B&C FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Accumulating Interest

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THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

Good Friday
April 19

Memorial Day
May 27

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Don't Stop with Bright Futures When Paying for College

by Ian Aguilar, CFP®

Florida is a state lucky enough to benefit from the state-wide merit scholarship known as Bright Futures. Just recently, the state expanded the program, and now there are two main forms of the award known as the Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS). These awards are given out based upon achieving a certain GPA, SAT/ACT score, and varying levels of community service hours. The FAS covers 100% of tuition and fees at public universities, while the FMS covers 75% of tuition and fees. What does that equate to in terms of dollars towards college? There tends to be a misconception that if a child achieves some of these marks, college will be free as long as their child stays in the state of Florida. The truth is far from that. Here is a list of 4 things to think about before relying purely on Bright Futures to pay for college.

1. Bright Futures doesn't even cover 1/3 of the cost of attendance at the University of Florida

When we look at the current tuition and fees for the University of Florida, the amount for 2019-2020 is $6,380. The FAS and FMS Bright Futures scholarships are granting us $27,920 and $21,540, respectively, for the four years of attendance*. The total cost of attendance for undergraduates published by UF is actually $21,210 for the 2019-2020 school year. That means, for someone who even receives the highest level of the Bright Futures scholarship, there still are costs of up to $14,830 in the student's first year. Even with no increases in cost of attendance year to year (which is highly unlikely), you will end up having to pay at least $56,920 over all 4 years of college. Colleges understand this and have started to raise tuition at much smaller rates than other costs, in particular room & board. In 2013, in-state tuition for UF was $6,263, which means tuition has only increased 1.86% since then. In that same time frame the total cost of attendance has increased 11.03%. This is an overall good thing for affordability, but people who want to rely on Bright Futures for funding purposes must realize it is covering less and less of the total cost of attendance to the state's public universities.

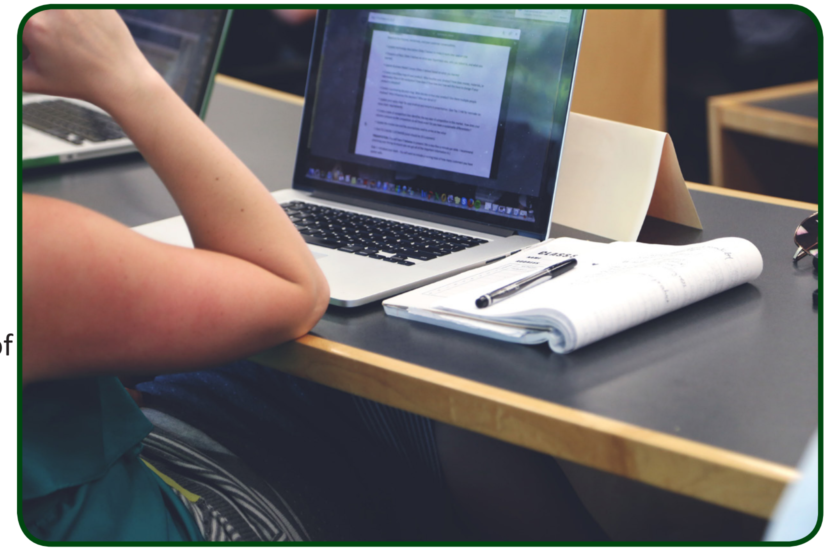
2. Money is given for in-state private universities, but at a specific rate

The Bright Futures scholarships are applicable for in-state private universities, but, instead of covering the whole cost of tuition and fees as it does for public universities, it only covers a certain dollar amount, dependent on the number of credit hours in which you are enrolled. For the equivalent of the Florida Academic Scholarship, private school attendees receive $211 per credit hour plus $300 for college-related expenses on a per semester basis. Unless you were enrolled in college recently, that doesn't mean much, but generally you are required to have 120 credit hours to graduate with a 4 year undergraduate degree, which translates to 15 credit hours per semester. Doing the math based on 15 hours per semester, you receive $3,165 per semester plus a $300 stipend. Clearly, the amount provided via the Bright Futures scholarship doesn't carry as much relief for its recipients at private institutions since tuitions are much higher and will only provide less relief as prices continue rising and the scholarship amounts don't keep pace.

(continued on the next page)

3. If you qualify for Bright Futures, you will probably qualify for other scholarships elsewhere

The Bright Futures scholarship is one of a whole list of scholarships that can benefit a family through limiting college expenses. The truth is, if you are qualifying for Bright Futures, you probably have the ability to garner funds at many of the different scholastic institutions throughout the country as well, and those scholarships will often go above and beyond paying for just tuition. Don't limit your college search to in-state universities due to finances, because you could end up paying less by going out of state versus staying in state.



4. Bright Futures doesn't normally apply to graduate school, but can

Many students who can obtain the scholarship often come into college with a semester's worth of college credits, if not more. If the same students intend on attending graduate school at an in-state university, then they can also receive funding for one semester of graduate study, not to exceed 15 credit hours paid at the undergraduate rate. In essence, each student is eligible for at least $3,165 to go toward graduate school if you finish undergrad early enough.

