
Guidance on Administration of Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarships (FPCTP)

The Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (the Act) (FS 1004.6495) established the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship for eligible students to attend approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs). The Act also created the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities at the University of Central Florida (the Center) and charged the Center with managing the Scholarship awards and accountability requirements associated with the awards.

As stated in the legislation, the purpose of the Act is to “increase independent living, inclusive and experiential postsecondary education, and employment opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities through degree, certificate, or nondegree programs and to establish statewide coordination of the dissemination of information regarding programs and services for students with disabilities. It is the intent of the Legislature that students with intellectual disabilities and students with disabilities have access to meaningful postsecondary education credentials and be afforded the opportunity to have a meaningful campus experience” (FS §1004.6495(2)).

Those campus experiences may include a range of curricular, co-curricular, and supportive activities and services designed to facilitate student success and program completion. This document provides general information regarding the types of expenses for which the FPCTP Scholarship is intended to cover and the Scholarship award process developed by the Center.

- ▶ The FPCTP Scholarship funds administered by the Center are not funded as a grant from the State, nor are Scholarship funds awarded to eligible students attending an approved FPCTP to be considered as grant funds by the participating institution of higher education (IHE).
- ▶ The Florida Legislature provides FPCTP Scholarship funds to the Center/UCF as Education and General (E&G) funds. The annual level of the FPCTP Scholarship is identified in the State budget.
- ▶ The Center in turn provides approved FPCTPs with scholarship funds for eligible students participating in the program, at the program’s request. The scholarship is intended to help pay for students’ expenses such as tuition and fees, meal plans, housing, books, and instructional materials, as well as specific program supports provided by the FPCTP to ensure student success.
- ▶ It is recognized that students with intellectual disabilities will most likely need supports and or services from the IHE through the FPCTP *over and above* those typically provided for college students without these disabilities.
- ▶ FPCTP costs generally encompass two primary areas: (1) general costs of a postsecondary education at the IHE (e.g., instruction, technology, facilities, administration, safety, etc., typically recovered through tuition, fees, and other revenue sources); and (2) specialized program costs associated with instruction and services unique to students with intellectual disabilities in the FPCTP *over and above* general costs.

- ▶ FPCTP-specific costs for services and supports over and above those generally provided might include, but are not limited to, costs to provide student mentors, job coaches, transportation, specialized technology, and other curriculum components or services.
- ▶ The services described in the institution's FPCTP application and subsequently included in the FPCTP approval by the Center and relevant State agency (BOG or FDOE) would thus be considered program components relevant to student success and appropriate for "cost recovery" as would such costs as lab fees for students enrolling in engineering or science courses.
- ▶ The Scholarship request form submitted by the FPCTP to the Center includes an estimate of the costs of FPCTP participation per student, for two reasons. First, to assist the IHE to calculate the costs of providing the FPCTP; and second, so that Center staff may advise the Legislature as to how the FPCTP Scholarship funds align with the costs of participation in an approved FPCTP.
- ▶ Using the information regarding total FPCTP costs, the IHE can identify how these costs should be assessed per student and fully or partially recovered via course tuition, general fees, specific course fees, specific service fees, etc. As with other scholarships in general, a student's FPCTP Scholarship may be applied to such expenses.
- ▶ The Center provides each approved FPCTP a Scholarship request packet each year. The FPCTP/IHE submits the program cost estimate and list of eligible students for whom a FPCTP Scholarship is requested, including projected enrollment by term (i.e., fall, spring, summer), to the Center.
- ▶ Upon review and clarification if needed, the Center's Executive Director approves the request and identifies the amount awarded by student by semester, based on projected enrollment. That is, the annual scholarship amount (currently \$7,000) is prorated across the relevant fiscal and or academic year according to each student's projected enrollment. This information is forwarded to UCF's finance and accounting department, which transfers the funds to the requesting IHE's financial aid unit with the award details (student and amount by term).
- ▶ The IHE's financial aid unit is responsible for disbursing FPCTP Scholarship funds to eligible students by term, based on the schedule provided by the Center/UCF. If the total Scholarship award is greater than the costs (general and FPCTP-specific) assessed to the student's account, any remaining funds are disbursed directly to the student.
- ▶ Students who continue in the FPCTP and make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) may remain eligible to receive subsequent FPCTP Scholarships.
- ▶ The FPCTP/IHE must report to the Center each academic term regarding FPCTP Scholarship funds disbursed, by student. By June 1 each year, the IHE must return any FPCTP Scholarship funds not disbursed to students to the Center/UCF. See http://fcsua.org/I_eval_report.php for the annual reporting schedule.

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