
Financial Aid 101:

Federal and State Aid

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GSFC | Georgia Student
Finance Commission

GAfutures.org

Explore. Plan. Succeed.

Agenda

- Define Financial Aid
- Types of aid
- Federal Programs
- Georgia's Financial Aid Programs
- Application Process - FAFSA
- Financial Aid Package

Financial Aid

Financial Aid

- Helps pay for educational expenses
 - Direct and Indirect Costs
- Costs of Attendance (COA)



Direct and Indirect Costs

- Direct Costs
 - Tuition and fees
 - On-campus housing
 - Meal plan
 - Parking permits
- Indirect Costs
 - Books
 - Rent for off-campus housing
 - School supplies
 - Groceries



Cost of Attendance (COA)

- Tuition and fees payable to the institution
- Books and supplies
- Room + board and meal plans
- Personal costs
- Transportation to and from the institution



Types of Financial Aid

Financial Aid Types and Sources

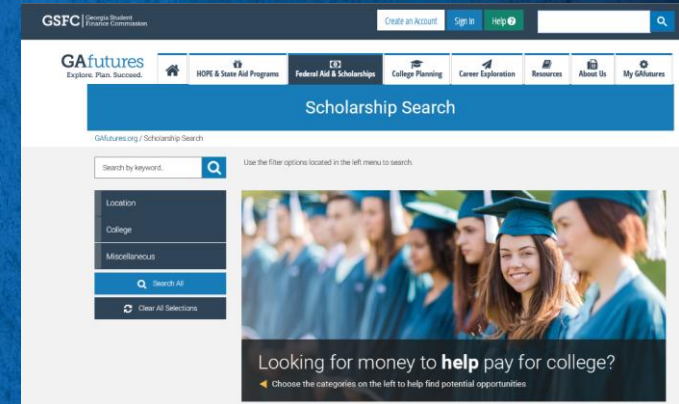
- Forms of Financial Aid:
 - Scholarships
 - Grants
 - Loans
 - Work-study programs
- Sources of Financial Aid:
 - Federal and state government
 - Colleges and universities
 - Private foundations
 - Professional and service organizations
 - Employers and private companies



GAfutures Scholarship Search

Scholarship Search Tips

- Start search early
- Don't stop at one, two, or three
- Be creative
 - Consider family, hobbies, career interests, medical history, or college major
- Look for scholarships even after beginning college
- **DO NOT PAY ANYONE TO HELP FIND OR APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!**



Federal Aid Programs

How to Get Federal Student Aid

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be a high school graduate or GED recipient
- Be enrolled in an eligible degree/certificate program
- Have a valid Social Security number
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress



Federal Financial Aid Programs

Grants

- Pell Grant
 - Undergraduate student with financial need
 - Maximum amount for 2024-2025 is \$7,395
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
 - Undergraduate student with exceptional financial need
 - Pell Grant recipients receive priority
 - Up to \$4,000

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Grants

- TEACH Grant

- Undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student
- Enrolled in coursework to begin a career in teaching
- Must agree to serve as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students
- Up to \$4,000; becomes a loan if you do not teach as required

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Grants

- Federal Work Study Program
 - Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student
 - Earn at least minimum wage
 - On-campus positions
 - Campus tour guide
 - Library
 - Sporting events
 - Office assistant



Federal Financial Aid Programs

Federal Direct Loans

- Direct Subsidized Loan
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Federal PLUS Loan – for parents of dependent undergraduate students
- Grad PLUS Loan – for graduate and professional students

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Direct Subsidized Loans

- Direct Subsidized Loan
 - Available to undergraduate students with financial need
 - Interest is paid by the government while enrolled (at least half time)
 - Amount determined by institution and based on COA, financial need, other aid and loan limits
 - Current interest rate 6.53% (undergraduate)

