

# NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

## FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

- Submit a complete Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA), also known as the state application (no later than August 31, 2019);
- Complete the required coursework (by high school graduation);
- Achieve the required grade point average in the required coursework;
- Complete the required number of service hours (by high school graduation); and
- Achieve the required college entrance exam score (no later than June 30, 2019).

Although ACT<sup>®</sup> will offer a July 2019 test date and SAT<sup>®</sup> will offer an August 2019 test date, final evaluations for 2019 seniors will only consider test dates through June 30, 2019, as required by rule 6A-20.028, Florida Administrative Code, for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

### Bright Futures Summer Funding

The Florida Legislature has expanded the Florida Bright Futures program to provide Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) funding during the summer term. Funding is only available if the postsecondary institution allows a FAS/FMS student to enroll as a degree-seeking student during the summer term.



## DID YOU KNOW?

You may also research these websites for scholarship opportunities:

- [Finaid.org](http://Finaid.org)
- [Fastweb.com](http://Fastweb.com)
- [Gmsp.org](http://Gmsp.org)

For those of you attending a postsecondary institution for the first time this fall semester, your head must be filled with questions and thoughts about what to expect. College is an exciting place, but it can be complete chaos if you are not prepared. Don't worry - we have your back! Complete this checklist and get a jump start on the right path.

- Open a savings account and start saving.
- Research your college. Find out more about different activities and clubs they are known for and student organizations offered on campus.
- Register for classes. Between orientation or just an appointment with an advisor, make sure you register for classes by the deadline.
- Handle all financial aid matters before the start of your first class. It's easy to forget about or simply avoid, but this is one way that you can really get messed up.
- Go shopping! Get all of the things you'll need for your classes, your dorm room or your new wardrobe. Look into your upcoming booklist and research affordable options.
- Research college majors. Whether you're pretty sure what your path is or you have no idea, do some research. Look up course list, graduation rate, job expectancy, income level, etc. Narrow it down to a few that interest you and be ready to talk to an advisor.
- The work load will be tougher in college. Prepare this summer by reading, writing, building your resume and learning new skills. Last, but not least, enjoy the summer!