

Funding for Combined Degree (BS/MS) in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

The following funding options could be available to students pursuing a Combined Degree (BS/MS) in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. The current tuition rate for graduate school course work is \$530.69 per credit hour.

Florida Prepaid:

Will pay 120 hours of coursework regardless of level. If a student has an account and funds are used completing a bachelor's degree, the remaining balance can be used to fund graduate coursework.

Plan Types and Payment Rate:

- 2 + 2 Account = \$116.66 per credit hour
- 2+ 2 Account with bundle plan - \$199.22 per credit hour
 - Bundle plan includes local fee and tuition differentials
- 4-year plan - \$116.66 per credit hour
- 4-year plan with local fees only - \$154.05 per credit hour
- 4-year plan with differential tuition only - \$161.82 per credit hour
- 4-year plan with bundle - \$199.22
 - Bundle plan includes local fee and tuition differentials

Tuition differential began in 2007.

Bright Futures:

Currently paying \$212.71 per credit hour.

The amount paid per credit hour is subject to the Florida Legislature budgeting process. Since 2016 the award covers 100% of tuition costs. Prior to 2016 the fund covered \$104 per credit hour. During the 2021 legislative session there was a push reduce the amount paid per credit hour. While the measure did not pass students did lose the \$300 per semester book stipend.

- Covers 120 credit hours
- Student used 105 credit hours or less of Bright Futures funding during their undergraduate degree **OR**
- Student received Bright Futures funding for less than 7 semesters

If either of these conditions are met, then Bright Futures will pay up to 15 credit hours (at the undergraduate rate) during their first semester in graduate school.

Financial Aid:

The federal financial aid package can be used until a student is awarded their bachelor's degree.

Award packages include need-based grants, i.e., Pell Grants, other undergraduate grants, and student loans.

- 3rd and 4th year student qualify for a maximum of \$7,500 in subsidized and unsubsidized loans. Max of unsubsidized loans is \$5,500, which is included in the \$7,500 figure

- If an undergraduate student needs additional funding, he/she can qualify for a parent plus loan up to the cost of attendance.

A student could use financial aid to cover credits of graduate coursework until their BS is awarded.