

## **HOPE Scholarship Frequent Asked Questions**

FAQ are updated yearly to coincide with Georgia Student Finance Commission Rules and Regulations and DeVry's Institutional Policy for the HOPE Scholarship. Full details about the HOPE Scholarship guidelines, policies, and procedures can be found on the Georgia Student Finance Commission web site in the [HOPE Scholarship Program at Private Institutions: Regulations](#) document. Last Updated: 09/28/2011

### **1. What is the difference between the HOPE Grant and the HOPE Scholarship?**

**HOPE Grant** - the HOPE Grant is designed for students pursuing a certificate or diploma in non-degree programs at public institutions.

**HOPE Scholarship** – students who have demonstrated academic achievement and are enrolled in degree programs at public, private or technical colleges may qualify for the HOPE Scholarship.

**NOTE:** DeVry University participates in the HOPE Scholarship for Private Schools program.

### **2. Do I have to be a Georgia resident in order to receive the HOPE Scholarship?**

Yes, an **Independent** student must be a Georgia resident for 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of classes of the semester which you are applying for the HOPE Scholarship.

**A Dependent** student's residency status will be based on their Parents' residency status.

A student who was determined to meet the Georgia residency requirements for purposes of HOPE Scholarship eligibility and began receiving HOPE Scholarship payments will continue to meet the Georgia residency requirements for purposes of HOPE Scholarship eligibility unless there's a break in enrollment.

**Students with a break in enrollment of one or more consecutive semesters who establish residency in another state must re-establish Georgia residency for 12 consecutive months before regaining eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship.**

### **3. Do I have to be a U.S citizen to receive the HOPE Scholarship?**

A student must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes of the school term for which the HOPE Scholarship is sought.

"Eligible non-citizen" means a person who, in accordance with the Federal Title IV Regulations, is:

- A United States permanent resident with a Permanent Resident Alien Card (I-551); or
- A conditional permanent resident (I-551C); or
- The holder of an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations:
  - Refugee,
  - Asylum Granted,
  - Parolee; or
  - Cuban-Haitian Entrant.
- Victims of human trafficking, in accordance with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, may also be considered eligible non-citizens.

**Persons with an F1 or F2 visa, a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa, or a G series visa are not eligible non-citizens.**

### **4. Are there any other requirements for the HOPE Scholarship?**

Yes. In addition to the residency and citizenship requirements, students must also meet the following:

- Register with Selective Service (men only).
- Be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Post secondary Education Act of 1990.
- Not be in default or owe a refund on a federal or state financial aid program.
- Not have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.

**5. Do I have to complete the FAFSA in order to receive the HOPE Scholarship?**

Yes, DeVry's Institutional policy requires that you complete a FAFSA for each academic year in order to determine your eligibility. The academic year starts in July and ends in June. The FAFSA must be completed on or before the deadline established for the term you are seeking the HOPE Scholarship or your withdrawal date for that term, whichever occurs first.

**6. Is a Georgia driver's license required in order to receive the HOPE Scholarship at DEVRY University?**

Yes, if there's a discrepancy on your FAFSA, you may be asked to bring a copy of your Georgia driver's license or ID card to the Student Finance Department. If you do not have a Georgia driver's license, a Georgia ID card is accepted.

**7. How much is the HOPE Scholarship?**

The amount of a semester's HOPE payment is based on your enrollment.

Full-time students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours at the time of disbursement will receive \$1,800. Part-time students will receive \$900 per semester.

**Please note that the amount the HOPE Scholarship may be reduced by any other scholarship or educational assistance which must be applied directly to the student's tuition.** For example, an eligible Veteran under the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Chapter 31) or Post 9-11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) would not receive any HOPE Scholarship funds if the Department of Veterans Affairs pays 100% of the student's tuition.

**8. Do I have to be a full time student enrolled in 12 hours or more, in order to receive the HOPE Scholarship?**

No. Students attending a private college or university must be enrolled for at least 6 semester hours per term.

**9. When is the HOPE Scholarship disbursed?**

Disbursement for all Georgia State Grants and Scholarships begins after week 5 of session B.

Although DeVry is a semester-based school, we also have session based classes. Therefore, we must review your session B enrollment in order to determine your eligibility.

**10. How do I apply for the HOPE Scholarship?**

The application process for the HOPE Scholarship is simple. **You will need to complete both the [DeVry Application](#) and a [Georgia Scholarship/Grant Application](#) in order to be evaluated for the HOPE Scholarship.**

You must have a completed DeVry University HOPE Application and GSFAPPS no later than the deadline established for the term for which you are seeking the HOPE Scholarship in order for you to be considered for HOPE that term.

