

BRIGHT FUTURES Scholarship Program

Okeechobee High School
Financial Aid Night
January 24, 2017

WHAT IS A BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP?

- ⦿ Tuition payment for Florida post-secondary schools (college/university, vocational schools)
- ⦿ Merit-based
- ⦿ Based on academic history (GPA), test scores, and community service hours
- ⦿ 4 Award Levels - Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), Gold Seal Vocational (GSV), and NEW Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)
- ⦿ A student may receive funding for only one award. The highest award earned by the student will be selected.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ⦿ Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by your post-secondary institution
- ⦿ Earn a Florida standard high school diploma
- ⦿ Be accepted by and enrolled in an eligible Florida public or private school
- ⦿ Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours or equivalent per term
- ⦿ Use the award within 2 years of graduation
- ⦿ Must not be found guilty of, or plead no contest to, a felony charge
- ⦿ Must submit a completed, error free, Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during your last year in high school no later than August 31 after high school graduation
- ⦿ Must meet the eligibility requirements for the award level for which you wish to qualify for (Requirements must be met by high school graduation, but test scores taken through June 30 are accepted for evaluation purposes.)

HOW TO APPLY

- ◉ Apply online at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
- ◉ Click on **State Grants, Scholarships, and Applications**
- ◉ Click on **Student Application (for new applicants)**
- ◉ Before you proceed to the application, it is important to read the 7 Application Essentials first and the BF Handbook.
- ◉ Click on **Save/Submit** and **Print** your application.
- ◉ **Saved Results Page**---print a copy for your records
- ◉ No longer required to complete FAFSA but encouraged to apply! www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAS

FMS

*weighting is on BF Scholarship weighting system

Minimum Weighted GPA: 3.5

16 core credits:

4 English

4 Math (Algebra 1 and higher)

3 Natural Science

3 Social Science

2 Foreign Language

Minimum Test Scores:

SAT Reading and Math: 1290

OR ACT Composite 29

Community Service:

100 hours

Minimum Weighted GPA: 3.0

16 core credits:

4 English

4 Math (Algebra 1 and higher)

3 Natural Science

3 Social Science

2 Foreign Language

Minimum Test Scores:

SAT Reading and Math: 1170 OR

ACT Composite 26

Community Service:

75 hours

GSV

Minimum Weighted Core GPA: 3.0

16 core credits:

4 English

4 Math (including Algebra 1)

3 Natural Science

3 Social Science

1 Fine/Practical Art

1 Physical Education

Plus a minimum of 3 Career/Technical Education credits in one vocational program (3.5 unweighted gpa in career courses)

Minimum Test Scores:

SAT Math 440 and SAT Critical Reading or EBRW 440

ACT English 17, Reading 19, Math 19

PERT: 103 Writing, 106 Reading, 114 Math

Community Service: 30 hours

GSC Scholars - NEW for 2016-2017

- Can only be used to fund a career education or certificate programs.
- Upon completion of an AS degree program that articulates to a BS degree, GSC May be able to transfer for up to 60 credits towards Bachelor of Science degree

To qualify:

- Students must meet the general requirements for Bright Futures
- Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit; and
- Complete 30 community service hours

FLORIDA SHINES

- To determine your Bright Futures eligibility and view your unofficial transcript, go to <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college#>
- Scroll down until you see Bright Futures Scholarships
- Click on **Check your Eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship**
- Search college and university profiles and degree offerings
- Explore career and academic options

MATH CREDITS

- Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B count as 1 credit.
- Acceptable Math credits: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and above.
- The following courses CANNOT be used as one of the 4 BF required math credits for FAS/FMS:

Consumer Math, Business Math, Math for College Success, Applied Math III, Informal Geometry, Explorations in Math I and II, Liberal Arts Math, and Pre-Algebra.

EARLY AND END-OF-YEAR EVALUATIONS

Transcripts are submitted electronically to FDOE.

- ◉ Early Evaluation(7th semester)

You cannot lose an award based on early evaluation, unless you fail to graduate from hs.

- ◉ End-of-Year Evaluation (8th semester)

If your gpa improves and/or other requirements are met during your final hs semester, you may then qualify for an award or higher award level based on the evaluation of your final hs transcript.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

- ⦿ Award eligibility or ineligibility determination will be posted to a student's online Financial Aid Recipient History screen. Login credentials will be sent to student after completing the application.
- ⦿ Early evaluation award notification—posting in March
- ⦿ End-of-year evaluation award notification---posting in August
- ⦿ Students must accept their award within their first 2 years after high school graduation or forfeit the scholarship.
- ⦿ Notification of award will be made available to institution listed on your application.(Must notify changes of institution by Aug 15 for Fall Term.)

