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# Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program

[Section 1009.40, Florida Statutes](#)

[General Appropriations Act, Chapter 2021-36, L.O.F.](#)

## Program Description

The Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program was created by the 2021 Florida Legislature to provide student financial assistance for a maximum of 50 eligible students who are either (1) a direct descendant of victims of the Ocoee Election Day Riots of November 1920, or (2) current African American residents of Ocoee, Florida. Applicants must provide proof of ancestry or proof of residency to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for initial eligibility consideration. Eligible students must attend a state university, Historically Black College or University (HBCU), a Florida College System institution, or public postsecondary technical center in Florida and will receive an amount up to \$6,100 annually not to exceed the amount of the student's tuition and registration fees. Funds for the Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program are contingent each year upon the appropriations made available by the Florida Legislature.

## Initial Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the 2025-26 academic year must:

- Submit a completed, error-free [Florida Financial Aid Application](#) by **April 1, 2025** (available **October 1, 2024**). Applicants will be ranked by their application submission date, if necessary.
- Submit a completed, error-free [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) by **May 15, 2025** (available **October 1, 2024**). Eligible initial applicants will be ranked based on need as determined by the FAFSA.
  - **If applying as a direct descendant of a victim of the Ocoee Election Day Riots of November 1920, the student must:** Provide documentation of ancestry by **April 1, 2025**. Acceptable genealogical documentation linking the applicant to a direct descendant includes, but is not limited to:
    - Birth Certificate(s)
    - Marriage License(s)
    - Death Certificate(s)
    - Church Record(s)
    - Obituary(ies)
  - Provide a copy of your birth certificate, photo identification, and social security card.
- **If applying as a current African American resident of Ocoee, Florida, the student must:**

- Provide proof of legal residence in Ocoee, Florida for at least twelve months prior to the academic year in which funding is sought. Please note that attending a high school or postsecondary institution in Ocoee, Florida does not satisfy this requirement.
- The required documents to prove legal residency within Ocoee, Florida, must be submitted by **April 1, 2025**. Acceptable residency documentation includes, but is not limited to:
  - Florida Driver License; or
  - Florida Identification Card; and
- Applicants must submit **two separate** documents below in conjunction with one document from the above list displaying their Florida residential address:
  - Florida Voter Registration Card
  - Utility bill
  - Mortgage statement or lease agreement
  - A full list of documents can be found on the Florida DMV website: <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/what-to-bring/u-s-citizen>
- Upload documents through the secure Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) ShareFile link on the OSFA website at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org> under **Applications** at the bottom left, select **Document Upload** or mail all supporting documentation to the address listed in the Contact Information section.

### Requirements to Receive Funding

The student must:

- Not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Enroll full-time at an eligible participating public postsecondary institution or HBCU in a program of study leading to an undergraduate degree, a certificate or a diploma.

### Applying for an Award

An applicant applying for the 2025-26 academic year must:

- Submit a completed, error-free [Florida Financial Aid Application](#) (FFAA) by **April 1, 2025** (available **October 1, 2024**). Applicants will be ranked by their application submission date, if necessary.
- Submit the online 2025-26 Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students if the student is returning after one or more years without funding. The application is available **February 1, 2025**, and must be completed by **April 1, 2025**, to be considered for reinstatement priority funding.

NOTE: Applicants who are deemed ineligible for the academic year in which they applied must reapply to receive an evaluation for the next year.

## Award Procedures

Eligible applicants will be ranked and selected first by the most need as specified on the [FAFSA](#) and second by the earliest FFAA submission date. Applicants will be evaluated and notified of eligibility determination mid-summer.

- Among eligible applicants who are direct descendants of victims of the Ocoee Election Day Riots, first priority will be given to renewal applicants.
- Second priority for awards will be given to initial applicants.
- Third priority for awards will be given to reinstatement applicants.
- Fourth priority for awards will be given to restoration applicants.

## Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. Awards are not currently available for the summer term.

The annual award amount may not exceed \$6,100. The term award amount a student may receive includes tuition and registration fees for undergraduate study. The award amount may not exceed the amount of the student's tuition and registration fees.

## Terms of Eligibility

- An undergraduate student is eligible to receive an award for a maximum of eight semesters (12 quarters) or until receipt of a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first.
- An undergraduate student enrolled in a five-year undergraduate degree program is eligible to receive financial aid for a maximum of 10 semesters or 15 quarters.
- Unused terms may not be used for further course funding after a student earns a baccalaureate degree.
- A student who enrolls in a 3/2 program ending in an advanced degree is no longer eligible to receive undergraduate funding when a degree-seeking student:
  - Receives a baccalaureate degree,
  - Has enrollment status changed from 'undergraduate' to 'graduate'; or
  - Enrolls in 'graduate' level courses.

## Student Award Renewal

- An application is not required to renew the award. Renewal eligibility is automatically determined at the end of the second semester or third quarter or the equivalent each academic year.
- Students must have earned a minimum unweighted institutional cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Students must have earned a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, for which an award was received.
- Credit or clock hours earned the previous summer can be counted toward the total number of credit hours required for renewal.
- File a timely [FAFSA](#) each academic year to be processed error-free by the U.S. Department of Education. The FAFSA must be submitted on or before **May 15, 2025**, for the **2025-26** academic year.

## Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal Requirements

- A student who has not met the minimum of 12 credit hours or the equivalent per term, for which the award was received, may not receive funding the following academic year. An application for restoration may be submitted after the year of lapse.
- A student who met the required hours but earned less than the minimum institutional cumulative 2.0 GPA may be granted a probationary award for no more than two semesters or three quarters or the equivalent.
- To be eligible for renewal the following year after probation, the student must have earned the required credit or clock hours and an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- A student who failed to meet the requirements for renewal during a probationary period will become ineligible for funding. However, the student is eligible to apply for restoration after one academic year. An institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale must be earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year preceding the year the award is sought.

## Student Award Reinstatement/Restoration

- A student who was eligible for an award but did not use an award during the previous academic year may be eligible for reinstatement.
- A student may be eligible for restoration if an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year for which the student was ineligible.
- Complete an error-free online Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students, which opens February each year, by **April 1, 2025**, to be considered for reinstatement or restoration for the 2025-26 academic year.

## Appeal Process

An applicant who believes he or she has been wrongly denied has certain rights to appeal.

An applicant may appeal if he or she believes the FDOE erred in determining eligibility or failed to transfer an award. An FDOE appeal is to be filed in writing within 30 days of the date of the notice of ineligibility.

If aid is denied for failure to meet state academic progress requirements, an applicant may appeal the denial to the institution by providing proof of illness or other emergency beyond the applicant's control. An institutional academic progress appeal is to be filed within 30 days of the denial letter or by the date established by the institution's financial aid office, whichever is later.

## Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security Numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the award disbursement.

Pursuant to section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or marital status. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

## Updating Information

A recipient must notify OSFA of any change in name, address or institution attended.

A student may update information by contacting Customer Service at 888-827-2004 or logging into his or her online OSFA account:

<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org>

Transferring from one institution to another will affect an applicant's award.

## Contact Information

**Address:**

Florida Department of Education  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
State Scholarship and Grant Programs  
Suite 1344  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

**Phone:**

888-827-2004

**Email:**

[OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)