A student who was determined to be a HOPE Scholar upon graduation from high school does not have to apply for the HOPE Scholarship. However, you will need to still complete the GSFAPPS application

**11. When should I apply for the HOPE Scholarship?**

**First time applicants:** If you were not determined to be a HOPE Scholar upon high school graduation, you may apply for the HOPE Scholarship after attempting 30 semesters hours of college coursework and maintaining a 3.00 GPA. You will be considered an Adult Learner applicant. If you are not sure where you stand academically, we encourage you to apply.

**Resuming/Readmit students:** Students who were eligible for the HOPE Scholarship, but had a break in enrollment of one or more consecutive semester must reapply for the HOPE Scholarship. Your HOPE eligibility will not be reviewed unless a completed DeVry HOPE Application is received.

You must have a completed DeVry University's HOPE Application and GSFAPPS no later than the deadline established for the term for which you are seeking the HOPE Scholarship.

**Please note the following deadlines for 2011-2012 HOPE Application:**

**Summer 2011: Friday, October 7, 2011**

**Fall 2011: Friday, January 20, 2012**

**Spring 2012: Friday, y, April 20, 2012**

**12. Is there a time limit to when I can receive the HOPE Scholarship?**

**Yes, Effective with the FALL 2011 semester, GSFC has added a timeframe to apply for the HOPE Scholarship.**

A student who has received HOPE Scholarship payment prior to Summer term 2011, may receive the HOPE Scholarship until June 30, 2015, as long as the student continues to meet all other eligibility requirements.

A student who has not received HOPE Scholarship payment prior to Summer term 2011, and meets all other eligibility requirements for HOPE Scholarship, may receive the HOPE Scholarship until seven years after his or her high school graduation date, GED test date, Home Study program completion date or date the student stopped pursuing a diploma.

The seven year period ends on June 30th of the seventh full year following the student's high school graduation date.

**13. I have a bachelor's degree, but I'm not using it and am changing careers. Can I receive the HOPE Scholarship?**

Unfortunately, you are not eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. The HOPE Scholarship is only for undergraduate students who have not earned a prior bachelor's degree. Once you have earned a bachelor's degree, you are not eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. However, you may be eligible for the Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant (GTEG).

**14. What if I have more than 30 attempted hours before I applied for the HOPE Scholarship?**

If you have attempted more than 30 semester hours of college coursework, you must also have at least a 3.00 HOPE GPA at the end of the semester in which you attempted your 60th and/or 90th semester hours to be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship.

**Reminder: HOPE eligibility evaluates all credit hours attempted at the college level, including those attempted at other institutions, whether or not the credit hours transfer to DeVry University.**

**15. Is there a deadline for the HOPE Scholarship application?**

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) allows the institution to set application deadlines for state grants and scholarships. To ensure adequate time for processing applications and meeting GSFC deadlines, DeVry has established the following deadlines for 2011-2012:

**Summer 2011: Friday, October 7, 2011**

**Fall 2011: Friday, January 20, 2012**

**Spring 2012: Friday April 20, 2012**

**You must have a completed DeVry University HOPE Application and GSFAPPS no later than the deadline established for the term for which you are seeking the HOPE Scholarship in order for you to be considered for HOPE that term.**

**16. How long does it take to get a determination of my HOPE Application?**

Once your HOPE Application is received, please allow at least 4 weeks for a status. If you meet the academic requirements, your citizenship and residency status will be review by the Student Finance Department. If all requirements for the HOPE Scholarship are met, you will be awarded with the funds for the term for which you are seeking the scholarship.

If you are denied, you will be notified by postal mail and email of your denial, which will include an explanation as to why you were not eligible for the scholarship. Please make sure you include a valid email address on your HOPE Application.

**17. If I received the HOPE Scholarship from DeVry University for a previous term, do I have to re-apply?**

No, you do not have to apply for the HOPE Scholarship every semester as long as your meet the HOPE GPA requirements and there's no break in enrollment. **Students with a break in enrollment of one or more consecutive semesters or who lost HOPE due to GPA must re-apply through our website at <http://www.atl.devry.edu/georgiahope.html>.**

**18. Can I receive the HOPE Scholarship if I was not eligible when I graduated from high school?**

Yes, after you have attempted 30 semester hours and maintained a 3.00 GPA or higher, you may be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Students must complete the HOPE Adult Learner application through the DeVry web site at <http://www.atl.devry.edu/georgiahope.html>

**19. Do I need all my transcripts from all my prior colleges, although I did not receive transfer credit?**

**Yes.** The HOPE GPA calculation is different from DeVry's cumulative GPA calculation. The GPA calculation for the HOPE Scholarship includes all credit hours attempted at the college level, including those attempted at other institutions whether or not the credit hours transferred to DeVry University. Therefore, in order for HOPE scholarship eligibility to be determined, ALL OFFICIAL transcripts from previously attended colleges must be evaluated by the Registrar. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure all OFFICIAL transcripts are on file at the time of their HOPE application.** Failure to provide ALL OFFICIAL transcript(s) will prevent HOPE eligibility determination.

