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OSFA-STATE HS: #20-21:02

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 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Bright Futures Scholarship Information for 2020-21 High School Seniors

The 2020 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 72, Higher Education affecting the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Governor DeSantis signed this bill into law on June 29, 2020, and it became effective July 1, 2020, according to Chapter 2020-117, Laws of Florida. 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 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.

- Bright Futures Student Handbook
- “Clean Slate”
- 2020-21 Early Evaluation Processing
- Qualifying Test Scores
- Mid-Year Evaluations
- Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)
- Coursework Requirements
- Bright Futures Course Table (BFCT)
- Security

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 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.

Suzanne Pridgeon
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

“Clean Slate”

During the 2017-18 evaluation year, OSFA piloted a “Clean Slate” initiative with a few districts. The trials have been successful and is now part of our annual process.

The “Clean Slate” consists of the following:

- Prior to receiving 2020-21 transcripts, OSFA would delete all senior transcripts from our database.
- The district/school will submit new transcripts for all enrolled seniors after **September 1, 2020**.

Benefits of the “Clean Slate” approach include:

- Your list of seniors will only include students you report as enrolled for the current year;
- 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.

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, 2021. Our office will obtain official ACT® and SAT® test scores for tests taken through January 31, 2021. 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 2021.

NOTE: The FASTER address value for Early Evaluation 2021 senior transcripts is 2171.

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 include a Florida public university and their current address on each ACT® and SAT® registration to assist in the repository confirmation. Test scores for the 2021 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 2020-21 year (September 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021);
- File the *Florida Financial Aid Application* no later than December 31, 2020; and
- Plan to enroll and receive funding at a postsecondary institution in spring 2021.

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

NOTE: The FASTER address value for 2021 Mid-Year graduate transcripts is 2171.

Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

Current high school seniors should apply for Bright Futures by submitting the 2021-22 *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) that opens October 1, 2020. 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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