



Council for Lifelong Learning

**Bright Futures Scholarship
Program - Florida Gold Seal
Vocational Scholars Award**

**Fact
Sheet**

September 2001

<p>1. What is the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award?</p>	<p>The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award is one of three awards available to Florida high school graduates through the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. (See the Bright Futures Scholarship Program Fact Sheet.)</p>
<p>2. What is the award amount?</p>	<p>A student who enrolls in a public institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of matriculation and fees (including lab fees up to \$300 per semester). A student who enrolls in a nonpublic institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay 75 percent of the average matriculation and fees of a public institution at the comparable level.</p>
<p>3. What are the specific eligibility requirements for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award?</p>	<p>In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria for a Bright Futures Award, a student must meet the following criteria to be considered for a Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• achieve a 3.0 weighted GPA using the core credits required for graduation• achieve a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of three sequential vocational credits• achieve a passing score on the Common Placement Test (CPT) (or equivalent score on the SAT or ACT). <p>(See the Bright Futures Scholarship Program Fact Sheet.)</p> <p>Note: Specific eligibility criteria may vary for students graduating in or before 1999. Contact the high school guidance counselor or check the Department of Education website which links to Bright Futures. (See Question 8).</p>
<p>4. What are the core credits on which the GPA calculation is based?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 English• 3 Mathematics• 3 Natural Science• 3 Social Science• Practical Art or Performing Art or ½ credit in each• ½ Life Management Skills• ½ Personal Fitness <p>Beginning with 2003 graduates, one full credit of Personal Fitness will be required. For all students who entered high</p>

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	<p>school as a freshman in 1999 or after, one full credit in Personal Fitness is required for graduation.</p>
<p>5. How are courses weighted for the GPA calculation?</p>	<p>Current law requires the weighting of grades earned in selected courses for purposes of calculating the GPA used to determine eligibility for a Bright Futures award.</p> <p>Additional weight, of no more than 0.5 points per course, is given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses identified in the course code directory as AP, Pre-IB, or IB; • courses designated as academic dual enrollment courses in the statewide course numbering system; and • other courses identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as containing rigorous academic and performance standards. <p>For example, if a student earns an "A" in a regular course, 4.0 quality points are awarded. If the "A" is earned in a course in one of the above categories, 4.5 quality points are awarded, thus giving additional weight to more rigorous courses.</p>
<p>6. What are the renewal criteria for the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award?</p>	<p>To renew the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award, a student must earn a 2.75 cumulative GPA and six credit hours per semester funded. A Gold Seal Scholar may also renew as a Florida Merit Scholar with a 2.75 cumulative college GPA and six credit hours per semester funded.</p>
<p>7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Sections 240.40201 - 240.40209, F.S. -- Bright Futures Scholarship Program</p>
<p>8. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>A high school guidance counselor</p> <p>Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance (850) 410-5200 Student Hotline: 1-888-827-2004 (toll-free) www.firn.edu/doe/bsfa</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Colleges & Universities (850) 488-3711</p>