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Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GACollege411

Tricia P. Chastain
PRESIDENT

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Subject: 2016-2017 State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations
Tuition Award Charts
Invoicing and Extension Request Deadlines

Dear Colleague:

The following is information regarding the 2016-2017 (FY2017) State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations ("Program Regulations"), the HOPE, Zell Miller and Move On When Ready (MOWR) Award Charts and the deadline for term and year-end invoicing and extension requests.

2016-2017 State Program Regulations

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved the Program Regulations at their May 5, 2016 Board meeting. The Program Regulations are effective July 1, 2016. The Program Regulations, a summary chart and an executive summary will be posted at www.gsfc.org by May 18, 2016. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at www.GACollege411.org under "Shortcuts."

In addition to the Program Regulations changes made for clarity, other changes were made to effectuate legislation passed during the 2016 session of the Georgia General Assembly and as a result of suggestions, including:

- Revisions to the "Defaulted Loan or Refund Due" sections of each regulation to distinguish between the resolution of a default status for federal loans and Georgia loans. The process for resolving Georgia loan defaults was further defined. A Satisfactory Repayment Plan approved by the lender qualifies for resolving a defaulted federal loan.
- Reduction in the required percentile test score on the ACT or SAT from 80th to 75th for home study students or students who graduate from a high school that is not an Eligible High School who apply to receive a HOPE Scholarship as entering freshmen. (HB798)
- Extending incoming freshmen eligibility for the Zell Miller Scholarship to home study students or students who graduate from a high school that is not an Eligible High School who score in the 93rd percentile or above on the ACT or SAT. (HB798)
- Expanded the definition of "Public Safety Officers" to include "Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) of the Department of Transportation" and "Paramedics" in the Public Safety Memorial Grant Program. (HB54)

- Revised the Student Access Loan Keep-in-Touch (KIT) payments to allow students the option of prepaying KIT payments up front to cover KIT obligations for an entire term. Also, modified the requirements for discharge of a loan due to permanent disability to more closely mirror federal requirements.
- Revised Move on When Ready (MOWR) application deadline to more closely match application deadlines in the other programs.
- Revived the Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan (GNG SCL) program. Eliminated language that previously prohibited GNG SCL recipients from concurrently receiving HOPE Scholarship or HOPE Grant funds. (HB1072)
- Updated the Student Access Loan (SAL) selection process to give priority consideration to HOPE Scholars, Zell Miller Scholars, and prior year SAL recipients in the first selection cycle. Afterwards, all applications will be selected/processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Award Charts

State Program award charts for 2016-2017 for HOPE Public and Private Scholarships, HOPE Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship, Zell Miller Grant, and Move On When Ready, effective Fall term 2016, will be posted no later than May 18, 2016, and can be found at www.GAcolllege411.org under “What’s New.” Award amounts for HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships, HOPE and Zell Miller Grants, TEG, and MOWR will remain the same for FY 2017.

FY 2017 (Upcoming Fiscal Year) Invoicing

The FY 2017 Invoicing and Extension Request deadline chart is attached for your reference.

FY 2016 Invoicing and Extension Request Deadlines

As in the past, the Program Regulations require that all invoices for a term be fully submitted, processed, and approved for payment by the invoicing term deadline. Spring term 2016 invoices are due June 8, 2016. A postsecondary institution needing an extension to process current fiscal year invoices beyond June 8 must submit a request for extension to GSFC by June 8.

The request for extension must include the reason an extension is needed, program(s), number of invoices, and the approximate total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted. Extensions for the current fiscal year’s invoices may be granted through June 22, 2016.

The Program Regulations require postsecondary institutions to complete a year-end reconciliation of each state program for which funds were received for the year, and submit a year-end reconciliation form by July 15.

Prior Year Invoices

Invoices for prior fiscal years will not be paid except under certain extraordinary and narrowly defined circumstances. The Program Regulations allow an invoice to be paid after the year-end invoicing only if failure to meet the deadline was due to the need for supplemental documentation including, but not limited to, information required for the student’s college admission (e.g., proof of citizenship or residency), late grades, grade changes or other adjustments made to the student’s official academic

transcript that result in a change in a student's eligibility. A postsecondary institution needing to submit a prior year's invoice(s) must email GSFC's Student Aid Services Department with the invoice, student information, and the reason for missing the deadline (e.g., the documentation that became available after the deadline, as noted above).

If a postsecondary institution needs to submit invoices or increase the award amount on existing invoices after the year-end reconciliation, the director of financial aid must submit a written request to GSFC's Student Aid Services Department including the following:

1. The reason for the prior year late invoice request
2. The number of invoices
3. The total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted

If the requests for the invoices to be paid after the year-end reconciliation total more than ½ percent of the total amount disbursed to the postsecondary institution for the corresponding program in the current fiscal year, the institution's president must submit a written request to GSFC including the following:

1. The reason for the prior year invoice request
2. The number of invoices
3. The total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted
4. A corrective action plan outlining measures that will be taken in the future to meet the published invoicing deadlines which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Staff and/or system changes implemented that ensure timely submission of invoices
 - b. Dates and content of training to prepare staff for timely submission of invoices
 - c. Supplemental documentation relating to delays

If you have questions relating to regulations, deadlines, extensions or late invoices, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or email at pennies@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,



Tricia P. Chastain

Attachments