Valedictorian/Salutatorian or Top Two Ranked Students Scholarship
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is this a four year scholarship?**
   Yes - it is awarded for one year, but it is renewable for up to three additional years.

2. **What if it will only take two years to finish my undergraduate degree?**
   You will receive the scholarship for only those two years.

3. **How much is the scholarship worth?**
   It is a full tuition scholarship which covers all in-state fees that are paid based on credit hours. At the current rate, the scholarship would be worth a little over $3,000 per year or $12,000 for all four years.

4. **What do I have to do to keep the scholarship all four years?**
   You must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 24 credit hours toward your degree each year at FGCU to renew the scholarship.

5. **What if I stay a fifth year?**
   Sorry – the scholarship is for four years.

6. **How many credit hours each semester does the scholarship cover?**
   The scholarship will pay for up to fifteen credit hours each semester.

7. **What if the tuition rate at FGCU goes up?**
   The scholarship value will go up to match any tuition increase. This is a full tuition scholarship and not a specific dollar amount scholarship.

8. **How do I apply for this scholarship?**
   Essentially, you don’t. Your high school principal (or designee) must supply FGCU with two names to represent your school as valedictorian and salutatorian or two students ranked as #1 and #2 for schools who do not recognize valedictorian/salutatorian. FGCU will then offer the scholarship to these two individuals. Students must meet all university admission requirements. Students admitted under any type of exception including not meeting the minimum test score requirement will not be eligible.
9. **What about private schools?**
The scholarship is available to valedictorians and salutatorians of all high schools in Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry Counties which are regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). It is not available to home schooled students.

10. **What if I also receive Bright Futures or some other scholarship?**
Bright Futures may be combined with this scholarship (you can receive both). Other scholarships may have restrictions which prevent awarding both. In general, “full ride” scholarships which pay for tuition, room & board, books, and transportation cannot be combined with this scholarship. Please check with the Financial Aid Office for information about specific scholarships.

11. **Will this scholarship reduce my financial aid award?**
This scholarship will be counted when determining your eligibility for Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Work Study awards and Federal SEOG awards. It may replace part of your financial aid package but will not reduce your overall financial aid eligibility.

12. **Is this scholarship available to any Florida resident?**
No - this scholarship is available to graduates of high schools in FGCU’s five county primary service area (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee).

13. **Is there anything else a student needs to do?**
Students must meet all University application and admission deadlines. Students not admitted by the priority admission deadline of February 15th may not be able to enroll due to space availability.

14. **Is there anything else my school needs to do?**
Your high school should be sure to invite a representative from FGCU to attend its honors program or commencement where other scholarships are announced. Please contact the FGCU Undergraduate Admissions Office for more information.

15. **Can this scholarship be used for a Graduate Degree Program?**
No, this scholarship is for undergraduate coursework only.

16. **Can I use this scholarship during the summer semester?**
Yes.

17. **Can I attend another university or college first and then transfer to FGCU and still receive the scholarship?**
No. You must enroll at FGCU no later than the fall term of your High School graduation year in order to receive the scholarship.

Updated 03/2009