How beneficial Bright Futures will be for particular students will vary from situation to situation, and understanding your financial flexibility to explore all your schooling options is imperative in making sure you choose the right school. Let us help you solidify your college funding plan today so that you can get a good night's sleep knowing a plan is in place, whether it's with Bright Futures or without.

*This is an estimate using the current 1 year grant multiplied by 4, assuming completion at the end of 4 years.

Forbes Names Allan Cohen One of Florida's Top Advisors

Have you heard the news? Allan Cohen, CFP®, and CEO of B&C Financial Advisors was ranked North Florida's #30 top wealth advisor according to Forbes' Best-In-State Wealth Advisors list. Over 3,000 advisors across the country were chosen for this list out of almost 30,000 nominees. Forbes looks at a number of requirements to compile their list, including industry experience, assets under management, compliance records, and using "best practices" both within their practices and with clients.

Allan adds, "I'm honored to have been chosen by Forbes and to know that the investment model, which focuses on stocks and bonds and not commercial products, that we developed has been such a success for our clients. I have worked with our clients for many years both as their CPA and then as their Investment Advisor, and they have placed an enormous amount of trust and confidence in me. It's very rewarding to be recognized for all those years of service and to know that Forbes has included all financial firms in their study, not just the national wire houses."

New B&C Client Experience

by Sean Guldi, CFP®

We are happy to announce the full roll out of our new client experience. Our technology partner, Black Diamond, invested significant resources to build out an enhanced client experience for you. This new "portal" will provide you the same ability to view your quarterly reports and review your up to date portfolio information, but the new experience is easier to view and also includes ability to access your experience from an App on your phone. When you log in, you should be prompted to "Try the New Investor Experience" which will allow you to access the new version. We anticipate a full transition to the new client experience by the end of 2019. Until then you can access the "old" version by clicking the link "Back to IX 1.0" in the top right.

Home Page: Displays the total value of all accounts along with values for each account below. The right side of the screen includes contact information for B&C Financial Advisors, your advisor specifically, and external links to our blog and the Pershing Site.

My Accounts: Shows details about each account including custodian, value, as of date, and last updated. You can drill down and show all positions within the account by clicking the name of the account. You should also see any outside managed accounts and their update dates. Finally you have the ability to add new outside accounts for us to view by clicking the "Add" button. For more details on adding accounts please e-mail info@bandcfinancial.com.

Portfolio: This section is virtually the same as the old client experience. We have added a card to display your portfolio allocation versus your target asset allocation. Should you have any questions about navigating this section please refer to our previous articles or contact us at (904) 273-9850.

Vault: The Vault section is a new version of what used to be called the Document Vault. The main differences are that old vault documents aren't automatically moved to the new vault (we are working with Black Diamond to accomplish this) and the layout of the Vault has changed.

- My Files: This is your personal document storage area. All documents uploaded here will only be accessible by you unless you share them with others.
- Shared with Me: Any files or folders shared by B&C will be accessible here. Depending on your permission level (Edit or View), options may be limited.
- Trash: Deleted files will appear here. You can permanently delete or restore these files.
- Reports: This folder contains all PDF Reports produced by Black Diamond that have been shared with you.
- Statements: This folder contains monthly statements provided by Pershing.
- Search: Searching files and folders is limited to the area you are currently viewing.
- Breadcrumb: To navigate back after entering a folder, click the folder icon in the top left.
- Sort: All columns are sortable ascending or descending.

Mobile App: You can now access your client experience via a mobile app available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Please search for "Black Diamond Wealth Platform" - the app has both mobile and tablet view. Use the same credentials as the website to log in to the app. The app is set up similar to the web version, but with different navigation depending on the device. If you have any issues accessing the app please call the office or e-mail info@bandcfinancial.com.

We at B&C Financial Advisors strive to provide the best client experience possible. Please reach out to your advisor or call the office if you have any difficulty navigating the new experience.

Making Dreams Come True

Carter at his Dream Party where he and his family celebrated their upcoming trip!

Carter, his parents, and members of the Riverwood Men's Golf Club.

Last November, B&C Financial Advisors was proud to sponsor the 2018 Riverwood Men's Golf Tournament benefitting Dreams Come True, a Jacksonville-based non-profit dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of local children who are facing life-threatening illnesses. The Riverwood Men's Golf Tournament raised $28,000 to go to dreamers, and we are happy to share the story of the first dream made possible by the proceeds from the golf tournament.

Carter, who turned seven this past January, is a local Dreamer who is diagnosed with epilepsy, a brain tumor and other conditions. His dream was to go on a vacation to Orlando where he could explore all of the theme parks and attractions with his family. Carter was able to visit all of the Disney theme parks, as well as Universal, Islands of Adventure and Sea World. He also stayed as a special guest at Give Kids the World, which is a resort that exclusively hosts dreamers and their families. "Dreamers enjoy all-you-can-eat ice cream, arcade games that do not require quarters, swimming pools, a castle, and visits by the village mayor, who just happens to be a big giant rabbit!"

