

Georgia's HOPE Programs

New HOPE Regulations are effective Fall Semester 2011. The SWGTC Financial Aid Office will administer all HOPE programs according to Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) regulations and guidance, which will supersede the information presented here.

This brochure explains the general minimum requirements for the HOPE Grant, HOPE Scholarship, and Zell Miller Scholarship. For program specific requirements and eligibility information, please refer the Southwest Georgia Technical College catalog and/or website.

★ Residency Requirements

Students who were legal residents of Georgia at the time of high school graduation or equivalent must meet the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) residency requirements for 12 consecutive months prior to receiving HOPE Grant, HOPE Scholarship, or Zell Miller Scholarship.

If a student was **not** a Georgia resident at the time of high school graduation or the equivalent, then that student must meet TCSG residency requirements for a full **24 months** prior to receiving HOPE Grant, HOPE Scholarship, or Zell Miller Scholarship.

★ Bachelor's Degree Recipients

Students who have received a Bachelor's degree, its equivalent or higher, from any institution, are not eligible for the HOPE Grant, HOPE Scholarship, or Zell Miller Scholarship.

★ HOPE Grant

The HOPE Grant provides financial assistance to eligible Georgia residents pursuing a diploma or certificate at SWGTC. HOPE Grant covers a percentage of tuition charges only (FY 2012 is set at 81% of tuition for SWGTC). This percentage is established annually by GSFC. Learning support classes are covered by HOPE Grant as long as those classes are required. HOPE Grant does NOT pay for fees or books.

Although there is no initial GPA requirement in order to receive HOPE Grant, students must have a 3.0 GPA once they have received HOPE payment for 30 semester/45 quarter credit hours and 60 semester/90 quarter credit hours, beginning with fall semester 2011.

(Learning support and dual enrollment hours are excluded from the GPA and checkpoints.)

Students who have earned a **3.0 GPA** at the 30/45 and 60/90 credit hour checkpoints will continue to receive HOPE Grant funds for up to a maximum of 63 semester/95 quarter credit hours. Any hours above the Paid-hour limit during an enrollment period will not be paid by HOPE Grant funds.

If a student does not have a 3.0 GPA at the 30/45 credit hour checkpoint, the student will not be eligible for HOPE Grant. A student may regain their eligibility one time only if they have a 3.0 GPA at the 60/90 hour checkpoint.

If they do not have a 3.0 at 60/90 hours, the student will no longer be eligible to receive HOPE Grant funds.

★ HOPE Scholarship

The HOPE Scholarship program is a merit based program for Georgia's high school graduates with a 3.0 high school GPA and Georgia residents enrolled in a degree program at a postsecondary institution.

HOPE Scholarship covers a percentage of tuition (FY 2012 is set at 81% of tuition for SWGTC). This percentage is established annually by GSFC. Learning support classes are **not** covered by HOPE Scholarship. HOPE Scholarship does NOT pay for fees or books.

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA at all of the following checkpoints:

- 30 semester/45 quarter hours
- 60 semester/90 quarter hours
- 90 semester/135 quarter hours
- 3-term checkpoint
- End of Every Spring Term.

Students who have lost their eligibility at a checkpoint are eligible to regain HOPE Scholarship one time only by earning a 3.0 GPA at one of the above credit hour checkpoints only.

Students who received HOPE Scholarship prior to summer quarter 2011 will remain eligible until June 30, 2015, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements. Students who have not received HOPE Scholarship prior to summer quarter 2011 will be eligible until June 30 of the seventh academic year after their high school graduation. Students who graduated high school more than 7 years prior to the term in which they are seeking HOPE Scholarship, and who have never previously received it, will not be eligible for HOPE Scholarship at any time.

★ Zell Miller Scholarship

The Zell Miller Scholarship is for recent Georgia high school graduates who earned a 3.7 high school GPA and a 1200 SAT combined reading and math score or an ACT composite score of 26 who are pursuing a degree program. The Zell Miller Scholarship is also for Georgia high school valedictorians and salutatorians. **Georgia Student Finance Commission will determine initial eligibility for the Zell Miller Scholarship.**

Eligible students will have 100% of standard tuition paid. Students must maintain a 3.3 GPA at all the following checkpoints:

- 30 semester/45 quarter hours
- 60 semester/90 quarter hours
- 90 semester/135 quarter hours
- 3-term checkpoint
- End of Every Spring Term.

Fees and books are not covered by the Zell Miller Scholarship.

Recipients who lose their eligibility because their GPA has fallen below a 3.3 may regain the Zell Miller Scholarship one time only at one of the above credit hour checkpoints by earning a 3.3 GPA. Students who have less than a 3.3 but at least a 3.0 may be eligible for HOPE Scholarship. *(Please see HOPE Scholarship section of this brochure for details.)*

★ HOPE Maximum Hours

Combined Paid-Hours Limit

A student may receive HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship for up to 127 semester or 190 quarter paid hours from any combination of HOPE Grant, HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship and/or ACCEL. During a term in which a student reaches 127/190 hours, HOPE will only pay up to the maximum hours.

Payment for hours above the limit will be the student's responsibility.

HOPE Attempted Hours Limit

Once a student has attempted 127 semester/190 quarter credit hours he/she will be ineligible for HOPE Scholarship, regardless of how payment was made for those hours. All college-level credit hours taken after high school graduation, at any institution, count toward the Attempted Hours Limit.

During a term in which a student reaches 127 semester/190 quarter hours, HOPE will only pay up to the maximum hours. Payment for hours above the limit will be the student's responsibility.

HOPE Grant Paid-Hours Limit

A student may receive HOPE Grant payment for up to 63 semester/95 quarter hours from all institutions.

During a term in which a student reaches 63 semester/95 quarter hours, HOPE will only pay up to the maximum hours. Payment for hours above the limit will be the student's responsibility.

Resources:

www.southwestgatech.edu
www.tcsghopeinfo.com
www.gacollege411.org



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