



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, as well as encourages students to strive for better grades and pursue rigorous academic courses. Please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/pre-collegiate/talented-twenty-program/> for additional information.

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% of the class after the posting of seventh semester grades.
- Submit SAT scores from the College Board, or ACT scores from ACT, Inc., or Classic Learning Test (CLT) scores from Classic Learning Initiatives prior to enrollment to a university in the State University System (SUS). No minimum score is required.
- Met the minimum 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 submit the transcripts of potentially eligible students 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 submit an 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 click on the College Board and ACT, Inc. 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>

7. 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% of their graduating class and who meet all criteria of the Talented Twenty program.

8. 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.

9. Can a student seek the Financial Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) if defer applying to a university 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. Students must also continue to meet the definition of First-Time-in-College as described above. Information on FSAG can be found at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/factsheets/FSAG.pdf>.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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/>.
 - When a student applies, the student will be considered for the 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 a minimum of three state universities. If they are not admitted by any of the three, the student should contact his/her high school counselor. Once verifying that the student has met college-level placement cut scores, the counselor should contact the Board of Governors office for a complementary review by the remaining state university 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 twelve universities in the State University System accepts a student, the admission guarantee is met, even if the student does not wish to attend that particular university.