



## Check the status of your financial aid

### Use ISIS "Aid Status" to:

- Find out if your financial aid file is complete or if you have outstanding requirements that will prevent the disbursement of your financial aid.
- Request student loans.
- Print verification documents.

### To check your aid status:

- 1 Go to [www.isis.ufl.edu](http://www.isis.ufl.edu)
- 2 On the left menu, under "Financial Aid," choose "Aid Status" for the correct academic year.



Remember to check your financial aid status frequently via ISIS.

## Update your address and contact info

The UF Directory is the sole source of contact information for students. Remember to update and verify your local and permanent addresses, phone numbers and email in the UF Directory. Accurate information will ensure that you receive all university correspondence. You must update this information each time you change your address, including when you move home for summer or move to a different apartment or residence hall on campus.

In order to protect the confidentiality of your student record, the university will not allow the post office to forward mail to an address other than the one on your directory file. Remember to change your address info whenever any information changes.

### To update your contact info:

- 1 Log on to myUFL portal at [www.my.ufl.edu](http://www.my.ufl.edu)
- 2 From the main menu, go to "My Account" and choose "Update my Directory Profile."
- 3 Follow the directions to verify and update all necessary information.



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**UF Federal School Code: 001535**

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# Florida Bright Futures Renewal Requirements

- All Bright Futures recipients are required to meet minimum credit hour and GPA requirements in order to renew their award each year. Students enrolled full time for both semesters are required to earn at least 24 semester hours in order to renew their award at the end of each academic year. For students not enrolled full time for both semesters, the hours required to renew are prorated.
- Students who do NOT earn the credit hours for which they were funded by the end of the evaluation period will be **TERMINATED** from the scholarship program.
- Students who do NOT earn their program's required GPA at the end of their first evaluation period will be permitted a one-time restoration opportunity. Traditional students receiving funding during fall/spring will be permitted a one-time summer opportunity. Innovation Academy students receiving funding during spring/summer will be permitted a one-time fall opportunity.

Renewal Requirements	Florida Academic Scholars Award	Florida Medallion Scholars Award
Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded & unweighted)	3.0*	2.75
Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Full Time (12+ hours)	12 semester earned hours	12 semester earned hours
Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Three-quarter Time (9-11 hours)	9 semester earned hours	9 semester earned hours
Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Half Time (6-8 hours)	6 semester earned hours	6 semester earned hours

\*Florida Academic Scholars with 2.75-2.99 will renew as Florida Medallion Scholars.



## Bright Futures Renewal Predictor

Determining exactly how many hours you will need to renew your particular Bright Futures award can be confusing. SFA has created a Renewal Predictor to aid you in determining your individual renewal requirements.

<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/bright-futures/renewal/>

For more information, students should contact the FDOE Office of Student Financial Assistance at 1-888-827-2004.

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)

## Florida Bright Futures Refund Policy

- Students will be required to repay their award hours for any course dropped or withdrawn after the drop-add period.
- Hours repaid for dropped or withdrawn courses are added back to the student's total semester hours available, and are not included in the student's total credit hours required to renew the award.
- Repayment for the cost of dropped or withdrawn award hours is required to renew a Bright Futures award for the subsequent academic year.
- Nonpayment of dropped or withdrawn Bright Futures award hours may also negatively affect renewal eligibility for other state programs.



# Student Loans: Choosing a loan that's right for you

*If you're considering student loans to help you pay for school, you're not alone - many students need loans to cover their full cost of attendance. In 2010, 67% of bachelor's degree recipients used loans to pay for their education. But the more money you borrow now, the higher your monthly loan payments will be after you graduate.*

## **I have to borrow money for school. What are my options?**

If you have to take out student loans, you essentially have two choices: federal student loans and private loans.

For most borrowers, federal student loans are the best option. When you start to pay back your federal loans, the interest rate will be fixed, which will help you predict your payments after graduation. And in some cases, the federal government will pay the interest on your loans while you are in school - these loans are called subsidized loans.

Other student loans are generally private student loans. The most common private student loans are offered by banks. Their interest rates are often variable, which means your interest rates and payments could go up over time. Private loans can also be more expensive - rates have been as high as 16% over the past couple of years. And when it is time to repay, private loans don't offer as many options to reduce or postpone payments.

For most people, federal student loans are a better deal than private student loans, so you'll want to take advantage of federal options first.

## **What if my grants and federal loans don't cover the cost of attendance?**

If your grants and federal loans are not enough to cover the cost of your education, you should consider the following options:

- Search for scholarships. Look for state and local grants and scholarships using one of the many free scholarship search options available. Service members, veterans, and their families may be eligible for GI Bill benefits and/or military tuition assistance.  
<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/search/>
- Cut costs. Consider getting one or more roommates or a part-time job, possibly through Federal Work-Study.
- See what your family can contribute. Your parents may be able to get tax credits for their contributions. Parents can also explore the federal Direct PLUS Loan program.
- Shop around for a private loan. Remember that these loans generally have higher interest rates and less repayment flexibility compared to federal student loans. You generally should turn to private loans only after you have explored all other grant, scholarship, and federal loan options. If you can show you have a very high credit rating, you may find an affordable private student loan, though you will likely need a co-signer, who will be legally obligated to repay the loan if you can't or don't. Look for the one with the lowest interest rate and flexible repayment options.

