

## Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

### Program Description

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes three lottery-funded scholarships to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement. The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is comprised of the following three awards:

- Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award  
including Academic Top Scholars (ATS) award
- Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award

### Initial Eligibility Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid office or admissions office of the institution the student plans to attend.
- Not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Meet specific coursework and minimum grade point average (GPA) and test score requirements which are outlined on the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) website [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm).
- ATS - The Academic Top Scholars award, announced by the Florida Department of Education before the end of the fall term after all term one disbursements are reported, is awarded to the Florida Academic Scholar with the highest academic ranking in each county (based on the product of multiplying the Bright Futures GPA and the highest qualifying SAT/ACT test score). The recipient receives a cost per credit hour award established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act in addition to the Florida Academic Scholars award. For current year award amounts visit: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm).

### Applying for an Award

For Initial Eligibility the student will:

- Submit a fully completed error free *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* during the last year in high school (after December 1 and prior to graduation) available online at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) (select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**, then **Apply Here**). The application gives the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) permission to evaluate the student's high school transcript and standardized test scores for eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship and other state scholarships and grants.
- Apply during the last year in high school, before graduation, or **forfeit** all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.
- A student may receive funding for only one award (Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, or Gold Seal Vocational Scholars). The highest award earned by the student will be selected.
- Initial eligibility requirements must be met prior to high school graduation from a Florida public or FDOE-registered private high school.

**Click on Section Titles for Additional Information**

**Florida Academic Scholars Award**

Institutional fees are not included in the award.

**Public and Private Institutions**

All students will receive the specified (cost per credit hour) award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Award amounts for the **2011-12** academic year will be available in summer 2011 after the legislative session.

For current year award amounts visit:

[www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm)

**Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Weighting for more challenging, higher level courses is prescribed by law as .50 per course per year

3.5 weighted GPA using the credits listed below, combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below.

(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)

**Required Credits**  
See the [Comprehensive Course Table](#) to identify courses that count toward each award level.

Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses.

- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics\* (Algebra I level and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 Foreign Language (sequential, in the same language)

**16 Credits**

May use up to two additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA.

\*For 2011 and 2012 graduates only, the sequence of Algebra Ia and Ib and the sequence of Applied Math I and II may count as two credits for high school graduation, State University System (SUS) admissions and FAS/FMS eligibility. For 2013 and later graduates, these courses will revert to the traditional one credit per sequence for SUS Admissions and FAS eligibility.

**Community Service**

75 hours, as approved by the district or private school

**Test Scores**

**Note:** Test score requirements are increasing for future graduates. See the [Bright Futures website](#).

- Best combined score of 1270 [SAT I/SAT Reasoning Test](#) (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) or best composite score of 28 [ACT](#) (excluding the writing section)
- The writing sections for both the [SAT](#) and [ACT](#) will not be used in the composite
- [SAT](#) Subject Tests exams are not used for Bright Futures eligibility
- [ACT](#) scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; [SAT](#) scores do not require rounding
- Sections of the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria
- For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through January 31 will be admissible
- For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through June 30 will be admissible

**Other Ways to Qualify**

The other ways to qualify listed below must also meet the community service hours requirement.

- National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists
- National Hispanic Scholars
- IB Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)
- Students who have completed the [IB Curriculum](#) with best composite score of 1270

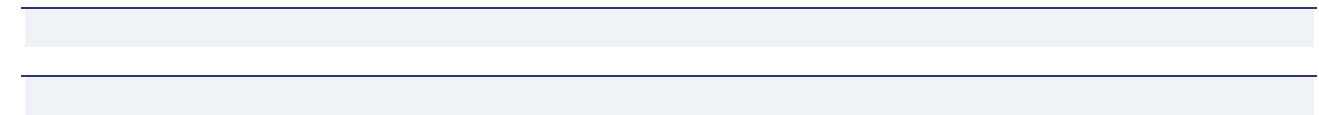
**SAT or 28 ACT**

- AICE Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)
- Students who have completed the **AICE Curriculum** AICE Curriculum with best composite score of 1270 **SAT** or 28 **ACT**
- Students who have attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41, F.S., registered with the district during grades 11 and 12, and have a best composite score of 1270 **SAT** or 28 **ACT**
- GED with best composite score of 1270 **SAT** or 28 **ACT** and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits
- 3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of 1270 **SAT** or 28 **ACT** and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits

Click on Section Titles for Additional Information	Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) Award			
Institutional fees are not included in the award.	<b>Public</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Institutions</b> -
<p><b>Grade Point Average (GPA)</b></p> <p>Weighting for more challenging, higher level courses is prescribed by law as .50 per course per year</p>	<p>All students will receive the specified (cost per credit hour) award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Award amounts for the <b>2011-12</b> academic year will be available in summer 2011 after the legislative session.</p> <p>For current year award amounts visit:  <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm</a></p> <p>3.0 weighted GPA using the credits and test score listed below.</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>			
<p><b>Required Credits</b></p> <p>See the <b>Comprehensive Course Table</b> to identify courses that count toward each award level.</p>	<p>Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>• 4 Mathematics* (Algebra I level and above)</li> <li>• 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>• 3 Social Science</li> <li>• <u>2 Foreign Language (sequential, in the same language)</u></li> </ul> <p><b>16 Credits</b></p> <p>May use up to two additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, or IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA</p> <p>*For 2011 and 2012 graduates only, the sequence of Algebra Ia and Ib and the sequence of Applied Math I and II may count as two credits for high school graduation, State University System (SUS) admissions and FAS/FMS eligibility. For 2013 and later graduates, these courses will revert to the traditional one credit per sequence for SUS Admissions and FMS eligibility.</p>			
<b>Community Service</b>	No requirement			
<p><b>Test Scores</b></p> <p><b>Note: Test score requirements are increasing for future</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best combined score of 970 <b>SAT Reasoning Test</b> (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) or best composite score of 20 <b>ACT</b> (excluding the writing section)</li> <li>• The writing sections for both the <b>SAT</b> and <b>ACT</b> will not be used in the composite</li> </ul>			

