

Bright Futures Scholarship Programs The application for the **Bright Futures** and all **state grant programs** is open for the **class of 2009!** The application takes about 15 minutes to complete. You will need your Social Security number and GPA. Estimated GPA is fine! Graduation date: 05/28/2009 Question #23: you will be a freshman (first time on college) unless you are in dual enrollment courses.

Steps to Complete the Application Process:

- Go to www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org
Select State Grants, Scholarships & Applications and Apply Here to submit an online application.
- Select Programs Offered to view detailed state programs information, including the new and amended programs.
- Watch for official email or hardcopy acknowledgement communications, which provide each student with a USER ID and PIN to access his/her application, update information on the application and check the status of the application.
- Check the status of their awards following the program deadline online.

Bright Futures records are processed two times a year: spring and summer. **Please apply now. Don't wait until you think you are qualified, go ahead and apply now!** Only students who qualify after 1st semester will be announced as Bright Future recipients during the Senior Awards Ceremony.

To earn BF after first semester: you must earn the required GPA after completion of 1st semester, the required test scores by January 2009 and have submitted documentation of community service hours by Jan. 16th.

To earn BF after second semester: you must earn the required GPA after completion of 2nd semester, the required test scores by June 2009 and have submitted documentation of community service hours by graduation.

Federal Financial Aid

On January 1, 2009 the application for federal financial aid will be available. Federal financial aid includes Grants, Scholarships, Work Study and Loan Programs. Deadlines vary at post secondary institutions; early application ensures the best opportunity for financial assistance. It is recommended that you apply January 1 online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm. If 2008 income documentation is not available, it is recommended that you apply using last year's information and update the records when applicable.

Benefits of applying online:

- *General and specific help for each page of the application as you go.
- *Access to worksheets that automatically calculate and enter information for you.
- *Save your application at any time.
- *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section.
- *use your PIN to electronically sign your FAFSA on the Web application. Right now you should go online at: www.pin.ed.gov to receive a PIN to use as your electronic signature. **Students and parents need a PIN!**

Check out the ***Student Aid on the Web*** section for many helpful tools regarding financial aid and paying for college.