

Sunshine State Scholars 2021-22

Required and Optional Criteria for Eligibility

Minimum State Requirements

- The student has achieved **junior** class status and has an interest in pursuing postsecondary education opportunities in Florida.
- The student has expressed and/or demonstrated an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related studies.
- The student has a weighted grade point average of 3.9 or higher. Based upon information available at this point in time, the student should be on track to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars Award according to the current guidelines established for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm>). Specifically, the student should have documentation to support a minimum of 25 hours of approved community service.
- Districts are allotted a scholar count based on the district's student enrollment. Those districts that are allotted more than one scholar are encouraged, after identifying their top STEM junior student, to focus on diversity for their additional scholars.
 - Districts with less than 40,000 students are allotted one scholar.
 - Districts that have 40,001-100,000 students are allotted two scholars.
 - Districts that have more than 100,001+ students are allotted three scholars.

Other optional criteria as determined by district

Essay:

Student writes a short essay.

- Describe your plans to pursue a STEM-related field.
- Describe your academic passion. What makes it your passion?
- What are your postsecondary plans as of right now?
- What do you think is the greatest challenge America has right now in the areas of STEM? What contribution do you think you could make to help resolve it?

Interview:

Interview student by STEM-related business members of the community.

Advanced Coursework:

Student has taken or is currently enrolled in advanced courses.

- Dual credit mathematics and/or science courses
- Advanced Placement mathematics and/or science courses
- Advanced technology and/or career and technical education courses
- AICE or International Baccalaureate mathematics and/or science courses

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Assessment and Testing:

- Student has consistently scored well on statewide assessments.
 - Combined score of 1300 or higher on the SAT (based upon the Critical Reading and Mathematics sections only)
 - Composite score of 30 or higher on the ACT (excluding the writing section)
 - Score of 3.0 or higher on one or more Advanced Placement Tests
 - Consistently scored Level 4 or 5 on Mathematics and Science End-of-Course assessments

Competitions and Contests:

Student has actively participated in STEM-related competitions or has shown leadership in STEM-related activities such as the following:

- State Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (FFFS): <https://ssefflorida.com/>
- International Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by Intel and Society for Science & the Public: <http://www.societyforscience.org/ISEF/>
- Mu Alpha Theta: <http://www.mualphatheta.org/Default.aspx>
- Florida MATHCOUNTS State Competition sponsored by the Florida Engineering Society: <https://www.fleng.org/page/MATHCOUNTS>
- Math League sponsored by Stanford University: <http://www.mathleague.com/>
- American Mathematics Contest sponsored by University of West Florida: <http://uwf.edu/mathstat/amc/>
- Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology: <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/en/competition.htm>
- Dropping In a Microgravity Environment (DIME) sponsored by NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/teachingfromspace/home/dime.html>
- Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision science competition: <http://www.exploravision.org/>
- Florida Science Olympiad: <http://www.floridascienceolympiad.org/>
- Florida Envirothon: <http://flenvirothon.com/>
- National Science Bowl (NSB) sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy: <https://science.osti.gov/wdts/nsb>
- South Florida FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition: <http://firstinflorida.com/>
- Emerald Coast BEST Robotics sponsored by University of West Florida: <https://uwf.edu/hmcse/departments/electrical-and-computer-engineering/best-robotics/>
- National STEM Video Game Challenge: <http://www.stemchallenge.org/>