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- Direct Unsubsidized Loan
 - Available to undergraduate/graduate students
 - Institution determines the amount based on COA, other financial aid awarded, and loan limits
 - Student responsible for paying the interest
 - Can choose to defer interest while enrolled at least half time, but interest will be added to the principal amount of loan
 - Current interest rate 6.53% (undergraduate)
 - Current interest rate 8.08% (graduate/professional)

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Direct Plus Loans

- Parent PLUS loan for a parent of dependent
 - Only one parent will be the borrower
 - Can have more than one loan for additional dependent student
- Grad PLUS loan for graduate or professional student
- Approval based on credit history
- Maximum amount is COA minus any other financial aid awarded
- Current interest rate is 9.08%

Federal Loan Program Limits

2024-2025 Academic Year

Initial Loan Amount for Dependent Students whose Parents are Eligible for a PLUS Loan	Base	Additional Unsubsidized	Annual Maximum Amount
Freshmen	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
Junior/Senior	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500

Independent Students and Dependent Students whose Parents were Denied a PLUS Loan	Base	Additional Unsubsidized	Annual Maximum Amount
Freshmen	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
Junior/Senior	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

Georgia's Financial Aid Programs

Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally Program

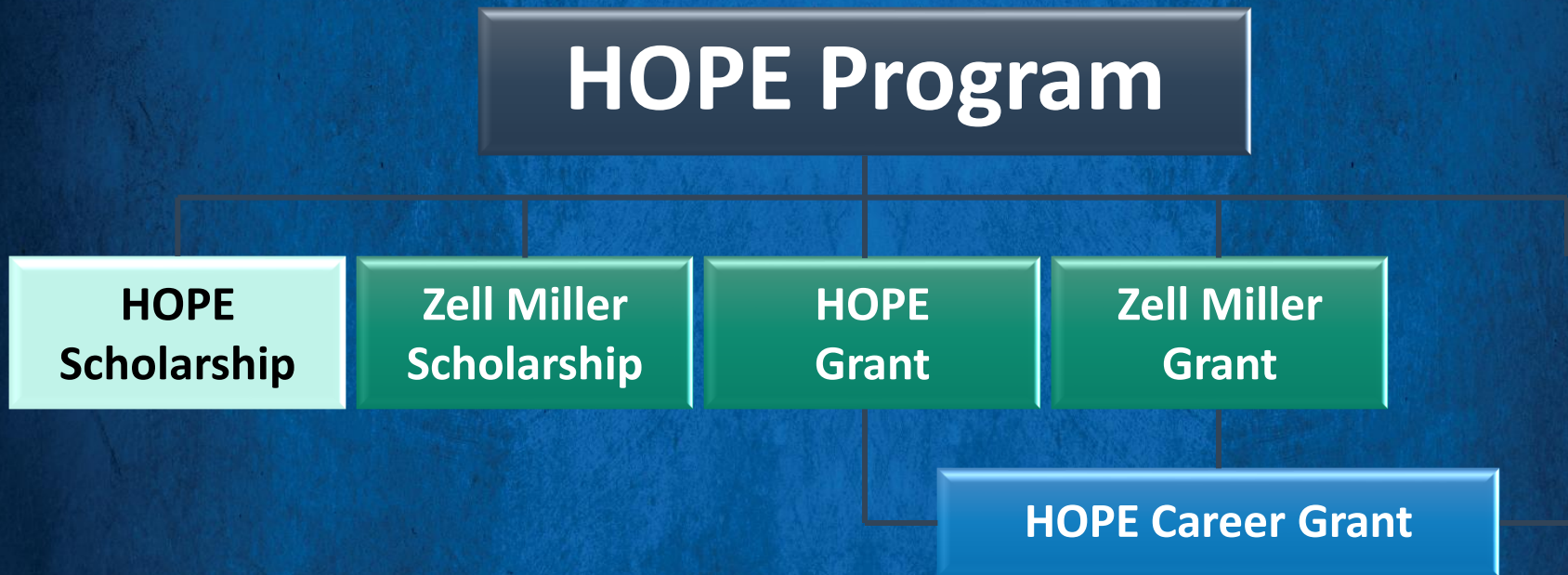


HOPE Program

- General Eligibility Requirements
 - Be a legal resident of Georgia
 - Be registered with the Selective Service, if required
 - Be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990
 - Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements
 - Be in good standing on all student loans and other financial aid programs
 - Attend an eligible postsecondary institution
 - Must be working toward the first undergraduate program



