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OSFA-STATE HS: #21-22:02

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Contacts
Public and Private High School Counselors

FROM: Parker Campbell, Director
State Scholarship and Grant Programs

DATE: August 24, 2021

SUBJECT: Bright Futures Scholarship Information for 2021-22 High School Seniors

Please share information in this memo with the appropriate personnel. The following pages contain reminders related to the state application and the Bright Futures evaluation process.

- Legislative Updates
- Bright Futures Student Handbook
- “Clean Slate”
- 2021-22 Early Evaluation Processing
- Qualifying Test Scores
- Mid-Year Evaluations
- *Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)*
- Coursework Requirements
- Bright Futures Course Table (BFCT)
- Security

Legislative Updates

The 2021 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 2500, General Appropriations Act (GAA), creating the Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program and removed the additional stipend for textbooks and college-related expenses for Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholarship recipients.

As a reminder, the 2020 Florida Legislature passed SB 72, Higher Education affecting the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Beginning in fall 2021, Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship (BFFMS) students enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution will receive 100 percent of tuition and specific fees. Upon completion, a student may transfer their award to another institution and receive 75 percent of tuition and specific fees.

Please review the following link for a complete list of 2021 legislative updates:

<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/latestInfo.pdf>

Suzanne Pridgeon
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

Bright Futures Student Handbook

At the beginning of each fiscal year (July 1), OSFA updates the Bright Futures Student Handbook. Please be sure to review the handbook after the first of July each year so you are aware of any changes. [Chapter 1](#) provides an overview of the requirements to qualify for an award. [Chapter 2](#) provides information to students about their award at a postsecondary institution, including the award amounts. [Chapter 3](#) provides information on how to maintain scholarship eligibility.

“Clean Slate”

The “Clean Slate” consists of the following:

- Prior to receiving 2021-22 and 2022-23 transcripts, OSFA will delete all junior and senior transcripts from our database.
- The district/school will submit new transcripts for all enrolled juniors and seniors after **September 1, 2021**.

Benefits of the “Clean Slate” approach include:

- The list of seniors will only include students reported during the current year as enrolled;
- Transcripts submitted for seniors will have current demographic information; and
- First transcript submissions for seniors will not have a Bright Futures matching issue (e.g. B01, B02 and B09) as there will not be any prior year records to match against.

2021-22 Early Evaluation Processing

Submit Early Evaluation transcripts within 30 days of the end of the first semester. For each senior, include 7th semester grades, courses in progress for 8th semester, and service hours earned during high school through January 31, 2022. Our office will obtain official ACT® and SAT® test scores for tests taken through January 31, 2022. Please review each transcript for accuracy. OSFA will communicate with our Bright Futures district and school contacts when award notifications begin to post to students’ online accounts in spring 2022.

NOTE: The FASTER address value for Early Evaluation 2022 senior transcripts is 2271.

Qualifying Test Scores

Students will be evaluated based on official test scores received from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Test Repository. Please remind students to send scores from single test sittings (not a superscore) to a Florida public university. Students must ensure their current address is accurate on each ACT® and SAT® registration to assist in the repository confirmation. Test scores for the 2022 and 2023 graduates include:

- Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) – minimum ACT® composite score of 29 or minimum SAT® combined score of 1330,
- Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) – minimum ACT® composite score of 25 or minimum SAT® combined score of 1210.

Mid-Year Evaluations

Mid-Year graduates are those students who:

- Graduate mid-way through the 2021-22 year (September 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022);
- File the *Florida Financial Aid Application* no later than December 31, 2021; and
- Plan to enroll and receive funding at a postsecondary institution in spring 2022.

Submit transcripts for Mid-Year graduates in the fall so Early Evaluations may be processed.

NOTE: The FASTER address value for 2022 Mid-Year graduate transcripts is 2271.

Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

Current high school seniors should apply for Bright Futures by submitting the 2022-23 *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) that opens October 1, 2021. Students who wish to be evaluated for a scholarship must submit a completed FFAA during the last year in high school, beginning October 1 and no later than August 31 after high school graduation.

Encourage all high school seniors to file the FFAA even if they are currently planning to attend an out-of-state postsecondary institution. Students who do not complete an application will forfeit their eligibility for a Bright Futures scholarship.

Coursework Requirements

Program requirements for Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) follow the State University System (SUS) admissions requirements as outlined in Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.002, Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen. The official final evaluation for a Gold Seal Vocational (GSV) scholarship is based upon a student satisfying all GSV requirements with completed transcript fields: DIPLOMA TYPE Standard and valid GRADUATION DATE. The Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) scholarship requires a minimum of five postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications that articulate for college credit.

Bright Futures Course Table (BFCT)

Use the BFCT in conjunction with the resources provided for counselors on the BFCT Home screen at <https://sso.osfaffelp.org/BFIEHS/Course/ComprehensiveCourse>. Users will find links on the BFCT to resources that provide comprehensive information concerning coursework approved in the state and how courses are used for various purposes, including high school graduation. Counselors should use those resources to advise students. Please review information provided in the [Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook](#) under the appendix “High School Special Case Course Equivalencies.” The Bright Futures office will refer any counselor question concerning a course to our BFCT partners, the Office of Articulation, Workforce, or the Board of Governors.

Security

Email OSFASecurity@fldoe.org with any security issues for yourself or other school personnel. Please do not provide complete Social Security numbers on student or counselor documents emailed to our office.

We encourage Bright Futures district and school contacts to use their User ID and Password to review the Communications and Training tab on the Online Transcript Entry and Evaluation System (OTEES) website, and to encourage school personnel to review as well.

For assistance, call OSFA Customer Service at 888-827-2004 and request to speak to a program specialist.

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