

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
Tuition/Financial Assistance



Education Council

**Postsecondary Tuition & Fee Policy
-- Public Community Colleges**

**Fact
Sheet**

January 2005

<p>1. What are the fees a student must pay to enroll in a college credit course at a public community college?</p>	<p>A student who enrolls in a college credit course or non-college credit college preparatory course at a public community college must pay tuition and an out-of-state fee if the student is classified as a non-resident.</p> <p>Community college boards of trustees are authorized by statute to establish other fees which include, but are not limited to, an activity and service fee, financial aid fee, capital improvement fee, and technology fee. If a community college charges these fees, the student must pay these fees as well.</p>
<p>2. Who establishes the fees?</p>	<p>The State Board of Education must adopt a resident fee schedule by December 31 of each year for the following fall for advanced and professional, associate in science degree, and college preparatory programs that produce revenues in the amount of 25% of the full prior year's cost of these programs. Fees for courses in college-preparatory programs and associate in arts (AA) and associate in science (AS) degree programs may be established at the same level. Unless the Legislature provides for an alternative fee schedule in the appropriations act, the fee schedule takes effect the subsequent fall semester.</p> <p>Each community college board of trustees must establish tuition and out-of-state fees which vary no more than 10% below and 15% above the combined total of the fee schedule adopted by the State Board of Education and the technology fee adopted by the board of trustees. (See Question 10 for a discussion of the technology fee.) Any amount from 10-15% above the State Board fee schedule must be used only to support safety and security purposes. In order to assess an additional amount for safety and security purposes, the community college board must provide written justification to the State Board.</p> <p>A community college board of trustees that has a service area that borders another state may implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee.</p> <p>Community college boards of trustees are authorized by</p>

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	statute to establish an activity & service fee, financial aid fee, capital improvement fee, and technology fee
3. What is tuition?	"Tuition" means the basic fee charged to a student for instruction provided by a Florida public postsecondary educational institution. Unless the student is eligible for a fee exemption or fee waiver, a student who enrolls in a college-prep or college-credit course at a public community college must pay the tuition assessed by the institution.
4. What is the out-of-state fee?	<p>The "out-of-state fee" is the additional fee for instruction provided by a Florida public postsecondary educational institution that is charged to a non-Florida resident. Unless the student is eligible for a fee exemption or fee waiver, a student who is classified as a non-resident who enrolls in a college-prep or college-credit course at a public community college must pay the out-of-state fee assessed by the institution.</p> <p>Except as otherwise provided in law, the sum of nonresident student tuition and out-of-state fees must be sufficient to defray the full cost of each program.</p>
5. How is residency for purposes of tuition determined?	<p>Current law requires students to be classified as residents or nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community colleges and state universities.</p> <p>In general, to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes, the student, or the student's parent or parents if the student is a dependent child, must have established legal residence in Florida and maintained such residence for at least 12 months prior to qualification. The residence during the 12-month qualifying period must be for the purpose of maintaining a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of maintaining a temporary residence incident to enrollment in an institution of higher education.</p> <p>Other conditions may apply based on a student's dependency or marital status.</p>
6. Are there other categories of students that are classified as residents for tuition purposes?	<p>Yes. The following persons are classified as residents for tuition purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active duty members of the Armed Services residing or stationed in this state as well as their spouses and dependent children. • Active duty members of the Florida National Guard who qualify for the Guard's tuition assistance program. • Active duty members of the Armed Services and their spouses who attend a public community college or state

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	<p>university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. The military establishment must be in a county contiguous to Florida.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in Florida under the North America Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children. They must be attending an institution within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. • U.S. citizens living on the Isthmus of Panama who have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the FSU Panama Canal Branch, and their spouses and children. • U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. who are teaching at a Department of Defense School and enroll in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida teaching certificate. • Full-time instructional and administrative personnel employed by state public schools, community colleges, and other public postsecondary institutions and their spouses. • Full-time employees of state agencies or political subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training. • Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who receive scholarships from the federal or state government. • Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state universities. • McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are U.S. citizens.
<p>7. What is the activity and service fee?</p>	<p>Each community college board of trustees may establish an activity and service fee not to exceed 10% of tuition to provide student services and programs.</p>
<p>8. What is the financial aid fee?</p>	<p>Each community college board of trustees may establish a financial aid fee of up to 5% of the total tuition or out-of-state fees collected. Colleges may collect an additional 2% if the total revenue generated by the financial aid fee is less than \$250,000.</p> <p>Up to 25% of the financial aid fee revenues or \$300,000, whichever is greater, may be used to support students who demonstrate academic merit or participate in athletics, public service, cultural arts, or other extracurricular programs. A minimum of 75% of the remaining financial aid fee revenues for</p>

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	<p>new awards must be awarded based on absolute need and the remainder may be used for merit and other purposes approved by the district board of trustees. Financial aid fee revenues may not be used for direct or indirect administrative purposes or salaries.</p>
<p>9. What is the capital improvement fee?</p>	<p>Each community college board of trustees may establish a capital improvement fee of up to \$1 per credit hour for in-state students and \$3 or more per credit hour for out-of-state students to provide funding for construction, renovation, or remodeling of facilities; technology enhancement; or equipping buildings.</p>
<p>10. What is the technology fee?</p>	<p>Each community college board of trustees is authorized to establish a separate technology fee to support the implementation of technology improvement plans. The fee may not exceed \$1.80 per credit hour for residents and \$5.40 per credit hour for non-residents. This fee may apply to both college-credit and college-preparatory instruction. Half of the fee revenues may be pledged as a dedicated source for the repayment of debt, but revenues from the technology fee may not be bonded.</p>
<p>11. Who is exempt from paying fees?</p>	<p>Certain students are provided fee exemptions pursuant to statute including students who are dually enrolled and WAGES clients.</p>
<p>12. Are community colleges authorized to assess any fees in addition to those required to enroll in a course?</p>	<p>Yes. Community college boards of trustees are authorized to establish a number of user fees and fines. These include, but are not limited to, application fees, parking fees, and lab fees. The user fees and fines are not to exceed the cost of the services provided and are only to be charged to persons receiving the service.</p>
<p>13. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 1009.01, F.S. -- Definitions. Section 1009.21, F.S. -- Determination of resident status for tuition purposes. Section 1009.23, F.S. -- Community college student fees. Section 1009.25, F.S. -- Fee exemptions. Section 1009.26, F.S. -- Fee waivers.</p>
<p>14. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Division of Community Colleges (850) 245-0407 www.fl DOE.org/cc</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (850) 488-7451</p>