HOPE Scholarship



HOPE Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

- Students must pursue an associate or bachelor's degree
- Graduate with a 3.0 high school HOPE GPA
 - After high school graduation, may also be earned in college
- 4 academically rigorous course credits



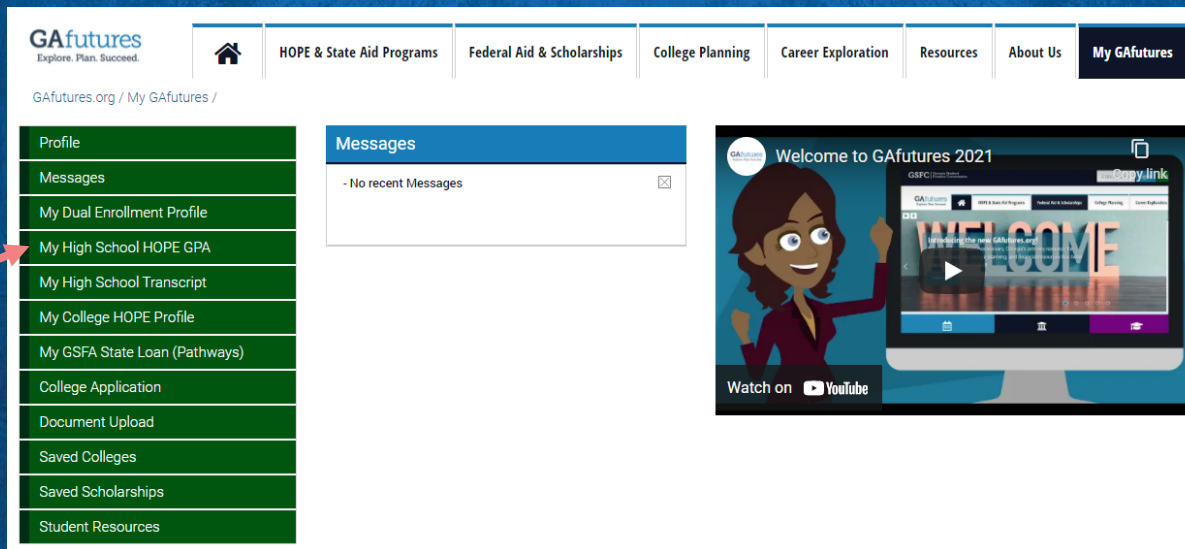
Academically Rigorous Courses

- Courses must be on Academic Rigor Course List. This includes:
 - Advanced Placement (AP)
 - International Baccalaureate (IB)
 - Dual Enrollment in degree level core subjects
 - Advanced math
 - Advanced science
 - Foreign language II or higher



My High School HOPE GPA

- ONLY calculated by GSFC
- Only core courses from 9th through 12th grade
- Transcripts are uploaded by the high school
- 4 academically rigorous course credits
- Log into GAfutures.org account to access HOPE GPA



The screenshot shows the GAfutures.org website interface. The top navigation bar includes the GAfutures logo and several menu items: Home, HOPE & State Aid Programs, Federal Aid & Scholarships, College Planning, Career Exploration, Resources, About Us, and My GAfutures. Below the navigation bar, the user is logged in as 'GAfutures.org / My GAfutures /'. The left sidebar contains a list of options: Profile, Messages, My Dual Enrollment Profile, My High School HOPE GPA (highlighted with a red arrow), My High School Transcript, My College HOPE Profile, My GSFA State Loan (Pathways), College Application, Document Upload, Saved Colleges, Saved Scholarships, and Student Resources. The main content area shows a 'Messages' section with '- No recent Messages' and a video player titled 'Welcome to GAfutures 2021' with a play button and 'Watch on YouTube' text.

