# Apply Now for 2016-17 Financial Aid

To apply for financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at **www.fafsa.gov**. You can file a FAFSA as early as January 1 each year. UF's "On-Time" deadline to receive the results of your FAFSA from the federal processor is March 15. Apply well before March 15 to ensure that the federal processor has time to analyze and send the results of your FAFSA to our office. Financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis so apply as early as possible to be considered for the most, and best aid.

*Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 to be considered for the most, and best aid.*

In order for us to consider you for a financial aid package, you must be an admitted student and have met the "On-Time" deadline.

## What can students do to prepare for 2016-17?

**1** ### Get Your FSA ID
Create an FSA ID at **https://fsaid.ed.gov**.
An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. You must have an FSA ID before you can file a FAFSA. *See page 2 for more information.*

**2** ### Apply Online
SFA recommends filing online using the FAFSA website. Filing an online FAFSA can save you weeks of processing time. The online application also has edit checks to catch errors.

The online application is available at **www.fafsa.gov**

**3** ### Apply Early
For your application to be considered "on-time," SFA must receive your FAFSA results, with a calculated Expected Family Contribution (or EFC), by March 15. Keep in mind that you are submitting your FAFSA to the federal government, not to the University of Florida.

Submit your FAFSA weeks before the March 15 deadline so that there is enough time for your FAFSA data to reach our office before the deadline.

Apply as early as possible to be considered for the most, and best aid.

**4** ### Don't Hesitate—Estimate
Many students make the mistake of waiting to file their FAFSA until their income taxes for the previous year are complete. If you or your parents haven't filed your federal income tax returns for the previous year when it's time to apply for aid, report "estimated" income information on your FAFSA. The FAFSA site offers a handy income estimator for students as they file. You must correct your FAFSA if the estimate differs from the actual income.

**5** ### Reapply
Don't make the mistake of assuming that financial aid magically renews itself—students must reapply each year by filling out the FAFSA.

### Have questions or need help?

Get free assistance and answers at www.fafsa.ed.gov or 1-800-433-3243 or make an appointment with your financial aid adviser.
**www.sfa.ufl.edu/contact-sfa**

## CONNECT WITH SFA

## www.sfa.ufl.edu

YouTube.com/ufsfa

Facebook.com/ufsfa

Twitter.com/ufsfa

www.sfa.ufl.edu/podcast/

### UF Federal School Code: 001535

## INSIDE:

- Create a Federal Student Aid ID to Sign your FAFSA
- Florida Bright Futures Renewal Requirements
- Income Driven Repayment Plans for Federal Loans
- Checking Your Aid Status
- Study Abroad Financial Aid
- How to Stay Eligible for Financial Aid
- SFA Contacts

### UF | UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

# Create an FSA ID to Sign Your 2016-17 FAFSA

The FSA ID, which consists of a user-created username and password, allows users to electronically access personal information on Federal Student Aid websites as well as electronically sign a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and other documents. The FSA ID replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN on May 10, 2015.

If you're a student, parent, or borrower and you're logging in to a U.S. Department of Education (ED) website, you will be asked to create new log-in credentials known as the FSA ID.

Creating an FSA ID is simple and only takes a few minutes. You'll have an opportunity to link your current Federal Student Aid PIN to your FSA ID. Doing so allows you to use your newly created FSA ID almost immediately to log in to the five ED websites. Even if you've forgotten your FSA PIN or don't have one, you can still create an FSA ID.

Remember, your federal student aid account information is valuable. Only the owner of the FSA ID should create and use the account. You should never share your FSA ID.

A dependent student will need to have one of his or her legal parents sign the student's FAFSA, so the parent needs an FSA ID as well. It's important to understand that the student and the parent may not share an FSA ID: Your FSA ID is your signature, so it has to be unique to you.

To create an FSA ID or for more information, visit **StudentAid.gov/fsaid**

### Need to log in to one of these websites?

- fafsa.gov
- StudentLoans.gov
- StudentAid.gov
- nslds.ed.gov
- teach-ats.ed.gov

If you haven't logged in since May 10, 2015, then you will need to create an **FSA ID**

# Florida Bright Futures Renewal Requirements

- All Bright Futures recipients are required to meet minimum credit hour and GPA requirements in order to renew their award each year. Students enrolled full time for both semesters are required to earn at least 24 semester hours in order to renew their award at the end of each academic year.  For students not enrolled full time for both semesters, the hours required to renew are prorated.

