

Accel Program: A Summary

Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education
Administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission
Revised June 17, 2004

Accel Program

- Effective Fall term 2004.
- The state-funded Postsecondary Options Program, administered by the Georgia Department of Education, has been discontinued. The **Accel** Program was created by the 2004 Georgia General Assembly to serve a similar purpose for eligible high school students enrolled in college degree-level courses.

Award and Course Eligibility

- Beginning Fall term 2004, dual credit students who are simultaneously enrolled at an eligible **public** Georgia high school and an eligible Georgia **public or private** postsecondary institution, taking college degree-level courses, can receive an **Accel** Program award.
- Students at eligible **private** Georgia high schools can receive an **Accel** Program award beginning Winter/Spring term 2005, when the program will expand to include dual credit students who are simultaneously enrolled at an eligible **public or private** Georgia high school and an eligible Georgia **public or private** postsecondary institution, taking college degree-level courses.
- Beginning Winter/Spring term 2005, **Accel** funding will apply only to the five CPC areas (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Foreign Language). However, for Fall term 2004, college course work traditionally approved for Postsecondary Options funding will be paid for by the **Accel** Program.
- Georgia residency and U.S. citizenship requirements for HOPE Program eligibility apply to **Accel** award eligibility as well. Residency and citizenship eligibility will be determined by the participating postsecondary institution.

Award Amounts

- For students attending **public** postsecondary institutions, the award amount for **Accel** is the same as for the HOPE Scholarship Program (tuition, HOPE-approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance).
- For students attending **private** postsecondary institutions, the award amount for **Accel** is the same as for the HOPE Scholarship Program (\$3,000 per academic year), prorated based on the number of hours enrolled.

Program Limits

- High school students enrolled in technical certificate/diploma programs will continue to be eligible for the HOPE Grant, rather than the **Accel** Program. Beginning Fall term 2004, hours for which HOPE Grant payment was received must be counted in the **HOPE Grant Paid-Hours** (63 semesters/95 quarters) and the **Combined Paid-Hours** (127 semesters/190 quarters) limits.
- All hours paid for by **Accel** will be included in the **Combined Paid-Hours** (127 semesters/190 quarters) limit, which includes payments from the HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Grant, and **Accel** programs.