

Summary of Substantive Changes
FY 2027 State Program Regulations

The below summarizes substantive changes to each program regulation and is not indicative of minor edits for consistent regulatory language or regulation formatting.

New - Dedicating Resources to Educationally Advance More Students (DREAMS) Scholarship Program

- Provides need-based aid to Pell Grant eligible students attending a USG or TCSG institution who are enrolled in an undergraduate degree program
- Eligible students must:
 - Submit a current year FAFSA (each year requesting aid)
 - Complete FAFSA Verification as required, prior to award
- Qualify for Federal Pell Grant
- Have Financial Need
- Maintain half-time (six hours) enrollment
- Complete approved Financial Toolkit requirements via GAfutures
- Be employed or volunteer a minimum of sixty hours each term
 - Employment, internship/externship, student teaching, clinicals, community service or military service are included in meeting the sixty hour per term work requirement
- Must maintain an SAP GPA of 2.0 and Calculated HOPE GPA of 2.0
- Maximum term award is \$1,500
- Maximum annual award is \$3,000
- Eligible terms: Fall, Spring and Summer as a trailer
- Eligibility Limits: 8 paid semesters or earned bachelor's degree, whichever occurs first

New - Foster Care Scholarship Program

- Provides assistance to students enrolled in an undergraduate program who meet one of the following:
 - Current or former foster custody under the supervision of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) for at least six months after 14th birthday
 - Currently participating in Georgia DFCS independent living program
 - Was adopted from the custody of the Georgia DFCS after their 14th birthday
 - Family receiving or has received state funded adoption services through Georgia DFCS
- Eligible PSIs: USG, TCSG and eligible private postsecondary institutions
- Eligible students must:
 - Submit a current year FAFSA (each year requesting aid)
 - Complete and submit the one-time Foster Care Scholarship Application
 - Provide supporting foster care documentation to GSFA
- Maximum annual award is \$30,000
- Maximum term award is Cost of Attendance minus all other scholarship and grant aid
- Eligibility limits: earned bachelor's degree, age 26

HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships Public & Private Programs

- **New** - Beginning with the Class of 2027, Advanced Fine Arts courses identified by the Georgia Department of Education that have a standardized written end of course assessment are included in the High School Calculated HOPE GPA.

Dual Enrollment Funding and Accelerated Career Education Grant Programs

- **Revised** - A dependent student meets Georgia residency requirements if his or her Parent or Legal Guardian has established and maintained Domicile in the State of Georgia immediately prior to the first day of classes of the Postsecondary term for which funding is sought.
- **Revised** - An independent student meets Georgia residency requirements if he or she has established and maintained Domicile in the State of Georgia immediately prior to the first day of classes of the Postsecondary term for which funding is sought.

Georgia College Completion Grant Program

- **New** - Eligible Postsecondary Institutions annual allocation is based on the percentage of Pell Grant recipients at each institution based on National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data. The allocation for eligible private institutions additionally includes TEG percentage.

Inclusive Postsecondary Education Grant Program (IPSE)

- **New** - Eligible Private Postsecondary Institution - Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning.
- **New** - IPSE private institution award amount is equivalent to the maximum HOPE Scholarship award at private institutions.
- **Revised** - Georgia Residency requirement to include residency eligibility at an eligible Private PSI.

University of North Georgia Military Service Scholarship Program

- **New** - Increased recipient selections to no less than six and no more than ten per year per congressional district.
 - Total number of awards cannot exceed seventy percent of UNG's enrolled National Guard cadets or 210, whichever is less.

High School Equivalency Examination Grant Program (HSE)

- **Clarified** - Maximum lifetime HSE award may not exceed the cost of the full battery of testing required to earn a high school equivalency credential.

State of Georgia Programs Definitions

- **New** - "Advanced Fine Arts" means Advanced Fine Arts courses identified by the Georgia Department of Education, which include a standardized written end of course assessment graded by a third party and is included in the Calculated HOPE GPA beginning with the Class of 2027.
- **New** - "Eligible TEG Non-HOPE Postsecondary Institution" (TEG only) means a Title IV eligible proprietary institution qualifies to offer TEG to students enrolled at the Institution's Georgia campus in a bachelor's degree nursing program.
 - The institution must have a physical campus in Georgia for at least ten years since June 30, 2025 and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or the Higher Learning Commission.
 - Nursing programs must be accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.
 - The institution's most recent four-year average NCLEX pass rate must be at least 80 percent.
- **New** - "Student Aid Index" or "SAI" means a federal need analysis number calculated when students complete the FAFSA. SAI is used to determine eligibility for need-based financial aid.