- Students who do NOT earn the credit hours for which they were funded by the end of the evaluation period will be TERMINATED from the scholarship program.

- Students who do NOT earn their program's required GPA at the end of their first evaluation period will be permitted a one-time restoration opportunity.  Traditional students receiving funding during fall / spring will be permitted a one-time summer opportunity. Innovation Academy students receiving funding during spring / summer will be permitted a one-time fall opportunity.

### Bright Futures Renewal Predictor

Determining exactly how many hours you will need to renew your particular Bright Futures award can be confusing. SFA has created a Renewal Predictor to aid you in determining your individual renewal requirements.

http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/bright-futures/renewal/

For more information, students should contact the FDOE Office of Student Financial Assistance at 1-888-827-2004.

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

### Florida Bright Futures Repayment Policy

- Students will be required to repay their award hours for any course dropped or withdrawn after the drop-add period.

- Hours repaid for dropped or withdrawn courses are added back to the student's total semester hours available, and are not included in the student's total credit hours required to renew the award.

- Repayment for the cost of dropped or withdrawn award hours is required to renew a Bright Futures award for the subsequent academic year.

- Nonpayment of dropped or withdrawn Bright Futures award hours may also negatively affect renewal eligibility for other state programs.

| Renewal Requirements | Florida Academic Scholars Award | Florida Medallion Scholars Award |
|---|---|---|
| Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded & unweighted) | 3.0* | 2.75 |
| Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Full Time (12+ hours) | 12 semester earned hours | 12 semester earned hours |
| Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Three-quarter Time (9-11 hours) | 9 semester earned hours | 9 semester earned hours |
| Minimum Hours Required Per Term, if funded Half Time (6-8 hours) | 6 semester earned hours | 6 semester earned hours |

*Florida Academic Scholars with 2.75-2.99 will renew as Florida Medallion Scholars.

# Income-Driven Repayment Plans for Federal Student Loans

### What is an income-driven repayment plan?

An income-driven repayment plan is a repayment plan that sets your monthly student loan payment at an amount that is intended to be affordable based on your income and family size. The U.S. Department of Education offers four income-driven repayment plans: Revised Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (REPAYE Plan), Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (PAYE Plan), Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR Plan), and Income-Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR Plan). Most federal student loans are eligible for at least one income-driven repayment plan.

### How are monthly payment amounts determined under income-driven repayment plans?

Depending on your income and family size, you may have no monthly payment at all. You can estimate your payments under these plans using the Repayment Estimator at **StudentAid.gov/repayment-estimator**.

### What are the pros and cons of repaying my loan under an income-driven plan?

Income-driven repayment plans may lower your federal student loan payments. However, whenever you make lower payments or extend your repayment period, you will likely pay more in interest over time—sometimes significantly more. In addition, under current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules, you may have to pay income tax on any amount that is forgiven if you still have a remaining balance at the end of your repayment period for an income-driven repayment plan.

### How do I apply for an income-driven plan?

Before you apply for an income-driven repayment plan, contact your loan servicer if you have any questions. Your loan servicer will help you decide whether one of these plans is right for you.

To apply, you must submit an application called the Income-Driven Repayment Plan Request. You can submit the application online at **StudentLoans.gov** or on a paper form, which you can get from your loan servicer. The application allows you to select an income-driven repayment plan by name, or to request that your loan servicer determine what income-driven plan or plans you qualify for, and then place you on the income-driven plan with the lowest monthly payment amount.

When you apply, you'll be asked to provide income information that will be used to determine your eligibility for the PAYE or IBR plans and to calculate your monthly payment amount under all income-driven repayment plans. This may be either your adjusted gross income (AGI) or alternative documentation of income.

## Study Abroad Financial Aid Adviser

Student Financial Affairs now has a new Study Abroad financial aid coordinator who will be dedicated to advising students in regards to financial aid matters for their overseas studies.

For assistance with financial aid for Study Abroad, contact Allison Costa at P-113G Peabody Hall, by phone at 352-294-3228 and by email at allisoncosta@ufl.edu.

