

NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

April - May
2025

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program:

- Submit a complete and error-free Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA), also known as the state application (no later than August 31, 2025);
- Complete the required coursework (by high school graduation);
- Achieve the required grade point average in the required coursework;
- Complete the required number of volunteer/paid hours (by established deadline); and
- Achieve the required college entrance exam score for tests taken no later than August 31, 2025. Refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook for complete program requirements: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN.
- Although ACT®, CLT®, and SAT® may offer test dates beyond August 2025, final evaluations for 2025 graduating seniors will only consider test dates for exams taken **no later than August 31, 2025**, for the Bright Futures Scholarship Programs authorized by rule 6A-20.028, Florida Administrative Code.

Bright Futures Summer Funding:

- Funding is available during the summer term for Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS). Funding is only available if the postsecondary institution allows an FAS/FMS student to enroll as a degree-seeking student during the summer term. Refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 2 for more information.

For those of you attending a postsecondary institution for the first time this summer or fall semester, your head must be filled with questions and thoughts about what to expect. College is an exciting place, but it can be complete chaos if you are not prepared. Don't worry, we have your back! Complete this checklist and get a jump start on the right path.

- Open a savings account and start saving.
- Research your college. Find out more about different activities and clubs they are known for and student organizations offered on campus.
- Register for classes. Between orientation or just an appointment with an advisor, make sure you register for classes by the deadline.
- Handle all financial aid matters before the start of your first

class. It's easy to forget about or simply avoid, but this is one way that you can really get messed up.

- Go shopping! Get all of the things you'll need for your classes, your dorm room, or your new wardrobe. Look into your upcoming booklist and research affordable options.
- Research college majors. Whether you're pretty sure what your path is or you have no idea, do some research. Look up course list, graduation rate, job expectancy, income level, etc. Narrow it down to a few that interest you and be ready to talk to an advisor.

DID YOU KNOW?

You may also research these websites for scholarship opportunities: Finaid.org Fastweb.com Gmsp.org