



Program Description

The Florida Incentive Scholarship Program is a merit scholarship for 2013-14 Florida high school graduates and later who achieved the National Merit® or National Achievement® Finalist designation. The scholarship award is equal to the per term cost of institutional attendance minus the sum of Bright Futures and the award associated with the National Merit/Achievement® process.

Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident. (*Residency status is determined by the institution.*)
- Beginning with the 2013-14 high school graduates, earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalency unless the student completes a home education program or earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida high school while living with a parent who is on military or public service assignment out of Florida.
- Enroll at an eligible, regionally accredited, public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Enroll full-time (*minimum 12 credit hours per term or quarter equivalency*) in a baccalaureate degree program.
- Initially enroll at an eligible postsecondary institution during the 2014-15 fall academic term following high school graduation. An initial application is not required.
- Have received:
 - (a) a National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship,
 - (b) a National Achievement® \$2500 Scholarship,
 - (c) a Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship®,
 - (d) a College-sponsored Merit Scholarship®, or
 - (e) an institutional scholarship of at least \$500 annually, or the equivalent each term, awarded specifically to a 2014 National Merit® Finalist who has not received one of the other four scholarships.

Student Award Renewal

- An application is not required to renew the award.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester, third quarter, or the equivalent of each academic year.

For automatic renewal, an award recipient will have:

- Earned credit for all hours enrolled by the regular drop/add period each term.
- Earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal GPA

A student who does not maintain a 3.0 GPA by the end of the spring semester or third quarter of the academic year shall be ineligible to continue in the program.

Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal Credit Hours

A student who does not meet the required credit hours shall be ineligible to continue in the program.

Award Procedures

- Eligible students will receive an award equal to the per term institutional cost of attendance (COA), minus the sum of the Bright Futures (BF) award and an award associated with the National Merit/Achievement® (NM) process.

$$\text{Florida Incentive Scholarship Award} = \text{COA} - (\text{BF} + \text{NM})$$

- The COA is the total amount of cost to attend college full-time each term, and may include but is not limited to: tuition & fees; on-campus room & board; books; supplies; travel; and miscellaneous expenses.
- The highest institutional COA, as reported by the Board of Governors of the State University System, will be used in the calculation of awards for students who attend an eligible four-year independent postsecondary institution.
- The award may not be used to pay for remedial coursework or developmental education.

Awards Disbursement

- The postsecondary institution will disburse the scholarship to the eligible student. The award is not available to fund summer coursework.

Terms of Eligibility

- This program will provide funds for 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete a baccalaureate degree program, or until completion of a baccalaureate degree program, whichever comes first.
- A student enrolled in a 4-year degree program is eligible to receive an award for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters. Students enrolled in a 5-year undergraduate degree program are eligible to receive an award for a maximum of 10 semesters or 15 quarters.

Institutional Appeal Process

An applicant who believes financial aid has been wrongly denied has certain rights to appeal. If aid is denied for failure to meet state academic progress requirements, an applicant may appeal the denial to the institution by providing proof of illness or other emergency beyond the applicant's control. An institutional academic progress appeal is to be filed within 30 days of the denial letter or by the date established by the institution's financial aid office, whichever is later.

Updating Information

A recipient must notify OSFA of any change in name, address, or institution attended.

A student may update information by contacting OSFA toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 or online:

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

- ✓ Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- ✓ Select **Update My Demographics**

Transferring from one institution to another could affect an applicant's award.

Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the disbursement of an award.

Pursuant to Section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discriminating on the basis of race, sex, national origin, marital status, or handicap. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

Contact Information**Address:**

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
State Scholarship and Grant Programs
Suite 1314
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:

1-888-827-2004

E-mail:

OSFA@fldoe.org