

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

2009-10 Updates

The 2009 Florida Legislative Session resulted in several changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program effective July 1st, 2009, for the 2009-10 academic year. Additional information regarding the changes summarized below, as well as other Bright Futures information, will be available July 1st, 2009, on the Bright Futures Web site at <http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf>.

What are the Bright Futures award amounts for the 2009-10 academic year?

Bright Futures recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour award based on their award level [Florida Academic Scholar, Florida Medallion Scholar, or Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar], institution type (4-year, 2-year, or Vocational/Technical), and credit type (semester, quarter, or clock hour) as established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). At FGCU, Bright Futures will pay the following amounts:

4 Year	Florida Academic Scholarship	Academic Top Scholar	Florida Medallion Scholarship	Gold Seal Vocational	CDDV
Cost per Semester Hour	\$126.00	\$54.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$126.00

Do Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) still receive a college-related expense allowance?

No. As of 2009-10 academic year, the FAS college-related expense allowance is no longer available.

Do Academic Top Scholars (ATS) still receive an annual award?

Yes. As of the 2009-10 academic year, ATS recipients will now receive a per credit hour award. These amounts can be found on the Bright Futures Web site as well.

Will Bright Futures recipients have to repay the cost for courses dropped or withdrawn?



Yes. Students will be required to repay the cost of any course dropped or withdrawn unless an exception is granted by the financial aid office at their home postsecondary institution. Repayment for the cost of dropped or withdrawn courses is required to renew a Bright Futures award at the end of the spring term for a subsequent academic year.

Did the renewal criteria change for Bright Futures recipients?

Yes. As of the 2009-10 academic year, Bright Futures recipients are required to meet new minimum credit hour requirements to renew their award each year. The Florida Legislature amended section 1009.532 (1)(a), Florida Statutes, to require **full-time** students to earn at least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours, to renew their award (prorated for part-time students).

Bright Futures Credit Hour Renewal Requirements

Student Funded (per term)	Required Earned Hours (per term)
12+ (Full-Time)	12
9-11 Hours (Three-Quarter Time)	9
6-8 Hours (Half-Time)	6

- Students are required to meet the minimum credit hour requirement for the academic year based on the terms funded.
 - For example, a student funded **full-time** (12+ hours) for **two terms** in a **semester hour** institution must earn a minimum of **24** semester hours and the required GPA to be eligible for renewal.
- Students with different enrollments (full-time, three-quarter time, or half-time) during an academic year must earn the required hours that correspond to their enrollment for each term.
 - For example, a student enrolled at a semester hour institution at **15** hours (full-time) for the fall term and **8** hours (half-time) for the spring term is required to earn a minimum total of **18** semester hours (12 hours for the fall term + 6 hours for the spring term) and the required GPA to be eligible for renewal.

Can students who lose their Bright Futures award for not meeting the minimum credit hours restore their award in a subsequent academic year?

Yes. Bright Futures recipients who do not meet the new credit hour renewal requirements will have the opportunity to restore their award in a subsequent academic year. **This applies to students who were funded and did not meet the minimum credit hour renewal requirements at the end of the 2009-10 academic year and thereafter.**

Can Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) still renew as Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)?

No. The Florida Legislature amended section 1009.536(4), Florida Statutes, by removing the provision which allows GSV recipients to renew as Florida Medallion Scholars. GSV students may receive funding for up to 90 semester hours.