<p>graduates. See the Bright Futures website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAT Subject Tests exams are not used for Bright Futures eligibility</li> <li>• ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding</li> <li>• Sections of the SAT or ACT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria</li> <li>• For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through January 31 will be admissible</li> <li>• For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through June 30 will be admissible</li> </ul>
<p>Other Ways to Qualify</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists and National Hispanic Scholars who have not completed 75 hours of community service</li> <li>• Students who have completed the IB Curriculum with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT</li> <li>• AICE Diploma Recipients who have not completed 75 hours of community service</li> <li>• Students who have completed the AICE Curriculum with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT</li> <li>• Students who have attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41, F.S., registered with the district during grades 11 and 12, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have a best combined score of 1070 SAT or 23 ACT</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have a best combined score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT with a weighted 3.0 GPA in the above 16 required credits (documented through Florida public, FDOE-registered private, FLVS or dual enrollment transcripts)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• GED with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> <li>• 3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> </ul>

For information regarding Bright Futures requirements, please contact the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.



<p>Click on Section Titles for Additional Information</p>	<p><b>Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award</b></p>			
<p>Institutional fees are not included in the award.</p>	<p><b>Public</b></p>	<p><b>and</b></p>	<p><b>Private</b></p>	<p><b>Institutions</b> -</p> <p>All students will receive the specified (cost per credit hour) award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Award amounts for the <b>2011-12</b> academic year will be available in summer 2011 after the legislative session.</p> <p>For current year award amounts visit:  <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm</a></p>
<p>Grade Point Average (GPA)  Weighted for more challenging, higher level courses is prescribed by law as .50 per course per year</p>	<p>3.0 weighted GPA using the 16 core credits required for high school graduation with a 4-year diploma (listed below), and a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of three Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program (taken over two academic years), and test scores listed below.</p> <p>(See "Other Ways to Qualify" for 3-year graduation options.)</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>			

<p><b>Required Credits</b> See the <a href="#">Comprehensive Course Table</a> to identify courses that count toward each award level</p>	<p>Credits must be in the 16 core credits required for high school graduation with a 4-year diploma.</p> <p><b>4-year Diploma</b> Credits must include the 16 core credits required for high school graduation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 English</li> <li>• 4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)</li> <li>• 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>• 3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt. and Economics)</li> <li>• 1 Fine; OR Identified Practical Art; OR .5 credit in each</li> <li>• 1 Physical Education (to include integration of health)</li> </ul> <p><b>16 Credits</b> Plus a minimum of three Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program taken over at least 2 academic years.</p>																		
<p><b>Community Service</b></p>	<p>No requirement</p>																		
<p><b>Test Scores</b></p>	<p>Students must earn the minimum score on each section of either the CPT or <a href="#">SAT</a> or <a href="#">ACT</a>. Composite scores are not accepted. A student must qualify on the <a href="#">ACT</a> alone, the <a href="#">SAT</a> alone, or the CPT alone. Test types cannot be combined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CPT:</b> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Reading</td> <td style="text-align: right;">83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sentence</td> <td style="text-align: right;">83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Algebra</td> <td style="text-align: right;">72</td> </tr> </table> </li> <li style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></li> <li>• <b>SAT Reasoning Test:</b> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Critical</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Reading</td> <td style="text-align: right;">440</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">440</td> </tr> </table> </li> <li style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></li> <li>• <b>ACT:</b> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>English</td> <td style="text-align: right;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19</td> </tr> </table> </li> <li>• For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through January 31 will be admissible</li> <li>• For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through June 30 will be admissible</li> <li>• Sections of the <a href="#">SAT</a>, <a href="#">ACT</a>, or CPT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria</li> </ul>	Reading	83	Sentence	83	Algebra	72	Critical	Reading	440	Math		440	English	17	Reading	18	Math	19
Reading	83																		
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Critical	Reading	440																	
Math		440																	
English	17																		
Reading	18																		
Math	19																		
<p><b>Other Ways to Qualify</b></p>	<p>The other ways to qualify listed below must also include a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of three Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program and minimum test section scores listed above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3-year Career Preparatory Diploma**</b> with a 3.0 weighted GPA using the 14 core credits required for graduation listed below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li><u>3 Social Science</u> (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics)</li> </ul> <p><b>14 credits</b></p> </li> <li>• <b>3-year College Preparatory Diploma**</b> with 3.0 weighted GPA using the 16 core credits required for graduation listed below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics)</li> <li><u>2 Foreign Language (in the same language)</u></li> </ul> <p><b>16 credits</b></p> </li> </ul>																		

- **GED** with 3.0 weighted **GPA** using the core credits required for your selected high school graduation option (standard, career, or college)

**\*\*Note:**

For diploma options established by legislative sessions, visit  
<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/acadrequire.htm>

For information regarding Bright Futures requirements, please contact the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

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