

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I'm eligible for Florida Bright Futures?

To be considered eligible, a student must...

- Be a Florida resident and a US citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Never have been found guilty of or pleaded nolo contendere to a felony charge.
- Meet the academic requirements for the award described in the previous page.
- **Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form online after January 1st of their last year in high school.**
- Apply for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship by completing the Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during the last year in high school after December 1st but before the graduation date (this will be done at the school).
- Earn a Florida standard diploma or its equivalent.

What if I'm going to college out of state or not at all?

Students are still encouraged to apply even if they are not going to college right away or are planning to attend an out of state institution, as eligible students have up to 3 years after high school graduation to begin using their scholarship funds (for students who enlist in the military, this period begins upon the date of separation from active duty) and certain out of state institutions will match the funds provided by Florida Bright Futures.

How do I get my community service hours?

Before beginning community service, students should visit the Lake Mary High School website to verify that the organization where they plan to do their hours is on the approved list. They should then download and print a community service application (also available in the guidance office) and have it filled out and signed by someone at the organization where they plan to work and then by their guidance counselor. Once the counselor has signed off on the application, the student can officially begin his or her community service. Hours completed before the counselor's approval cannot be counted.