Education Council

**Postsecondary Tuition & Fee Policy
-- State Universities**

**Fact
Sheet**

January 2005

<p>1. What are the fees a student must pay to enroll in a course at a public university?</p>	<p>A student who enrolls in a course at a public university must pay the following fees: tuition, an out-of-state fee if the student is classified as a non-resident; a building fee; a Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee; a financial aid fee; an activity & service fee; an athletic fee; and a health fee. Fees are typically assessed on a per credit hour basis. All students are to be charged fees except students who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.</p>
<p>2. Who establishes the fees?</p>	<p>Each university board of trustees sets university tuition and fees within law and proviso in the General Appropriations Act.</p> <p>A university that has a service area that borders another state may implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee.</p> <p>The building fee is established in statute at \$2.32 per student credit hour. The Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee is established in statute at \$2.44 per student credit hour.</p> <p>University boards of trustees are authorized to collect a financial aid fee that is capped at 5% of the tuition and out-of-state fee.</p> <p>University boards of trustees are authorized to establish separate activity and service, health, and athletic fees. The sum of the activity and service fee, health fee, and athletic fee is capped at 40% of the tuition established in law or in the General Appropriations Act. Within the 40% cap, universities may not increase the aggregate sum of these three fees more than 5% per year unless specifically authorized in law or in the General Appropriations Act. A university may exceed both of these caps if the university is increasing its athletic fee to defray costs associated with changing NCAA divisions. Such an increase cannot exceed \$2 per credit hour.</p>
<p>3. What is tuition?</p>	<p>"Tuition" means the basic fee charged to a student for instruction provided by a Florida public postsecondary educational institution. Unless the student is eligible for a fee exemption or fee waiver, a student who enrolls in a course at a state university must pay the tuition assessed by the institution.</p>

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<p>4. What is the out-of-state fee?</p>	<p>The "out-of-state fee" is the additional fee for instruction provided by a Florida public postsecondary educational institution that is charged to a non-Florida resident. Unless the student is eligible for a fee exemption or fee waiver, a student who is classified as a non-resident who enrolls in a course at a state university must pay the out-of-state fee assessed by the institution.</p>
<p>5. How is residency for purposes of tuition determined?</p>	<p>Current law requires students to be classified as residents or nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community colleges and state universities.</p> <p>In general, to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes, the student, or the student's parent or parents if the student is a dependent child, must have established legal residence in Florida and maintained such residence for at least 12 months prior to qualification. The residence during the 12-month qualifying period must be for the purpose of maintaining a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of maintaining a temporary residence incident to enrollment in an institution of higher education.</p> <p>Other conditions may apply based on a student's dependency or marital status.</p>
<p>6. Are there other categories of students that are classified as residents for tuition purposes?</p>	<p>Yes. The following persons are classified as residents for tuition purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active duty members of the Armed Services residing or stationed in this state as well as their spouses and dependent children. • Active duty members of the Florida National Guard who qualify for the Guard's tuition assistance program. • Active duty members of the Armed Services and their spouses who attend a public community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. The military establishment must be in a county contiguous to Florida. • Active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in Florida under the North America Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children. They must be attending an institution within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. • U.S. citizens living on the Isthmus of Panama who have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the FSU Panama Canal Branch, and their spouses and children. • U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. who are teaching at a

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	<p>Department of Defense School and enroll in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida teaching certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time instructional and administrative personnel employed by state public schools, community colleges, and other public postsecondary institutions and their spouses. • Full-time employees of state agencies or political subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training. • Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who receive scholarships from the federal or state government. • Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state universities • McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are U.S. citizens
<p>7. What is the financial aid fee?</p>	<p>Universities are authorized to charge a financial aid fee to provide funds for financial aid awards. A minimum of 75% of funds from the financial aid fee for new awards must be used to provide aid based on absolute need. Universities are permitted to use funds from the financial aid fee for administrative purposes.</p>
<p>8. What is the activity & service fee?</p>	<p>The activity & service fee is a local fee charged by the university to provide student services and programs that benefit the student body in general. This includes, but is not limited to, student publications and grants to duly recognized student organizations, the membership of which is open to all students at the university. The student government association determines the allocation and expenditure of revenues from the activity and service fee, although the university president has line item veto authority.</p>
<p>9. What is the athletic fee?</p>	<p>The athletic fee is a local fee charged by the university to provide funding for intercollegiate athletic programs.</p>
<p>10. What is the health fee?</p>	<p>The health fee is a local fee charged by the university to provide basic health care services to students.</p>
<p>11. What other fees are authorized in statute?</p>	<p>Each university board of trustees is also authorized by statute to establish any of the following fees that are often described as "user fees": a nonrefundable application fee; an orientation fee; a fee for security, access, or identification cards; registration fees for audit and zero-hours registration; a service charge for the payment of tuition in installments; a late-registration fee; a late-payment fee; a fee for miscellaneous health-related charges for services provided at</p>

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	<p>cost by the university health center which are not covered by the health fee; materials and supplies fees; housing rental rates and miscellaneous housing charges; a charge representing the reasonable cost of efforts to collect payment of overdue accounts; a service charge on university loans in lieu of interest and administrative handling charges; a fee for off-campus course offerings; library fees and fines; fees relating to duplicating, photocopying, binding, and microfilming; copyright services; and standardized testing; fees and fines relating to the use, late return, and loss and damage of facilities and equipment; a returned-check fee; traffic and parking fines, charges for parking decals, and transportation access fees; fee for child care; and fees for transcripts and diploma replacement.</p> <p>Each university board of trustees is authorized to establish a nonrefundable admissions deposit not to exceed \$200.</p>
<p>12. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 1009.01, F.S. -- Definitions Section 1009.21, F.S. -- Determination of resident status for tuition purposes Section 1009.24, F.S. -- State university student fees Section 1009.25, F.S. -- Fee exemptions Section 1009.26, F.S. -- Fee waivers</p>
<p>13. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Division of Colleges and Universities (850) 245-0466 www.fldcu.org</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)</p>



