non-Traditional Students (home-educated, GED, out-of-state, mid-year)

Chapter 2: Information to Know Now That You Are Eligible
- Length of the Scholarship Award
- Award Amounts
- Summer Funding
- Transferring the Scholarship between Institutions

Chapter 3: Renewing Your Award
- Renewal Requirements
- Reinstatement Requirements
- Restoration Requirements
- Institutional Appeal Process

Other Bright Futures Resources:
- Bright Futures Brochure
- Chart of Eligibility and Award Criteria
- Bright Futures Award Amounts
- The Home-Educated Student Guide
- Bright Futures Statistical Reports

Please use Microsoft Internet Explorer browser version 6.3 or higher for best results in interacting with this website.
Eligibility Evaluations

- Early 7th semester evaluations begin posting in March. Final 8th semester evaluations may begin posting in July.
- Students must monitor award status online. After submitting the FFAA, the student is responsible for tracking application and award status online and keeping the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) informed of any demographic or institutional changes.
- You may check your Bright Futures eligibility at FLVC.org.
State Scholarship and Grant Opportunities

http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm  See Brochure
Bright Future FAQs and Resources

- Customer Service 888-827-2004
- Email [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

- [http://finaid.ucf.edu/scholarships/bf_program.html](http://finaid.ucf.edu/scholarships/bf_program.html)
- [http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/)
- [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/nm4c_brochure.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/nm4c_brochure.pdf)
- [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/calendar.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/calendar.pdf)
Florida PrePaid College Plans

- **Tuition plan** covers the basic cost of classes
- **Local fee** plan covers the state required fees
- **Dormitory** plan covers the cost of a standard, double-occupancy room at a Florida university

- [http://www.myfloridaprepaid.com/](http://www.myfloridaprepaid.com/)
Florida Pre-Paid & Florida Bright Futures

- Pre-Paid tuition may *not* cover all tuition and fee costs. Some additional local fees are not covered (most schools have these fees which vary—be sure to check with the college you will be attending!)

- In the case of the FL Pre-Paid Tuition Plan, funds are applied to the student’s tuition charges only

- FL Bright Futures funds are applied to all remaining charges *after* classes begin

- Excess funds remaining after tuition has been paid will be applied to any other charges owed to the school, including on-campus housing costs, etc.

- Each college is slightly different. Be sure to check with the college(s) you are considering attending so you understand their process!

- Please refer to the Florida PrePaid FAQs sheet in your folder
Thank you for attending

January 6, 2015