

The Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) is committed to successful retention and graduation of undergraduate students who have been traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

## Transition Programs

CARE offers several programs that support students in navigating their journey through college. Peer engagement, intentional programming and faculty/staff involvement are key components.

### SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

The CARE Summer Bridge Program (SBP) is a seven-week intensive experience followed by continued support through the completion of the bachelor's degree at FSU. The SBP is designed to help ease students' adjustment to college life and build a foundation for academic success.

SBP is open to Florida residents who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Students must also be first-generation<sup>1</sup> and pell eligible<sup>2</sup> to qualify. Participation in the SBP includes a \$10,000 grant, distributed over four years.

Students must indicate they are interested in being considered for SBP on the admission application. This will generate a supplemental application on the Application Status Check (ASC), the FSU Admission student portal.

### QUEST SCHOLARS PROGRAM\*

QUEST Scholars is an invitation-only program designed to build community, gain skills, and have an impactful FSU experience. Participants can expect to have access to transition, academic and developmental services to set the stage for a positive post-graduation experience. QUEST Scholars supports students who are first-generation<sup>1</sup> OR from select schools/communities. Participation in QUEST Scholars includes a \$6,000 scholarship, distributed over four years.

### ILLUMINATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM\*

Illuminate Scholars is an invitation-only program for bachelor's degree seeking students supported by the Federal Pell grant<sup>2</sup>. The Illuminate Scholars program is designed to provide access to a structured development program that promotes experiential learning. Participants engage in workshops, receive individualized support, and develop valuable skills for college life. Participation in the Illuminate Scholars includes a \$6,000 scholarship, distributed over four years.

\* Selection for Quest Scholars and Illuminate Scholars will occur after students have been admitted to FSU. There is no separate application needed.

1. **What is a First-Generation Student?** Parents have not earned a bachelor's degree; if you have siblings in college, you are still considered a first-generation student.

2. **What is the Federal Pell grant?** Need-based financial aid for college students with exceptional financial need based on family income. You can find out if you are pell-eligible by completing the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



*“ Coming out of COVID and having a first-generation background was tough, but having a group of people that share the same story and have people who advocate for you and push you to be your best self has made all the difference.*

Gladine Lamarre, FSU CARE student

Scan to learn more about CARE's transition programs and eligibility requirements.





*“CARE summer bridge gave me the opportunity to flourish as a person and develop my soft skills. CARE proved to me that I can do anything I wanted and has provided me with the resources to do that.*

Mario Zeron, FSU CARE student



The SBP application and all supporting documents must be received by your preferred application deadline.

### Ready to Apply?

We encourage students to complete their application as soon as possible due to limited space availability.

#### STEP 1—APPLY AT [ADMISSIONS.FSU.EDU](https://admissions.fsu.edu)

- Select Yes to the question “Are you interested in applying to the CARE Summer Bridge Program?” on the admission application.
- If you plan to major in dance, film (animation or production), music, studio art, or theatre, contact the academic department directly for specific major requirements.

#### STEP 2—LOG INTO THE APPLICATION STATUS CHECK

After submitting the admission application, you will gain access to your Application Status Check (ASC) at [fla.st/statuscheck](https://fla.st/statuscheck). (Note: If you apply using the Common App, you will receive an email within 2-3 business days that provides instructions for accessing your ASC.)

#### THE ASC IS WHERE YOU MUST GO TO:

- Complete the SBP Supplemental Application.
- Self-report all test scores.
- Link Self-Reported Student Academic Record (SSAR).
- Upload Essay and List of Activities.
- Complete the Residency Declaration form.

*Additional supplemental applications or checklist items may be added to your checklist. It is important for students to monitor the ASC throughout the application process.*

#### STEP 3—COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA(S)

Submit the 2024-25 **AND** 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Start Your FAFSA Today!



*“My favorite thing about CARE is that we treat each other like family.*

Lisbeth Castellanos, FSU CARE student