

**HOW TO COMPLETE THE INITIAL STUDENT FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION**  
**(REQUIRED FOR BRIGHT FUTURES)**

**BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1st OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR (OR FINAL YEAR IN HS IF GRADUATING EARLY):**

- Go to <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org> website.
- Click on the *State Grants, Scholarships & Applications* tab.
- Click on the Create a Student Account link under first-time applicants.

**PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING:**

- **Be sure that you do not have POP UP blockers “on.”**
- Questions/fields marked with an asterisk (\*) require a response.
- (Social Security Number): This is not required but does help to match you with your record. If you are unsure of your number, do not guess.
- (Name): This should be your name as it appears in Focus and should not be nicknames.
- (Date of Birth): Be sure to put the **year you were born**, not current year!
- (Graduation Date): For students going the full school year, the graduation date is **5/29/2024**. If you are graduating mid-year AND starting college during the spring 2024, list your actual graduation date. If you are graduating mid-year but NOT starting college during the spring 2024, please list your graduation date as **2/1/2024**. This will prevent you from being moved to Bright Futures Mid-Year Graduation list which is only for students starting college in the spring 2024.
- (Cell Phone Number): If you include, you can check the box to receive text message alerts from OSFA.
- After you submit your Profile, a screen will appear with the student’s User ID & ‘temporary’ password. The student can click on the Florida Financial Aid Application link or will be redirected in 120 seconds if they stay on the page. The student will also get an email with his ID & temporary password with a link to the application.
- Once redirected to the FFAA, you will see your Demographic Information that you completed on your profile. Please review and make corrections if needed. (You cannot make a correction if you put the wrong social security number. If this occurs, you will need to contact Bright Futures (1-888-827-2004) and they will direct you how to upload your SS card to them so they can make the correction).
- At the bottom of the page, you will see “Other Information” section. You will answer about your residency status, citizenship status, and if you have been found guilty of a felony. These questions help to determine if you are eligible for Bright Futures.
- You will be asked four additional questions to determine if you are possibly eligible for four other state programs. If you answer NO to these questions, you will not be asked any additional questions about them. If you answer YES to any of them, you will have additional questions to answer on later screens.
- Once you have completed, hit next and you will be taken to a screen with the Academic Background section. You will answer questions about your high school enrollment and postsecondary plans. When completed, hit the next button.
- If you answered YES to any of the last four questions on the “Other Information” section, you will be asked to provide additional information.
- After you have completed all sections, you will be taken to the Submit/Acknowledgement screen. Hit the submit button only once and then WAIT until you are brought to a “Saved Results” page. This page is your receipt of application and should be printed or save a screen shot of the page or take a picture with your phone.
- Check your email for a confirmation that your application was received. If you don’t receive a confirmation within a couple days, let your counselor know.

USER ID: \_\_\_\_\_ PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

Bright Futures will post your eligibility to your online account (in March for Early Eval and in July for Final Eval) so be sure to save this information and check back for eligibility.

This is not the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The FAFSA is opening late this year—sometime in December but the actual date has not been announced. You must complete the FAFSA to be eligible for GRANTS, LOANS, WORK STUDY and some SCHOLARSHIPS. Please check with your school to see what assistance they will be offering for completing the FAFSA. The application is available at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).