



Council for Lifelong Learning
**Bright Futures Scholarship
Program**

**Fact
Sheet**

September 2001

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. What is Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program? | The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a lottery-funded scholarship program created by the 1997 Legislature to reward Florida high school graduates who merit recognition of high academic achievement and enroll in eligible Florida public and non-public postsecondary institutions. |
| 2. What are the components of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program? | The Bright Futures Scholarship Program (Program) is an "umbrella" program providing three awards: the Florida Academic Scholars Award, the Florida Merit Scholars Award, and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. (See individual Fact Sheets for a further description of each program.) |
| 3. Who is eligible to receive a Bright Futures award? | A student must meet the following general criteria to be considered for an award under the Bright Futures Scholarship Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• complete a Bright Futures Scholarship Program <i>Student Authorization Form</i>• be a Florida resident• earn a Florida high school diploma, or the equivalent• enroll in an eligible Florida postsecondary education institution for at least 6 credit hours per semester• not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge• commence using the award within 3 years of graduation Specific eligibility requirements and award amounts for each component of the Program are discussed on the Fact Sheet for the particular award. |
| 4. How does a student apply for a Bright Futures award? | To be considered for an award from the Bright Futures Program, a student must complete a <i>Student Authorization Form</i> by spring graduation. The same application form is used regardless of the award the student is seeking. The form must be submitted to the student's high school guidance counselor for processing. A copy of the form is available from the high school guidance counselor or from the Department of Education website with a link to Bright Futures. (See Question 7) |
| 5. Where can a student use a Bright Futures award? | Students who receive a Bright Futures scholarship may enroll in any eligible Florida public or private, independent postsecondary vocational-technical institution, community |

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

| | |
|--|--|
| | college, or university within three years after graduation from high school. A list of eligible institutions is available at the Department of Education website with a link to Bright Futures. (See Question 7) |
| 6. What are the applicable statutes and rules? | Sections 240.4015 - 240.40209, F.S. -- Bright Futures Scholarship Program |
| 7. Where can I get additional information? | <p>A high school guidance counselor</p> <p>Department of Education Bureau of Student Financial Assistance 1-888-827-2004 (toll-free) (850) 410-5200 www.firn.edu/doe/bsfa</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Colleges & Universities (850) 488-3711</p> |