Education Council

**Postsecondary Tuition & Fee Policy
-- Workforce Education**

**Fact
Sheet**

January 2005

<p>1. What are the fees a student must pay to enroll in a workforce education course?</p>	<p>A student who enrolls in a workforce education program must pay tuition and an out-of-state fee if the student is classified as a nonresident.</p> <p>School boards and community college boards of trustees are specifically authorized by statute to establish other fees which include, but are not limited to, a financial aid fee, a capital improvement fee, and a technology fee.</p>
<p>2. Who establishes the fees?</p>	<p>The Commissioner of Education must annually provide the State Board of Education with a schedule of fees for workforce education, excluding continuing workforce education, for school districts and community colleges. The fee schedule must be based on the amount of student fees necessary to produce 25% of the prior year's average cost of a course of study leading to a certificate or a diploma. Except as provided by law, fees for students who are not residents for tuition purposes must offset the full cost of instruction. The State Board of Education must adopt by rule the definitions and procedures that school districts are required to use in the calculation of cost borne by students.</p> <p>The State Board of Education must adopt a fee schedule for workforce education for school districts and community colleges that produces the required fee revenue. This fee schedule takes effect unless otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>A district school board or community college board that has a service area that borders another state may implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee.</p>
<p>3. What is tuition?</p>	<p>"Tuition" means the basic fee charged to a student for instruction provided by a Florida public postsecondary educational institution. Unless the student is eligible for a fee exemption or fee waiver, a student who enrolls in a workforce education course offered by a public community college or by a school district must pay the tuition assessed by that entity.</p>

Postsecondary Tuition & Fee Policy -- Workforce Education

<p>4. What is the out-of-state fee?</p>	<p>The "out-of-state fee" is the additional fee for instruction provided by a Florida public postsecondary educational institution that is charged to a non-Florida resident. Unless the student is eligible for a fee exemption or fee waiver, a student who is classified as a nonresident who enrolls in a workforce education course offered by a public community college or by a school district must pay the out-of-state fee assessed by that entity.</p>
<p>5. How is residency for purposes of tuition determined?</p>	<p>Current law requires students to be classified as residents or nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community colleges and state universities. There is no specific statutory reference to school districts that offer postsecondary instruction.</p> <p>In general, to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes, the student, or the student's parent or parents if the student is a dependent child, must have established legal residence in Florida and maintained such residence for at least 12 months prior to qualification. The residence during the 12-month qualifying period must be for the purpose of maintaining a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of maintaining a temporary residence incident to enrollment in an institution of higher education.</p> <p>Other conditions may apply based on a student's dependency or marital status.</p>
<p>6. Are there other categories of students that are classified as residents for tuition purposes?</p>	<p>Yes. The following persons are classified as residents for tuition purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active duty members of the Armed Services residing or stationed in this state as well as their spouses and dependent children. • Active duty members of the Florida National Guard who qualify for the Guard's tuition assistance program. • Active duty members of the Armed Services and their spouses who attend a public community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. The military establishment must be in a county contiguous to Florida. • Active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in Florida under the North America Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children. They must be attending an institution within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. citizens living on the Isthmus of Panama who have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the FSU Panama Canal Branch, and their spouses and children. • U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. who are teaching at a Department of Defense School and enroll in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida teaching certificate. • Full-time instructional and administrative personnel employed by state public schools, community colleges, and other public postsecondary institutions and their spouses. • Full-time employees of state agencies or political subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training. • Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who receive scholarships from the federal or state government. • Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state universities. • McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are U.S. citizens
<p>7. What is the financial aid fee?</p>	<p>Each district school board and each community college board of trustees is authorized to establish a financial aid fee of up to 10% of the student fees collected for workforce education programs. Fee revenues must be used to support students enrolled in workforce education. Awards must be based on student need.</p>
<p>8. What is the capital improvement fee?</p>	<p>Each district school board and each community college board of trustees is authorized to establish a capital improvement fee of up to 5% of tuition for resident students and 5% of tuition and out-of-state fees for nonresidents to provide funding for construction, renovation, or remodeling of facilities; technology enhancement; or equipping buildings.</p>
<p>9. What is the technology fee?</p>	<p>Each district school board and each community college board of trustees is authorized to establish a separate technology fee to support the implementation of technology improvement plans. This technology fee may apply only to associate degree programs and courses. The fee may not exceed \$1.80 per credit hour for residents and \$5.40 per credit hour for non-residents. Half of the fee revenues may be pledged by a community college board of trustees as a dedicated source for the repayment of debt, but revenues from the technology fee may not be bonded.</p>

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<p>10. Who is exempt from paying fees?</p>	<p>Certain students are provided fee exemptions in statute. Students who do not have a high school diploma and students who have a high school diploma but who have academic skills below the eighth grade level are exempt from any requirement for the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, for adult basic, adult secondary or vocational preparatory instruction.</p> <p>Students who are dually enrolled, students who are in approved apprenticeship programs, and welfare transition clients are also provided fee exemptions.</p>
<p>11. How are fees for continuing workforce education determined?</p>	<p>Fees for continuing workforce education (CWE) are determined locally by the district school board or the community college board. At least 50% of the expenditures for CWE courses provided by the community college or school district must be derived from fees.</p>
<p>12. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 1009.01, F.S. -- Definitions. Section 1009.21, F.S. -- Determination of resident status for tuition purposes. Section 1009.22, F.S. -- Workforce education postsecondary student fees Section 1009.25, F.S. -- Fee exemptions. Section 1009.26, F.S. -- Fee waivers.</p>
<p>13. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Office of Workforce Education (850) 245-0446 www.myfloridaeducation.com/workforce/division.htm</p> <p>Department of Education Division of Community Colleges (850) 245-0407 www.fldoe.org/cc</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (850) 488-7451</p>



