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What is the HOPE Scholarship and what are the academic eligibility requirements?

The HOPE Scholarship is a merit based scholarship that provides assistance towards the cost of tuition at eligible public and private Georgia postsecondary institutions. A student must graduate from an eligible high school with a minimum 3.0 HOPE GPA (as calculated by GSFC) and meet specific [rigor course requirements](#).

What is the Zell Miller Scholarship and what are the academic eligibility requirements?

The Zell Miller Scholarship is a merit based scholarship that provides full tuition at a public postsecondary institution and tuition assistance at an eligible private postsecondary institution. A student must graduate from an eligible high school as valedictorian or salutatorian (meeting the requirements of the HOPE Scholarship) or graduate with a minimum 3.7 Zell Miller GPA (as calculated by GSFC) along with a minimum combined score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT or a minimum composite score of 26 on the ACT (single national administration of either test) and meet specific [rigor course requirements](#).

What are rigor course requirements?

Students graduating from an eligible high school must meet rigorous course requirements (in addition to other requirements) in order to be eligible for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships. Discuss course options with your high school counselor if you are not sure whether a course meets the rigor requirement.

- Graduate on or after May 1, 2016 – must earn three rigor course credits
- Graduate on or after May 1, 2017 and beyond – must earn four rigor course credits

How do I apply for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship?

A student may apply for the scholarships by completing the [GSFAPPS](#) (one time completion) or [FAFSA](#) (completed each academic year). Check with the postsecondary institution's financial aid office for scholarship eligibility after submitting an application. Additional documentation may be required by the postsecondary institution.

How much does HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship pay?

The HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships assists with the cost of tuition at eligible postsecondary institutions and the [award amount](#) is dependent upon the specific institution.

How is my GPA calculated for scholarship purposes?

GSFC calculates the GPA based solely on core course data (English, math, social studies, science, and foreign language only) transmitted from the high school, by June 30, for graduating seniors. GSFC cannot change or alter that data in any way. Any grade discrepancies or errors must be corrected by the high school and then resubmitted to GSFC. Contact your high school counselor if you have questions regarding courses and/or grades.

How do I view my HOPE/Zell Miller GPA?

You may view your HOPE/Zell Miller GPA calculation by logging into your *My GAFutures* account at www.GAfutures.org.

How can I be evaluated for the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship if I graduated from a high school outside Georgia?

Students that graduate from a high school outside Georgia must be manually evaluated by GSFC. To be evaluated:

1. Complete the GSFAPPS at www.GAfutures.org and,
2. Complete the "Student Information" section on the [Request for Out-of-State High School Transcript Evaluation](#) form. Submit the form to your high school to complete the back of the form and,
3. Provide your official final high school transcript.

How does a home study student qualify for the HOPE Scholarship?

Home study students may qualify for the HOPE Scholarship in one of two ways:

- Score in the 75th percentile nationally on the ACT or SAT college admission test.
- Attempt 30 semester/45 quarter postsecondary semester hours with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and then retroactively receive HOPE Scholarship funds.

More information regarding eligibility requirements for home study students may be found on the [HOPE Scholarship Program](#) page.

How does a home study student qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarship?

A home study student may qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarship in one of two ways:

- Score in the 93rd percentile nationally on the ACT or SAT; test taken prior to home study completion.
- Attempt 30 semester/45 quarter postsecondary hours with a minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA, along with the required test scores, and then retroactively receive Zell Miller Scholarship funds. ACT/SAT must have been taken prior to home study completion.

More information regarding eligibility requirements for home study students may be found on the [Zell Miller Scholarship Program](#) page.

What do I need to do to continue to qualify for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship?

In order to keep receiving the HOPE Scholarship, a student must maintain a cumulative 3.0 postsecondary GPA at designated checkpoints. Those checkpoints are: end-of-spring and 30/60/90 attempted semester hours or 45/90/135 quarter hours. A student will lose the HOPE Scholarship if their GPA is below the minimum requirement at one of the checkpoints and may only *regain* the scholarship one time. A student is ineligible to receive HOPE Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127 hour limit.

In order to keep receiving the Zell Miller Scholarship, a student must maintain a cumulative 3.3 postsecondary GPA at designated checkpoints. Those checkpoints are: end-of-spring and 30/60/90 attempted semester hours or 45/90/135 attempted quarter hours. A student will lose the Zell Miller Scholarship if their GPA is below the minimum requirement at one of the checkpoints and may only *regain* the scholarship one time. A student is ineligible to receive Zell Miller Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127 hour limit.

Are there any limitations to receiving the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship?

A student may receive the scholarship until one of the following occurs:

- Seven full years have elapsed following high school graduation/home study completion, or
- Reach 127 semester or quarter limit, or
- Upon receiving a baccalaureate degree.

What other eligibility requirements must I meet in order to receive the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship?

In addition to the required minimum GPA and rigor requirements, you must also meet each of the following:

- U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen;
- Legal resident of Georgia;
- Registered with the Selective Service (if applicable);
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress;
- In compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990; and
- Do not owe a refund or be in default on a student financial aid program.

Check with your college's financial aid office for additional information and eligibility requirements.