



**The HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) Scholarship Program** is a merit-based scholarship program with specific academic and grade point average eligibility requirements. The purpose of the HOPE Scholarship Program is to encourage the academic achievement of Georgia's high school students and Georgians seeking Degrees from postsecondary institutions located in Georgia.

### **HOPE First-Tier Requirements**

**Beginning with the High School Graduating Class of 2012 and beyond, students must graduate from an Eligible High School with a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on a 4.00 scale, in order to meet the academic requirements as a HOPE Scholar for the HOPE Scholarship at the First-Tier.** Each grade earned for attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language during the student's ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade year that could, according to Georgia Department of Education classification, be used to satisfy a Core curriculum graduation requirement must be equated to a grade on a 4.00 scale, such that a grade of "A" equals 4.00, "B" equals 3.00, "C" equals 2.00, "D" equals 1.00, and "F" equals 0.

When calculating a student's high school grade average for purposes of HOPE Scholar designation, and for meeting the HOPE Scholarship academic requirements at the First-Tier, the Commission will remove the weighted portion, added by the student's eligible high school, from any grade earned from Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Dual Credit Enrollment coursework and convert the grade to a 4.00 scale. The Commission will then add a standard weight of .50 to grades for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework and, if taken in Georgia, Dual Credit Enrollment Coursework in Core courses, up to the maximum of a 4.00 grade, if the corresponding course was attempted during the 2006-2007 school year or after. The Commission will then add a standard weight of 1.00 to such grade, up to the maximum of a 4.00 grade, if the corresponding course was attempted prior to the 2006-2007 school year. Grades for Honors courses or other special courses will not be weighted. The Commission will remove the weighted portion, added by the student's Eligible High School from any grade earned from Honors courses or other special courses.

### **Zell Miller First-Tier Requirements**

**Beginning with the High School Graduating Class of 2011 and beyond, in order to meet the academic requirements of the Zell Miller Scholarship at the First-Tier a student must:**

- 1. Graduate from an Eligible High School as the Valedictorian or the Salutatorian; or**

2. **Graduate from an Eligible High School with a minimum of a 3.70 Cumulative Grade Point Average on a 4.00 scale as calculated by GSFC for Zell Miller and HOPE Scholarship purposes; and**

a) Receive a composite scale score of 26 on a single administration of the ACT on a test administration by the time of high school graduation; **or**

b) Receive a minimum score of 1200 combined critical reading and math on a single National Administration of the SAT on a test administration by the time of high school graduation.

Each grade earned for attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language during the student's ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade year that could, according to Georgia Department of Education classification, be used to satisfy a Core curriculum graduation requirement must be equated to a grade on a 4.00 scale, such that a grade of "A" equals 4.00, "B" equals 3.00, "C" equals 2.00, "D" equals 1.00, and "F" equals 0.

When calculating a student's high school grade average for purposes of Zell Miller Scholar designation, and for meeting the Zell Miller Scholarship academic requirements at the First-Tier, the Commission will remove the weighted portion, added by the student's eligible high school, from any grade earned from Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Dual Credit Enrollment coursework and convert the grade to a 4.00 scale. The Commission will then add a standard weight of .50 to grades for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework and, if taken in Georgia, Dual Credit Enrollment Coursework in Core courses, up to the maximum of a 4.00 grade, if the corresponding course was attempted during the 2006-2007 school year or after. The Commission will then add a standard weight of 1.00 to such grade, up to the maximum of a 4.00 grade, if the corresponding course was attempted prior to the 2006-2007 school year. Grades for Honors courses or other special courses will not be weighted. The Commission will remove the weighted portion, added by the student's Eligible High School from any grade earned from Honors courses or other special courses.

### **HOPE Grant Program Overview**

**The HOPE Grant Program provides grant assistance to residents of Georgia pursuing Certificates or Diplomas at Georgia's public postsecondary institutions. Unlike the HOPE Scholarship Program, students are not required to graduate from high school with a specific grade point average.** However, students are required to have a minimum postsecondary cumulative grade point average of 2.00 at certain Checkpoints. The purpose of the HOPE Grant Program is to encourage Georgians to obtain technical training in order to increase the knowledge and skills of Georgia's workforce.