Education Council

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Fact Sheet

January 2005

<p>1. What is Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program?</p>	<p>The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a lottery-funded scholarship program created by the 1997 Legislature to reward Florida high school graduates who merit recognition of high academic achievement and enroll in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution.</p>
<p>2. What are the components of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program?</p>	<p>The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is an "umbrella" program providing three awards: the Florida Academic Scholars Award, the Florida Medallion Scholars Award, and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. (Refer to individual fact sheets for a further description of each award.)</p>
<p>3. Who is eligible to receive a Bright Futures award?</p>	<p>A student must meet the following general criteria to be considered for an award under the Bright Futures Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• complete a Florida Financial Aid Application• be a Florida resident• earn a Florida high school diploma, or the equivalent• enroll in an eligible Florida postsecondary education institution for at least 6 credit hours per semester• not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony charge• commence using the award within 3 years of graduation. <p>For students who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school, the 3-year eligibility period for initial awards begins upon the date of separation from active duty.</p> <p>(Refer to individual fact sheets concerning each award for specific eligibility requirements and award amounts.)</p>
<p>4. How does a student apply for a Bright Futures award?</p>	<p>To be considered for an award from the Bright Futures Program, a student must complete a <i>Florida Financial Aid Application</i> by spring graduation. The same application form is used regardless of the award the student is seeking. The form may be completed on-line at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org or by submitting a hardcopy application to the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance at the address contained in the application. A hard copy application may be printed from the Florida Student</p>

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

	Financial Aid website or obtained from a high school guidance counselor.
5. How much funding has been provided?	\$275,989,784 was provided in FY 2004-05 for 127,722 (estimated) awards.
6. Where can a student use a Bright Futures award?	<p>Students who receive a Bright Futures scholarship may enroll in any eligible Florida public or private, independent postsecondary vocational-technical institution, community college, or university.</p> <p>A list of eligible institutions is available at the Department of Education's website with a link to Bright Futures. (See Question 7)</p>
7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Sections 1009.53 - 1009.538, F.S. -- Bright Futures Scholarship Program
8. Where can I get additional information?	<p>A high school guidance counselor</p> <p>Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance 1-888-827-2004 (toll-free) (850) 410-5200 www.fldoe.org www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)</p>



Education Council

Bright Futures Scholarship Program -- Florida Academic Scholars Award

Fact Sheet

January 2005

1. What is the Florida Academic Scholars Award?	The Florida Academic Scholars Award is one of three awards available to Florida high school graduates through the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. (Refer to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program Fact Sheet.)
2. What is the award amount?	A student who attends a public institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount required to pay tuition, fees (including lab fees up to \$300 per semester), and \$600 for college-related expenses annually. A student who attends a nonpublic institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay for the average tuition and fees of a public postsecondary education institution at the comparable level, plus the annual \$600 for college-related expenses. A student may also be eligible for an additional \$1,500 if he or she is rated as the school district's highest-ranking scholar.
3. What are the general eligibility criteria for a Bright Futures Award?	A student must meet the following general criteria to be considered for an award under the Bright Futures Scholarship Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• complete a Florida Financial Aid Application• be a Florida resident• earn a Florida high school diploma, or the equivalent• enroll in an eligible Florida postsecondary education institution for at least 6 credit hours per semester• not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony charge• commence using the award within 3 years of graduation. For students who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school, the 3-year eligibility period for initial awards begins upon the date of separation from active duty.
4. What are the specific eligibility requirements for the Florida Academic Scholars Award?	In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria for a Bright Futures Award (See Question 3), a student must meet the following criteria to be considered for an Academic Scholars Award: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• achieve a 3.5 weighted GPA using the 15 core credits required for admission to a state university;• perform 75 hours of community service; and

BFSP -- Florida Academic Scholars Award

<p>5. What are the 15 core credits on which the GPA calculation is based?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • score a 1270 SAT or 28 ACT (best composite score). • 4 English (3 with substantial writing) • 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above) • 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab requirements) • 3 Social Science (any) • 2 Foreign Language (in the same language) <p>A student may use up to 3 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) fine arts courses to raise his or her GPA.</p>
<p>6. How are courses weighted for the GPA calculation?</p>	<p>Current law requires the weighting of grades earned in selected courses for purposes of calculating the GPA used to determine eligibility for a Bright Futures award.</p> <p>Additional weight of no more than 0.5 points per course is given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses identified in the course code directory as AP, Pre-IB, or IB; • courses designated as academic dual enrollment courses in the statewide course numbering system; and • other courses identified by the Department of Education as containing rigorous academic and performance standards. <p>For example, if a student earns an "A" in a regular course, 4.0 quality points are awarded. If the 'A' is earned in a course in one of the above categories, 4.5 quality points are awarded, thus giving additional weight to more rigorous courses.</p>
<p>7. Are there other ways to qualify for an Academic Scholars Award?</p>	<p>Yes. A student who performs 75 hours of community service and falls into one of the following categories may qualify for an Academic Scholars Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Merit Scholar or Finalist, National Achievement Scholar or Finalist, or National Hispanic Scholar; • International Baccalaureate Diploma recipient; • student has completed the IB curriculum and scores a 1270 SAT or 28 ACT; • student has received a GED with best composite score of 1270 SAT or 28 ACT and has a 3.5 weighted GPA in the 15 core credits; • student is enrolled full time in an Early Admissions Program with best composite score of 1270 SAT or 28 ACT and a 3.5 weighted GPA in curriculum courses completed; • student has attended a home education program, registered with the district, during grades 11 and 12 and

BFSP -- Florida Academic Scholars Award

	<u>scores a 1270 SAT or 28 ACT.</u>
8. What are the renewal criteria for an Academic Scholars Award?	To renew the Academic Scholars Award, a student must earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA and earn at least six credit hours per semester funded. An Academic Scholars Award recipient with a 2.75 - 2.99 cumulative college GPA and six credit hours per semester funded may renew as a Florida Medallion Scholar.
9. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Sections 1009.53 - 1009.538, F.S. -- Bright Futures Scholarship Program
10. Where can I get additional information?	<p>A high school guidance counselor</p> <p>Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance (850) 410-5200 Student Hotline: (888) 827-2004 (toll free) www.fldoe.org www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)</p>