**20. What if I disagree with my HOPE GPA calculation?**

If you disagree with the Registrar's evaluation of your academic eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship, you are welcome to contact the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) for a second opinion.

You can reach GSFC customer contact center toll-free at 1-800-505-GSFC or (770) 724-9000. Representatives are available Monday - Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

GSFC's mailing address is: 2082 East Exchange Place Tucker, Georgia 30084

**21. How often do I get evaluated for HOPE?**

We are required by the Georgia Student Finance Commission to verify your HOPE Scholarship eligibility at the end of the semesters in which you attempted your **30th, 60th, and 90th credit hours**. These are referred to as "checkpoints." Your GPA must be at least 3.0 each time you reach a checkpoint; otherwise you will lose your HOPE eligibility. There is also an **End-of-Spring Semester Checkpoint** for all HOPE Scholarship recipients. You must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA at the end of each Spring semester in order to remain eligible.

If you lose the HOPE Scholarship at 30 or 60 attempted hours, you can regain the scholarship if you meet eligibility requirements at the next checkpoint. If you do not have a 3.0 GPA at the 90<sup>th</sup> credit hour checkpoint, you can never regain eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship.

**22. What are the HOPE Checkpoints?**

**End-Of-Spring Checkpoints:** This checkpoint applies if you were enrolled in 12 or more hours for at least one of your first three terms at any postsecondary institution you have ever attended and at the end of every Spring term after that.

**Second-Tier:** You must have a 3.00 or higher HOPE GPA at the end of the term in which you have attempted 30 semester or 45 quarter hours to remain eligible until the next checkpoint.

**Third-Tier:** You must have a 3.00 or higher HOPE GPA at the end of the term in which you have attempted 60 semester or 90 quarter hours to remain eligible until the next checkpoint.

**Fourth-Tier:** You must have a 3.00 or higher HOPE GPA at the end of the term in which you have attempted 90 semester or 135 quarter hours to remain eligible until the next checkpoint.

**Students who are not eligible for HOPE after attempting 90 credit hours are permanently ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship.**

**23. Will the HOPE Scholarship cover my entire program?**

Not necessarily. There are limits to the HOPE Scholarship: Attempted-Hours limit and Paid-Hour limit. Once a student reaches the Attempted-Hours limit, the Combined Paid-Hours limit, or Seven year expiration he or she is no longer eligible for the HOPE Scholarship.

**Attempted-Hours limit:** For the purpose of HOPE GPA calculation, **ALL** credit hours attempted at the college level are counted, including those assigned "W", "WP" or "WF" grades as well as attempted hours at other institutions whether or not the credit hours transfer to DeVry University. **NOTE: Your HOPE Attempted hours may be different from your Attempted Hours at DeVry University. You cannot exceed 127 attempted credit hours from all institutions combined**

**Paid-Hours limit:** All hours for which students received payment from Accel, HOPE Grant (Summer 2003 forward), and the HOPE Scholarship program are included in calculating the total Combined Paid hours. Students are eligible for a combined payment for a maximum of 127 semester hours, unless they are enrolled in specific programs that require more than 127 semester hours for graduation. For example, (EET) Electronics Engineering Technology, (CET) Computer Engineering Technology, (BET) Biomedical Technology, require more than 127 semester hours for graduation. In that case, students are eligible for a maximum of 150 semester hours **OR** the number of semester hours required for graduation, whichever is less.

**Seven Year Expiration of Eligibility date:** Click [here](#) for more information. A student who has received HOPE Scholarship payment prior to Summer term 2011, may receive the HOPE Scholarship until June 30, 2015, as long as the student continues to meet all other eligibility requirements.

A student who has not received HOPE Scholarship payment prior to Summer term 2011, and meets all other eligibility requirements for HOPE Scholarship, may receive the HOPE Scholarship until seven years after his or her high school graduation date, GED test date, Home Study program completion date or date the student stopped pursuing a diploma.

**24. Are GED recipients eligible?**

GED students enrolled in a degree-seeking program are eligible for the HOPE Scholarship once they have attempted their FIRST 30 semester or 45 quarter hours of study with a minimum 3.00 cumulative grade point average. The entry points are based on all degree credit attempted and coursework converted to degree credit since the student earned their GED.