

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION (FFAA)

How to apply for ***BRIGHT FUTURES & everything else the state of FLORIDA offers in financial aid.***

Pay attention to detail, the information you input here must match everything on your high school transcript. For example, if your high school transcript says John Sanchez-Garcia, you cannot input John Sanchez or John Garcia; you **MUST** put John Sanchez-Garcia. Items with a red asterisk (*) are required fields – if there is no asterisk, you need not respond.

- Go to: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org>.
- Click on “**State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**” on the left-hand side of the page.
- Click on “**Create Student Account**” in middle of the page.
- Create **PROFILE** section with your Demographic & Contact information...at this point your information is in the state’s database and will be shared/matched with FAFSA (when you submit *that* application) to qualify for ***need based*** programs such as the Florida Student Assistance Grant, the Effective Access to Student Education Program (previously the FRAG), First Generation Matching Grant and others (please see the left hand side of <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home> for a complete listing and detailed description of each program). You may use the date of **6/9/2022** as our graduation date – this is simply our last calendar school day and is your *official* graduation date that will be on final transcripts. (*Our ceremony date is still pending).
- Once your **PROFILE** has been submitted you will see a page has your log-in credentials – **TAKE A PICTURE & WRITE THIS DOWN**. You will be sent an email with the same information a bit later, but it’s good to get in the habit of keeping track of ALL your log-in information for these various applications.... **YOU ARE NOT DONE YET... YOU MUST NOW COMPLETE THE APPLICATION.**
- After jotting down your login info, you then proceed to the actual FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION via the link on the top (the site will also redirect you there automatically after about 100 seconds)
- After reviewing that all your demographic info is correct as you entered on your PROFILE page, on this next page you will start entering **OTHER INFORMATION** If you are a citizen, put “U.S. Citizen”. If you are not a citizen, put “Eligible Noncitizen”. (This is the case for Permanent Residents)
Select yes if Florida is the state of your legal residence (lived here for at least 12 months)

The **FELONY QUESTION** - Please read this question very carefully and answer it. Almost all students should answer "No".

You will then have 5 drop down menus to answer YES/NO to various questions about your family background, ethnicity and more. (If you answer YES to the Hispanic background question – there will be a follow up question asking you to identify in which Hispanic country you or one of your parents was born.

- The next section is your **HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT ACADEMIC BACKGROUND** Will you graduate from a public/private high school in Florida...**YES**

NEW QUESTION ABOUT LIVING W/PARENT ON MILITARY OR PUBLIC SERVICE ASSIGNMENT IS FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA WHO ARE LEGAL RESIDENTS OF FLORIDA, THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE INACCESSIBLE FOR ANYONE WITH A FLORIDA ADDRESS... YOU SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER INFO HERE NOR INFO ABOUT PARENT/GUARDIAN 1 OR 2 IF YOU ENTERED A FLORIDA ADDRESS ON YOUR PROFILE

Select Your Florida high school graduation option – **PUBLIC** County – **Miami-Dade County** (it's not alphabetized...ugh!)

High School you will graduate from **Coral Gables Senior** IS alphabetized! 😊

Next questions (out-of-state, home schooled are not applicable & should not be accessible)

ANOTHER NEW QUESTIONS – **FOR IB STUDENTS ONLY...*

*Are you and AICE or IB student – **ONLY IB students should answer YES** to this question (Coral Gables does not offer the AICE diploma)*

- You will then be asked about your **ACADEMIC BACKGROUND POST SECONDARY PLANS**

You will be asked if you have or will earn a Baccalaureate degree by the end of the 2022-2023 school year – **NO**, YOU WILL NOT!! This may already be filled in as **NO** for you.

You will be asked your status in college – YOU WILL ALL BE A **FRESHMAN, FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE** (even if you have dual enrollment, those credits are on your transcripts as DE– you will be first time in college (FTIC) to be evaluated for all 1st year programs/funding)

Here you will be asked if you are thinking of an in-state or out-of-state institution. As this is the **FLORIDA** Financial Aid Application – it is a good idea to list an in-state institution **even if – currently – it is your back-up if you are considering out of state as well.** Once you select in-state – you may list your 1st choice and up to four more schools. After you submit, *you can go back in at any time and update/change these selections.*

- **IF YOU RESPONDED YES TO THE HISPANIC PARENTAGE QUESTION** you will be asked to identify the country of birth for you or your parent.

- At this time, you submit... **DO NOT FORGET TO CLICK SUBMIT** – you ***do not need to include any GPA or test scores*** as the creation of your profile and permission to the state allows the Office of Student Assistance to retrieve that data and use it to evaluate you for Bright Futures and other programs you may qualify for. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL FREQUENTLY AS THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THE STATE (AND THE FEDERAL GOV'T AND YOUR COLLEGES) WILL BE IN COMMUNICATION WITH YOU!
- From here you will be directed to a RESULTS PAGE – which is the receipt of your application – PLEASE NOTE THE STATEMENT AT THE END: ***IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION ON A REGULAR BASIS TO TRACK YOUR APPLICATION PROCESS AND MAKE UPDATES***

**YOU HAVE NOW APPLIED FOR BRIGHT
FUTURES & ALL OTHER FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE FLORIDA OFFERS.
CONGRATULATIONS!!! 😊**