

For Florida Parents of 9th–12th graders

Florida College & Bright Futures Parent Playbook

**The Grade-by-Grade SAT Plan To Get Your
Teen Into Top Florida Colleges And Lock In
Bright Futures Without Falling Behind Or
Leaving \$22k–\$30k On The Table**

Prefer Watching Instead of Reading?

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**To Watch a 5-Minute Walkthrough Showing You
Exactly How To Use This Guide For Your Teen.**

**By Florida Test Prep • 100+ Florida families guided to
Florida college acceptances and Bright Futures scholarships**

Bright Futures Requirements At A Glance For Florida Parents

Approximate targets for current rules. Always confirm details on the official Bright Futures website.

Section A – FAS vs FMS Cheat Sheet



Bright Futures Award Levels



Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) – “Full Tuition”	Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS) – “75% Tuition”
GPA (weighted, 16 core credits): ≈ 3.5+	GPA (weighted, 16 core credits): ≈ 3.0+
SAT target: ≈ 1330+	SAT target: ≈ 1190+
ACT target: ≈ 29+	ACT target: ≈ 24+
Service / work hours: 100 hours (volunteer, paid work, or a mix)	Service / work hours: 75 hours if volunteer. 100 hours if any paid work or mix
Tuition covered: about 100% at Florida public universities	Tuition covered: about 75% at Florida public universities
4-year tuition value: ≈ \$25,000–\$30,000	4-year tuition value: ≈ \$18,000–\$22,000

Quick checklist
to fill out

Section B – Your Child’s Snapshot

Where Is My Child Today?

- Target award: ☐ FAS (full) ☐ FMS (75%)
- Current Bright Futures GPA (on 16 core credits, if you know it): _____
- Current SAT / PSAT / ACT score(s): _____
- Completed service / work hours: _____

Section C – How to Use This Page

How to Read This for Your Family

- Circle the award you’d like your child to earn (FAS or FMS).
- Write in their current GPA and SAT/PSAT/ACT score.
- Compare where they are vs. the targets above to see the gap.
- That gap (in GPA, test score, and hours) is what you need to close before graduation.
- Next, you’ll see when to do it and how their score lines up with top Florida schools.

SAT, Florida College, & Bright Futures Timeline by Grade

Use this page to see what matters most at each grade level so you don't feel "behind" or guess.

9th Grade – Foundations

- Focus on strong grades in core classes (especially math and English).
- Start building a reading habit (books, long-form articles, not just social media).
- Consider 1 low-pressure practice SAT or PSAT by end of 9th just to see the format.
- Begin light service or work hours if possible (no rush, but starting early helps).

10th Grade – Baseline & Beginning Prep

- Take the PSAT (if offered) and/or a full official practice SAT.
- Get your child's Bright Futures GPA calculated by the school counselor on the 16 core credits.
- Keep building service or work hours, and start collecting documentation.
- If scores are far from Bright Futures + dream Florida university targets, this is a good year to start SAT prep.

11th Grade – Main Testing Year

- This is usually the primary SAT/ACT year.
- Pick 2–3 official SAT/ACT dates and circle them on the calendar.
- Run a consistent prep plan (for example, the 3-hour weekly system) leading into those dates.
- Keep GPA strong; advanced courses (AP, AICE, IB, Dual Enrollment) can help the weighted GPA.
- Make sure service/work hours are roughly on pace (not all left for senior year).

12th Grade – Last-Chance Window

- Use early senior year for final SAT/ACT attempts if you still need points.
- Make sure target SAT/ACT scores are met by college application deadlines.
- Remember: for Bright Futures, tests taken through August 31 after graduation can still count.
- Finish service/work hours and make sure all documentation is signed and stored.
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during senior year (by August 31).

Quick checklist
to fill out

Quick Check: Are We On Track?

1. Do we know our child's current SAT/PSAT/ACT score? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Do we know how many points they need for Medallion or Academic? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Do we know how many points they need for their target Florida university? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do we have specific SAT/ACT dates circled on the calendar this year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Are we tracking and documenting service/work hours as we go? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "No" to any of these, you're not doomed — but you are guessing.
Fix those first: get a baseline score, calculate Bright Futures GPA, circle test dates, and start tracking hours.

Florida Universities Average SAT Scores

These rough score bands help you see whether your child is currently far, close, or competitive for popular Florida public universities.

Florida University	Average SAT Score	Average GPA
University of Florida	1380-1510	4.5-4.7
Florida State University	1350-1430	4.3-4.6
University of Miami	1360-1480	3.89 (Unweighted)
University of Central Florida	1310-1430	4.26
University of South Florida	1260-1410	4.03-4.55
Florida International University	1250-1390	4.1-4.6
Florida Atlantic University	1090-1280	3.66-4.29

These are approximate, not guarantees. Each school and major has its own admissions process. Use this to gauge whether your child is currently far, close, or competitive, not as a promise.

Where Does Your Child Stand?

1. Your child's current SAT/PSAT score: _____
2. Your child's grad year: _____
3. Target schools (circle): UF · FSU · UCF · USF · Other: _____
4. Target Bright Futures level: ☐ FAS (full tuition) ☐ FMS (~75% tuition)

If you want help building a plan to close the gap:

We run a free 45-minute Florida College & Bright Futures Game Plan. We walk through your child's score, target schools, Bright Futures eligibility, and the realistic path to a 100-200+ point score increase.

BONUS: If you show up we'll give you a personalized plan for your student

Scan the QR code or click the button below to sign up!



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