

How many students in the FCS receive awards from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program?

In 2012-13, 31,305 Florida College System (FCS) students received funds from the merit-based Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Bright Futures was created in 1997 as part of an initiative to retain talented, high-achieving, recent high school graduates in the state. It is state lottery funded and rewards individuals who are well prepared for college. To be eligible, resident Florida high school graduates must meet standardized test cut scores and enroll in a degree, certificate, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary educational institution within three years of high school graduation.

In 2012-13, Bright Futures scholarships (duplicated counts) were awarded to 150,708 students in public colleges and universities and 15,308 were awarded in the private sector (non-profit and for-profit). Approximately one in five public sector Bright Futures Scholarship recipients attended an FCS institution, nearly four out of five (N = 119,171) enrolled at a state university while the remaining 0.15% percent (N = 232) attended a public vocational/technical school. The 2012-13 unduplicated count of Bright Futures scholarships was 162,980 students across all sectors.

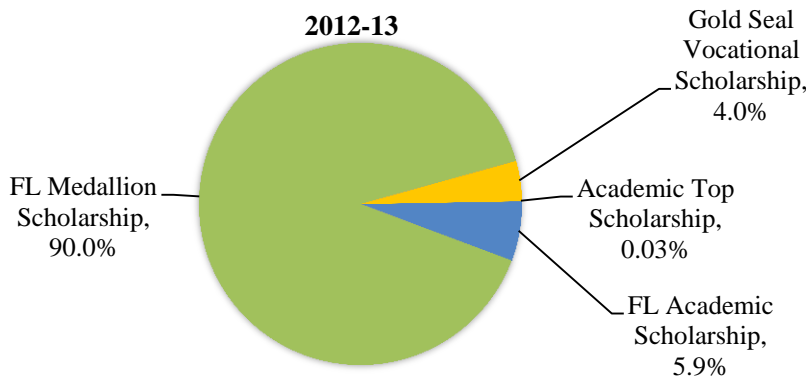
Table 1. Five-Year Trend Data, Bright Future Scholarships in The Florida College System

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Total Dollars	\$ 70,899,110	\$69,588,210	\$64,905,312	\$46,184,043	\$37,819,217
% Change	30.0%	-1.8%	-6.7%	-28.8%	-18.1%
# Students Disbursed	41,191	44,176	42,640	37,807	31,305
% Change	17.9%	7.2%	-3.5%	-11.3%	-17.2%
Average Award \$ Amount	\$ 1,721	\$1,575	\$1,522	\$1,222	\$1,208
% Change	10.3%	-8.5%	-3.4%	-19.7%	-1.1%

Source: Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Table 1 shows FCS Bright Futures Scholarship Program trends. The latest 2012-13 FCS Bright Futures data are part of a downward trend. **The total amount of awards received by FCS students for 2012-13 was \$37.8 million which represents an 18.1 percent decrease in funding from the prior year.** There were 6,502 fewer Bright Futures Scholars enrolled in the FCS compared to last year and the average award dipped one percent to \$1,208. Affordable tuition rates at FCS colleges help students maximize the value received from their Bright Futures award.

Figure 1. FCS Bright Future Awards by Scholarship Type, 2012-13



Source: Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance

The Florida Bright Futures program has four levels: Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Academic Top Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, and Gold Seal Vocational Scholars. Figure 1 shows the proportion of Bright Future Scholarship types among FCS students enrolled in 2012-13. Ninety percent were Florida Medallion Scholars. (N = 28,184). The highest average award amount was \$1,862 for Florida Academic Scholars; Gold Seal Scholarship recipients were second with an average award of \$1,259. Florida Medallion Scholars had the third highest award amount at \$1,216

and Academic Top Scholars received an average of \$839. Although completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is no longer required to be eligible for a Bright Futures award, students are advised to complete the FAFSA to gain information about their potential eligibility for additional state and federal aid dollars.

To learn about Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility requirements for 2014 high school graduates, the Florida Department of Education’s Office of Student Financial Assistance provides a [chart](#) and additional information on the Bright Futures Scholarship Program [website](#).

For assistance, contact the Florida College System Research & Analytics  
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