

Talented Twenty Program

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Students

1. What is the Talented Twenty Program?

The Talented Twenty Program guarantees admission to one of the 12 state universities for students who succeed in their respective public high schools, and to encourage students to strive for better grades and pursue rigorous academic courses. Additional information is available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/bosss/talented-twenty-program/>.

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

In order 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 seventh semester grading period;
- submit test scores from the SAT® Reasoning Test or redesigned SAT® scores from the College Board, or the ACT® Plus Writing score from ACT®, prior to enrollment in a university within the State University System (SUS). No minimum score is required; and
- complete all 18 high school units as listed in the regulations for state university admission.

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. Transcripts of potentially eligible students are submitted by the district/school for evaluation. Students do, however, need to complete the standard application to the state university for admission. Students must have applied to and been denied by at least three state universities before the student may appeal for admission assistance.

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

Yes, students are able to use an SAT® or ACT® fee waiver approval to waive the admission application fees for up to four applications. Please see your high school counselor for details or visit the College Board website for additional information.

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

No, a letter of possible qualification from the SUS will be distributed by the district/school.

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

If the student attends another institution the first year, the student will generally be considered a transfer student. Talented Twenty is considered a first-time-in-college student admission status. If the student does not attend any institution the year after high school graduation, Talented Twenty status would apply.

9. If the student defers going to a university for one year can the Talented Twenty award letter still be used?

Yes, since the Talented Twenty award is geared to first-time-in-college students.

10. Can a student seek the Financial Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) if applying to a university is deferred by one year or more?

Yes, however, although the FSAG is priority funding for Talented Twenty recipients, it is also need-based funding and depends on the availability of funds.

11. 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, the student would be considered a transfer student. The student would have to apply to the university as a transfer student and follow that institution's transfer policy.

12. Can a dual enrolled student be recognized under the Talented Twenty Program with 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.

13. 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 12 or more credit hours, the student loses Talented Twenty status because the student is no longer first-time-in-college. The student may want to consider staying at the Florida College System institution as many in Florida have articulation agreements with state universities that guarantee admission once two years of college has successfully been completed.

14. Where can I find a list of state universities that accept Talented Twenty awardees?

Please visit the [Student Services Section](#) on the SUS website.

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

Financial assistance is money provided by various agencies to help students with the costs of attending college. It includes gift aid such as grants and scholarships, and self-help opportunities such as loans and student employment.

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Contact a high school counselor to inquire about federal, state and other student assistance programs.

- Request a financial aid packet from the school(s) that the student wishes to attend.
- 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>.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application is available from a high school counselor or online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.
- When a student applies, he/she will be considered for many State of Florida financial aid programs, including the Florida Student Assistance Grants.
- Apply 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.

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

Students should apply to at minimum three state universities. If he/she is not admitted by any of the three, the student should contact his/her high school counselor. Once verification that the student has met college-level placement cut scores, the counselor should contact the Board of Governors office for a complimentary review by the remaining SUS admission directors. The remaining admission directors of the other universities will provide complimentary reviews of the transcripts of the Talented Twenty applicants. Once one of the 12 universities in the SUS accepts a student, the admission guarantee is met even if the student does not wish to attend that particular university.