
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, public state college, 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 program are contingent each year upon the appropriations made available by the Florida Legislature.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

Students seeking scholarship funding for the 2022-23 academic year, beginning with the fall 2022 term, must:

- Submit a completed, error-free [Florida Financial Aid Application](#) (FFAA) by **April 1, 2022** (available **October 1, 2021**). Applicants will be ranked by their FFAA application submission date, if necessary.
- Submit a completed, error-free [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) by **May 15, 2022** (available **October 1, 2021**). 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, a student must:**
 - Provide documentation of ancestry by **April 1, 2022**. 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.
 - Two of the required documentation to prove legal residency within Ocoee, Florida, must be submitted by **April 1, 2022**. Acceptable residency documentation includes, but is not limited to:
 - Florida Driver License
 - Florida Identification Card
 - Florida Voter Registration Card
 - Utility bill
 - Mortgage statement
 - 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>
- 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 in a program of study leading to an undergraduate degree, a certificate, or a diploma.

Applying for an Award

- Students seeking scholarship funding for the 2022-23 academic year, beginning with the fall 2022 term, must submit a completed, error-free [Florida Financial Aid Application](#) by **April 1, 2022** to be considered for an initial award (available **October 1, 2021**).
- The online Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students is available **February 1, 2022**, and must be completed by **April 1, 2022**, to be considered for reinstatement or restoration for the 2022-23 academic year.

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 lowest “expected family contribution” 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, 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

- A renewal application is not required to renew the award. A recipient is automatically considered for a renewal award.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester or third quarter or the equivalent each academic year. Credit or clock hours earned the previous summer can be counted toward the total number of credit hours required for renewal.
- 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.
- Hours earned during the previous summer may be used toward renewal.
- File a timely [FAFSA](#) each academic year to be processed error-free by the U.S. Department of Education on or before **May 15, 2022**.

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 to 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.
- The online Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students, which opens February each year, must be completed by **April 1, 2022**, to be considered for reinstatement or restoration for the 2022-23 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, ethnicity, national origin, gender, 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/SAPHome/SAPHome>

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

To upload documents securely to OSFA, [Click Here](#) or use the link below.

<https://fldoe.sharefile.com/r-r8992dcdb99948c7a>