Information on financial aid for Study Abroad programs is also available on the SFA website at **http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/additional/study-abroad/**

## Has all your financial aid been disbursed to you?

Many factors can affect the reason certain financial aid has not yet been paid to you. Students should review their awards periodically to ensure proper payment has occurred. Review the status of your payments in the Awards and Disbursements section under Financial Aid at the Student Information System **www.isis.ufl.edu**. You may need to complete additional steps to receive your loan, or you may have a scholarship that has not paid because required paperwork is missing, or you may need permission from your scholarship donor to release the scholarship with less than full-time enrollment. Scholarships, grants and loans are subject to cancellation if not paid in a timely manner, so check your Awards and Disbursements frequently during each semester.

## IRS System for Ordering Tax Return Transcripts

The IRS system for ordering tax return transcripts is now available. It is called "Get Transcript" and allows users to get a record of past tax returns, also referred to as tax return transcripts. IRS tax return transcripts are used to validate income and tax filing status.

**http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript**

# UF | UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA

Office for Student Financial Affairs
S-107 Criser Hall, P. O. Box 114025
Gainesville, FL 32611-4025
(352) 392-1275
www.sfa.ufl.edu

*NEWS Financial Aid for Gators* is produced once a semester by the Information/Publication Services section of the Office for Student Financial Affairs, to inform students about financial aid programs and services that help UF students meet educational costs.

*Director:* Rick Wilder
*Editor:* Sharon Eyman

*NEWS: Financial Aid for Gators* is available in other formats for students with documented, print-related disabilities. Students who are speech- or hearing-impaired can contact the Florida Relay Service.
  Dial 711 or 1-800-955-8771(TTY)
  Online at
  http://www.ftri.org/FloridaRelay

*The University of Florida is committed to equal treatment of students without regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, or veteran status.*

## SFA CALENDAR

**January 15**
Fee Payment Deadline
3:30 pm UB or online at 11:59 pm

**January 18**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**February 12**
Deferred Fee Payment Deadline

**February 27-March 5**
Spring Break

**March 11**
Veteran's Deferred Fee Payment Deadline

**April 29-30, May 1**
Commencement

# Stay Eligible for Financial Aid

You need to make satisfactory academic progress in order to continue receiving federal student aid. In other words, you have to make good enough grades, and complete enough classes (credits, hours, etc.), to keep moving toward successfully completing your degree.

Students who fail to meet the following criteria will be ineligible for federal, state, and/or institutional scholarship and grant funds:

• maintain the required cumulative grade point average,

• successfully complete the required percentage of attempted coursework,

• complete their program of study within the prescribed length of time.

Read about the quantitative and qualitative components you must meet to maintain your eligibility for financial aid at our website:
**http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/additional/academic-progress/**

## Federal Student Aid Number

1-800-4-FED-AID
(1-800-433-3243)

## Financial Aid Addresses & Phone Numbers

### U.S. Department of Education

**Student Aid Information Center**
P. O. Box 84
Washington DC 20044-0084
1-800-433-3243/1-800-730-8913 (TTY)
www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=rt

**Federal Direct Loan Information**
http://www.studentloans.gov
• View loan documents
• Entrance Counseling
• Sign MPN
• Complete PLUS Request Process

**National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)**
http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA

**Federal Direct Loan Consolidation**
1-800-557-7392; 1-800-557-7395 (TTY)
http://loanconsolidation.ed.gov

## Florida Bright Futures

For information about application, renewal requirements, reinstatements, restorations, appeals, and other topics, go to the

**Florida Department of Education**
website,
www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
Send questions by email:
osfa@fldoe.org
Send mail to:
Florida Department of Education
Turlington Building, Suite 1314
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Toll-Free Hotline:1-888-827-2004

# Satellite Aid Offices

Main Office: Student Financial Affairs • S-107 Criser Hall • P. O. Box 114025 • Gainesville, FL 32611-4025 • (352) 392-1275

Colleges of Dentistry & Veterinary Medicine
Meredith Nappy
Dental Tower, D3-22
Health Sciences Center
(352) 273-5999

College of Law
Victoria Houghton
164 Holland Hall
(352) 273-0620

College of Medicine
Eileen Parris
214 Harrell Medical Education Building,
(352) 273-7939

MBA/Graduate Business Programs
Hough 203
Connie Reed
(352) 273-4960
Lena Rabe
(352) 273-4961

College of Pharmacy
G208 HPNP Building, 101 Newell
Myra Edwards
(352) 273-6202

Colleges of Public Health and Health Professions & Nursing
Erica Alexander
G206 HPNP Building, 101 Newell
(352) 273-6115