Education Council

**Bright Futures Scholarship
Program -- Florida Medallion
Scholars Award**

**Fact
Sheet**

January 2005

1. What is the Medallion Scholars Award?	The Florida Medallion Scholars Award is one of three awards available to Florida high school graduates through the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. (Refer to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program Fact Sheet.)
2. What is the award amount?	A student who attends a public institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount required to pay 75% of tuition and fees (including lab fees up to \$300 per semester). A student who attends a nonpublic institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay for 75% of the average tuition and fees of a public postsecondary education institution at the comparable level.
3. What are the general eligibility criteria for a Bright Futures award?	A student must meet the following general criteria to be considered for an award under the Bright Futures Scholarship Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• complete a Florida Financial Aid Application• be a Florida resident• earn a Florida high school diploma, or the equivalent• enroll in an eligible Florida postsecondary education institution for at least 6 credit hours per semester• not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony charge• commence using the award within 3 years of graduation. For students who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school, the 3-year eligibility period for initial awards begins upon the date of separation from active duty.
4. What are the specific eligibility requirements for the Florida Medallion Scholars Award?	In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria for a Bright Futures Award (See Question 3), a student must meet the following criteria to be considered for a Medallion Scholars Award: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• achieve a 3.0 weighted GPA using the 15 core credits required for admission to a state university, and• score a 970 SAT or 20 ACT (best composite score).
5. What are the 15 core credits on which the GPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 English (3 with substantial writing)• 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)• 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)

BFSP -- Florida Medallion Scholars Award

<p>calculation is based?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Social Science (any) • 2 Foreign Language (in the same language) <p>A student may use up to 3 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) fine arts courses to raise his or her GPA.</p>
<p>6. How are courses weighted for the GPA calculation?</p>	<p>Current law requires the weighting of grades earned in selected courses for purposes of calculating the GPA used to determine eligibility for a Bright Futures award.</p> <p>Additional weight, of no more than 0.5 points per course, is given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses identified in the course code directory as AP, Pre-IB, or IB; • courses designated as academic dual enrollment courses in the statewide course numbering system; and • other courses identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as containing rigorous academic and performance standards. <p>For example, if a student earns an "A" in a regular course, 4.0 quality points are awarded. If the 'A' is earned in a course in one of the above categories, 4.5 quality points are awarded, thus giving additional weight to more rigorous courses.</p>
<p>7. Are there other ways to qualify for a Medallion Scholars Award?</p>	<p>Yes. A student who falls into one of the following categories may qualify for a Medallion Scholars Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists and National Hispanic Scholars who have not completed 75 hours of community service; • student has completed the IB Curriculum and scored a best composite 970 SAT or 20 ACT; • student has attended a home education program, registered with the district, during grades 11 and 12 and scored a best composite 1070 SAT or 23 ACT; • student has received a GED with a best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the 15 core credits; • student is enrolled in an Early Admissions Program with best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT and a 3.0 weighted GPA in curriculum courses completed.
<p>8. What are the renewal criteria for a Medallion Scholars Award?</p>	<p>To renew the Medallion Scholars Award, a student must maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA and earn at least six credit hours per semester funded.</p>

BFSP -- Florida Medallion Scholars Award

9. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Sections 1009.53 - 1009.538, F.S. -- Bright Futures Scholarship Program
10. Where can I get additional information?	A high school guidance counselor Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance (850) 410-5160 Student Hot Line: (888) 827-2004 (toll-free) www.fldoe.org www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)



Education Council

**Bright Futures Scholarship
Program -- Florida Gold Seal
Vocational Scholars Award**

**Fact
Sheet**

January 2005

<p>1. What is the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award?</p>	<p>The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award is one of three awards available to Florida high school graduates through the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. (Refer to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program Fact Sheet.)</p>
<p>2. What is the award amount?</p>	<p>A student who enrolls in a public institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount required to pay 75% of tuition and fees (including lab fees up to \$300 per semester). A student who enrolls in a nonpublic institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay 75% of the average tuition and fees of a public institution at the comparable level.</p>
<p>3. What are the general eligibility criteria for a Bright Futures Award?</p>	<p>A student must meet the following general criteria to be considered for an award under the Bright Futures Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete a Florida Financial Aid Application • be a Florida resident • earn a Florida high school diploma, or the equivalent • enroll in an eligible Florida postsecondary education institution for at least 6 credit hours per semester • not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony charge • commence using the award within 3 years of graduation. For students who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school, the 3-year eligibility period for initial awards begins upon the date of separation from active duty.
<p>4. What are the specific eligibility requirements for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award?</p>	<p>In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria for a Bright Futures Award (See Question 3), a student must meet the following criteria to be considered for a Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve a 3.0 weighted GPA using the core credits required for graduation; • achieve a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of three sequential secondary school career in one vocational program credits • earn the minimum score on each subsection of the CPT,

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	<p>SAT, or ACT. Subsections of the SAT, ACT, or CPT from different test dates may be combined to meet criteria. CPT: Reading 83; Sentence Skills 83; Algebra 72 <u>or</u> SAT: Verbal 440; Math 440 <u>or</u> ACT: English 17; Reading 18; Math 19</p>
<p>5. What are the core credits on which the GPA calculation is based?</p>	<p>For students who pursue the traditional 4-year 24-credit high school graduation option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 English • 3 Mathematics • 3 Natural Science • 3 Social Science • 1 Practical Arts; or 1 Performing Arts; or $\frac{1}{2}$ credit in each • $\frac{1}{2}$ Personal Fitness • $\frac{1}{2}$ Physical Education • $\frac{1}{2}$ Life Management Skills <p>For students who pursue the 3-year accelerated college preparatory high school graduation option or the 3-year accelerated career preparatory option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 English • 3 Mathematics • 3 Natural Science • 3 Social Science • 2 Foreign Language <p>(Refer to the High School Graduation Requirements Fact Sheet for specific course requirements within each discipline.)</p>
<p>6. How are courses weighted for the GPA calculation?</p>	<p>Current law requires the weighting of grades earned in selected courses for purposes of calculating the GPA used to determine eligibility for a Bright Futures award.</p> <p>Additional weight, of no more than 0.5 points per course, is given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses identified in the course code directory as AP, Pre-IB, or IB; • courses designated as academic dual enrollment courses in the statewide course numbering system; and • other courses identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as containing rigorous academic and performance standards. <p>For example, if a student earns an "A" in a regular course, 4.0</p>

