

Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission  
Georgia Student Finance Authority  
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation  
[GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

Caylee Noggle  
INTERIM PRESIDENT

Publication Date: September 18, 2018  
School Update ID: SU 2019-02

Subject: HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Length of Eligibility

GSFC has received several recent inquiries regarding the length of eligibility for HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship recipients who previously participated in the Dual Enrollment program. Current program regulations indicate that Dual Enrollment participation does not impact a student's length of eligibility for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarships.

Please be advised that HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship recipients may receive scholarship funds while pursuing an undergraduate degree only, such as an associate or baccalaureate (bachelor's) degree. In no instance should a graduate student pursuing a graduate degree be considered eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.

Some degree programs allow students to enroll in graduate level coursework while continuing to pursue an undergraduate degree. For HOPE purposes, students who are approved to enroll in graduate level coursework and meet all HOPE eligibility requirements, may continue to receive scholarship funds at the standard undergraduate tuition rate as long as the student:

- Continues to be classified as an undergraduate;
- Has not reached the 127 semester or 190 quarter Attempted-Hours or Paid-Hours limits; and
- Has not earned a bachelor's degree, or the foreign equivalent.

A student's HOPE Scholarship eligibility cannot be extended or altered by participation in the Dual Enrollment Program nor by the postponement of awarding a bachelor's degree. Once a student reaches the Attempted-Hours or Paid-Hours limits, or attains a bachelor's degree, or is admitted and/or classified as a Graduate student, the student becomes ineligible to continue receiving HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship funds.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the State Program regulations, contact Program Administration at [Programadmin@gsfc.org](mailto:Programadmin@gsfc.org) or Pennie Strong, Student Aid Services Vice President, at 770.724.9014 or [pennies@gsfc.org](mailto:pennies@gsfc.org).