



Publication Date: April 18, 2018
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Subject: CHECS (College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service) Update

Dear Colleague:

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) first announced the new project to develop a centralized postsecondary HOPE GPA calculation system on May 25, 2017 ([DCL 2018-02](#)). The new system, referred to as CHECS (College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service), will include checkpoint determinations and HOPE calculated GPAs for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant programs for all eligible postsecondary institutions.

Since May 2017, a tremendous amount of work has been done by all parties involved in the project to ensure a successful launch at the end of Fall term 2018 (December). CHECS is being developed and managed by GSFC; however, the collaborative effort and continued commitment of the University System of Georgia (USG), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), Georgia Independent College Association (GICA), and other eligible private institutions is key to CHECS being successful and beneficial to HOPE eligible institutions and students across Georgia.

Current Milestones:

- The Joint Application Development (JAD) Group, consisting of USG, TCSG, GICA and GSFC members, has met seven times as a full group with additional sector specific meetings.
- To date, 13 CHECS training sessions have been provided to the three sectors of HOPE Eligible Institutions from September 2017 – March 2018.
- The financial aid, academic records and technical support departments of HOPE Eligible Postsecondary Institutions are collaborating to plan for the implementation of CHECS and to meet the needs of the testing requirements.
- Ten postsecondary institutions are in Pilot I and have been participating in the recent JAD meetings.
- All the other HOPE Eligible Postsecondary Institutions are in Pilot II as a mandatory test.
- The CHECS module is currently housed in the test environment of GAfutures' QA site. All HOPE Eligible Postsecondary Institutions have provided their staff members' information to gain access to the test site.
- In addition to the technical specifications and user manual, "The CHECS Guide", and a timeline of requirements, "The CHECSlist", a listserv for each Pilot group and a [CHECShelpdesk](#) email is being used for assistance and communicating updates. Over 500 emails have been received.

- A Resources section is available in the GAFutures QA test environment to house CHECS documentation.
- CHECS business rules, logic and web screen layouts continue to be developed and released.

Upcoming Timeline:

- Continue meetings with the JAD and Pilot I Group.
- Pilot I Testing of Historical Snapshot selection, GPA, Hours and Checkpoint reports and calculations: April 2018 – Summer 2018.
- Pilot II submitting first Snapshot and Transcript Data files: May and June 2018.
- Training sessions including videos: Summer 2018.
- Full deployment is the end of Fall term 2018 and requires Historical Snapshots be submitted by September 17, 2018. Historical Transcript Data files that support the Snapshots must be submitted by October 16, 2018.
- Go Live! - The first HOPE calculation by CHECS: End of Fall Term 2018.

Initiative Highlights:

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

Additional information can be found on the GAFutures QA test site under Resources. If you have questions relating to the CHECS project, email checshelpdesk@gsfc.org or contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or pennies@gsfc.org. We appreciate your preparation efforts and partnership as we all work towards the successful launch of this new system.

Sincerely,



Caylee Noggle