Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)
2026-27

Initial Eligibility Requirements: (As determined by the Florida Department of Education.)

1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
2. Graduate with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Earn a minimum of five (5) postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications that articulate for college credit.
4. Complete at least 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that equals a minimum of 100 total hours. For students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, 75 hours of volunteer service must be completed.

Eligible CAPE Certifications:
Bright Futures Course Table

Requirements to Receive an Award: (As determined by your postsecondary institution.)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements.
2. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
3. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least six (6) non-remedial semester credit hours.

Scholarship Restrictions:

Until a student has earned an eligible associate degree, Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) scholarships may only be used at postsecondary institutions that offer an applied technology diploma, technical degree education program (associate in applied science or associate in science), or a career certificate program.

Upon completion of an eligible associate degree program, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward an eligible baccalaureate degree.

Renewal Requirements: (As determined by grade and hours submitted by your postsecondary institution.)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term.
2. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA (unrounded and unweighted).

For detailed information, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook.

Eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

Students are responsible for tracking their application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.