



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
[GAcollege411](http://GAcollege411.com)

Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

November 1, 2011

Re: Accel and HOPE Grant Clarification

Dear Colleagues,

Last week many of you attended a regional meeting in which representatives from the Georgia Student Finance Commission conducted training on the HOPE Programs. A portion of the presentation covered the Accel and HOPE Grant programs for Dual-Enrollment students. As a result of your feedback, we realize that there may have been some miscommunication on our part related to the information presented. As such, please find the information below as clarification.

Accel Program:

The Accel program is available to dual-enrolled students enrolled in degree-level coursework at eligible post-secondary institutions. Beginning with this current Fall 2011 term, credit hours paid for by the Accel program do *not* count towards the HOPE Combined Paid Hours Limit. Hours taken prior to the Fall term 2011 remained counted towards the limit. Students eligible for Accel payment receive full tuition, approved mandatory fees (capped at the 2004 level), and a book allowance. Students are currently eligible for 4 semesters of Accel payment.

HOPE Grant for Dual Enrollment Students:

The HOPE Grant program is available to dual-enrolled and joint-enrolled students enrolled in certificate or diploma coursework at eligible post-secondary institutions. Dual-enrolled students are receiving high school credit for the coursework taken at an eligible post-secondary institution, while joint-enrolled students are not. Credit hours taken by a dual-enrollment student and paid for by the HOPE Grant are *not* counted towards the HOPE Grant Paid Hours Limit or the HOPE Combined Paid Hours Limit. The exclusion of such hours has been in place since July 2008. Students who took dual-enrollment coursework paid for by the HOPE Grant prior to July 2008 may contact GSFC and request that those hours also be excluded from the limits. Credit hours taken by joint-enrolled students and paid for by HOPE Grant *are* counted towards all paid hour limits.

Beginning with this current Fall 2011 term, all HOPE Grant recipients, including dual-enrolled, joint-enrolled, and regular admit students, receive only a per hour HOPE Grant award amount. Book allowances are not available to any HOPE Grant recipients.

Accel and HOPE Grant Clarification
November 1, 2011

We apologize for any confusion that our miscommunication may have caused, and we hope that the information provided herein clarifies the rules regarding the Accel and HOPE Grant programs. If you should have any other questions related to these or any other State Scholarship and Grant Programs, please contact Caylee French, Director of Student Aid Services, at cayleef@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy A. Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" at the beginning.

Timothy A. Connell
TAC/cf