My High School HOPE GPA

The HOPE GPA Calculation is used for HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility upon graduating high school.

Student Information

Report Type: Preliminary

Name: SSN: XXX-XX-

Student ID:

As of the most recent transcript data received at GSFC:

Based on your preliminary GPA calculation, you may be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship. A final GPA will be calculated when the high school submits your final transcript. If you have a minimum 3.7 calculated GPA and required ACT or SAT scores at the time of high school graduation, you may be academically eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship.

Date High School Submitted Transcript Record:

Factors Determining Your Scholarship Eligibility

The following information is based on the most recent transcript record provided by your high school:

HOPE Calculated GPA: 3.789

Academic Rigor Credits earned (4 credits are required by High School Graduation): 4

Valedictorian: No

Salutatorian: No

To qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarship, acceptable SAT or ACT scores must have been earned prior to high school graduation and submitted to GSFC. To be eligible you must have at least a 26 composite score on the ACT or have at least a 1200 for Math and Reading on the SAT on one date.

Standardized test score report(s) received:

Date:	Type:	Score:
No test scores currently available.		

Contact your high school with questions about your transcript record or grades and courses.

Your chosen college or university will determine final eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship.

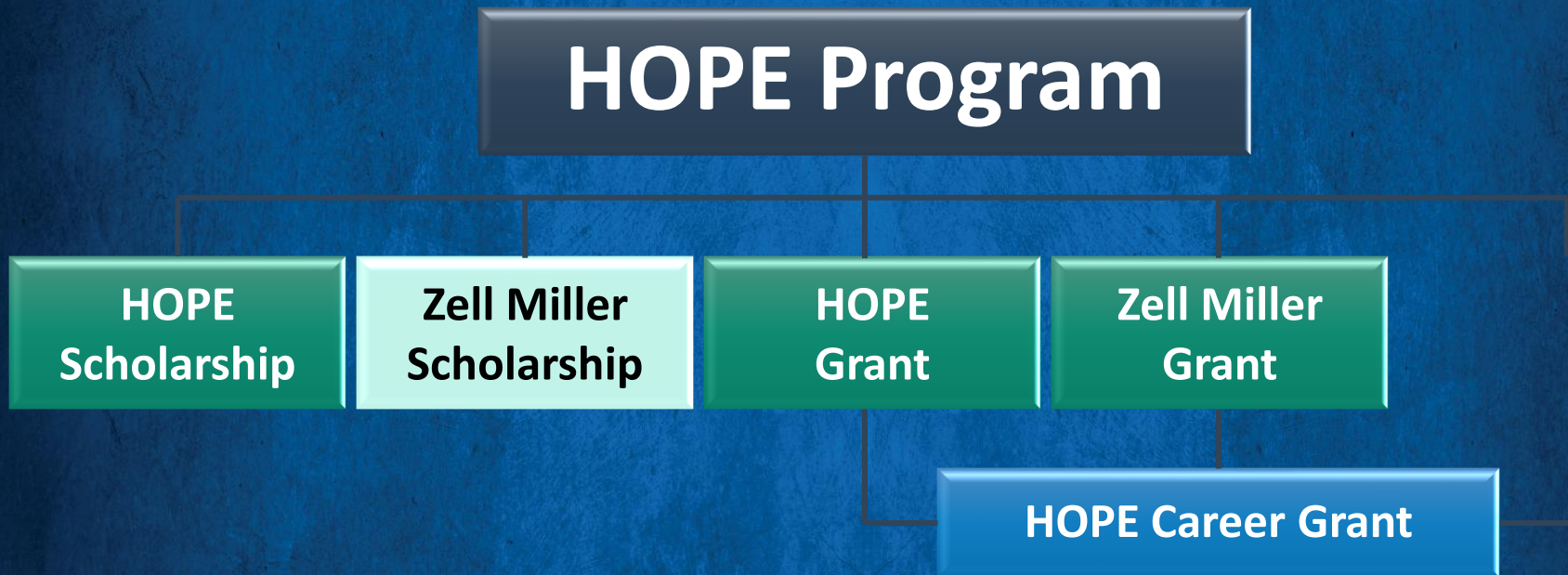
[View Your Detailed GPA Report](#)

