

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAfutures.org

Shawn Ryan
PRESIDENT

Publication Date: May 25, 2017
DCL ID: 2018-02

Subject: Centralized HOPE GPA Calculation System

Dear Colleague:

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) is beginning the development of a centralized postsecondary HOPE GPA calculation system that will include checkpoint determinations and HOPE calculated GPAs for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant programs for all eligible postsecondary institutions.

The initiative to create a centralized system is a collaborative effort among the University System of Georgia (USG), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), Georgia Independent College Association (GICA), GSFC and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). The new system will be called the College HOPE Eligibility Calculation System (CHECS) and will be developed and managed by GSFC.

Tentative Timeline:

- Develop business rules and specifications: Spring and Summer 2017
A Joint Application Development (JAD) Group consisting of USG, TCSG, GICA and GSFC members has held several meetings to begin creating the blueprint for CHECS.
- Coding: Summer and Fall 2017
- Pilot and testing: Spring 2018
- Training: Spring, Summer and Fall 2018
- Full Deployment: End of Fall 2018 (FY 2019)
The first HOPE GPA calculation by CHECS scheduled for the end of Fall Term 2018.

Initiative Highlights:

- GSFC will be responsible for the programing in accordance with current program laws and regulations, as well as future changes to HOPE laws and regulations.
- Participation will be mandatory for all postsecondary institutions participating in the HOPE programs.
- The calculation will be used for postsecondary academic eligibility determination by all HOPE eligible postsecondary institutions.
- Postsecondary institutions will continue to collect and data-enter all transcripts from transfer students and will submit all course data (attempted hours) to GSFC, regardless of what credits are accepted.

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As the project progresses, GSFC will provide milestone updates. If you have questions relating to the CHECS project, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or email at pennies@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shawn Ryan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Shawn Ryan
President