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	<p>quality points are awarded. If the "A" is earned in a course in one of the above categories, 4.5 quality points are awarded, thus giving additional weight to more rigorous courses.</p>
<p>7. What are the renewal criteria for the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award?</p>	<p>To renew the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award, a student must maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA and earn at least six credit hours per semester funded. A Gold Seal Scholar may also renew as a Florida Medallion Scholar with a 2.75 cumulative college GPA and at least six credit hours per semester funded.</p>
<p>8. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Sections 1009.53 - 1009.538, F.S. -- Bright Futures Scholarship Program</p>
<p>9. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>A high school guidance counselor</p> <p>Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance (850) 410-5160 Student Hotline: (888) 827-2004 (toll-free) www.fldoe.org www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)</p>



Education Council

**Florida Student Assistance
Grant Program (FSAG)**

**Fact
Sheet**

January 2005

<p>1. What is the Florida Student Assistance Grant Program?</p>	<p>The Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Program consists of three state-funded financial assistance programs that are available to undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need.</p>
<p>2. Who is eligible to receive a Florida Student Assistance Grant?</p>	<p>A student must meet the following general criteria to be considered for a Florida Student Assistance Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a Florida resident.• apply for a Federal Pell Grant by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.• demonstrate a minimum financial need of \$200.• be a degree-seeking student.• enroll at an eligible Florida postsecondary education institution for a minimum of 12 credits per term (disabled students and students enrolled in public institutions may be eligible to enroll on a part-time basis).• maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average while enrolled at an eligible postsecondary education institution.
<p>3. What are the three financial assistance programs that comprise the FSAG Program?</p>	<p>The FSAG Program is comprised of the following three programs: the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program, the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program, and the Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program. Each program is funded separately.</p>
<p>4. Where can a student use a Florida Student Assistance Grant?</p>	<p>Each of the three programs that make up the FSAG Program can only be used at certain postsecondary education institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students who receive a Florida Public Student Assistance Grant must enroll at a Florida state university or community college.• Students who receive a Florida Private Student Assistance Grant must enroll at a SACS-accredited independent nonprofit college or university located in and chartered by Florida that offers baccalaureate degrees.• Students who receive a Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant must enroll at a private nursing diploma school located in Florida or an independent college or university located in Florida that is licensed by the Commission on Independent Education and that does not qualify for the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program.

Florida Student Assistance Grant Program

<p>5. What is the award amount for the FSAG?</p>	<p>Each award is based on a student's demonstrated unmet need. Priority in distribution of grant money is given to students with the lowest total family resources.</p> <p>The award amount for the Florida <i>Public</i> Student Assistance Grant ranges from \$200 to the average cost of tuition and registration fees for 30 credit hours at state universities or is an amount specified in the General Appropriations Act. The award amount for the Florida <i>Private</i> Student Assistance Grant and the Florida <i>Postsecondary</i> Student Assistance Grant ranges from \$200 to the average cost of tuition and registration fees for 30 credit hours at state universities plus \$1,000 or is an amount specified in the General Appropriations Act.</p> <p>The 2004-2005 General Appropriations Act provides \$90,605,629 for the FSAG program and specifies that the maximum award amount for any of the three programs is \$1,592.</p>
<p>6. Are part-time students eligible for the FSAG?</p>	<p>Yes. Legislation signed into law in 2002 allows students attending state universities and community colleges to be eligible for the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant if enrolled in a minimum of 6 semester credit hours. Students receiving the Private and Postsecondary student assistance grants must be enrolled full-time.</p>
<p>7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 1009.50, F.S. -- Florida Public Student Assistance Grant. Section 1009.51, F.S. -- Florida Private Student Assistance Grant. Section 1009.52, F.S. -- Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant.</p> <p>Rules 6A-20.031 - 6A-20.033, F.A.C. -- Florida Student Assistance Grant Program.</p>
<p>8. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance (850) 410-5160 Student Hotline: (888) 827-2004 (toll-free) www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)</p>



Education Council
Florida Resident Access Grant
(FRAG)

Fact Sheet

January 2005

1. What is the Florida Resident Access Grant?	The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) is a tuition assistance program for students registered at eligible independent, nonprofit colleges or universities in Florida. The Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Department of Education (DOE) oversees the program.
2. Who is eligible to receive an award?	Florida residents who enroll full-time as degree-seeking undergraduates at selected independent colleges and universities in the state may be eligible to receive FRAG. Students enrolled in a theology or divinity program are <i>not</i> eligible to receive a grant. Eligible students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. A student may receive the award for a maximum of nine semesters. The award is not need-based.
3. Where can a student use FRAG?	A student must attend an independent, nonprofit, 4-year SACS-accredited institution that is located in and chartered by the State of Florida and has a secular purpose.
4. How does a student apply for the FRAG?	A student applies for the FRAG at the institution the student plans to attend. The deadline for applying for the award is established by each participating institution.
5. What is the award amount?	The maximum amount that can be awarded is specified in the General Appropriations Act. The maximum award amount for 2004-2005 is capped at \$2,369.17. The actual award amount is based on the overall amount appropriated by the Legislature for the program and the total number of eligible students. A total of \$79,841,350 was appropriated for 2004-2005.
6. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Section 1009.89, F.S. -- Florida Resident Access Grant. Rule 6A-20.007, F.A.C. -- Florida Resident Access Grants.
7. Where can I get additional information?	Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance Student Hotline: (888) 827-2004 (toll free) www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)