Maintaining the HOPE Scholarship

- Students must maintain 3.0 college HOPE GPA at all checkpoints including:
 - End of every Spring semester/quarter
 - 30/45 attempted semester/quarter hours
 - 60/90 attempted semester/quarter hours
 - 90/135 attempted semester/quarter hours
 - Three-Term Checkpoint, if enrolled less than full-time for first three semesters/quarters



Zell Miller Scholarship



Eligibility Requirements

Rigor Requirements and one of the following:

Designated valedictorian or salutatorian

AND

- Meet minimum HOPE eligibility requirements



- Minimum 3.7 high school HOPE GPA, as calculated by GSFC, in core curriculum courses

AND

- 1200 SAT total test score

OR

- 25 ACT composite score

Maintaining the Zell Miller Scholarship

- Students must maintain 3.3 college HOPE GPA at following checkpoints:
 - End of every Spring semester/quarter
 - 30/45 attempted semester/quarter hours
 - 60/90 attempted semester/quarter hours
 - 90/135 attempted semester/quarter hours
 - Three-Term Checkpoint, if enrolled less than full-time for first three semesters/quarters

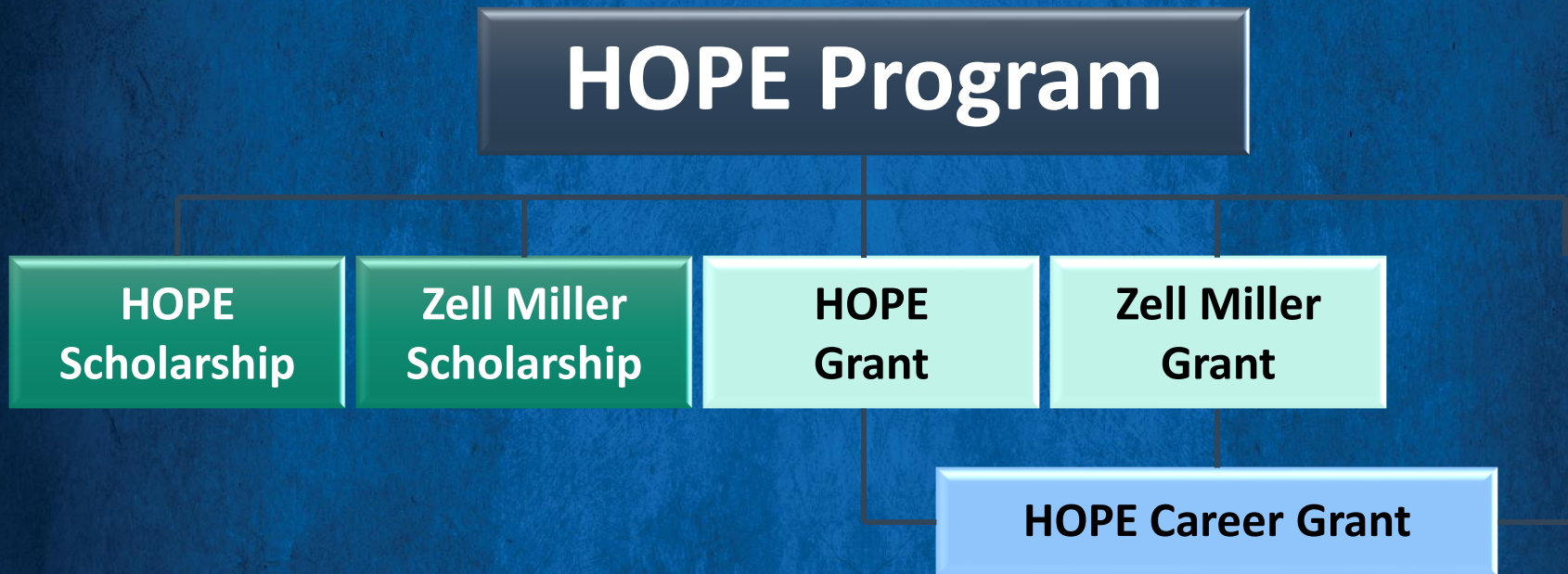


HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarships

- Students lose eligibility due to one of the following:
 - GPA requirement not met (3.0 for HOPE; 3.3 for Zell Miller)
 - Reaching maximum attempted hours
 - 127 semester
 - 190 quarter
 - Failing to use funds within ten years of high school graduation or equivalent
 - Exception for active duty military service in United States Armed Forces
 - Received bachelor's or first professional degree



Grants



HOPE Grant

- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Enrolled in certificate or diploma program
 - High school diploma/GED not required
 - High school GPA and/or test scores not considered



Maintaining the HOPE Grant

- Students must maintain a 2.0 college cumulative GPA at the following checkpoints:
 - 30 HOPE Grant paid semester hours
 - 60 HOPE Grant paid semester credit hours
- Maximum 63 paid semester hours



Zell Miller Grant

- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Minimum 3.5 college cumulative GPA
 - Checkpoints occur at the end of every term of enrollment
 - Must be a HOPE Grant recipient initially
 - May be paid retroactively for first term
 - Maximum 63 combined paid hours Zell Miller and HOPE Grants



