



Talented Twenty Program Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Students

1. What is the Talented Twenty program?

The Talented Twenty program encourages students to strive for enhanced academic performance and guarantees admission to one of the 12 state universities for students who succeed in their respective public high schools. For additional information, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/pre-collegiate/talented-twenty-program/>.

2. What are the requirements to qualify for the program?

To qualify for the Talented Twenty Program, the student must:

- Be enrolled in a Florida public high school and graduate with a standard diploma.
- Be ranked in the top 20 percent of the class after the posting of seventh semester grades.
- Have taken at least one standardized test offered by the College Board, American College Testing (ACT), Inc., or a Classic Learning Test (CLT3-8, CLT10, CLT).
- Met the minimum State University System (SUS) admissions eligibility requirements outlined in the [Board of Governors Regulation 6.002](#).

3. Does the student have to complete an application to be considered for the Talented Twenty program?

No. There is no application for the Talented Twenty program. Districts/schools are responsible for identifying students who are in the top 20 percent from each eligible high school's graduating class. Students do, however, need to complete the standard application to each state university institution for which they would like to be considered for admission.

4. Who should be my first point of contact regarding the Talented Twenty program?

Contact your school counselor or the school district.

5. Does a Talented Twenty awardee automatically get assigned to a university?

No. It is the responsibility of the student to apply to each university for which they would like to be considered for admission and comply with that institution's admissions policy. Students and families are encouraged to work with their school counselor and to apply to multiple institutions.

6. What is the Talented Twenty program appeal option?

Students identified as Talented Twenty who have applied to and been denied by at least three State University System institutions are eligible to submit an appeal for admission assistance. Incomplete applications to state universities, being deferred for additional information, and pending decisions do not count as denials.

7. What is the appeal process for a student?

A student identified for Talented Twenty is expected to apply to at least three State University System institutions. Ideally, the student should apply early in the school year and receive admission decisions. If the student is accepted to any state university, then the Talented Twenty appeal process does not apply. However, if the student is denied admission to at least three universities, the student can contact their school counselor to initiate the Talented Twenty appeal process.

Once a school counselor has verified that the student is indeed eligible for the Talented Twenty program, the school counselor will contact the Board of Governors Office (BOG) at SUSTalented20@flbog.edu and Yolanda Miranda-Hill (Yolanda.MirandaHill1@fldoe.org), Director of Pre-Collegiate Programs with the Bureau of Family & Community Outreach, to request a Talented Twenty program appeal. To receive priority review of a student's information, documents should be submitted no later than June 1.

A staff member of the BOG will establish a file folder for the student and provide the school counselor with information on how to upload the student's unofficial transcript and test scores. Incomplete files will not be reviewed. Once an agreement is made by a state university and the student opts to apply to the school making the offer of admission, the Talented Twenty admission guarantee is met.

8. After a student is denied acceptance at one or more universities, what should the student do?

Once a student receives the third denial letter, they should bring all three letters to their school counselor and request their academic record be reviewed by the remaining SUS admissions offices. The school counselor will work with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and the Board of Governors to upload documents and request a complimentary review of the Talented Twenty student records.

Once a university's Admissions Office agrees to place the student, the school counselor is notified and works with the student to complete the application process. When a member of the SUS agrees to place a student who has enacted their Talented Twenty review, the admissions guarantee is met, and no further offers are made. A student may choose to decline the offer; in this case, the student no longer has access to the guaranteed admission under the Talented Twenty program.

9. Can I get a fee waiver for the university admissions application process?

Yes. Students may use an SAT or ACT fee waiver approval to waive the admission application fees for up to four applications. In addition, the Classical Learning Test (CLT) provides financial assistance for any of the CLT Suite of Assessments. Please see your school counselor for details, or click on the College Board, ACT, Inc., and CLT website links below for additional information.

- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/sat-fee-waiver-student-brochure.pdf>
- <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf>
- <https://www.cltexam.com/financial-assistance-request-form/>

10. Does the Florida Department of Education issue Talented Twenty award letters to qualifying students?

No. The district and/or school distributes the qualifying letter to the students identified as top 20 percent of their graduating class and who meet all criteria of the Talented Twenty program.

11. Is the student still eligible for Talented Twenty consideration if he/she defers going to a university for one year?

The Talented Twenty program is considered a First-Time-in-College student admission status. A student who has never attended a postsecondary college or university or who has attended an institution and earned less than twelve (12) semester credit hours of academic credit after high school graduation is considered a First-Time-in-College student. Therefore, if the student continues to meet the definition of a First-Time-in-College student, the Talented Twenty status would apply.

12. Can a Talented Twenty student seeking the Financial Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) defer applying to a university by one year or more?

Yes. A Talented Twenty student may defer applying to a university by one year (see questions #6 and #11 above). However, while the FSAG provides priority funding for Talented Twenty recipients, students must continue to meet the definition of First-Time-in-College as described above. Talented Twenty students should contact the financial aid office with questions regarding FSAG eligibility, availability of funds and priority funding. Information on FSAG can be found at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/factsheets/FSAG.pdf>.

13. Can the Talented Twenty award letter be used at one of the state universities if the student completes more than two courses at a private or out of state institution?

No. A student would be considered a transfer student and would have to apply to the university as a transfer student and follow that institution's transfer policy.

14. Can a dual enrolled student be recognized under the Talented Twenty program as First-Time-In-College status?

Yes. A dual enrolled student can be recognized under the Talented Twenty program. A student is not considered a transfer student unless the credit is earned after the point of high school graduation.

15. Can the Talented Twenty award letter be used at one of the state universities if the student attends a community college directly following high school?

If the student takes twelve (12) or more semester hours of transferable college credit, the student loses Talented Twenty status because the student is no longer First-Time-in-College. The student may want to consider staying in a Florida College System institution, as many in Florida have articulation agreements with state universities that guarantee admission after two years of college are successfully completed.

16. Where can I find the list of the state universities that accept Talented Twenty awardees?

Students and parents may visit the State University System's website at <https://www.flbog.edu/universities/parents-students/planning-for-college/> for state universities and other helpful information.

17. What is financial assistance and how can a student obtain financial assistance?

Financial Aid is money provided by various agencies to help students with the costs of attending college. It includes gift aid and self-help opportunities.

18. Who do students contact to inquire about federal, state, and other student assistance programs?

Students should contact their school counselor and request a financial aid packet from the school(s) that the student wishes to attend. Students must also complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to be considered for State of Florida student financial aid programs including the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. This is available from a high school counselor or online at <http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org>.

Students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) early in January or February of the senior year. The earlier students apply, the better chance they will have of being considered for all available programs. When a student applies, the student will be considered for the many State of Florida financial aid programs, including the Florida Student Assistance Grants. The application is available from a high school counselor or online at <https://studentaid.gov/>.