

HOPE Program



HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships

Academic Eligibility from High School

HOPE Scholarship

- Minimum 3.0 HOPE GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, math, science, foreign language, social science)
- *Rigor requirements

Zell Miller Scholarship

*Rigor requirements and one of the following:

Designated valedictorian or salutatorian	OR	Minimum 3.7 HOPE GPA as calculated by GSFC in core curriculum courses AND total test score of 1200 SAT on a single national administration or composite test score of 25 ACT on a single national or state/district administration earned by graduation date
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*Academic Rigor courses are determined by the course number. Refer to the full Academic Rigor Course List on GAfutures.org.

What are Rigor Requirements?

Rigor courses: Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Foreign Language, Advanced Placement (AP) in core subjects, International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, degree-level Dual Credit Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at an eligible postsecondary institution.

Students graduating from high school must earn four full credits from the above list.

Award Amounts 2025-26 Academic School Year

	HOPE Scholarship*	Zell Miller Scholarship*
Public Institution	Portion of standard tuition [†]	Full standard tuition [†]
Private Institution Full-time	\$2,985 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$2,034 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$2,985 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$2,034 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)
Private Institution Half-time	\$1,493 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,017 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$1,493 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,017 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)

*Complete award amounts available on GAfutures.org. [†]Up to 15 credit hours.

Maintaining

HOPE Scholarship

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 calculated HOPE GPA* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's calculated HOPE GPA falls below a 3.0, they will lose the HOPE Scholarship and will only be eligible to regain it once.

Zell Miller Scholarship

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.3 calculated HOPE GPA* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's calculated HOPE GPA falls below a 3.3, they will lose the Zell Miller Scholarship but may still be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Students can regain the Zell Miller Scholarship only once.

*Calculated HOPE GPA refers to all attempted hours after high school graduation. Approved postsecondary STEM courses taken fall 2018 and later, at an eligible postsecondary institution in Georgia, receive .5 weight to grade B, C or D. Approved courses can be found at GAfutures.org. STEM courses taken during high school are not given the STEM weight for postsecondary GPA calculation.

Losing Eligibility

A student will lose eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship and the Zell Miller Scholarship due to one of the following:

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum attempted and/or paid hours reached (127 semester/190 quarter)
- Funds not used within ten years of high school graduation or equivalent
- Bachelor's degree received
- On the second loss, a student becomes permanently ineligible

HOPE Grant

Academic Eligibility

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a participating University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) institution

Award Amount

- Portion of standard tuition, up to 15 credit hours (per semester); award amounts available at **GAfutures.org**
- Paid hours received while in high school count towards the HOPE Grant paid hours limit of 63 and towards the 127 paid hours cap for HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship

Maintaining

- Minimum 2.0 calculated HOPE Grant GPA or higher at designated checkpoints (30/60 paid semester hours)
- Only eligible to regain the HOPE Grant once

Losing Eligibility

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester)
- Bachelor's degree received

Zell Miller Grant

Academic Eligibility

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a participating University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) institution
- First term awarded retroactively after earning a minimum 3.5 or higher calculated HOPE Grant GPA

Award Amount

- Full standard tuition, up to 15 credit hours (per semester); award amounts available at **GAfutures.org**
- Paid hours received while in high school count towards the Zell Miller Grant paid hours limit of 63 and towards the 127 paid hours cap for HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship

Maintaining

- Minimum 3.5 calculated HOPE Grant GPA required at the end of every semester/quarter
- Eligible to regain Zell Miller Grant if minimum 3.5 calculated HOPE Grant GPA earned at the end of the next term

Losing Eligibility

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester)
- Bachelor's degree received

HOPE Career Grant

Academic Eligibility

- Enrolled in specific high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a participating University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) institution
- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply

Award Amount

- Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled
- Approved programs and award amounts available on **GAfutures.org**

For more information on the HOPE Programs, visit GAfutures.org.

GAfutures Student Dashboard

Sign into your student GAfutures account to quickly review your status for the following:

- GSFAPP
- FAFSA
- ACT and/or SAT Scores
- Selective Service Registration
- View GEORGIA MATCH Letters (High School Seniors)

To view your information, make sure you create a student GAfutures account using your full name, date of birth, social security number, and high school name. If the information is incorrect, you will not be able to view your status. If you have already created an account, click the green Profile tab to make sure your information is correct.

GAfutures is a secure site for its users with an account. GSFC has implemented numerous security measures to protect your personal information.

Other State Financial Aid Programs

In addition to the HOPE Programs, GSFC administers other state financial aid programs for the state of Georgia. These programs are designed to assist students with the cost of their postsecondary education.

- Accelerated Career Education (ACE) Grant
- Behavioral Health Professions Service Cancelable Loan
- Dual Enrollment
- Georgia College Completion Grant
- Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship
- Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan
- Georgia HERO Scholarship
- Georgia Public Service Memorial Grant
- Inclusive Postsecondary Education Grant
- Peace Officer Loan Repayment
- REACH Georgia Scholarship
- Scholarship for Engineering Education
- Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant
- University of North Georgia Military Scholarship
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers

*For more information on state financial aid programs, visit **GAfutures.org**.*

Additional Eligibility Requirements

In addition to meeting the requirements for specific state financial aid programs, students must meet the following basic eligibility requirements:

- Be a legal resident of Georgia
- Meet academic achievement standards required by the program or college
- Be registered with the US Selective Service, if required (State Aid Programs)
- Be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990
- Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements
- Be in good standing on all student loans or other financial aid programs
- Not have exceeded the maximum award limits for any state financial aid program
- Meet enrollment requirements
- Attend an eligible postsecondary institution

GAfutures.org
Explore. Plan. Succeed.

GSFC | Georgia Student
Finance Commission

800.505.4732