<p>1. What programs are available from the State of Florida to assist families in planning and saving for a college education?</p>	<p>The State of Florida offers two programs - the Florida Prepaid College Plan and the Florida College Investment Plan - to assist families in planning and saving for a college education. Both plans are administered by the Florida Prepaid College Board.</p>
<p>2. What is the Florida Prepaid College Plan?</p>	<p>The Florida Prepaid College Plan (Florida Prepaid/Prepaid Plan) allows Floridians to purchase prepayment contracts for postsecondary education that lock in many of the costs associated with postsecondary attendance at the time the contract is purchased. As of August 1, 2004, a total of 974,431 Florida Prepaid Plans have been purchased statewide, and enrollment is growing.</p>
<p>3. What types of plans are available through Florida Prepaid?</p>	<p>Florida Prepaid offers tuition plans, local fee plans, and dormitory plans.</p> <p>There are three types of tuition plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Four-Year University Tuition Plan covers the registration fees associated with 120 undergraduate semester credit hours of enrollment in a state university in Florida.• The 2 + 2 Tuition Plan covers the registration fees associated with 60 semester credit hours of enrollment in a community college and 60 undergraduate semester credit hours of enrollment at a state university in Florida.• The Two-Year Community College Tuition Plan covers the registration fees associated with 60 semester credit hours of enrollment in a community college. <p>Registration fees are defined in law to include tuition, building, capital improvement, and student financial aid fees.</p> <p>There are also three types of local fee plans which may only be purchased in conjunction with the corresponding tuition plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Four-Year University Local Fee Plan covers the local fees associated with 120 undergraduate semester credit hours of enrollment in a state university in Florida. (The local fees covered by the plan include the student activity and service, athletic, and health fees.)• The 2 + 2 Local Fee Plan covers the local fees associated

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	<p>with 60 semester credit hours of enrollment in a community college (student activity and technology fees) and 60 undergraduate semester credit hours of enrollment at a state university in Florida (student activity and service, athletic, and health fees.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Two-Year Community College Local Fee Plan covers the student activity and technology fees associated with 60 semester credit hours of enrollment in a community college. <p>Dormitory plans cover the dormitory fees associated with residence in a standard, double-occupancy, air-conditioned room on a state university campus and may only be purchased in conjunction with a four-year state university or a 2 + 2 tuition plan. The universities determine which dorms are designated for Florida Prepaid students; not all dorms are offered. The dormitory plans are available in one-year (two semesters) increments.</p>
<p>4. Who can purchase a contract for a named beneficiary?</p>	<p>Anyone over the age of 18 may purchase a contract — a parent, a grandparent, business, trust, church, or organization. The account owner does not have to live in Florida or be related to the beneficiary (the child). However, the account owner and beneficiary must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens.</p>
<p>5. Are there restrictions governing the beneficiary of a contract?</p>	<p>Yes. A contract beneficiary (the child) must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Florida resident OR • a nonresident whose non-custodial parent is a Florida resident at the time of the contract purchase. <p>A beneficiary of a tuition contract must be in the eleventh grade or lower at the time of the contract purchase.</p> <p>The beneficiary of a local fee contract or a dormitory contract must be in the eighth grade or lower at the time the contract is purchased.</p>
<p>6. How is a contract purchased?</p>	<p>Families may sign up for the Florida Prepaid College Plan online at www.florida529plans.com. The Enrollment Kit and application can also be printed from the Board Web site (www.florida529plans.com) or requested by calling 1-800-552-GRAD. There is a required non-refundable \$50 application fee. Contracts must be purchased during the enrollment period, usually October through January of each year.</p>
<p>7. What types of payment plans are available</p>	<p>There are three types of payment options: a single, lump-sum payment; a monthly payment plan providing for equal payments each month until October of the year the child enters college; or the five-year installment plan of 55 equal monthly</p>

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	<p>payments. The five-year plan is only available for students who are in eighth grade or lower at the time of purchase. Payments can be made via automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account or through payroll deduction, if offered by the employer. NOTE: The State of Florida offers payroll deduction for the Florida Prepaid College Plan.</p>
8. How do prepaid benefits work at a public institution in Florida?	<p>The state locks in the basic cost of registration fees, local fees, and dormitory housing at the time of the purchase of the contract. When the beneficiary enrolls in a public postsecondary institution, the state pays for the fees covered in the contract, regardless of the actual cost of those fees at the time of attendance.</p>
9. How do prepaid benefits work at a private, in-state institution?	<p>The prepaid plan allows the use of benefits at regionally accredited, not-for-profit private colleges and universities in Florida. If a student decides to enroll in an eligible private institution, Florida Prepaid will transfer to that institution an amount not to exceed the redemption value of the contract at a state postsecondary institution.</p>
10. Can prepaid benefits be used at an out-of-state institution?	<p>Yes. A student may use prepaid benefits at an eligible out-of-state college or university. The out-of-state institution must be regionally accredited, not for profit, and confer degrees. Florida Prepaid will transfer to that institution an amount not to exceed the redemption value of the contract at a state postsecondary institution.</p>
11. Can prepaid benefits be used to obtain an applied technology diploma or a vocational certificate?	<p>Yes. A student may use prepaid benefits to obtain an applied technology diploma or a vocational certificate at a vocational-technical center or community college in Florida. Florida Prepaid will transfer to the vocational-technical center or community college an amount that does not exceed the redemption value of the original contract at a state postsecondary institution. If the cost of the fees charged by the vocational - technical center or community college is less than the cost of the fees charged by a state postsecondary education institution, the amount transferred may not exceed the actual cost of the fees charged by the institution.</p>
12. Are there any tax benefits associated with the Florida Prepaid College Plan?	<p>Yes. Earnings generated from a contract purchased under the Florida Prepaid College Plan are completely tax-free. This means that the beneficiary no longer pays tax on disbursements from a prepaid contract.</p> <p>The law allowing federal tax-free qualified withdrawals is set to expire on December 31, 2010, and may or may not be extended. If the law is not extended, the earnings will be taxable to the beneficiary (student).</p>

