

## **Georgia State Grant and Scholarship Changes: Effective Fall 2011**

House Bill 326, as signed into law by Governor Nathan Deal, and the resulting Fiscal Year 2012 State Program Regulations, made significant changes to the HOPE Programs, including the creation of the Zell Miller Scholarship Program. These changes were necessary in order to take “the appropriate steps today to strengthen the HOPE balance sheet, ensuring that future Georgians are afforded the same great opportunities as today’s college and university students.” Governor Deal

Changes in the Hope Scholarship and Georgia Tuition Equalization grant regulations will have impacted the amount credited to your student account and/or your financial aid disbursement.

Below are highlights of the changes effective Fall 2011:

- Beginning in Fall 2011, Full-time students will receive \$1800 in HOPE. Part-time students will receive \$900.
- Georgia Tuition Grant amount is \$350 for Full-time students, enrolled in 12 or more credit hours
- Current HOPE recipients are not “grandfathered in” and will see the reduction in the HOPE award beginning this Fall 2011.
- **New Pay Rate Amounts:**
  - **GTEG, Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant**  
Student’s that reach the Paid Hours of 127 during the semester will receive a per hour rate. If a student is enrolled in 12 credit hours or more, the rate will be \$29 per semester hour up to 127 credit hours.  
  
Example:  
If a student enters a term with 123 Paid hours (4 hours remaining in cap), but is enrolled in 15 semester hours, student is eligible for \$116 (4 hours x \$29/hr)
  - **HOPE Scholarship, Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant**  
Student’s that reach the Paid Hours of 127 during the semester will receive a per hour rate. If a student is enrolled in 12 credit hours or more, the rate will be \$150 per semester hour up to 127 credit hours.  
  
Example:  
If a student enters a term with 123 Paid hours (4 hours remaining in cap), but is enrolled in 15 semester hours, student is eligible for \$600 (4 hours x \$150/hr)  
  
If a student enters a term with 124 Paid hours (3 hours remaining), but is enrolled for 7 semester hours, student is eligible for \$225 (3 hours x \$75/hour)
- The HOPE Scholarship will NOT pay for remedial or developmental courses.
- Eligible students can continue to receive HOPE scholarship and GTEG until they have attempted a maximum of 127 semester hours.

- Students who lose regular HOPE or the Zell Miller scholarship at an established checkpoint will have a single chance to regain HOPE or the Zell Miller scholarship.
- Students are eligible to receive the HOPE Scholarship and/or Zell Miller Scholarship until seven years from the date of the student's high school graduation, home study completion, or successful GED test, if the student meets all other requirements.
- Expiration date is June 30th of the 7th academic year following the date of HS graduation or equivalent (home school graduation or GED test date).
- Student who received at least one HOPE disbursement prior to Summer 2011 will have an expiration date of June 30, 2015. If you do not complete your program by June 30, 2015 you will no longer be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship.

For more information on Georgia State Grants and Scholarship changes, please visit the Georgia Student Finance Commission website [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org)

Please feel free to contact your Student Finance Consultant with any questions or concerns you may have.

Best Regards,

Student Finance Department