

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
- Once a bachelor's degree is conferred, if a student has a minimum balance of 18 credit hours, he/she can use these credits during the first semester of 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.