All of us at B&C are so thrilled that we were able to be a part of making Carter's dream come true and look forward to hearing about the other dreamers who will benefit from the Riverwood Men's Golf Tournament. To learn more about Dreams Come True, visit www.dreamscometrue.org or call (904) 296-3030.

Client for a Cause

This quarter, we are highlighting two clients who are both passionate about finding a cure for multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is a chronic disease that affects the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves, and can result in issues with vision, muscle control, balance, and other symptoms. The disease disrupts communication within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms can present differently in patients, with some experiencing only a few symptoms while others lose the ability to perform daily tasks on their own. 2.3 million people worldwide suffer from MS, and most are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50 (National MS Society website). With the development of medications and treatments, the life expectancy for MS patients has increased, and there is still more research being done to help patients live a longer, healthier life.

ELLEN RUBENS| WALK MS

Ellen Rubens

B&C client Ellen Rubens is one of the many MS patients who are fighting to make life with MS better for themselves and others. Ellen moved to Jacksonville in her early twenties, and built a happy life with her husband, two children, and a long career in the Duval County Public School system, both as a teacher and a school administrator. Since retiring in 2013, Ellen maintained a rich life full of family, friends, volunteering and traveling. Throughout all of this, Ellen experienced ups and downs with her health and finally received an MS diagnosis in 2011. Ellen was diagnosed with Relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS), which differs from Progressive MS. Patients with RRMS often suffer from symptoms that do not seem obvious to those around the patient, while Progressive MS is usually very debilitating. Once Ellen was diagnosed with MS, she realized that she needed to become active in not only her health journey, but to help others with MS.

Ellen immediately became involved with Walk MS after her diagnosis in 2011 as a participant and Team Captain of Rubens Racers. Walk MS is a walk that takes place in cities all across the United States with the goals of raising money for MS patients and offer a community of support for those affected by MS. Since it began in 1988, Walk MS has raised $1 billion. These funds have helped discover 16 disease-modifying therapies and treatments to help patients manage their symptoms – this is made even more amazing when you consider that before Walk MS, there were zero disease-modifying therapies. Ellen is also very involved with the North Florida Chapter of the National MS Society as a volunteer, fundraiser, advocate and even attendee and learner at international MS conferences.

Ellen loves being involved with Walk MS because "it is an opportunity to meet new people and share stories about our MS journeys and offer support." On April 13th, 2019, Ellen will again lead the Rubens Racers in Walk MS in Jacksonville. To get involved, you can make a donation, be a virtual walker, or join Walk MS in Jacksonville or in your city to help end MS forever. To learn more about Ellen's team, please visit her website at https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=30424&pg=team&team_id=582309 or visit www.walkms.org.

JONATHAN ZAHLER| BIKE MS

Our next Client for a Cause is Jonathan Zahler and Bike MS. Jonathan is a Miami native who moved to Jacksonville after graduating from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. In 1994, Jonathan opened his own law firm where he specialized in family and marital law before becoming a Florida Supreme Court Family Law Mediator. Jonathan enjoys a wide range of hobbies, including cycling, riding his motorcycle, skiing, traveling, and cooking.

Jonathan Zahler (far right) and some fellow Team Maree cyclers.

Like Walk MS, Bike MS takes place in cities all across the country and allows participants to enjoy a beautiful bike ride ranging from 15 to 150 miles while raising money for MS. Bike MS has raised over $1.3 billion since 1980 and counts close to 75,000 participants each year. Jonathan has been a part of Bike MS for ten years, including being the captain of Team Maree for the past seven years.

Maree is one of Jonathan's dear friends who was diagnosed with MS in the 1970's and "lives with a positive attitude, love in her heart, and ever present smile on her face." Team Maree is comprised of friends from Jacksonville and Tampa who ride almost 200 miles along Florida's First Coast to raise money for MS research and support.

Jonathan enjoys being involved with Bike MS every year, especially being able to cycle while enjoying camaraderie with friends while raising money for a great cause. He also loves knowing that the money raised goes to directly help MS patients, and that Bike MS is truly committed to improving the lives of those with MS. To learn more, visit www.bikems.org to see how you can get involved, whether it's donating to the cause, volunteering, or cycling in the Bike MS event closest to you.

Do you have a B&C client you'd like to spotlight for "Clients for a Cause"?
Email emma@bandcfinancial.com with your suggestions!

Keeping Up with B&C

Investment Manager Adam Oerther "monkeying" around on his vacation in Costa Rica!

Chief Investment Officer Sean Guldi (left) and clients Matt & Sarah Haney enjoy a beautiful day at TPC!

Investment Manager Adam Howard (left) shows off his catch on a recent fishing trip!

Money grows on the tree of persistence.

- Japanese Proverb

B&C Client Jason Cohen welcomed his second child, baby Carmela (with big sister Josephine looking on).

We celebrated our March birthdays! From left: Thomas Ellis, Executive Vice President, Emma Ambler, Marketing Coordinator, and Ian Aguilar, Wealth Advisor.

Chief Compliance Officer Jacque Bos (left) and Client Relationship Manager Stephanie Lyman-Robinson during their February birthday lunch.