

2012 SASHTO SCHOLARSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions.

What criteria must student applicants meet to be considered eligible to apply for the Scholarship?

The student applicant **must be** the dependent of an FDOT employee as determined by one of the following criteria:

- FDOT employee's own child, legally adopted child, child placed in employee home for the purpose of adoption in accordance with Chapter 63, F.S.
- FDOT employee's step-child who can be claimed as an exemption on employee's Federal Income Tax (IRS) return.
- Foster child of FDOT employee.
- Children for whom employee has established legal guardianship pursuant to Chapter 744, F.S., or court ordered custody.

Who is eligible to apply?

- A graduating high school senior ...**OR**...
- A student with proof of current enrollment pursuing one of the programs stated below:
 - An undergraduate degree at a four-year accredited college or university
 - An associate degree at a two-year accredited college
 - Certification at a career, vocational, technical or training institution.

Is this scholarship for Master or Doctoral Students?

NO. Currently, this scholarship is not offered to Master or Doctoral students.

Is this scholarship available to FDOT employees or their spouses?

NO. Currently, this scholarship is not available to FDOT employees or their spouses.

Is there a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA)?

YES. Student Applicants must have a **minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5** on a 4.0 scale equivalent, as shown by transcripts provided by the current learning institution. (DO NOT WAIT to order your transcripts)

What if I received the scholarship in a previous year? Can I apply again?

YES. However, the student applicant cannot

- be awarded The SASHTO SCHOLARSHIP consecutively (Back-to-back years)
- receive The SASHTO SCHOLARSHIP more than twice.

Can I send copies of the required information as I prepare them?

NO. It is recommended that you begin early to **collect all** necessary information and then send/deliver the complete packet.

➔ **REMEMBER:** Incomplete application packets will not be considered

What documentation is needed to prove the student applicant is my dependent?

REQUIRED.

- A copy of the health care dependents' page of the FDOT employee listed on the *People First* Website showing the applicant as the FDOT employee's dependant...**OR...**
- A copy of the latest Federal Income Tax return filed. (Only the page claiming the student applicant as an exemption/dependent of the FDOT employee is necessary. Do not send the entire return.)

What if the student applicant is not listed on *People First*, what do I send?

A copy of the latest Federal Income Tax return filed. (Only the page claiming the student applicant as an exemption/dependent of the FDOT employee is necessary. Do not send the entire return.)

Is there an age limit for this scholarship?

YES. The student applicant **must be under 25 years of age.**

Do you need proof that the student applicant is under 25 years of age?

YES. A copy of the student's birth certificate is required.

Can a student applicant be married?

NO. A student applicant cannot be married.

Where can I obtain an application?

Print the 2012 SASHTO Scholarship Application and Instructions from the Infonet at <http://infonet.dot.state.fl.us/SASHTO/> or from the Internet at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/>

- Employees may use the Department's e-mail, and computer resources to print, scan, exchange or email scholarship information, applications or instructions. This limited use of DOT resources during the SASHTO Scholarship process is addressed as follows:
- Policy Topic No.: 001-325-060-d SECURITY AND USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES, INCLUDING E-MAIL, INTERNET, AND ANTI-VIRUS signed on July 19, 2007, by Secretary Kopelousos states: "acceptable uses of e-mail can be compared to those involving use of a telephone where, at times, personal messages are conveyed."
- Policy Topic No.:001-010-011-f USE OF COPY/FAX MACHINES signed on July 19, 2007, by Secretary Kopelousos provides for "occasional limited personal use" of Department copy and fax machines.

Should I send certificates, examples of work or awards with my application?

NO. Do not include this kind of information. It *will not be included* in the evaluation for scholarship.

Who selects the scholarship winners?

A statewide selection committee of FDOT representatives from the seven districts, the Turnpike, and Central Office, evaluates/scores all applications, and interviews/scores finalists.

The coordinator facilitates the process but does not participate in scoring.

To maintain anonymity, personal identification information is redacted from the application.

How are scholarship recipients determined ?

Currently, there is a two step process: The Application and the Interview.

Step 1: Application Scoring

Each application is evaluated based on the following (Items 1–6, 100 possible points):

1. Academic Performance	20 points
2. Honors, Awards, Prizes and Distinctions	20 points
3. Leadership Activities and Work Experience	15 points
4. Extracurricular Activities and Community Involvement	15 points
5. Essay Answer	25 points
6. 2 Letters of Recommendation	5 points

The total points awarded for items 1-6 above constitute the **application score** which is entered into a computer program used to select the finalists for the interview process.

Step 2: Interview Scoring

The finalists then participate in the interview portion of the scholarship process. For their convenience, the finalists interview in-person at a district office nearest their current location. Other committee members (statewide) can view the interviews via video conference. Phone interviews can also be conducted if a person-to-person interview is not possible.

55 possible points awarded based on 10 questions, (5 points each with 5 additional points for preparedness) constitute the finalists' **interview score**.

- Both the application score and the interview score will be entered into a computer program.
- Students with the highest composite score will be selected as scholarship recipients.

How will Applicants be notified of decisions regarding their Application package?

Correspondence will be sent to the applicant at the mailing address or E-mail address on the application.

Who is the SASHTO contact?

Celeste Rosso via e-mail at: celeste.rosso@dot.state.fl.us or by phone at (850) 414-4479.

What can we do with the scholarship?

Scholarships can be used for any school-related expense such as tuition, books, supplies, required fees, etc. Scholarships will be paid directly to the student as a gross amount.

When is the application due?

Applications must be received by 5:00 P.M. (Close of Business) March 2, 2012, at the location listed.

➔ **OR they will not be accepted.**

Where do we send the application when it is filled out?

Mail, deliver or E-mail the completed Application Packet by the time and day listed, to:

Celeste Rosso-Coordinator, SASHTO 2012
Florida Department of Transportation
Haydon Burns Building – Room SW123
605 Suwannee St. MS20
Tallahassee, Fla. 32399-0495
celeste.rosso@dot.state.fl.us

➔ **REMEMBER:** Make certain that the applicant and parent contact information (address, phone, E-mail) is correct on the application. **This is our only way to notify you of the results.**

Can we FAX the application?

NO. A FAX will not be accepted.

Can we E-mail an application?

YES. An E-mail will only be accepted if it contains **all** requested documentation.

➔ **REMEMBER: Incomplete application packets will not be considered**