An eligible student seeking a Certificate or Diploma from a Technical College System of Georgia or University System of Georgia institution may receive HOPE Grant funds as determined by the Commission

### **General Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Citizenship**

A student must be a United States citizen or an Eligible Non-Citizen for 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the first day of classes of the school term for which the HOPE Scholarship is sought. Employees of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), their spouses, and their dependents are not exempt from this requirement.

## **Georgia Residency**

A First-Tier student attending a USG or TCSG institution who meets the Georgia Residency requirements of the Board of Regents or the Technical College System of Georgia at the time of his or her high school graduation, Home Study program completion or successful GED test, must also meet such Georgia Residency requirements for 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the first day of classes of the school term for which the HOPE Scholarship is sought.

For purposes of HOPE eligibility, to be a resident on the date of high school graduation, Home Study program completion or successful GED test means to have established residency in Georgia, as determined by policies, but without regard to the length of time such student has established such residency.

A student who does not meet the Georgia Residency requirements of the Board of Regents or the Technical College System of Georgia at the time of high school graduation, Home Study program completion or successful GED test, must meet such Georgia Residency requirements for 24 consecutive months immediately prior to the first day of classes of the school term for which the HOPE Scholarship is sought.

Military Personnel, his or her Spouse, or Dependent Child, shall be treated as a Georgia Resident for purposes of HOPE Scholarship eligibility, if the Military Personnel is stationed in Georgia on Active Duty or lists Georgia as his or her home of record.

Full-time employees of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), who are recognized by the United States Department of State as based in Georgia, their spouses, and their dependents are considered to meet the Georgia Residency requirements for participation in the HOPE Scholarship Program, regardless of the length of time they have resided in Georgia.

## **Program Specific Eligibility Requirements**

### **Academic Rigor Requirements**

- a. Beginning with the High School Graduating Class of 2015, a student meeting the requirements to be a HOPE Scholar at the time of high school graduation must receive credit in at least two of the courses from the Academic Rigor Coursework list below prior to graduating from high school.
- b. Beginning with the High School Graduating Class of 2016, a student meeting the requirements to be a HOPE Scholar at the time of high school graduation must receive credit in at least three of the courses from the Academic Rigor Coursework list below prior to graduating from high school.
- c. Beginning with the High School Graduating Class of 2017, a student meeting the requirements to be a HOPE Scholar at the time of high school graduation must receive credit in at least four of the courses from the Academic Rigor Coursework list below prior to graduating from high school.

### **Academic Rigor Coursework:**

1. Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution;

2. Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution;
3. Advanced Placement courses in Core subjects;
4. International Baccalaureate courses in Core subjects;
5. Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in Core subjects where such courses are not remedial and developmental courses;
6. Advanced Foreign Language courses taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution.

### **Eligible and Ineligible Coursework**

#### **Joint Enrollment and Dual Credit Enrollment Coursework**

- a. A student is ineligible for HOPE Scholarship payment for Degree coursework attempted while participating in Joint Enrollment or Dual Credit Enrollment.
- b. Coursework attempted while participating in Joint Enrollment or Dual Credit Enrollment must not be counted as Attempted-Hours.
- c. Coursework attempted while participating in Joint Enrollment or Dual Credit Enrollment must be counted as Attempted-Hours, excluding grades, if:
  1. The student did not qualify for the HOPE Scholarship as an entering freshman based solely upon his or her grade point average; and

### **Student Application Requirements**

#### **Application Forms**

- a. In order to be considered for a HOPE Scholarship, a student must complete one of the following application forms:
  1. A GSFAPPS electronic application; or
  2. A paper HOPE Scholarship and Grant Application, (printable from the GAcollege411 website), or
  3. A current year FAFSA.
- a. A student who applies for HOPE Scholarship by completing and submitting a FAFSA must complete and submit a new FAFSA for each Award Year.
- b. In addition to one of these three applications, an Eligible Postsecondary Institution may require students to complete the institution's application for student financial aid or other forms to provide supplemental information for the purpose of determining HOPE Scholarship eligibility.