

Florida Center for Students with
UNIQUE ABILITIES

Accessing Federal and State Financial Aid for Students in Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs

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Florida's Opportunity

- ▶ The Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (FS 1004.6495)

The Act Establishes

- ▶ The Center
 - The Center's charge
 - Executive Director's charge
- ▶ Criteria for approval as a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP)
 - Institutional eligibility and responsibilities
 - Student eligibility

The Act Establishes - cont'd

- ▶ FPCTP Scholarships
 - Eligibility
 - Funding level
- ▶ Program start-up and enhancement grants
- ▶ Accountability

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- ▶ Subsection (3) Definitions
- ▶ (d) “Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship” or “scholarship” means the scholarship established under this section to provide state financial assistance awards to students who meet the student eligibility requirements specified in subsection (4) and are enrolled in an FPCTP.

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- ▶ Subsection (5) Center Responsibilities
 - The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities is established within the University of Central Florida. At a minimum, the center shall:
 - (a) Disseminate information to students with disabilities and their parents, including, but not limited to: (cont'd)

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- ▶ Subsection (5) Center Responsibilities
 - 1. Education programs, services, and resources that are available at eligible institutions.
- ▶ Subsection (5) Director Shall
 - 4. Administer scholarship funds

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- ▶ Subsection (5) Technical Assistance
 - Provide technical assistance regarding programs and services for students with intellectual disabilities to administrators, instructors, staff, and others, as applicable, at eligible institutions by:
 - ▲ 4. Assisting eligible institutions with the identification of funding sources for an FPCTP and for students financial assistance for students enrolled in an FPCTP

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- ▶ Subsection (6) Institution Eligibility and Responsibilities
 - (d) An eligible institution shall notify students with intellectual disabilities and their parents of the student eligibility requirements specified in subsection (4) and the scholarship requirements and eligibility requirements specified in subsection (7).

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- ▶ Subsection (7) Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship
 - (a) Beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year, the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship is established for students who meet the students eligibility requirement specified in subsection (4), cont'd

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- are enrolled in an FPCTP, and are not receiving services that are funded through the Florida Education Financial Program or a scholarship under part III (Educational Choice) of chapter 1002 (Student and Parental Rights and Educational Choices).
 - ▲ 1002.38 Opportunity Scholarship Program
 - ▲ 1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship
 - ▲ 1002.39 The John McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program
 - ▲ 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. (cont'd)

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- ▶ Subsection (7) Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship
 - (b) To maintain eligibility to receive a scholarship, a student must continue to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) and must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress in the FPCTP, as determined by the eligible institution that the student attends, based on the indicators identified by the center pursuant to subsection (8). (cont'd)

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- ▶ Subsection (7) Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship
 - (c) Payment of scholarship funds shall be transmitted to the director of the center or his or her designee in advance of the registration period. The director or his or her designee shall disburse the scholarship funds to the eligible institutions that are responsible for awarding the scholarship to students who meet the requirements or paragraph (a) and (b). (cont'd)

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- ▶ Subsection (7) Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship
 - (d) During each academic term, by a date established by the center, an eligible institution shall report to the center the number and value of all scholarships awarded under this subsection. Each eligible institution shall also report to the center necessary demographic and eligibility data and other data requested by the center for students who received the scholarship awards. (cont'd)

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- ▶ Subsection (7) Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship
 - (e) By a date annually established by the center, each eligible institution shall certify to the center the amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the center any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each year. (cont'd)

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- ▶ Subsection (7) Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship
 - (f) For the 2016-2017 academic year, the amount of the annual scholarship shall be \$7,000 for each student who meets the eligibility requirements of subsection (4). (cont'd)

The Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (FS 1004.6495)

- ▶ Subsection (7) Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship
 - Beginning in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the funding for the program and the annual amount of the scholarship to be provided to a student who meets the eligibility requirements of subsection (4) shall be the amounts specified in the General Appropriations Act. If appropriate funds in any fiscal year are not adequate to provide the maximum allowable award to each eligible student, the awards may be prorated.

Higher Education Opportunity Act

- ▶ Changes made to eligibility
 - Previously students needed to:
 - ▲ Be accepted into a degree or certificate program
 - ▲ Attending college half-time
 - ▲ Meet financial need guidelines

Higher Education Opportunity Act

- ▶ Who is eligible for financial aid?
 - Student must have exited high school
 - Student must have an intellectual disability
 - Student and family must demonstrate financial need through Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Student must attend an approved Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program

Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program

- ▶ For students with intellectual disabilities means a degree, certificate, or nondegree program that
 - is offered by a college or career school and approved by the U.S. Department of Education;
 - is designed to support students with intellectual disabilities who want to continue academic, career, and independent living instruction to prepare for gainful employment; (cont'd)

Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program

- offers academic advising and a structured curriculum; and
- requires students with intellectual disabilities to participate, for at least half of the program, in
 - ▲ regular enrollment in credit-bearing courses with nondisabled students,
 - ▲ auditing or participating (with nondisabled students) in courses for which the student does not receive regular academic credit, (cont'd)

Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program

- ▶ enrolled in noncredit-bearing, nondegree courses with nondisabled students, or
- ▶ Internships or work-based training with nondisabled individuals.

Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program

- ▶ Florida CTP programs
 - Florida Panhandle Technical College
 - Florida Atlantic University
 - Southeastern University

Federal Student Aid

(An Office of the U.S. Department of Education)

- ▶ Students with intellectual disabilities may be able to get certain types of federal student aid.
 - Federal Pell Grant
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
 - Federal Work-Study

Students with intellectual disability may receive financial aid if they:

- ▶ are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a *comprehensive transition and postsecondary (CTP) program* for students with intellectual disabilities at an institution of higher education that participate in the federal student aid program;
- ▶ maintaining *satisfactory academic progress*; and
- ▶ meet the basic federal student aid eligibility requirements, except that you are not required to have a high school diploma or GED and are not required to be pursuing a degree or certificate.

Federal Pell Grant

- ▶ Usually awarded to undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's or professional degree
- ▶ You are not eligible if you are incarcerated or are subject to an involuntary civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for a sexual offense
- ▶ Unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances

Federal Pell Grant

- ▶ You can receive the Federal Pell Grant for no more than 12 semesters
- ▶ Amounts can change yearly. For the 2017-18 award year (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018), the maximum award is \$5,920
- ▶ The amount you get, will depend on your financial need, your cost of attendance, your status as a full-time or part-time student, and your plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- ▶ Is administered directly by the financial aid office
- ▶ Not all schools participate
 - Check with your school's financial aid office to find out if the school offers the FSEOG
 - After completing the FAFSA form, your college determines financial need. FSEOG is awarded to students with the greatest financial need.
 - Does not need to be repaid, except under certain circumstances

FPCTP Scholarship Available

- ▶ FPCTP Student Scholarships are available to students attending approved FPCTPs!
- ▶ Students are awarded the full amount of the scholarship
- ▶ Student Scholarships may be used to cover the costs of additional supports needed by students with intellectual disabilities

Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Student Scholarships

- ▶ Number distributed
 - 48 Student scholarships 2016-2017

Questions



Contact Us

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- ▶ Twitter: @FloridaCSUA
 - #FloridaPEPPI (Florida Postsecondary Education Program Planning Institute)

Reference List

- ▶ Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act
 - http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1004/Sections/1004.6495.html
- ▶ Higher Education Opportunity Act
 - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ315/pdf/PLAW-110publ315.pdf>

Reference List

- ▶ Guidance Regarding Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities
 - <https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN1101.html>
- ▶ INSIGHT: Federal Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disabilities
 - https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/Boyle_16_FINAL.pdf