

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GCollege411

Tricia P. Chastain
PRESIDENT

Publication Date: June 7, 2016
School Update ID: SU 2017 – 01

Subject: Student Access Loan Program, 2016-2017 (FY 2017) Release

The FY 2017 Student Access Loan (SAL) Program is opening on Thursday, June 9, 2016. Listed below is information regarding the program application, selection, and certification process and FY 2016 year-end reconciliation reminder.

As indicated in the FY 2017 Student Access Loan Regulations released on May 12, 2016 and in Dear Colleague Letter 2017-01, SAL includes applicants and borrowers attending University System of Georgia (USG), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), and eligible private postsecondary institutions.

SAL Application

The application for FY 2017 SAL will be available online at GCollege411.org on June 9, 2016 at 9 a.m. and will remain open as long as funds are available. Applicants must have completed a 2016-17 FAFSA and it must be electronically received by GSFC prior to completing the SAL application. The applicants will select their college from the approved list and will then be directed to the SAL application based on the chosen institution.

SAL Selection Process

New this year, the SAL applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Selections of applications will continue based on funds available. The first three weeks of selection will be limited to HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship recipients with a FY 2016 invoice record or an eligible 2016 high school record and FY 2016 SAL recipients in good standing. After the first three weeks of the application cycle, all remaining applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

SAL Certification Process (NEW)

- Postsecondary institutions will be required to certify or decline all selected applicants within 40 calendar days of receipt of the application in SURFER.
- Applications not certified nor declined will be administratively cancelled by GSFC after 40 calendar days.
- Students certified will have 14 calendar days to comply with the loan requirements by submitting a complete promissory note and self-certification document.
- Applicants that do not submit the required documentation will have their application administratively cancelled.

Key Components of the Student Access Loan Program for FY 2017

- The first selection cycle will be limited to HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship recipients with a FY 2016 invoice or an eligible 2016 high school HOPE GPA record or a FY 2016 SAL recipient in good standing.

- The interest rate for SAL will be a fixed 1% interest rate. The rate only changes to 5% if a borrower goes into default.
- Applicants attending a USG or eligible private postsecondary institution may request a maximum of \$4,000 per term, up to an annual maximum of \$8,000.
- Applicants attending a TCSG institution may request a maximum of \$1,500 per term, up to an annual maximum of \$3,000.
- All borrowers will be required to make a monthly **Keep in Touch (KIT)** Payment of \$10 while in school (at least half time – 6 or more credit hours) and during the grace period. This will be applied towards interest and principal and is meant to improve payment behavior.
- An Origination Fee of 5% of the total loan amount up to \$50 will be deducted from the first disbursement for all loans.
- After the grace period, borrowers will enter Repayment with a required minimum payment of \$50 per month and a maximum repayment period of 15 years.

FY 2016 Year-End Reconciliation Deadline

The FY 2016 SAL Program Regulations require postsecondary institutions to complete a year-end reconciliation if funds were received for the year. The year-end reconciliation form must be completed and submitted through SURFER by July 15.

For questions relating to the Student Access Loan Program, please contact:

SAL Specialists at salsfap@gsfc.org

Gary Mann, Associate Vice President of Eligibility, Origination and Disbursements, at 770-724-9039 or garym@gsfc.org

Pennie Strong, Student Aid Services Vice President, at 770-724-9014 or pennies@gsfc.org