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Subject: FY 2019 Program Regulations Revisions and CHECS Update

Dear Colleague:

The following is information regarding revisions to the 2018-2019 (FY 2019) Program Regulations. The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved revisions to the Program Regulations at the November 2, 2018 Board meeting. The revisions are effective immediately.

**College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service (CHECS) Requirements**

**2018-2019 HOPE Scholarship, Public and Private, sections 109, 209, 110, 210, 112 & 212**

**2018-2019 Zell Miller Scholarship, sections 4009, 4010 & 4012**

**2018-2019 HOPE Grant, sections 309, 310 & 312**

**2018-2019 Zell Miller Grant, sections 3009, 3010 & 3012**

The CHECS Requirements have been expounded upon in preparation of the system's upcoming implementation.

- Eligible Postsecondary Institutions are required to report cases of incomplete or conflicting academic information and should not award based on such information.
  - Calculation records are subject to change based on Eligible Postsecondary Institutions reporting proper information in a timely manner.
- Eligible Postsecondary Institutions are required to obtain academic transcripts from previously attended institutions.
- Eligible Postsecondary Institutions must submit, for the ending term, transcript data records that result in CHECS calculations prior to any upcoming term invoices being paid.
- An invoice paid for a student that is later found to be academically ineligible, must be canceled or the disbursed funds must be returned to GSFC.

Invoicing Requirements have been revised to include CHECS requirements.

- Invoices for any term will be held in a pending status until transcript data records for the preceding term are submitted and CHECS calculations are processed.
  - Effective Winter quarter and Spring semester 2019 (FY 2019), the majority of transcript data records for Fall term 2018 (FY 2019) must be reported and CHECS calculations performed prior to Winter quarter or Spring semester 2019 (FY 2019) invoices being paid.

Reconciliation Requirements have been revised to include the requirement of fully resolving invoices in an academically ineligible status before completing term and year-end reconciliations.

### **Study Away Requirements**

**2018-2019 HOPE Scholarship, Public and Private, Study Away, sections 106.3 & 206.3**

**2018-2019 Zell Miller Scholarship, Study Away, section 4006.3**

**2018-2019 Georgia National Guard SCL, Study Away, section 3307.4**

**2018-2019 HERO, Study Away, section 806.8**

**2018-2019 Public Safety Memorial Grant, Study Away, section 1206.6**

**2018-2019 REACH Scholarship, Study Away, section 5207.9**

**2018-2019 Tuition Equalization Grant, Study Away, section 606.3**

**2018-2019 UNG Military Scholarship, Study Away, section 3106.6**

**2018-2019 ROTC, Study Away, section 1306.6**

**2018-2019 ROTC for Future Officers, Study Away, section 1406.6**

The Study Away section has been revised to require additional documentation from Eligible Postsecondary Institutions for students participating in Study Away courses.

- The Home Institution must have a written agreement with a non-Eligible Postsecondary Institution or a single written agreement with a study-abroad organization.
- If the tuition rate at the Host Institution is less than the HOPE award rate, the HOPE award shall not exceed the actual tuition rate.
- The Home Institution must have on file, documentation of:
  - The student's actual tuition charges at the Host Institution.
  - At the time of disbursement, the student's current enrollment verification from the Host Institution indicating the number of credit hours approved.
  - The student's written or electronic permission to have any specific fees withheld from the HOPE disbursement.
- The earned HOPE award may be refunded to the student, if the student has prepaid the Host Institution prior to the HOPE disbursement.

The revised Program Regulations will be posted at [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org) by November 9, 2018. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at [www.GAfutures.org](http://www.GAfutures.org) under "Shortcuts."

If you have any questions relating to the revisions of the Regulations or program information, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or [pennies@gsfc.org](mailto:pennies@gsfc.org).

Sincerely,



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