

HOPE Scholarship Program at Public Institutions
FY2011 Regulations
Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The following list highlights the major changes to the HOPE Scholarship Program at Public Institutions Program Regulations for FY2011. An attached chart outlines all changes.

- 1) A definition was created for “Study Away” and definitions for “Alternative Study” and “Study Abroad” were deleted. Alternative study and Study abroad programs are very similar, and so, were combined into one new term. The regulation section addressing these terms was also updated.
- 2) The residency section of the regulations was re-ordered so that a reference could be made to a specific section later in the regulations. Certain portions of the residency determination are excluded from the Compliance Program Reviews and the re-order was necessary so that not more than the specific section excluded from review is referenced.
- 3) Language was added to the definition of Attempted Hours and to Joint and Dual Enrollment Coursework sections to further clarify and specify that coursework taken prior to high school graduation is included in the Attempted Hours calculation in certain instances. All such coursework taken on or after July 1, 2008 for students that are not HOPE Scholars due to their high school GPA must count as attempted. Such coursework taken prior to July 1, 2008 may count as attempted hours for students that are not HOPE Scholars due to high school GPA and request a waiver. The waiver option was added via Dear Colleague Letter in February 2009.
 - a. The regulations were also changed to indicate that any post-secondary coursework taken prior to high school graduation must now count as attempted hours if accepted as degree credit upon first entering college. FY2010 regulations were specific in that only degree level coursework taken prior to high school would be counted as Attempted.
- 4) The definition of “Eligible Post-secondary Institution” was updated in reference to the length that a private proprietary institution must be in existence in the state of Georgia in order to meet the definition of “Eligible Post-secondary Institution”. The length of time was changed from 10 years to 14 years, pending legislative approval.
- 5) The Application Deadline Date section was amended to indicate that the application deadline in the case where a student has regained HOPE eligibility for a previous term due to a grade change or completion is the last day of the term following the term in which the grade change or completion occurred.
- 6) The Mandatory Fees section was updated to clarify how the Mandatory Fees were capped in January 1, 2004. A new section was added to the end of the program regulations to include tables of the approved Mandatory Fees, as capped, for each USG and TCSG institution.
- 7) The Student Notification of Award section was amended to indicate that if a student chooses to decline his or her HOPE Scholarship award, then such decision becomes final and irrevocable on the last day of the term for which the award was intended.

- 8) Language was added to the "Submission of Invoices" section to indicate that GSFC will publish invoicing deadline dates by June 30th of each year, and that any invoices not fully submitted and approved before the established deadline of each term may not be honored and the Commission may issue a notice of failure to meet the invoicing deadline date to the President and/or governing body of the Eligible Post-Secondary Institution.
- 9) The Student Refunds section includes new language for how a post-secondary institution shall return funds to the HOPE Program upon a change in a student's enrollment that requires a refund calculation to be performed.
- 10) The term "Appeal" was changed to "Administrative Review". The definition was adjusted so that the use of the word appeal is removed from the regulations. An Administrative Review is a review of an eligibility determination by a Commission staff member to determine if the program laws, regulations, and policies were correctly applied to a student's specific case.
- 11) The Exceptions section now includes a list of reasons on which a request for an Exception will be automatically denied before being presented to the Board.
- 12) The Compliance Review section now indicates that residency and satisfactory academic progress eligibility decisions will not be reviewed by Commission Staff.
- 13) An appendix was added to the regulations to include a table of HOPE Approved Mandatory Fees, as capped in 2004, for both the USG and TCSG Institutions.