Award Amounts

	HOPE Scholarship	Zell Miller Scholarship
Public Institutions	portion of tuition	full standard tuition
Private Institutions Full-time	\$2,496 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,664 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$2,985 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$2,034 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)

	HOPE Grant	Zell Miller Grant
Public Institutions	portion of tuition	full standard tuition

HOPE Career Grant

- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant recipients eligible for HOPE Career Grant

- Movie Production and Set Design
- Computer Programming
- Computer Technology
- Practical Nursing
- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Welding and Joining Technology
- Precision Manufacturing
- Certified Engineer Technician
- Commercial Truck Driving
- Health Sciences
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Technology
- Automotive
- Aviation
- Construction
- Electrical Line Worker
- Logistics
- Law Enforcement

Other State Programs

- Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan
 - Provides tuition assistance to eligible members of the Georgia National Guard for undergraduate and graduate programs; member agrees to service repayment
- Public Safety Memorial Grant
 - Provides assistance to the dependent children of Georgia public safety officers who were permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty
- Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)
 - Provides grant assistance toward educational costs to Georgia residents enrolled full-time at an eligible private college or university

Other State Programs

- Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship
- HERO Scholarship
- REACH Scholarship (scholars selected during middle school)
- University of North Georgia Military Scholarship
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers

Application and Process



GAfutures
Explore. Plan. Succeed.

HOPE & State Aid Programs Federal Aid & Scholarships College Planning Career Exploration Resources About Us My GAfutures

Postsecondary Functions **High School Functions** User Info & Messages Admin Functions

GAfutures.org / My GAfutures / Application / GSFAPP

A R Johnson High School | Change?

GSFAPP

Welcome to the Georgia Student Finance Application (GSFAPP)!

