

Florida Gulf Coast University

Valedictorian & Salutatorian Scholarship FAQ

- 1. Is this a four year scholarship?**
Effectively YES. It is awarded for one year, but it is renewable for up to three additional years.
- 2. What if it will only take two years to finish my undergraduate degree?**
You will receive the scholarship for only those two years.
- 3. How much is the scholarship worth?**
It is a full tuition scholarship which covers all in-state fees that are paid based on credit hours. At the current rate, the scholarship would be worth a little over \$3,000 per year or \$12,000 for all four years.
- 4. What do I have to do to keep the scholarship all four years?**
You must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 24 credit hours toward your degree each year at FGCU to renew the scholarship.
- 5. What if I stay a fifth year?**
Sorry – the scholarship is for four years.
- 6. How many credit hours each semester does the scholarship cover?**
The scholarship will pay for up to fifteen credit hours each semester.
- 7. What if the tuition rate at FGCU goes up?**
The scholarship value will go up to match any tuition increase. This is a full tuition scholarship and not a specific dollar amount scholarship
- 8. How do I apply for this scholarship?**
Essentially, you don't. Your high school principal (or designee) must supply FGCU with two names to represent your school as valedictorian and salutatorian. FGCU will then offer the scholarship to these two individuals. To receive the scholarships students must be fully admitted and have standardized test scores (SAT or ACT) above the minimum required for admission to FGCU.
- 9. What if there is a four way tie for valedictorian?**
FGCU will offer the scholarship to all four valedictorians, but will not offer a salutatorian scholarship for that school. If there is one valedictorian and a tie for salutatorian, then the valedictorian and all salutatorians would be offered the scholarship.
- 10. What if the final standings for valedictorian/salutatorian change after the scholarships are awarded (i.e. between the seventh and eighth semester)?**
FGCU will honor the original awards and will also award the scholarship to eligible students based on the final computation of class standing.

11. **What about private schools?**
The scholarship is available to valedictorians and salutatorians of all high schools in Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry Counties which are regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). It is not available to home schooled students.
12. **What if I also receive Bright Futures or some other scholarship?**
Bright Futures may be combined with this scholarship (you can receive both). Other scholarships may have restrictions which prevent awarding both. In general, “full ride” scholarships which pay for tuition, room & board, books, and transportation cannot be combined with this scholarship. Please check with the Financial Aid Office for information about specific scholarships.
13. **Will this scholarship reduce my financial aid award?**
This scholarship will be counted when determining your eligibility for Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Work Study awards and Federal SEOG awards. It may replace part of your financial aid package but will not reduce your overall financial aid eligibility.
14. **Is this scholarship available to any Florida resident?**
No. This scholarship is available to graduates of high schools in FGCU’s five county primary service area (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee).
15. **Is there anything else a student needs to do?**
Students should be sure to apply for admission to FGCU and send in high school transcripts and either the ACT or SAT test scores.
16. **Is there anything else my school needs to do?**
Your high school should be sure to invite a representative from FGCU to attend its honors program or commencement where other scholarships are announced. Please contact the FGCU Financial Aid Office for more information.
17. **Can this scholarship be used for a Graduate Degree Program?**
No, this scholarship is for undergraduate coursework only.
18. **Can I use this scholarship during the summer semester?**
Yes.
19. **Can I attend another university or college first and then transfer to FGCU and still receive the scholarship?**
No. You must enroll at FGCU no later than the fall term of your High School graduation year in order to receive the scholarship.