

**FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

and the

HOME-EDUCATED STUDENT



Florida Department of Education (FDOE)
Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)
Bright Futures Scholarship Program (BF)

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All requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A student who is home-educated in Florida can apply and be evaluated for a Bright Futures Scholarship! The Bright Futures home education requirements differ from public and private high school requirements, so home educators should *plan ahead!* Ninth grade is not too early to start planning for Bright Futures.

General scholarship requirements described on our website at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/genrequire.htm> include the submission, by high school graduation, of a Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA). In addition, a home-educated student must meet three (and possibly four) criteria to qualify for Bright Futures Academic or Medallion Scholars awards:

1. Be registered as a home-educated student with the school district in the county of residence during grades 11 and 12. (s. 1002.41, F.S., defines home education registration.)
2. Document community service hours completed any time during high school and before graduation.
3. Meet ACT or SAT minimum home education test score requirements.
4. With slightly lower test scores, a student may qualify by documenting a minimum 3.0 weighted grade point average (GPA) on the Bright Futures 16 required college preparatory academic credits (on official, FDOE-accepted transcripts – see Transcripts section below).

1. REGISTRATION

State law requires that home-educated students be registered with their local school district during 11th and 12th grades in order to be evaluated for Bright Futures. The school district will certify registration to FDOE online after the FFAA is submitted during the student's senior year.

If a student was not home-educated during grades 11 and 12, but has the required official transcript information, test scores, and community service, he/she may choose to apply as a Florida General Educational Development (GED) graduate. See the [GED page](#) on our website for more information.

If a student is enrolled in a private school, be **certain** that the school is registered with the FDOE School Choice Office. This office may be contacted by phone (800-447-1636) or by email at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. If the private school is not registered in Florida, the school is not authorized to submit a transcript for a Bright Futures evaluation.

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2. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Guidelines are provided below for community service hours. At least 100 hours are required for the Florida Academic Scholars award; at least 75 hours are required for the Florida Medallion Scholars award.

- Community service hours must be volunteer hours. The student may not benefit financially or materially (e.g., a student may not receive free tuition to a church summer camp in exchange for volunteer hours), and it cannot be service to family members, defined as parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, or spouses, including all step-relations.
- The agency where the community service hours were earned must provide documentation on agency letterhead of the number of hours and dates of service completed. Community service hours may be earned at multiple agencies.
- Community service hours may be served with a wide variety of public service organizations. Examples of acceptable agencies include (but are not limited to) churches/mosques/synagogues, libraries, nursing homes, animal shelters, food banks, homeless shelters, political offices, etc.
- Community service can be performed at any time during high school but must be completed by the date of high school graduation. Hours completed after graduation cannot be counted toward the Bright Futures requirement.
- **This documentation must be submitted to the Home Education contact** at the student's local school district where he/she is registered as a home-educated student.

3. COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS (ACT or SAT)

Scores of ACT or SAT tests taken through June 30th of the student's senior year (for a regular graduate, or January 31st for a mid-year graduate) will be accepted for Bright Futures evaluation. When registering for the exam, test score reports sent to Florida's state universities, state colleges, or public high schools will also be sent to the FDOE test score repository and will be available for scholarship evaluations.

If a student takes the ACT or SAT multiple times, Bright Futures uses the best section scores to create a best overall composite score. ACT and SAT section scores are not mixed. There is no limit to the number of times a student may retake the exams. ACT scores of .5 and higher are rounded up; SAT scores do not require rounding.

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Minimum Required Test Scores *(for 2013-14 high school graduates and thereafter):*

For the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award: A best combined score of 1290 SAT (**excluding** the writing section) or 29 ACT (**excluding** the writing section).

For the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award – TWO WAYS to qualify:

A best combined score of 1220 SAT (**excluding** the writing section) or 27 ACT (**excluding** the writing section).

OR

A best combined score of 1170 SAT (excluding the writing section) or 26 ACT (excluding the writing section) and a weighted 3.0 GPA in the 16 required college preparatory academic credits, documented through OFFICIAL transcripts from the four sources listed below under TRANSCRIPTS.