The GSFAPP is a quick and secure application to apply for:

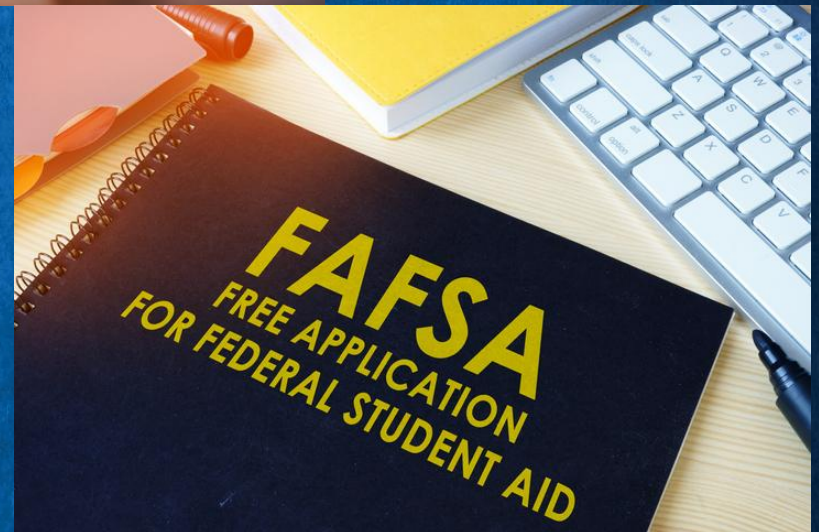
- HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship
- HOPE and Zell Miller Grant
- Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant (GTEG)
- IPSE Grant

Before you begin, review your GAfutures Profile to make sure your name, date of birth, and social security number are correct. This data is populated into your GSFAPP and must be correct, as you cannot change them on the application.

Male applicants must meet the Selective Service Requirement.
Georgia state law requires Selective Service registration for all males 18 years of age and older in order to qualify for state financial aid (including HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant and GTEG). OSFC verifies Selective Service registration as part of the application process.
You should complete your registration before starting the GSFAPP. Registering for Selective Service only takes a few minutes. To register or check your registration visit: www.SSS.gov
More information can be found at the GAfutures Selective Service Registration page.

- Once you submit your GSFAPP, a confirmation page will display with your application number. Your GSFAPP information will be shared with your college's Financial Aid Office so your eligibility for the state programs may be determined. The Financial Aid Office may require documentation to determine eligibility. Keep in mind: Colleges tend to contact applicants and students through their website portal or by the email assigned to you by the college.

[Start Application](#)



The Georgia Student Finance Application (GSFAPP)



- Determine eligibility for state aid **only**
- One time application
- GAfutures account

[GAfutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org)

GA State Aid

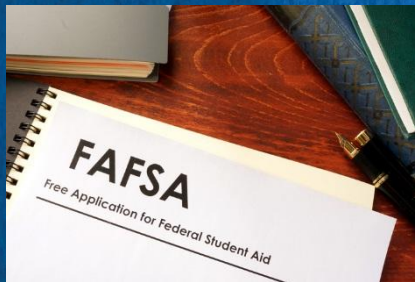
HOPE Eligible Institution



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



Studentaid.gov



- Renew annually
- Determines eligibility for federal and state aid
- List up to 20 institutions
- Will be available on December 1st 2024

Federal Aid



GA State Aid



HOPE Eligible Institution



Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- First step in financial aid search
- Application is free
- Begin by creating FSA ID
 - Use to sign your FAFSA
 - If dependent student, parent will also need an FSA ID
- Find a FAFSA Completion event for help
 - Check with school counselor for financial aid nights or FAFSA workshops
 - Visit Gafutures.org for events nearby
- Do not pay anyone to complete FAFSA

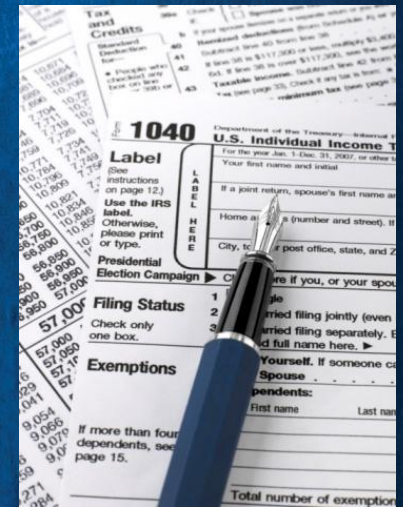


Steps to Creating an FSA ID

- Go to studentaid.gov and click the link to create an FSA ID
- Create a username and password, and enter email
- Enter demographic information and select challenge questions and answers
- Review information and read and accept the terms and conditions
- Confirm cell number and email address by using the secure code
- For additional help, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid

