



# HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program Highlights: A Summary of Changes and Requirements

*Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education  
Administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission*

*June 1, 2004*

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## HOPE Scholarship and Grant Mandatory Fees Cap

- Effective Summer term 2004.
- The amount HOPE will pay for mandatory fees at public colleges, universities, and technical colleges is capped at the amount paid at each institution for the 2003-2004 award year.
- If an institution increases its fees, HOPE will not pay the difference.

## HOPE Scholarship Awards for Part-Time Private College Students

- Effective Fall term 2004.
- For half-time students (6-11 hours per term) attending eligible private colleges or universities.
- The award amount is \$1,500 per academic year.
- Additionally, private college students must continue to attend full-time (12 hours per term) to receive a Tuition Equalization Grant.

## HOPE Scholarship Attempted-Hours Limit

- Went into effect Fall term 1993 (Fiscal Year 1994).
- Students are **not** eligible to receive HOPE Scholarship funds if they have **attempted** 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours or more of college degree-level credit hours, after graduation from high school, **unless** they are enrolled in specific programs of study designed to require more than 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours for graduation. In that case, students are eligible until a maximum of 225 quarter hours or 150 semester hours has been **attempted**, **OR** the number of hours required for graduation has been **attempted, whichever is less**.
- If a student earns a bachelor's degree before reaching the **Attempted-Hours** limit, he or she is **ineligible** to receive further HOPE Scholarship payment.
- If a student reaches the **Attempted-Hours** limit before reaching the **Combined Paid-Hours** limit, he or she is **ineligible** to receive further HOPE Scholarship payment.
- If a student reaches the **Combined Paid-Hours** limit before reaching the **Attempted-Hours** limit, he or she is **ineligible** to receive further HOPE Scholarship payment.

## HOPE Grant *Paid-Hours* Limit

- Effective Fall term 2004.
- The HOPE Grant *Paid-Hours* limit is determined by totaling **only** the hours for which a student received HOPE Grant *payment*.
- Hours for which a student received HOPE Grant *payment prior to* Summer term 2003 are **not** counted as *Paid-Hours* for the HOPE Grant limit.
- Hours for which a student received HOPE Grant *payment* for Summer term 2003, Fall term 2003, Winter term 2004, Spring term 2004, and Summer term 2004 are counted as *Paid-Hours* for the HOPE Grant limit, **unless** the student was also enrolled in high school during those terms.
- Beginning Fall term 2004, all hours for which a student received HOPE Grant *payment* are counted as *Paid-Hours*, regardless of whether the student is also enrolled in high school.
- Students are eligible for HOPE Grant *payment* for a maximum of 95 quarter hours or 63 semester hours, **unless** they are enrolled in specific programs designed to require more than 95 quarter or 63 semester hours for graduation. In that case, students are eligible for a maximum of 130 quarter hours or 86 semester hours, **OR** the number of hours required for graduation, **whichever is less**.

## HOPE Scholarship and Grant Combined *Paid-Hours* Limit

- Effective Fall term 2004.
- Hours for which students received *payment* from the Accel, HOPE Grant, and HOPE Scholarship programs are included in calculating the total *Combined Paid-Hours*.
- Hours for which HOPE Grant funds were *paid* will be tracked starting with Summer term 2003 (Fiscal Year 2004), except for hours for which a student received HOPE Grant *payment prior to* high school graduation **and before** Fall term 2004.
- Hours for which Accel Program funds were *paid* will be tracked starting with Fall term 2004.
- Hours for which HOPE Scholarship funds were *paid* will be tracked from the beginning of the program, which was Fall term 1993.
- Students are eligible for *combined payment* for a maximum of 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours, unless they are enrolled in specific programs of study designed to require more than 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours for graduation. In that case, students are eligible for a maximum of 225 quarter hours or 150 semester hours, **OR** the number of hours required for graduation, **whichever is less**.
- If a student earns a bachelor's degree before reaching the *Combined Paid-Hours* limit, he or she is **ineligible** to receive further HOPE Scholarship payment.
- If a student reaches the *Attempted-Hours* limit before reaching the *Combined Paid-Hours* limit, he or she is **ineligible** to receive further HOPE Scholarship payment.

- If a student reaches the **Combined Paid-Hours** limit before reaching the **Attempted-Hours** limit, he or she is **ineligible** to receive further HOPE Scholarship payment.
- If a student reaches the **Combined Paid-Hours** limit before reaching the **HOPE Grant Paid-Hours** limit, he or she is **ineligible** to receive further HOPE Grant payment.