4. TRANSCRIPTS

Bright Futures **does not accept** parent-generated transcripts. Bright Futures accepts only **sealed, official** transcripts from the following sources:

- Florida Virtual School
- Florida state or community college transcript documenting dual-enrollment courses
- Florida public high schools
- FDOE-registered private high schools (see the [School Choice](#) page on FDOE website)

The student must achieve a minimum weighted 3.0 GPA in the following 16 required college preparatory academic credits:

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

The student may use up to two additional, optional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA, if necessary.

For additional information regarding the GPA calculation, please refer to the Bright Futures website at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/gradewt.htm>.

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MID-YEAR GRADUATION

A student may choose to graduate mid-year (September 1st through January 31st), and if eligible, can receive scholarship funding beginning with the spring semester following graduation. A student who elects mid-year graduation will have until January 31st of the graduation year to achieve the required minimum ACT or SAT score.

The Florida Financial Aid Application must be submitted by August 31st **PRIOR TO** the student's graduation. **Note:** There is *no waiver* to this statutory requirement.

THE COMPREHENSIVE COURSE TABLE

To confirm if a particular course is Bright Futures eligible, consult the [Comprehensive Course Table](#) on our website. Select the student's high school graduation year from the drop-down box on the main page. To look up the course, enter the state's seven-digit high school course number, or the dual enrollment course number. A sample page of English classes from the CCT appears below.

Refer to the **FAS/FMS** (Florida Academic Scholars/Florida Medallion Scholars) column below. This column indicates whether a course is **C**ore (accepted) or **N**ot core (not accepted) for Bright Futures credit. Other columns allow you to confirm if a course is weighted (Wghtd), how much credit is allowed (Max Credits), and what other courses are considered duplicates (Dup Crse).

Course Number	Course Title	Subject Area	Max Credits	Effective Years	Wghtd	FAS/FMS	IB	AICE	4YR/GSV	3YR/GSV	Voc Crse	Dup Crse	SUS Admissn
1001300	ENG SKL I	EN	1.00	1988 - 2012	N	N	N	N	C	C	N	EN1	N
1001310	ENG I	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	N	C	N	N	C	C	N	EN1	C
1001320	ENG HON I	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	Y	C	N	N	C	C	N	EN1	C
1001330	ENG SKL II	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	N	N	N	N	C	C	N	EN2	N
1001340	ENG II	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	N	C	N	N	C	C	N	EN2	C
1001350	ENG HON II	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	Y	C	N	N	C	C	N	EN2	C
1001360	ENG SKL III	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	N	N	N	N	C	C	N	EN3	N
1001370	ENG III	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	N	C	N	N	C	C	N	EN3	C
1001380	ENG HON III	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	Y	C	N	N	C	C	N	EN3	C
1001390	ENG SKL IV	EN	1.00	1990 - 2012	N	N	N	N	C	C	N	EN4	N

EVALUATIONS FOR INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- Bright Futures evaluates a home-educated student's eligibility for a scholarship by August of each year (by February for a mid-year graduate); a student may view their award notification online.
- A student must complete the FFAA in order to receive an evaluation.

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CHECKING AWARD STATUS

A student should write down the User ID and PIN received after completion of the FFAA and KEEP IT SAFE! With this User ID, and following the instructions provided online, a student can edit the financial aid application, check eligibility status, update the university or college attending, read any notifications posted by FDOE, and monitor the use of scholarship funds throughout the college career.

Remember: When completing the FFAA, the student indicates what university or college he/she is planning to attend. IF THIS CHANGES, a student must [log back into the FFAA](#) and update the name of the institution. Do NOT complete a new application; instead visit the above link to update information. The university or college listed on the FFAA is the one that will be notified of a student's scholarship eligibility status.

**YOUR USER ID: KNOW IT, USE IT,
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR STATE FINANCIAL AID!**

For more information, please visit the [Bright Futures](#) website at <http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/> and see particularly the page for [home education](#). Contact Bright Futures toll-free at 888-827-2004.