

Brian P. Kemp GOVERNOR Georgia Student Finance Commission Georgia Student Finance Authority Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation GAfutures.org

Lynne Riley PRESIDENT

Publication Date: May 16, 2022 DCL ID: 2023-01

Subject: 2022-2023 State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations Tuition Award Charts Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines

Dear Colleague:

The following contains information regarding the 2022-2023 (FY 2023) State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations, program award charts, and term and year end invoice and reconciliation deadlines.

### 2022-2023 State Program Regulations

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved the Program Regulations at their May 6, 2022 Board meeting. The Program Regulations are effective July 1, 2022. The 2022-2023 Program Regulations, an executive summary and award charts will be posted at <u>gsfc.org</u> by May 16, 2022; as well as, a link to **GAfutures.org** under "Shortcuts."

In addition to the changes made to the Program Regulations for clarity, listed below is an overview of the regulatory changes made to effectuate legislation passed during the 2022 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

- The HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship award amounts at eligible private institutions have a 6% increase effective Fall term 2022 (FY 2023).
- The Tuition Equalization Grant award amount increases to \$450 per semester or \$300 per quarter.
- HOPE Scholarship and Grant award amounts at some USG and all TCSG institutions have an increase to cover 90% of the prior year standard undergraduate tuition rate.
- The HOPE Career Grant will include approved Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice diploma and certificate programs effective Fall term 2022.
- The Georgia College Completion Grant will assist Georgia residents at eligible USG, TCSG and nonprofit Private postsecondary institutions who have earned at least eighty percent of credit requirements for graduation and have any outstanding balance of direct costs. The maximum lifetime award is \$2,500.
- The HOPE High School Equivalency Examination Grant will provide up to \$200 for Georgia residents to take a state approved high school equivalency exam.
- The HOPE GED Program is no longer funded effective Summer term 2022 (FY 2023).

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• Clarified Student Access Loan Regulations pertaining to borrowers requesting discharge due to disability, reporting to consumer reporting agencies, and effects of default, deferment and rehabilitation statuses

## **Award Charts**

State Program Award Charts for 2022-2023 for HOPE Scholarships – Public and Private Institutions, HOPE Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship, Zell Miller Grant, and Dual Enrollment, effective Fall Term 2022, will be posted no later than May 16, 2022. Printable award charts are available on <u>gsfc.org</u> and searchable award charts are available on <u>GAfutures.org</u> under "Trending."

# FY 2023 (Summer term 2022 – Spring term 2023) Invoicing

The FY 2023 Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines charts are now available.

# FY 2022 Invoicing and Extension Request Deadlines

As in the past, the Program Regulations require that all invoices for a term be fully submitted, processed, and approved for payment by the invoicing term deadline. Spring term 2022 invoices are due June 8, 2022. A postsecondary institution needing an extension to process current fiscal year invoices beyond June 8 must submit a request for extension to GSFC by June 8. <u>The FY 2022 Invoicing and Extension Request deadline chart</u> is available for reference.

The request for extension must include the reason an extension is needed, program(s), number of invoices, and the approximate total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted. Extensions for the current fiscal year's invoices may be granted through June 21, 2021.

The Program Regulations require postsecondary institutions to complete a year-end reconciliation of each state program for which funds were received for the year and submit a year-end reconciliation form by July 15.

### **Prior Year Late Invoice Procedure**

Invoices for prior fiscal years will not be paid except under certain extraordinary and narrowly defined circumstances. The Program Regulations allow an invoice to be paid after the fiscal year has closed only if failure to meet the deadline was due to the need for supplemental documentation including, but not limited to, information required for the student's eligibility (e.g., proof of citizenship or residency), late grades, grade changes or other adjustments made to the student's official academic transcript that result in a change in a student's eligibility.

If a postsecondary institution needs to submit an invoice or increase the award amount on an existing invoice after the year-end reconciliation, the director of financial aid must submit a written request to Senior Manager, Originations and Disbursements, Wendel Brown at <a href="https://www.wbrown@gsfc.org">wbrown@gsfc.org</a>, including the following:

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- 1. The reason for the prior year late invoice request
- 2. The individual invoice information
- 3. The total dollar amount of the invoices

If the requests for the invoices to be paid after the year-end reconciliation total more than ½ percent of the total amount disbursed to the postsecondary institution for the corresponding program in the current fiscal year, the institution's president must submit a written request to, Vice President, Financial Aid Operations, Benita Jorgensen at <u>benita@gsfc.org</u>, including the following:

- 1. The reason for the prior year invoice request
- 2. The number of invoices
- 3. The total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted
- 4. A corrective action plan outlining measures that will be taken in the future to meet the published invoicing deadlines which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. Staff and/or system changes implemented that ensure timely submission of invoices
  - b. Dates and content of training to prepare staff for timely submission of invoices
  - c. Supplemental documentation relating to delays

The 2022-2023 Program Regulations will be posted at <u>www.gsfc.org</u> by May 16, 2022. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at <u>www.GAfutures.org</u> under "Shortcuts." If you have any questions relating to the revisions of the Regulations or program information, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Program Administration, at 770.724.9014 or <u>pennies@gsfc.org</u>.

Sincerely,

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Lynne Riley