

Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

Students must **APPLY** for the scholarship by submitting the *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) strongly encourages students to complete the FFAA if eligibility requirements have not yet been satisfied or if a student chooses to attend an out-of-state postsecondary institution. If a student does not apply for the scholarship by the deadline, **a student cannot receive the scholarship!** All eligibility requirements must be met by high school graduation; however, scores of ACT®/SAT®/P.E.R.T. tests taken through June 30 are accepted for evaluation purposes.

After submitting the FFAA, the student is responsible for tracking their application and award status online, keeping OSFA informed of any demographic or institutional changes, and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

Once disbursed program funds, the Bright Futures Scholarship will renew automatically each year (up to the scholarship limit) if the student maintains renewal requirements. An annual FFAA is not required to be submitted to renew the Bright Futures Scholarship.

General Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Complete the 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 (FDOE) private high school; or complete a home education program.
- 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 accepted by, and enroll in a degree or certificate program at, an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Be enrolled for at least six non-remedial semester credit hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term.
- If not funded in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, apply within five years of high school graduation to have your award reinstated.

(Please refer to 'Reinstatement Requirements' section of Chapter 3 for more information regarding the reinstatement process.)

(Please refer to the 'Deferment of the Scholarship' section at the end of this chapter concerning students who enlist in the military or engage in a full-time religious or service obligation after graduation.)