



Postsecondary Academic Advisement What Students and Parents Need to Know



BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)

To qualify for FAS or FMS awards, students must meet specific academic and service requirements. These include grade point average (GPA), coursework, test scores and volunteer or paid work hours.

CAPE Scholars (GSC) and Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)

GSC and GSV awards are available for students enrolled in career education programs, with a specific GPA, test scores, and volunteer or paid work hour requirements. Both provide financial support for students and the GSC award offers an additional path to fund a bachelor's degree.

Initial Eligibility Requirements for Bright Futures

Students must apply for the Bright Futures Scholarship by submitting the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) after October 1 of their senior year, but no later than August 31 of graduating year.

FFAA Application:

<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome>

Refer to the Florida Bright Futures Student Handbook for more information on how to qualify and apply: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN>.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

During the fall of senior year, complete the FAFSA® form to be eligible for federal student aid such as federal grants, work-study funds and loans.

Completing and submitting the FAFSA® form is free and it gives you access to the largest source of aid to help you pay for college or career school.

FAFSA Application: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships. Office of Student Financial Assistance: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org>.

Important note regarding GPA calculations:

Florida high school GPAs are calculated differently for graduation, university admissions and Bright Futures, focusing on distinct sets of credits and weighting systems.

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Admission into Florida's [State University System](#) (SUS) institutions is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous course of study in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission):

- High school graduation with a standard diploma, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and admission test scores meeting minimum college-ready test scores per Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 6.008
- 16 credits of approved college preparatory academic courses per BOG Regulation 6.002
- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and higher)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language or other equivalents)
- 2 approved electives

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM

The 28 colleges of the [Florida College System](#) serve more than 500,000 students. Colleges offer affordable and stackable workforce credentials including certificate programs, associate in science degrees and associate in arts degrees, which transfer to a bachelor's degree program. All colleges also offer workforce bachelor's degree programs in areas of high demand. All Florida College System institutions have open-door admissions for students who earned a standard high school diploma or an equivalent diploma or earned college credit.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND CENTERS

Florida also offers students 49 accredited career and technical colleges or centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations. Refer to: [Career, Adult and Technical Education District Postsecondary Institutions](#).

POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Colleges and other postsecondary institutions offer support through disability and student services offices. These offices work with students and families to determine and provide reasonable accommodations as needed. Refer to: [Secondary Transition Roadmap for Families](#).

Please contact your school counselor for detailed information on Florida's standard high school graduation requirements, postsecondary pathways, including workforce opportunities, and available financial aid options.