



FloridaLearns STEM Scholars Program of Study 2017 – 2018

Students who wish to earn the *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* distinction must meet the academic foundation requirements and complete a minimum of 60 hours of STEM-related extended student learning opportunities.

Academic Foundation	Credits Minimum
Level Three STEM Courses in Grades 9-12	8 Credits
OR CAPE Industry Certification in a STEM-Approved Program	Credits Earned Upon Completing Certification will Count Toward Eight Credits
Extended Student Learning Opportunities in STEM	Hours Required
STEM Intensive or Level A activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship/Externship experiences • Regional Summer Challenge completion (40 hours) • University of Florida Immersion into STEM experience (60 hours) • Pre-Approved Individual Field Research • Pre-Approved Self-Selected STEM experience • Science Fair Project at regional, state, or international level • Pre-Approved STEM-related volunteer experiences must be Pre-Approved for level A status • Participation in Pre-Approved STEM-related team competitions such as engineering or robotics • Pre-Approved STEM-related team entrepreneurship activity • Pre-Approved STEM-related university experience 	minimum 35 hours <u>At least 15 of the 35 hours must be from the STEM-Intensive or Level A Category</u>
General STEM experiences or Level B Activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional forums (6 hours each) • Self-selected, Pre-Approved STEM experiences that may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attendance at weekend STEM event such as a forum, symposium, scientific presentation, college or university STEM event ○ Science Fair Project – local only ○ STEM-related volunteer experience ○ STEM activity in youth organizations such as 4-H and Boy Scouts 	
Pre-Approved STEM-Related Leadership Activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra-curricular activities • Volunteerism • Tutoring • Presentations • Committee work • Youth leadership within community and school 	minimum 15 hours
Student Selection – Student completes additional hours from any of the above categories (A, B, or Leadership)	minimum 10 hours
TOTAL STEM-Related Extended Student Learning Opportunities	60 hours

STEM Scholars Letter of Distinction Information:

- A letter of distinction will be awarded to students achieving *FloridaLearns STEM Scholar* status.
 - This letter will be generated through the project and signed by the Commissioner of Education.
- STEM Mentor Teachers will assume responsibility for pre-approving STEM-related activities and if there are questions, will contact project staff members at the consortia-level to resolve them.
- Students who are interested in earning the letter of distinction will review their STEM Learning Plan with the Mentor Teacher during the final semester of their senior year.
- Students who are *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* project participants are the only students who will be eligible to earn the distinction.
- Students will submit all supporting documentation to the STEM Mentor Teacher and/or the STEM Counselor, who will place documentation into the student's *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* portfolio. This portfolio will be maintained with *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* personnel at the consortium.
- *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* Mentor Teachers will assume responsibility for reviewing each applicant's transcript to verify earned credit in rigorous STEM courses and examining documentation to verify required participation in "Extended Student Learning Opportunities in STEM."
- *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* Mentor Teachers will review the STEM Learning Plan and Letter of Distinction checklist with students who wish to achieve the *FloridaLearns STEM Scholar* distinction. A letter from the consortium may be presented during honors day ceremonies at the local schools, and the official letter of distinction will be mailed to students.

Student Note

With careful planning and knowledge about community service requirements, some of the hours earned for the *FloridaLearns STEM Scholar* distinction might also be used to meet Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program community service requirements. Be sure to confirm Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements with the guidance counselor at your school.