## **What should I consider when shopping for a private loan?**

First, make sure you need a private student loan. These loans generally are not as affordable as federal student loans and offer little repayment flexibility.

Here are some factors to consider:

- Talk to your school's financial aid office to get a form certifying that you need additional aid to cover the cost of attendance - most lenders require it.
- Shop for lower interest rates and loans that offer flexibility if you have trouble making payments.
- Some private lenders may advertise very low interest rates - remember that only borrowers with the best credit will qualify for these rates. Your rate could be much higher.
- In 2011, over 90% of private student loans required a co-signer, so make sure you have someone like a parent or another relative lined up. Your co-signer will be legally obligated to repay the loan if you can't or don't. You may want to consider loans that offer "co-signer release" after a number of on-time payments.

### **Federal Loans**



#### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Take advantage of your federal loan options before seeking private loans. Federal student loans almost always cost less and are easier to repay.



#### **BENEFITS**

Many federal student loans are subsidized and have fixed interest rates. Most students are eligible, and repayment terms are flexible.



#### **RISKS**

The amount of money you can borrow is limited, and a portion of your wages and tax refunds could be taken by the government if you neglect repayment responsibilities.

### **Private Loans**

Private loans are generally more costly than federal loans and offer little flexibility if you are having trouble making your payments.

You can borrow larger amounts. If you shop around and can show ability to repay, you may be able to find low interest rates.

Your interest rate and monthly payment could change with little warning, and you have fewer options for when and how much you repay.



Office for Student Financial Affairs  
S-107 Criser Hall, P. O. Box 114025  
Gainesville, FL 32611-4025  
(352) 392-1275  
[www.sfa.ufl.edu](http://www.sfa.ufl.edu)

*NEWS Financial Aid for Gators* is produced once a semester by the Information/Publication Services section of the Office for Student Financial Affairs, to inform students about financial aid programs and services that help UF students meet educational costs.

Director: Rick Wilder  
Editor: Sharon Eyman

*NEWS: Financial Aid for Gators* is available in other formats for students with documented, print-related disabilities. Students who are speech- or hearing-impaired can contact the Florida Relay Service.  
Dial 711 or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY)  
Online at  
<http://www.ftri.org/FloridaRelay>

*The University of Florida is committed to equal treatment of students without regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, or veteran status.*

## SFA CALENDAR

### JULY 25

Deferred Fee Payment Deadline  
3:30 pm, UB

### JUNE 23-27

Summer Break

### JULY 4

Independence Day

### AUGUST 9

Commencement

### AUGUST 25

Fall Classes Begin

## UF Online Financial Aid Programs

The University of Florida recently launched UF Online, allowing students to pursue their undergraduate degree without ever having to come to campus.

Online students at the University of Florida are eligible for consideration for a wide range of federal, state and institutional aid as administered by the Office for Student Financial Affairs (SFA), which also administers a limited number of privately funded scholarships. This aid can include grants, scholarships, student employment, loans and non-SFA administered aid such as State of Florida aid programs, SFA Resource Center scholarships, academic scholarships and endowed scholarships.

For more information about UF Online go to [www.ufonline.ufl.edu](http://www.ufonline.ufl.edu).

## TOLL-FREE Federal Student Aid Number

1-800-4-FED-AID  
(1-800-433-3243)



## Financial Aid Addresses & Phone Numbers

### U.S. Department of Education

#### Student Aid Information Center

P. O. Box 84  
Washington DC 20044-0084  
1-800-433-3243/1-800-730-8913 (TTY)  
[www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=r](http://www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=r)

#### Federal Direct Loan Information

<http://www.studentloans.gov>

- View loan documents
- Entrance Counseling
- Sign MPN
- Complete PLUS Request Process

#### National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

[http://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls\\_SA](http://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls_SA)

#### Federal Direct Loan Consolidation

1-800-557-7392; 1-800-557-7395 (TTY)  
<http://loanconsolidation.ed.gov>

## Florida Bright Futures

For information about application, renewal requirements, reinstatements, restorations, appeals, summer awards, and other topics, go to the

### Florida Department of Education

website,

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)

Send questions by email:

[osfa@fldoe.org](mailto:osfa@fldoe.org)

Send mail to:

Florida Department of Education  
Turlington Building, Suite 1314  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Toll-Free Hotline: 1-888-827-2004

## Satellite Aid Offices

Main Office: Student Financial Affairs • S-107 Criser Hall • P. O. Box 114025 • Gainesville, FL 32611-4025 • (352) 392-1275

Colleges of Dentistry & Veterinary Medicine  
Dental Tower, D3-22  
Health Sciences Center  
(352) 273-5999

College of Law  
Victoria Houghton  
164 Holland Hall  
(352) 273-0620

College of Medicine  
Eileen Parris  
M-128 Health Sciences Center  
(352) 273-7939

MBA/Graduate Business Programs  
Gus Kreatsoulas  
Connie Reed  
Hough 203  
(352) 273-4960

College of Pharmacy  
Debbie Robinson  
G208 HPNP  
Building, 101 Newell  
(352) 273-6202

Colleges of Public Health and Health Professions & Nursing  
Loucha Simon-Francois  
G206 HPNP Building, 101 Newell  
(352) 273-6115