

GEORGIA'S HOPE Scholarship Program Highlights

“HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR HOPE SCHOLARSHIP”

This information sheet highlights what you need to know in order to continue to be eligible for Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship while seeking a degree at a Georgia public or private postsecondary institution.

Enrollment

- A. You must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at a branch of the University System of Georgia, a branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, or an eligible private college or university in Georgia.
- B. There is no minimum number of hours per semester or quarter of enrollment required for eligibility at a public institution. Students attending private colleges and universities must be enrolled full-time (12 hours per term) to receive an award of \$1,500 per semester or \$1,000 per quarter. Private college students enrolled half-time (6-11 hours per term) may receive an award of \$750 per semester or \$500 per quarter.

Credit Hours and HOPE Cumulative Grade Point Average for Renewal

- C. Students who are eligible to receive HOPE as entering freshmen may receive payment through the term that they have attempted (not earned) at least 30 semester or 45 quarter hours. However, **all** HOPE Scholarship recipients must have a grade point average of at least a 3.0 at the end of **every** Spring term in order to continue their eligibility, except for freshmen enrolled for less than 12 credit hours for each of their first three school terms. Freshmen recipients who enroll for less than 12 credit hours for each of their first three school terms must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 at the end of their third term in order to continue their eligibility.

All attempted hours and corresponding grades as shown on official transcripts are counted toward the HOPE cumulative grade point average, including remedial study. Additionally, withdrawals are counted as attempted hours even if there is no academic penalty. Any college degree credit hours attempted or earned before high school graduation and hours exempted by examination do not count as hours attempted and are not included when calculating the HOPE cumulative grade point average.

- D. If you have a HOPE cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 by the end of the term you attempted 30 semester or 45 quarter hours, you may renew your scholarship for 31 through 60 semester hours or 46 through 90 quarter hours attempted.
- E. If you have earned a HOPE cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 by the end of the term you attempted 60 semester or 90 quarter hours, you may renew your scholarship for 61 through 90 semester hours or 91 through 135 quarter hours attempted.
- F. If you have earned a HOPE cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 by the end of the term you attempted 90 semester or 135 quarter hours, you may renew your scholarship for 91 through 127 semester hours or 136 through 190 quarter hours attempted. However, the total cumulative number of credit hours for which you can receive **payment from any combination of the HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Grant, and Accel programs is 127 semester hours or 190 quarter hours.**
- G. **If you are enrolled in a specific undergraduate degree program which is designed to be a five-year program, you may renew your scholarship for a total of 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours attempted or the number of hours required by the program, whichever is less. However, the total cumulative number of credit hours for which you can receive payment** from any combination of the HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Grant, and Accel programs is 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours or the number of hours required by the program, whichever is less.

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School Transfers

- H. HOPE Scholarship recipients transferring from one HOPE-eligible Georgia institution to another HOPE-eligible institution are eligible for HOPE funds if they continue to meet all of the eligibility requirements.
- I. All college degree credit hours attempted after high school graduation and corresponding grades are counted toward the HOPE cumulative grade point average, even if those hours and grades are not accepted by the new institution.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

- J. In order to receive payment each school term, you must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress as determined by your institution even if you have not reached the renewal checkpoints in paragraphs C-G.

Award Amounts

- K. The HOPE Scholarship award at a public institution covers your actual tuition charges and mandatory fees approved by HOPE at your institution.
- L. You are also eligible for a book and supplies allowance at a public institution. The award is \$150 per semester or \$100 per quarter if you are enrolled for 6 or more hours. If you are enrolled for less than 6 hours, the allowance is \$75 per semester or \$50 per quarter.
- M. The HOPE Scholarship award at a private college is \$1,500 per semester or \$1,000 per quarter for full-time (12 hours per term) study. Private college students enrolled half-time (6-11 hours per term) may receive an award of \$750 per semester or \$500 per quarter.

Default and Refund Due

- N. In order to receive payment each term, you must not be in default or owe a refund on any Federal or State of Georgia student loan, grant, or scholarship. If you have ever gone into default on a Federal or State of Georgia student loan, you must repay your loan completely before you will be eligible for HOPE.

To Regain the Scholarship

- O. The HOPE Scholarship is a reward for scholastic achievement and an incentive to continue working hard in school. If your cumulative grade point average is below a 3.0 at the end of Spring term, or after your first three terms of enrollment for less than 12 hours per term, or after attempting 30 semester or 45 quarter hours, you may regain HOPE at a future time. Re-entry checkpoints are after attempting 30 semester or 45 quarter hours, 60 semester or 90 quarter hours, and 90 semester or 135 quarter hours of study. To regain HOPE, you must have a 3.0 cumulative grade average at the re-entry checkpoint. You cannot regain HOPE eligibility at the end of Spring term, unless that term is also when you have attempted 30 semester or 45 quarter hours, 60 semester or 90 quarter hour, or 90 semester or 135 quarter hours with a 3.0 cumulative grade average.

To Reapply for HOPE

- P. Depending on your personal circumstances or the institution you attend, one of several different forms can be used to reapply for the HOPE Scholarship each year. Contact the Financial Aid Office at the institution you will attend for specific application instructions that best suit your situation. **You must complete the application process through the institution's Financial Aid Office on or before the last day of the academic term (semester or quarter) or your withdrawal date, whichever comes first, in order to be paid for that academic term.**
- Q. The postsecondary institution you are attending may also require that you complete the institution's application for financial aid or Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Filing Appeals and Exceptions

- R. In order for an appeal or exception to be considered, the student must file a written appeal or request an exception, with supporting documentation, within 45 days of receiving notice of denial. Please address correspondence to: Compliance, Georgia Student Finance Commission, 2082 East Exchange Place, Tucker, GA 30084.

This information sheet highlights Georgia's HOPE Scholarship Program. For the complete HOPE Scholarship Program Regulations, visit our Web site at www.gacollege411.org or call for more information in metro Atlanta at (770) 724-9000 or toll-free in Georgia at 1-800-505-GSFC (4732).