FUNDING LENGTH

- ◉ You have 2 years to accept the award from your hs grad date. (Must apply to reinstate the award.)
- ◉ FAS/FMS funding length---up to 5 years from hs graduation for a maximum of 120 semester hours
- ◉ GSV funding length---up to 100% (length of time) of program study or up to 72 semester hours

FUNDING AMOUNT

- Funding begins the FALL term after your high school graduation. It only works in the Fall and Spring semesters. There is NO Summer funding.
- Scholarship value is dependent upon legislative funding each summer.
- Pays a fixed cost per credit hour based on award level, institution type, and credit type.
- See next slide for funding amounts for each level of the scholarship

Award Amounts

Scholarship award amounts are set in the General Appropriations Act each year. Recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour based on award level, institution type, and credit type.

2016-17 Bright Futures Scholarship Per Hour Award Amounts			
	Credit Hour Award		Clock Hour Award
	Semester	Quarter	
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)			
4 Year	\$103	\$69	
2 Year	\$63	\$42	\$2.10
Florida Public Colleges – Baccalaureate Programs	\$71		
Career / Technical Centers	\$52	\$35	\$1.73
Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)			
4 Year	\$77	\$51	
2 Year	\$63	\$42	\$2.10
Florida Public Colleges – Baccalaureate Programs	\$53		
Career / Technical Centers	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) – 2011-12 HS Graduates and later*			
Career Certificate Program (PSAV)	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
Applied Technology Diploma Program (ATD)	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
Technical Degree Education Program (AS, AAS, CCC)	\$48	\$32	\$1.60
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) – 2010-11 HS Graduates and earlier			
4 Year	\$77	\$51	
2 Year	\$63	\$42	\$2.10
Florida Public Colleges / Baccalaureate Programs	\$53		
Career / Technical Centers	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
*GSV Initial students, as of 2012-13, and Initials and Renewals thereafter, are ONLY eligible to receive funding in these vocational education categories.			

RENEWABLE ELIGIBILITY

- ⦿ Renewable eligibility occurs at the end of the spring semester of college. You do NOT need to submit a renewal application.
- ⦿ FAS---3.0 gpa
- ⦿ FMS---2.75 gpa
- ⦿ GSV---2.75 gpa
- ⦿ Minimum # of hours required per term IF funded Full-Time: 12 semester hrs; Part-time is 6 semester hours
- ⦿ FAS with 2.75 - 2.99 gpa at the end of a renewal period will renew as FMS.
- ⦿ If the GPA is improved above a 3.0 in a subsequent renewal period, the student will restore as FAS, using the one-time restoration opportunity.
- ⦿ FMS/GSV---below 2.75 will lose scholarship

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

- ◉ Very IMPORTANT!!!
- ◉ Your SSN is used in matching your transcripts to your test score records. This is how colleges and Bright Futures match up your application with your transcripts.
- ◉ If not reported, this can result in an error in your award amount or delay disbursement of an award.
- ◉ Make sure your SSN is on file. Check with Mrs. Vlkojan in Guidance.

PREPAID COLLEGE PLAN & BRIGHT FUTURES

If you have a prepaid college plan, you can use both the prepaid and BF scholarship. Bright Futures can be used to cover expenses that the prepaid plan doesn't cover.

BRIGHT FUTURES CONTACT INFO

- ◎ www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
- ◎ 1-888-827-2004 (OSFA)
- ◎ <https://www.floridashines.org>
- ◎ www.fafsa.ed.gov

CONTACT INFO

Senior Counselor: Tracy Sills

Phone: 863-462-5025 ext.3103

E-mail: sillst@okee.k12.fl.us

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Last year, over \$618,000 in local scholarship money was awarded to students.



OHS College and Career Center

Melanie Tabbert

Career and Technical Education Specialist

melanie.tabbert@okee.k12.fl.us

Michelle Coleman

Graduation Coach

colemanm@okee.k12.fl.us

WHAT'S INSIDE MY LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP PACKET???