### HOPE Scholarship Attempted-Hours Checkpoint

- Went into effect Fall term 1993 (Fiscal Year 1994).
- “Attempted hours” means all college degree-level quarter or semester hours, after high school graduation, for which a postsecondary student was enrolled.
- A HOPE Scholarship recipient must have a **cumulative 3.0 GPA** at the 30 semester/ 45 quarter hours, 60 semester/ 90 quarter hours, 90 semester/135 quarter hours checkpoints to be eligible to renew.
- HOPE Scholarship eligibility can be lost, gained, or regained at these checkpoints.

### HOPE Scholarship End-of-Spring Checkpoint:

- Effective Summer term 2004.
- The first **End-of-Spring Checkpoint** will be conducted at the end of Spring quarter or Spring semester 2005 (Fiscal Year 2005).
- All HOPE Scholarship recipients must have a **cumulative 3.0 GPA** at the end of each Spring term, in order to continue their eligibility, **except for** Freshmen (1<sup>st</sup> tier) recipients who enrolled for less than 12 hours for each of their first three terms. (See **Three-Term Checkpoint**.)
- The **End-of-Spring Checkpoint** is applied at the end of **each and every** spring term, regardless of whether the student is enrolled for spring term.
- HOPE Scholarship eligibility can be lost at an **End-of-Spring Checkpoint**, but cannot be gained or regained at an **End-of-Spring Checkpoint**.
- HOPE Scholarship eligibility can be lost at an **End-of-Spring Checkpoint**, but then regained at a future **Attempted-Hours Checkpoint**.

### HOPE Scholarship Three-Term Checkpoint:

- Effective Summer term 2004.
- The **earliest** that the **Three-Term Checkpoint** will be conducted will be at the end of Winter quarter 2005 (Fiscal Year 2005) or Spring semester 2005 (Fiscal Year 2005).
- This checkpoint applies **only** to Freshmen (1<sup>st</sup> tier) recipients who enrolled for less than 12 hours for each of their first three terms.
- Freshmen (1<sup>st</sup> tier) recipients who enrolled for less than 12 hours for each of their first three terms must have a **cumulative 3.0 GPA** in order to continue their HOPE Scholarship eligibility.

- After the **Three-Term Checkpoint** has been applied **once** to a student, the **End-of-Spring Checkpoints** must be applied to that student, regardless of the number of hours enrolled each term.
- HOPE Scholarship eligibility can be lost at the **Three-Term Checkpoint**, but cannot be gained or regained at the **Three-Term Checkpoint**.
- HOPE Scholarship eligibility can be lost at a **Three-Term Checkpoint**, but then regained at a future **Attempted-Hours Checkpoint**.
- The **Three-Term Checkpoint** is **not** applied if the recipient enrolls for 12 or more hours for the third term.

## HOPE Scholarship and Grant Books and Fees Triggers

- The HOPE book allowance at public colleges, universities, and technical colleges is a fixed amount of \$300 (\$150 for part-time) per academic year, including the 2004-2005 academic year.
- **First year trigger** (earliest applicable date is Fiscal Year 2006) – If the Lottery’s year-end balance is less than the previous year’s balance, the book allowance will be **reduced** to \$150 (\$75 for part-time) per academic year. Pell Grant recipients will **continue** to receive a \$300 (\$150 for part-time) book allowance per academic year.
- **Second year trigger** – If the Lottery’s year-end balance is less than the previous year’s balance, book allowance will be **eliminated**. Pell Grant recipients will **continue** to receive a \$300 (\$150 for part-time) book allowance per academic year.
- **Third year trigger** – If the Lottery’s year-end balance is less than the previous year’s balance, **fees** will be **eliminated** for all students, including Pell Grant recipients. Pell Grant recipients will **continue** to receive a \$300 (\$150 for part-time) book allowance per academic year.

## High School Grades : A True “B Average” Is a 3.0 GPA

- Effective beginning with the high school graduating **Class of 2007**.
- The high school academic requirements for the HOPE Scholarship will be a true “B average” of a **3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale**, rather than an 80 numeric average, for all core curriculum courses.
- HOPE Scholars from 1993-2006 who did **not** begin receiving the HOPE Scholarship until **after** May 1, 2007 must meet the new requirement.

*For additional information on the HOPE Scholarship Program eligibility requirements, please visit our Web site at [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org) to view the program regulations or call 1-800-505-GSFC (4732).*