Many students from middle-income and lower-income Florida families do not qualify for federal or state grants and scholarships.

- An estimated 37,000 State University System undergraduates with family incomes between $40,000 and $80,000 did not receive federal Pell grants or other federal and state need-based programs, and over half of them did not receive Florida’s merit-based Bright Futures awards either.

- This income group can be particularly sensitive to tuition increases.

- Need-based financial aid programs should recognize the need of many of these middle-income and lower-income Florida families.

Nearly Half of State University System Middle- and Lower-Income Families Do Not Receive Benefits From Federal or State Financial Aid Programs

Most State University System students from families earning between $40,000 and $80,000 do not qualify for Pell grants or for the various other state and federal need-based grants.

And more than half of these middle- and lower-income students also do not receive Bright Futures scholarships.

Note: These percentages are of SUS resident, undergraduates with 2005 family adjusted gross incomes between $40,000 and $80,000.
Technical notes:
The income data used in this study are the result of a match between the academic records of Florida students and data from the federal income tax return. The IRS authorized and facilitated the project, and, following federal rules, the Florida Department of Revenue aggregated the data in such a way as to provide no identifiable information from individual taxpayer or student records, only on groups of students. This study uses a cohort of 2005-06 academic year Florida resident undergraduates. The tax data come from 2005 federal income tax returns. The student records were compared first with dependents on tax returns of Florida residents. If the student did not match a dependent on a primary filer’s tax return, the student record was then compared with independent filers (primary and secondary tax filers). Overall, 90% of the student records matched to a federal tax return. Of those that matched, 60% of the students were dependents on another’s tax return, and 40% were independent filers.

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