For information or to support the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, contact:
Ashley Rodriguez • arodriguez@uff.ufl.edu • 352-392-7624
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Fast Facts

- 1,395 UF students were enrolled in the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program in fall 2010.
- Florida Opportunity Scholars are bright, talented and academically qualified to attend UF but are from families that cannot afford textbooks, school supplies and basic expenses associated with college.
- The average family income for Florida Opportunity Scholars in fall 2010 was $21,800, compared to the $100,000 average for families of other UF students.
- 70 percent of Florida Opportunity Scholars are female; 76 percent are minorities, compared to 37 percent for the general student population.
- Florida Opportunity Scholars perform as well as other UF students – enrollment retention is above 90 percent, and their average GPA is 3.15.
- At the conclusion of May 2011, 550 Florida Opportunity Scholars will have graduated. The 4-year graduation rate of the first graduating class is 63 percent and the latest published UF four-year graduation rate is 58 percent.
- A Florida Opportunity Scholar was named a 2009 Truman Scholar – one of only two students in the entire state of Florida.
- Numerous Florida Opportunity Scholars have held leadership positions in student organizations. For example, the 2010-2011 Student Government treasurer was a Florida Opportunity Scholar.

Graduate Testimonials

Martin Parks Math and Statistics Major | “The Florida Opportunity Scholars Program has allowed me to freely explore majors and career options. I’ve been able to find my true passions, music and math, and have used them to help other students as a tutor at the on-campus teaching center.”
Next: Technical consultant at EPIC, a health care software company in Madison, Wis.

Cynthia Butler Telecommunications Major | “The program allowed me to realize the importance of being an independent learner. I was able to take courses which challenged me to effectively communicate my point of view.”
Next: Syracuse University to attend graduate school in TV, radio and film production

Hamardo Sinclair Telecommunications Major | “The Florida Opportunity Scholars Program has allowed me to realize the importance of being an independent learner. I was able to take courses which challenged me to effectively communicate my point of view.”
Next: Teach for America in Atlanta

Alexandra Montero Criminology Major | “The Florida Opportunity Scholars Program helped me establish a family in Gainesville by connecting with faculty and helping me learn to use the resources on campus. I’m leaving UF equipped with everything I need for the next phase in my life.”

Student Testimonials

Jake Kennedy Business Major | “The University of Florida is the doorway to my future, and the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program is the key to do what I want in life.”

Shaquita Goodman Nursing Major | “The program has helped me pay for college and continue my career in the nursing program, despite coming from a single-parent home.”

Antonio de Leon Pharmacy Major | “UF is the door I’ll be able to walk through, thanks to the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program.”

They’re already scholars. With your help, they can become Gators. You are the key.

Scan the QR code to find out how easy it is to make a gift.

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You can help outstanding scholars become Gator scholars.

Each year, the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program provides direct financial assistance to UF students who are Florida residents and come from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree and whose annual household income is less than $40,000. The ultimate goal of the program is for students to earn a bachelor’s degree and graduate debt-free, by providing a full grant and scholarship package, including living expenses.

Your commitment is the key to unlocking this opportunity.

The Florida Opportunity Scholars Program can help these deserving students realize their dreams and proudly represent the University of Florida with their future accomplishments.

Your contribution ...

- Will encourage talented, hard-working students to apply to UF and, when accepted, enroll.
- Will allow bright, capable UF students to graduate and not drop out for financial reasons.
- Will promote diversity at UF and give low-income students the opportunities for success.
- Will serve as an investment in Florida’s social and economic future.