

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR


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

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List of Eligible STEM Courses to Receive HOPE GPA Boost Now Available

Beginning fall 2017, students will receive a boost to their college HOPE GPA for specific, rigorous STEM courses typically offered during the first two years of college. Each HOPE-eligible college in Georgia will add 0.5 to the postsecondary HOPE GPA calculation in specific, approved STEM courses if the grade is a B, C or D.

House Bill 801, sponsored by House Speaker Pro Tempore, Representative Jan Jones (R-Milton), and designed to incentivize students to choose a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) field of study, was passed during the 2016 legislative session. After signing HB 801 into law, Governor Nathan Deal appointed the HB 801 Task Force to determine which courses meet the requirements to receive this new postsecondary HOPE GPA boost.

"I am confident this new initiative will encourage more Georgia students to enroll in STEM classes that will lead to career fields where we have jobs waiting for them," said Governor Deal.

The courses currently approved are ones required to obtain a major leading to one or more of the STEM career fields that require at least a bachelor's degree and are considered to be in high demand in Georgia. The University System of Georgia (USG), the Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) worked collaboratively, along with input from the Georgia Department of Economic Development regarding high demand careers, to draft an initial list of rigorous STEM courses eligible for weighting.

"This initiative will encourage our young people to develop the 21st century skills demanded in STEM fields and make Georgia even more competitive in attracting high tech companies to locate and expand in our state," said Speaker Pro Tempore Jones.

This "STEM Weighted Course List" will be reviewed on an annual basis by the STEM Weighted Course Approval Council, which will have representatives from USG, GICA, TCSG, GSFC and others.

To view the complete list of approved courses, please visit www.GAfutures.org. For additional information, students should contact their HOPE-eligible postsecondary institution.

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

GSFC is the state agency that administers the HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program as well as other state- and lottery-funded financial aid programs. GSFC also manages the career and college preparation website, GAfutures.org and provides educational services such as free financial aid consultation, and financial literacy to elementary, middle and high schools, and postsecondary institutions across the state. Additional information about GSFC programs and services is available at gsfc.georgia.gov, www.GAfutures.org or 1.800.505.GSFC (4732).