

<https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/hope-zell-miller-scholarships/hope-scholarship/maintaining-eligibility-for-the-hope-scholarship/>

Maintaining Eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship

Becoming eligible for the HOPE Scholarship is only the first step. There are requirements that you need to be aware of to ensure that you retain the HOPE Scholarship throughout your undergraduate career. The information below highlights what you need to know in order to continue to be eligible for Georgia's HOPE Scholarship or to regain the scholarship while seeking a degree at a Georgia public or private postsecondary institution.

Enrollment

1. You must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program offered by an eligible public or private college or university or public technical college in Georgia.

There is no minimum number of hours per semester, or quarter, of enrollment required for eligibility at a public institution.

Students attending private colleges and universities must be enrolled at least six (6) hours to receive an award.

Credit Hours and HOPE Cumulative Grade Point Average for Renewal

1. Students who are eligible to receive HOPE as entering freshmen may receive payment through the term during which the number of attempted (not earned) credits equal at least 30 semester or 45 quarter hours. All HOPE Scholarship recipients must have a grade point average of **at least a 3.0 at the end of every spring term** in order to continue their eligibility, except for freshmen enrolled for less than 12 credit hours for each of their first three school terms. Freshmen recipients who enroll for less than 12 credit hours for each of their first three school terms must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 at the end of their third term in order to continue their eligibility.
All attempted hours after high school graduation or equivalent and corresponding grades, as shown on official transcripts, are counted toward the HOPE cumulative grade point average, including remedial study attempted or

accepted for degree credit prior to fall term 2011. Additionally, withdrawals are counted as attempted hours even if there is no academic penalty.

2. If you have a HOPE cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 at the end of the term you attempted 30 semester or 45 quarter hours, you may renew your scholarship for 31 through 60 semester hours or 46 through 90 quarter hours attempted.
3. If you have earned a HOPE cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 at the end of the term you attempted 60 semester or 90 quarter hours, you may renew your scholarship for 61 through 90 semester hours or 91 through 135 quarter hours attempted.
4. If you have earned a HOPE cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 at the end of the term you attempted 90 semester or 135 quarter hours, you may renew your scholarship for 91 through 127 semester hours or 136 through 190 quarter hours attempted. However, the total cumulative number of credit hours for which you can receive payment from any combination of the HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant, and Accel (through Spring term 2011) programs is 127 semester hours or 190 quarter hours.

School Transfers

1. HOPE Scholarship recipients transferring from one HOPE-eligible Georgia institution to another HOPE-eligible institution are eligible for HOPE funds if they continue to meet all of the eligibility requirements.
2. All college degree credit hours attempted at any college, and the corresponding grades, are counted toward the HOPE cumulative grade point average, even if those hours and grades are not accepted by the institution to which the student transferred.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

1. In order to receive payment each school term, you must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress as determined by your institution even if you have not reached the renewal checkpoints as indicated in the "Credit Hours and HOPE Cumulative Grade Point Average for Renewal" section above.

Default and Refund Due

1. In order to receive payment each term, you must not be in default or owe a refund on any federal or State of Georgia student loan, grant or scholarship. If you have

ever gone into default on a federal or State of Georgia student loan, you must repay your loan completely or totally resolve your default status before you will be eligible for HOPE.

Regaining the Scholarship

1. The HOPE Scholarship is a reward for scholastic achievement and an incentive to continue working hard in school. If your cumulative grade point average is below 3.0 at the end of a spring term, after your first three terms of enrollment for less than 12 hours per term, or after attempting 30 semester or 45 quarter hours, you may regain the HOPE Scholarship after attempting 60 semester or 90 quarter hours with a cumulative 3.0 GPA. If you do not earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA after attempting 60 semester or 90 quarter hours, you may still regain the HOPE Scholarship after attempting 90 semester or 135 quarter hours with a cumulative 3.0 GPA. You cannot regain HOPE eligibility at the end of a spring term, unless that term is also when you have attempted 30/60/90 semester or 45/90/135 quarter hours with a cumulative 3.0 grade point average. Beginning fall term 2011, a student may only regain the HOPE Scholarship one time.

Re-applying for HOPE

1. Depending on your personal circumstances or the college you attend, one of several different forms may be used to reapply for the HOPE Scholarship each year. Contact the financial aid office, at the institution you will attend, for specific application instructions that best suit your situation. You must file an application before the end of the school term in order to receive payment for that school term.
2. The college you are attending may also require that you complete the institution's application for financial aid or other additional forms. Please contact the financial aid office for more information.