

# HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Eligibility for College Students FAQ's

As of April 15, 2020

*Please keep in mind: At the end of each term, your college reports your transcript record information with courses attempted and the grade(s) received for your HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship calculation. The college submits their institutional grades and sets the grade equivalencies for the GSFC HOPE Calculation system to perform the HOPE Scholarship calculations.*

*You can check your college academic eligibility for HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant by accessing the My College HOPE Profile feature in your GAfutures account. Students who do not have a GAfutures account should go to [www.GAfutures.org](http://www.GAfutures.org), click on "My GAfutures", and create their secure account in order to check their HOPE status.*

1) Q: If my postsecondary institution gives students the option to receive a Pass/Fail (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) instead of a letter grade, how will that impact my HOPE GPA?

*A: For the purposes of the HOPE Scholarship GPA calculation, only letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F are included in the HOPE GPA calculation. Students given a Pass/Fail option by their college should ask if the Fail status will result in a grade of F or U. An F is considered failing and is included in the HOPE GPA calculation, even if the grading scale is considered P/F. If a U is given the course will not be included in the HOPE GPA calculation based on the college's grade scale for HOPE purposes.*

*Please note:*

- Any degree credit hours listed on the student's transcript are included in the Attempted Hours calculation (lifetime maximum of 127 semester hours or 190 quarter hours).*
- It is acceptable for a student to have some courses for the term with letter grades earned and some with a P/S/U type of grade with no quality points assigned.*
- The decision to offer P/S/U instead of letter grades with quality points is made solely at the discretion of the postsecondary institution. Although GSFC has no role in this institution-level decision, we are doing our best to work with postsecondary institutions and students as they evaluate which option makes the most sense for their educational goals.*

2) Q: If I am given an "I" (Incomplete) or "IP" (In Progress) for a course, how will that impact my HOPE GPA?

*A: For the purposes of the HOPE Scholarship GPA calculation, only letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F are included in the HOPE GPA calculation. The course with an Incomplete or In Progress will count in the Attempted Hours calculation but will not be included in the HOPE/Zell Miller GPA calculation until the final grade is received. Please note once you earn a grade in the course with an Incomplete or In Progress, your college must report the new grade and your HOPE GPA will be recalculated for the term the course was taken and the new calculated HOPE GPA will determine if the HOPE Scholarship is maintained or lost.*

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3) Q: If my postsecondary institution canceled my class due to COVID-19, how will that impact my HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility?

*A: If a course was canceled as a result of COVID-19 and the student received a full tuition refund, the postsecondary institution should return any HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship funds to GSFC not applied to the student's tuition. If the postsecondary institution does not list the course on the student's transcript it will not be included in the lifetime Attempted Hours calculation.*

4) Q: What impact will COVID-19 have on HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Checkpoints for continued eligibility?

*A: HOPE and Zell Miller Scholars are required by law to have their GPA checked after attempting 30, 60, and 90 semester hours, or 45, 90, and 135 quarter hours, as well as at the end of every spring term. If you receive a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F on your postsecondary transcript, it will be included in your HOPE GPA calculation based on the college's grade scale for HOPE purposes.*

5) Q: If my study abroad program was canceled due to COVID-19, how will that impact my HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility?

*A: If the course was canceled as a result of COVID-19 and the student was not charged tuition or received a full tuition refund, the postsecondary institution should return any HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship funds to GSFC not applied to the student's tuition. Once this occurs, the hours will not be included in the student's HOPE GPA calculation and if the course(s) are not on the student's transcript the hours will not be included in the student's lifetime Attempted Hours calculation. If the student began the course and the home institution issues a withdrawal (listed as a "W" on the student's transcript), the hours will not be included in the student's HOPE GPA calculation but will still count toward the lifetime Attempted Hours calculation. A transcript must be received for courses not canceled.*

## **Bottom line:**

- If the student attempts a degree level course and it is listed on the student's transcript, the course credit hours count in the student's HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship Attempted Hours calculation.
- If the student attempts a degree level course and it is listed on the student's transcript, if the student earned a letter grade with quality points (A, B, C, D or F based on the college's grade scale for HOPE purposes), the course grade is included in the student's HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship GPA calculation.
- Current HOPE Scholarship students must have a HOPE calculated cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the End of Spring Checkpoint. The Current Zell Miller Scholarship students must have a HOPE calculated cumulative GPA of 3.3 at the End of Spring Checkpoint to maintain eligibility for the upcoming term. If you have no grades for Spring term, the Checkpoint calculation will be based on transcript data through the Fall semester or Winter quarter depending on your institution.