What Is Needed to Complete the FAFSA

- Social Security number (*Alien Registration Number, if not a U.S. citizen*)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned
- Bank statements and investment records (*if applicable*)
- Records of untaxed income (*if applicable*)
- An FSA ID to sign electronically



Completing the FAFSA

An official website of the United States government. Help Center Submit a Complaint English | Español

FederalStudentAid AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAFSA® Form ▾ Loans and Grants ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

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A Better 2024–25 FAFSA® Form

The 2024–25 FAFSA form is now available. We've started sending submitted applications to colleges and states. [Learn more about 2024–25 FAFSA updates.](#)

2024–25 FAFSA® Form

[Start New Form](#) [Access Existing Form](#)

Need to access last year's form? [Edit a 2023–24 FAFSA Form](#)

Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In

Some states and colleges use information from the FAFSA form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

School Year State of Residence

[Find Deadlines](#)

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)

www.studentaid.gov website

When to Submit the FAFSA

FAFSA 2024-2025

If attending:

Fall 2024

Spring 2025

Summer 2025

Use 2022 tax returns

Available
December 31st 2023

FAFSA 2025 - 2026

If attending:

Fall 2025

Spring 2026

Summer 2026

Use 2023 tax returns

Available
December 1st 2024

Comparing Financial Aid Packages

Comparing Financial Aid Packages

- To receive a Financial Aid Package, a student must:
 - List the institution on the FAFSA
 - Complete verification process, if selected
 - Apply for admission
 - And at some institutions, be accepted
- Each institution is different. For more information, check with the Institution's financial aid office.

Financial Aid Award Offers

- Financial aid awards will all have basically the same information included:
 - How much it will cost to attend the institution for the year
 - The amount of financial aid the institution is providing
 - The amount family is expected to contribute
 - Any additional need to be funded through other sources

The Best Order to Accept Aid

1. Scholarships and Grants

- Understand all the conditions
- Make sure it is truly free

2. Work Study

- Doesn't have to be paid back
- Money is paid through a paycheck based on hours worked
- Consider class schedule and study time

3. Federal Student Loans

- Must be paid back with interest
- Consider a subsidized loan first – interest doesn't accrue until repayment

4. State Government or College Loans

- Must be paid back with interest
- Understand all the conditions

5. Private Loans

- Must be paid back with interest
- Usually higher interest and less favorable terms
- Understand all the conditions



Additional Resources

Additional Resources

- GAfutures.org
- GSFC.org
- StudentAid.gov
 - Prepare for College
 - Complete FAFSA
 - Types of Aid
 - Who Gets Aid
 - Apply for Aid
 - Repay Your Loans

	CHATTAHOOCHEE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$ 3,540	\$ 6,948	\$ 5,610
Books & Supplies/Living Expenses (Food & Housing)	\$ 11,484	\$ 20,670	\$ 22,349
Annual Cost of Attendance	\$ 15,024	\$ 27,618	\$ 27,959
HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarship	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,562	\$ 5,464
HOPE & Zell Miller Grant	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
HOPE Career Grant	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average Institutional Aid	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Your Next Steps

- Create account at **GAfutures.org**
- Check your HOPE GPA to see if you are on track to be eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship
- **FREE** Apply to College Month for Georgia is in **NOVEMBER**
- Be on the lookout for your student's GA MATCH Letter
- Seniors: Complete the FAFSA beginning December 1st



Contact Me!



404-706-1550



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aroberts.gsfc

gafutures

Be Social

