



Publication Date: July 13, 2020
School Update ID: 2021-03

Subject: Student Access Loan Update

The FY 2021 Student Access Loan (SAL) Program is scheduled to open on July 15, 2020. Listed below is information regarding the program application, selection, certification process and the new Micro-SAL option.

SAL Application

The Student Access Loan application for 2020-2021 (FY 2021) is scheduled to open July 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. on [GAfutures](http://GAfutures.org) for students. Applicants for the standard SAL must have a completed 2020-2021 FAFSA on file with the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) prior to completing the SAL application. Applicants for the new Micro-SAL are not required to complete the FAFSA; they may complete a GSFAPPS. The applicants will select the type of SAL and their college from the approved list and will then complete the required information based on their choices.

SAL Selection Process

The selection of completed applications will be performed daily. The selection of applications will continue on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholars based on funds available.

SAL Certification Process

- Postsecondary institutions will be required to certify or decline all selected applicants within 40 calendar days of receipt of the application in SURFER.
- SURFER will have an additional certification screen to include the Micro-SAL applications. The applications listed in this view will only be those determined eligible to apply based on the current records.
- Micro-SAL is only to be used to cover the difference in tuition between HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship award amounts. As this award is tuition gap cost only, there should be no concern with exceeding the cost of attendance.
- Micro-SAL Applicants do not have to accept federal or institutional scholarships, grants or loans, private scholarships or grants or veterans' educational benefits as a condition of receiving Micro-SAL.
- The SURFER certification for Micro-SAL applications will include the PSI selecting the number of enrolled credit hours, then the award will be provided. The award amount is the difference in the HOPE Scholarship award and the Zell Miller Scholarship award amount based on the PSI and enrollment hours of the applicant.
- In addition to the eligibility criteria of the SAL Program, eligible postsecondary institutions have the authority to implement institutional policies to decline eligibility of a student for SAL or reduce the requested loan amount per the Program Regulations section 5107. School Certification

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- Applications not certified nor declined will be administratively cancelled by GSFA 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.
- The 2020-2021 Promissory Note does not require a Notary.
- Students receive an email immediately after the PSI certifies the loan. The email includes instructions and links to the student's loan documents. The student must access their documents through the links in the email. They must print and complete the documents then mail them to GSFA.
- Applicants that do not submit the required documentation will have their application administratively cancelled.

Key Components of the SAL

- 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.
- An origination fee of 5% of the total loan amount up to \$50 will be deducted from the first disbursement for all loans.
- All borrowers are 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. If an applicant becomes delinquent on a current or previous year SAL, any scheduled disbursements for a current year loan will be cancelled. If payments are made to restore good standing during the loan year, the PSI may request a reinstatement of scheduled disbursements based on funds available and the timeframe of the disbursements and loan period.
- 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.

Key Components of the Micro-SAL

- The Micro-SAL is only available for Fall term 2020.
- The Micro-SAL is available only to students that graduated from an eligible in-state high school or accredited home study program on or after March 14, 2020 and earned a 3.7 final verified HOPE GPA or higher, meet academic rigor requirements but do not have the required SAT/ACT score for Zell Miller Scholarship.
- These students are eligible to take the SAT and ACT until December 30, 2020. They must submit the score record to GSFC.
- These students should be awarded the HOPE Scholarship for Fall term 2020 (FY 2021). Upon earning a qualifying SAT/ACT score by the deadline, the PSI must return the Fall term 2020 HOPE Scholarship award and Micro-SAL funds. At that time, the Zell Miller Scholarship award for Fall term 2020 will be processed. The Micro-SAL will be cancelled.
- Students who become eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship after submission of their Micro-SAL application but prior to selection will not be selected and will receive notification via email.

- Students that become eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship after selection and prior to certification will have their application administratively cancelled and will receive notification via email.
- Students that become eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship after certification will have their scheduled disbursement cancelled by GSFA and the PSI will be notified via email to the Certifying Official.

A new **Micro-SAL FAQ** has been created and will be available on GAfutures.

Please refer to the **2020-2021 Student Access Loan and Zell Miller Scholarship Program Regulations** for more information.

Students may contact the SAL program at salprogram@gsfc.org

Financial Aid Professionals with SAL application and process questions, please contact salsfap@gsfc.org or contact David Jones, Origination and Disbursement Senior Manager, at davidj@gsfc.org or 770-724-9039.

Please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President of Program Administration, with any program regulation questions at pennies@gsfc.org or 770-724- 9014.