<p>13. What happens if a beneficiary receives a scholarship such as Bright Futures?</p>	<p>If the beneficiary of a prepaid contract receives a scholarship, the contract benefits are provided for in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the scholarship received does not require award moneys to be used for registration fees, then the prepaid contract benefits will be used for such purposes. The scholarship recipient may receive the proceeds from the scholarship to use for other educational expenses. This is the process used for a student who is the beneficiary of a prepaid contract and who also receives a Bright Futures scholarship. The prepaid benefits pay the fees for which the contract was purchased, and the student still receives the full value of the Bright Futures award amount to pay for any remaining educational expenses, such as books or living expenses. • If the scholarship received must be used for payment of registration fees for which the prepaid benefits are intended, the scholarship is used for such purposes. Moneys paid for the prepaid contract will be <i>refunded</i> to the account owner in semester installments, coinciding with semesters in which the beneficiary is enrolled in a postsecondary institution, in an amount not exceeding current rates at a state postsecondary institution. <p>In either instance, the account owner also has the option to transfer the contract to a brother, sister or first cousin of the original beneficiary, or a grandchild of the account owner.</p>
<p>14. Are there any other conditions under which an account owner may receive a refund?</p>	<p>Yes. An account owner may cancel the plan and withdraw his or her money at any time for any reason or the Board may cancel the plan if the account owner fails to make the required payments. The account owner is refunded only the amount paid into the contract, without any interest earnings. The account owner is charged a \$50 cancellation fee, if the account has been open for less than two years.</p> <p>Conversion from one plan to another: In the event a prepaid plan is converted to a plan of a lesser value, the purchaser is entitled to a refund equal to the difference in what was paid for the original contract and what would have been paid had the lesser contract been purchased in the beginning. The beneficiary must notify the board prior to changing plans in order to be eligible for a refund.</p> <p>Death or Disability:</p>

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	<p>In the event of a death or total disability of the beneficiary, the account owner will be refunded the redemption value of the contract at a state postsecondary institution at the time the plan is cancelled.</p>
<p>15. Can a prepaid contract be purchased without naming a beneficiary?</p>	<p>In most cases, no.</p> <p>A contract may be purchased without naming a beneficiary if purchased through the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, the 501(c)(3) direct support organization for the Florida Prepaid College Board. The Foundation provides a tax-deductible opportunity for businesses, community groups and individuals to purchase prepaid college scholarships for Florida children. The Foundation also administers Project STARS, a scholarship program for low-income, at-risk children, funded by private donations and matching funds from the Florida Legislature. In order to be eligible to receive a Project STARS scholarship, a student must meet certain economic and academic requirements and must remain drug-free and crime-free.</p> <p>Certain organizations may also purchase contracts directly during the enrollment period for scholarships without naming a beneficiary. Eligible organizations must be 501(c)(3) organizations and must operate a scholarship program that has been approved by the Prepaid Board. The purchasing organization chooses the beneficiary (the scholarship recipient).</p>
<p>16. Is the contract financially guaranteed?</p>	<p>Yes. The Florida Prepaid College Plan is financially guaranteed by the State of Florida.</p>
<p>17. Does Florida offer families another way to save for college?</p>	<p>Yes. The Florida Prepaid College Board recently introduced a new 529 college savings plan that gives families another way to save for college. The Florida College Investment Plan complements the Florida Prepaid College Plan.</p> <p>The features of the Florida College Investment Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No residency requirement. • No age restrictions, so an investor can open an account for adults as well as children. • Can be used for any qualified college expense. • Can be used at thousands of colleges nationwide. • As with the current Prepaid Plan, the earnings on qualified withdrawals are completely tax-free.* • Five investment options; no commissions or sales charges. • Unlike the Prepaid Plan, the Florida College Investment Plan is <i>not</i> guaranteed by the State of Florida. Principal

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	<p>and investment returns will fluctuate. An investor could lose all or a portion of the money invested in the Florida College Investment Plan and may not have enough money to cover the qualified higher education expenses of the beneficiary (student).</p> <p>* The law allowing federal tax-free qualified withdrawals is set to expire on December 31, 2010, and may or may not be extended. If the law is not extended, the earnings will be taxable to the beneficiary (student).</p>
<p>18. Is participation in BOTH the Florida Prepaid College Plan and the Florida College Investment Plan permitted?</p>	<p>Yes. Participation in one does not limit participation in the other.</p> <p>In fact, the plans are designed to complement one another. The Prepaid Plan pays for certain qualified higher education expenses - registration fees, local fees, and dormitory expenses depending on which contracts are purchased.</p> <p>Distributions from the Investment Plan may be used for any qualified higher education expenses, including those not covered by the Prepaid Plan, such as books, supplies, equipment required for enrollment or attendance, and off-campus housing and food for students who are at least half-time.</p> <p>As required by the 529 IRS laws, the Prepaid College Board has established a maximum contribution amount of \$287,000 for participation in both plans.</p>
<p>19. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Part IV, Ch. 1009, F.S. -- Prepaid College Board Programs.</p> <p>Subtitle 19B, F.A.C. -- Florida Prepaid College Board.</p>
<p>20. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Prepaid College Board 1-800-552-GRAD (4723) www.florida529plans.com</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Council (488-7451)</p>



1. What is the State Employee Fee Waiver Program?	The State Employee Fee Waiver Program allows state employees to receive tuition and fee waivers for up to 6 credit hours of courses per term, on a space-available basis, at any of Florida's state universities or community colleges.
2. Who is eligible to participate in the fee waiver program?	All state employees, except for those employed by a state university, are eligible to participate in the tuition and fee waiver program. Approval by an employee's agency head or equivalent is required. Employees of state universities were excluded from this program because these institutions already provide a similar tuition and fee waiver program for their employees.
3. What fees does the state employee fee waiver cover?	<p>The fee waiver program covers all the costs associated with enrollment in a university or community college course. This includes tuition and all other fees required by law.</p> <p>Costs associated with textbooks or other class materials are the responsibility of the employee unless otherwise waived by the institution or paid for by the employee's agency.</p>
4. What are the requirements of employees wishing to participate in the program?	A state employee wishing to enroll in a course at a state university or community college must wait to register for the course until after the institution's official "drop/add" period. Space availability is determined by the institution at that time. The employee must follow the established policies of the university or community college in registering for the course. The Comptroller, in cooperation with the community colleges and state universities, must identify and implement ways to ease the administrative burdens on the institutions, including easier access to verify state employment.
5. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Section 1009.265, F.S. -- State employee fee waivers.
6. Where can I get additional information?	<p>Florida Department of Management Services Division of Human Resource Management (850) 922-5449</p> <p>Agency Personnel Office of the state university or community college in which the student wishes to enroll</p> <p>Florida House of Representatives Education Appropriations Committee (850) 488-6204</p>

State Employee Fee Waivers

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