

Bright Futures, Scholarship, Financial Aid, and TCC Information for the Class of 2012

Bright Futures Scholarship Programs – (Academic Scholars, Medallion and GoldSeal)

The application for the Bright Futures and all FLORIDA grant/scholarship programs is open for the class of 2012! Please apply now. Don't wait until you think you are qualified, go ahead and apply now!

STUDENTS should complete the online application. It should take about 15 minutes to complete; you will need your Social Security number and graduation date: **05/24/2012**. For question #23: click on I will be classified to determine your status. For question #25- If you are dual enrolled you need to enter the post-secondary school you are dual enrolled with (TCC/FSU/FAMU). For questions 26 – 28 estimate your GPA.

Steps to Complete the Application Process:

- Go to <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/ApplyHere.htm>
- Select Initial State Student Application
- Programs Offered tab allows you to view detailed state programs information including program deadlines.
- FAFSA-Free Application for Federal Student Aid must be completed as well after January 1, 2012.

Upon submitting the application via the Saved Results Page, a User ID and PIN will be provided to each applicant via an e-mail communication. Students can use their User IDs and PINs to check:

- The status of certification(s) prior to the program deadline(s).
- The status of awards following the program deadlines.
- For notifications from OSFA regarding award status.

Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) will post all official/award notifications to your online record.

This single state application is utilized to evaluate the student for all of the FLORIDA programs listed below:

- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Programs – Deadline by high school graduation date (5/24/2012)
- Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant – Deadline April 1
- Rosewood Family Scholarship Program – Deadline April 1
- Scholarships for Children & Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans & Service members – Deadline April 1

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU HAVE APPLIED? The LCVS registrar will electronically process records to OSFA two times:

- After completion of 1st semester, your record will be evaluated based on GPA in core coursework, test scores through January 2012, and community service hours completed by end of 1st semester. The first community service documentation deadline is January 18, 2012. Please only submit your documentation to Mrs. Lowe at the LCVS. Make a copy for your records BEFORE seeing Mrs. Lowe. OSFA will post all official/award notifications to your online record, typically in March.
- After completion of 2nd semester, your record will automatically be re-evaluated based on your GPA in core coursework, test scores through June 30, 2012 and community service hours completed and documented by graduation. Please only submit your documentation to Mrs. Lowe in the LCVS office. Make a copy for your records BEFORE seeing Mrs. Lowe. OSFA will post all official/award notifications to your online record, typically in early August.

Completion of the Federal Financial Aid Application (FAFSA) is now required for Bright Futures: On January 1, 2012 the application for Federal financial aid form (FAFSA) will be available online. Federal financial aid includes Grants, Scholarships, Work Study and Loan Programs. Deadlines vary at post secondary institutions; early application ensures the best opportunity for financial assistance. It is recommended that you apply January 1 online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> . If 2011 income documentation is not available, it is recommended that you apply using last year's information and update the records when applicable.

Benefits of completing FAFSA online:

- *General and specific help for each page of the application as you go
- *Access to worksheets that automatically calculate and enter information for you
- *Save your application at any time
- *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section
- *use your PIN to electronically sign your FAFSA on the Web application.

To expedite your FAFSA, you should go online at: www.pin.ed.gov to receive a PIN to use as your electronic signature. Students and parents need a PIN! Check out the *Student Aid on the Web* section for many helpful tools regarding financial aid and paying for college.

There have been several legislative changes regarding the Bright Futures Scholarship Programs. Review updates at: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/newsrenew.htm>
Review award amounts at: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm>

Additional Resources:

Check with your postsecondary institution Financial Aid Office – Funds from State and Federal programs are sent directly to eligible postsecondary institutions. *Each postsecondary institution has its own disbursement process.* It is recommended that students inquire directly about the Pre-Paid processes at each institution as well.

Scholarship Resources: It's time to start looking for scholarships!

Did you know? You don't have to be at the top of your class to qualify for scholarships!
You should not have to pay an application fee for a scholarship!

On-line Scholarships search:

<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/> <http://www.students.gov/> <http://www.scholarships.com/>

Comprehensive scholarships databases: (match your student information with relevant financial aid opportunities.)

<https://www.brokescholar.com/>, <http://www.fastweb.com/>

Financial Literacy:

<http://www.mymoney.gov/> <http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/>

ATTENTION students considering TCC:

TCC's scholarship deadline is January 16, 2012. If you are planning to attend TCC or have it as your "back-up plan" it is recommended that you *apply online for admissions, complete TCC's online scholarship application* by the January 16th deadline and *complete TCC's in-house online financial aid application*. TCC has many scholarships available for their students! Go to: <http://www.tcc.fl.edu/> and click *Future Students*.