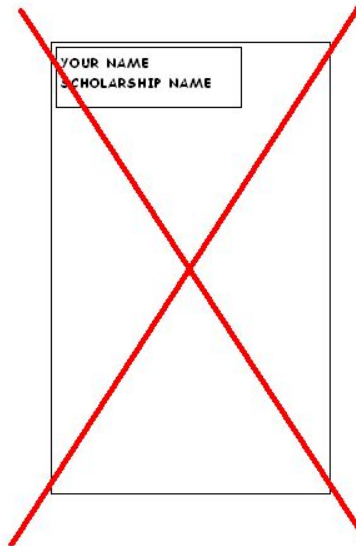
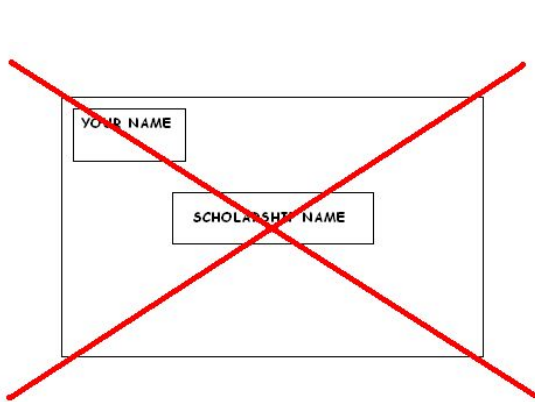
- ⦿ Instructions for applying for local scholarships
- ⦿ List of current local scholarships
- ⦿ OHS Scholarship Application
- ⦿ OHS Local Scholarship Verification Sheet
- ⦿ Federal Financial Aid Programs
- ⦿ Financial Aid Terms and Definitions

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

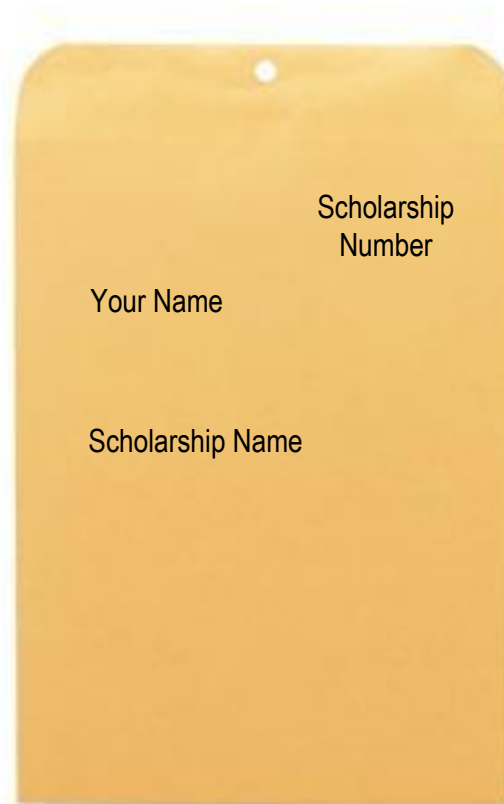
- ⦿ Complete the OHS Scholarship Application
- ⦿ Get a copy of your Transcript. Request a transcript in the Guidance Office with Mrs. Vlkojan. One day wait time.
- ⦿ Write your personal biography
- ⦿ Complete a resume
- ⦿ Ask 2 people for a reference letter. Only one letter may be an OHS Staff member. The other should come from a community member (pastor, coach, family friend). No family members!
- ⦿ Decide to which scholarships you wish to apply. Pay attention to the special requests from the donors (essay, special application, etc.)
- ⦿ Assemble your packet and make copies.
- ⦿ Make a special packet for Mrs. Tabbert which will be due February 24th. This is when you turn in your **Local Scholarship Verification Sheet**.
- ⦿ **Deadline for turning in Scholarship Packet is March 3, 2017 3:30pm**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING CONT.

- Put all of your documents into a clasp mailing folder and label them like this:



DO NOT SEAL



INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

- ⦿ Reminder: Make 1 extra copy of your entire packet (essays and all) for Mrs. Tabbert to keep on file. Include the Local Scholarship Verification Sheet. This packet is due **February 24th by 3:30 pm.**
- ⦿ Bring your scholarship packets to Mrs. Tabbert when completed, but no later than **3:30pm on March 3rd.** No late packets accepted. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- ⦿ If you are planning on going to college, you **MUST** have your social security number on file. Bring in a copy of your card to Mrs. Tabbert or Ms. Murphy. (Note: You may include a copy of the card in Mrs. Tabbert's packet; All information will be secured and once card information is entered into the computer, the copy will be shredded.

QUESTIONS???