

Florida Bright Futures Program
Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship Program
Question and Answers

1. What are the requirements for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) Scholarship?

The GSC scholarship is available for 2016-17 high school graduates and thereafter. Students must meet the general requirements for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award and also meet the requirements outlined for GSC in section 1009.536(2), Florida Statutes. A student must:

- Earn a minimum of five postsecondary credit hours through CAPE Industry Certifications which articulate for college credit; and
- Complete at least 30 hours of service work approved by the district school board.

These requirements are outlined in chapter 1, page 7, of the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#).

2. Must a student earn a certain Grade Point Average (GPA) to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship?

No. High school GPA is not part of the scholarship eligibility criteria. However, students will still need to earn the required GPA for high school graduation.

3. Must a student achieve a certain test score to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship?

No. College entrance exam scores are not part of the scholarship eligibility criteria.

4. Must all postsecondary credits be in the same area of concentration?

No. The earned certifications must result in a combined total of at least five postsecondary credits through an articulation agreement. The five postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications can be achieved through a combination of different concentration areas.

5. What industry certifications can students earn to qualify them for the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars?

Only industry certifications that have an approved statewide articulation agreement for the industry certification to college credit may be used to qualify for the scholarship.

The CAPE Industry Certification Funding List is approved annually by the State Board of Education. A subset of certification on this list has an approved statewide articulation agreement. The Division of Career and Adult Education posts approved articulation agreements on this web page: <http://fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.stml>.

A summary document with all approved articulation agreements is available here: <http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7525/urlt/goldstandardarticulationindex.xls>.

6. How many certifications from the approved list must a student earn to qualify for the scholarship?

The number of certifications a student must earn depends on the maximum number of articulated credits that are approved in the articulation agreement. For all eligible certifications earned by a student, the total of the maximum articulated credits available for that certification must be at least five college credits.

Some articulation agreements have more than five college credits; therefore, the student may only have to earn one certification. Most articulation agreements are for three credits; therefore a student would have to earn two certifications that have an articulation agreement to meet the minimum of five college credits.

See Question 5 for information on how to access the articulation agreement information.

7. Can the eligible certifications be earned through dual enrollment?

Yes. The certification can be earned in regular K12 courses as well as through dual enrollment.

8. Who can we contact if we have additional questions about industry certifications?

The Division of Career and Adult Education is available to answer additional questions concerning industry certifications. Please contact them by email at: IndustryCertification@fldoe.org.

9. How are industry certifications reported on a student transcript?

When submitting student transcripts via FASTER, the industry certification information should be reported on the 05 – Career Ed, ELL, Dropout format. Both the Industry Certification Identifier (10d) and the Industry Certification Outcome (10e) fields need to be provided. If you need FASTER assistance, please email FSTR@fldoe.org.

10. How may this scholarship award be used by students?

The award may be used at postsecondary institutions that offer an applied technology diploma, technical degree education program (associate in applied science or associate in science), or a career certificate program.

Upon completion of an associate in science degree program that articulates to a bachelor of science degree, a scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor of science degree program.

Upon completion of an associate in applied science program, a scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor of applied science degree program.

11. May a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar receive an award toward a baccalaureate degree immediately following high school graduation?

Students who complete a qualifying technical degree education program during high school may use the award directly after high school graduation. Qualifying degrees are outlined in chapter 1, page 7 of the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#).

12. Must a student remain in the same program of study as they transition to a baccalaureate degree (B.S.) after completing their qualifying associate degree (A.S.)?

The pathway from associate degree is based on the approved statewide A.S. to B.S. articulation agreements. Rule 6A-10.024(6)(f), F.A.C., requires that statewide A.S. to B.S. degree program articulation agreements between public postsecondary institutions shall be documented and maintained by the Articulation Coordinating Committee. Current A.S. to B.S. articulation agreements are available on this page: <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/>. A student must meet the admission requirements of the articulated baccalaureate program. A student will only receive funding for 60 credit hours toward their baccalaureate degree.

13. What sort of guidance is provided to students after they are awarded a scholarship?

When a student is made eligible for any Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award, notices are posted via their Bright Futures account (created when the student completed the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)). With a login and password, students may track their award status and view all correspondence. That correspondence provides information about their specific award and also how to obtain additional information. Students and counselors are encouraged to become familiar with the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#). Each chapter provides critical information the student should review concerning their specific award.

14. Where can students find out more information about the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award?

Information about the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award can be found in chapter 1, page 7 of the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#).

Students should contact school counselors regarding information about CAPE industry certifications as these may vary by Florida school district.

15. Must a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar enroll in an associate degree program to receive funding?

A GSC Scholar who does not desire to earn an associate or baccalaureate degree may still receive funding toward an applied technology diploma or a career certificate program. However, in order to receive additional funding toward a qualifying baccalaureate degree, a GSC Scholar must complete an associate of science or associate of applied science degree that articulates to a baccalaureate degree.

16. Which associate of science degrees articulate to which bachelor of science degrees?

OSFA is not involved in the articulation process. Please refer to the statewide articulation agreements for which associate programs articulate to which baccalaureate programs:
<http://fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/>.

17. What is the award amount of the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship?

The Florida Legislature sets the per-credit hour award amount in the General Appropriations Act. For the 2017-18 academic year, both the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars receive the same award amounts.

The per credit hour and per clock hour award amounts are provided on the “Per Hour Award Amounts” chart in chapter 2, page 4 of the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#).

18. What are the renewal requirements for Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award?

- A student must earn the required number of credit hours based on their enrollment type.
- At this time, a student does not need to maintain a certain cumulative GPA to renew the award.