



## MACHEN FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
OPPORTUNITY.UFL.EDU



**FLORIDA FIRST. GATORS FOREVER.**

### PROGRAM HISTORY

THE MACHEN FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM SUPPORTS  
LOW-INCOME STUDENTS WHO ARE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILIES TO ATTEND

COLLEGE. The University of Florida is committed to financially supporting academically-talented students who might not otherwise attend UF because of financial barriers.

National studies have shown that students from low socio-economic backgrounds can be deterred from enrolling in a four-year college or university because of fear of debt and concerns that working while in school could hinder their chances for academic success. Many of these students opt instead to enroll in community colleges or choose not to attend college at all.

→ **IN 2006**, President Emeritus Bernie Machen proposed creation of the Florida Opportunity Scholars program. Dr. Machen explained, “We believe there are significant numbers of students who can be admitted to UF, but who either don’t apply or don’t enroll because of the costs associated with attending college away from home. These students currently either don’t go to college or go to a local community college. We want them at the University of Florida!” Dr. Machen believes that UF, the state’s flagship university, has a responsibility to all Florida’s citizens, and that all academically deserving students should have an opportunity to attend UF.

**5,140**

Scholars in program history  
(program started in 2006)

**1,240**

Current Scholars

**127**

Opportunity Scholars currently  
enrolled in graduate or  
professional degree program at UF

**400**

Opportunity Scholarships for Fall  
2021 freshman class

**\$19,689**

Average family income

**65**

of Florida’s 67 counties that are  
home to Opportunity Scholars

**0**

Parents of scholars with college  
degrees

**=**

Academic achievements  
compared with UF peers