

**Academic Information**

**Credits:** In order to be promoted each year, you will need:

	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Graduation
Class of 2025 and beyond	5	11	18	26

**Honor Graduate Policy:** Students earning a simple GPA of 3.75 or above (without rounding) will receive the Honor Graduate distinction. In addition, Distinguished Honor Graduates must take 4 Core AP/ Core Dual Enrollment courses, earn a score of 3 or higher on one AP test by the end of your junior year, and have 20 As in designated areas. **NEW HONOR POLICY FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 2019 AND BEYOND – PLEASE SEE POLICY ON HANDOUT AND ON THS GUIDANCE WEBSITE.**

**Grade Point Average**

- **Simple:** A simple GPA is figured each semester by giving you 4 points for each A you make, 3 points for Bs, 2 points for Cs and zero points for Fs. Those points are added together and then divided by the number of classes. That average is then your **GPA** for courses taken for that year. We figure a **cumulative GPA** each **year** by using this system to average **all** the courses you have taken to that point in your time at THS.
- **Weighted:** A weighted GPA is used for ranking purposes. It awards higher point values to AP and Dual Enrollment classes. In this GPA calculation, core AP grades are worth 6 for an A, 5 for a B, and 4 for a C. Core Dual Enrollment grades are worth 5 for an A, 4 for a B, and 3 for a C.
- **HOPE:** The HOPE GPA is calculated much like the simple GPA, but only core class (English, math, social studies, science, and foreign language) grades are used in the calculation. The HOPE GPA is calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission and can only be found on your GAfutures account. It is used to determine if you qualify for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.

**High School Transcript**

A transcript is a document detailing a student's courses, grades, and credits for each year of high school. All colleges and most scholarship programs, request that an *official* transcript be submitted with each application.

**Must Visit Websites for Career and College Information**

**www.GAfutures.org** – one stop website to help students compare Georgia colleges, apply to college and learn about financial aid. You need to create an account and save the username and password.

**ACCUPLACER:** may be required for dual enrollment and entrance to two year and technical colleges. Will be given at THS in March 2025. To sign up, complete the form at [bit.ly/THSACCU](http://bit.ly/THSACCU) by February 28, 2026.

**Website for practice tests:** [www.accuplacer.org](http://www.accuplacer.org)

**SAT or ACT:** Take at least once, if not twice, in your **junior** year and again at the **FIRST** administration of your senior year, preferably after you have taken Algebra II. ACT and SAT scores are also used by colleges when determining whether or not to accept an applicant. Some two-year colleges do not require an ACT or SAT score. **Websites for practice tests:** [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat), or [app.masteryprep.com](http://app.masteryprep.com)

**PSAT/NMSQT®**

All sophomores will take the PSAT/NMSQT, which will be given in October. Use your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report and [www.collegeboard.com/psatextra](http://www.collegeboard.com/psatextra) to prepare for the SAT.

## **Financial Aid**

**HOPE Scholarship** – 3.0 GPA (core classes only) required at graduation, 4 rigor courses.

**Zell Miller Scholarship** – 3.7 core GPA, 4 rigor courses, 1200 SAT or 26 ACT composite.

**HOPE Grant** – For two year colleges offering certificate or diploma programs. No minimum GPA, but must maintain a 2.0 while in technical college.

**fastweb.com** – free scholarship search and automatic email updates

## **Information about HOPE rigor and to locate your HOPE GPA please visit [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)**

**Dual Enrollment:** Earn college credit while in high school. Open to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students for programs of study and 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students for core courses. You must schedule a meeting with your counselor to participate in dual enrollment.

## **Get Involved and start a Resume!**

Keep a list of your awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.

## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**

If you don't have the GPA, the core courses, or the test scores, you don't play sports in college. Don't let grades hold you back. 2.3 is the necessary core GPA. [Web3.NCAA.org](http://Web3.NCAA.org)

**MAKE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP FOR REMIND...TEXT 81010 WITH THE MESSAGE**

	<b>A-F (Pleasants)</b>	<b>G-N (Gill)</b>	<b>O-Z (Benefield)</b>
<b>Class of 2028 (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	@ths2028a-f	@ths2028g-n	@ths2028o-z
<b>Class of 2029 (9<sup>th</sup>)</b>	@ths2029a-f	@ths2029g-n	@ths2029o-z

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ENTERING FALL 2019+

<b>Courses</b>	
<b>ENGLISH 4 units</b>	<p>Must include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature/Comp I</li> <li>• Literature/Comp II (EOC) (starting 25-26) or equivalent</li> </ul> <p>Two additional from World Literature, Tenth Literature, American Lit, Advanced Composition, AP Language, AP Literature, ENG 1101/1102</p>
<b>MATH 4 units</b>	<p>Must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra: Concepts and Connections (C&amp;C) or Honors Algebra (EOC)</li> <li>• Geometry: C&amp;C or Honors Geometry C&amp;C</li> <li>• Advanced Algebra: C&amp;C or Honors Advanced Algebra C&amp;C</li> <li>• One from: Foundations of Algebra (will not meet college entrance requirements), Advanced Math for Decision Making, GSE Accelerated Pre-Calculus, MATH 1111/1113, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics, or AP Calculus</li> </ul>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES 3 units</b>	<p>Must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History</li> <li>• Amer. Govt. or , AP U.S. Government</li> <li>• U.S. History (EOC) or AP U.S. History (EOC)</li> <li>• Economics</li> </ul>
<b>SCIENCE 4 units</b>	<p>Must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology (EOC)</li> <li>• Physical Science or Physics</li> <li>• Chemistry or Earth Systems or Environmental Science</li> </ul> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Science from above or from the following list: AP science course (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science), Anatomy/Physiology, Forensics, or CTAE course (see list-can take any year)</p>
<b>PATHWAY - CTAE/FOREIGN/ LANGUAGE/FINE ARTS** 3 UNITS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTAE</li> <li>• Advanced Academic</li> <li>• Fine Arts</li> <li>• World Language</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH/PER FITNESS 1 UNIT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Personal Fitness</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Units JROTC</li> </ul>
<b>FINE ARTS 1 UNIT</b>	Choose from Art, Drama, Drama Appreciation, Music Appreciation, Chorus, Band, Guitar
<b>6 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b>	
<p><b>TOTAL</b></p> <p><b>26 UNITS (Class of 2025 and beyond)</b></p>	

- Pathways require a concentration of at least 3 classes in a specific area (CTAE, Foreign Language, Fine Arts)
- Post-Secondary Option hours are accepted based on equivalent Carnegie Units.
- \*\*Students planning to enter into a University System of Georgia institution or other post-secondary institution must take 2 units of the same foreign language.
- EOC=End of Course Test – counts 20% of final class average

## **GPA Considerations:**

**Simple GPA:** average of every class taken based on 4.0 scale. Used to determine Honor Graduate Status (3.75 simple).

**Weighted GPA:** average of every class taken based on awarding Honor points for AP and Dual Enrollment classes. Used to determine class rank.

**HOPE GPA:** average of every core class taken based on 4.0 scale. Used to determine if you qualify for HOPE (3.0) or Zell Miller Scholarship (3.7 plus 26 on ACT or 1200 on SAT). Student also has to have taken at least 4 rigor courses. This GPA is only found on gafutures.org

### **Honor Graduate:**

- Simple 3.75 GPA (no rounding) at conclusion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester of senior year

### **Distinguished Honor Graduate:**

- Simple 3.75 GPA (no rounding) at conclusion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester of senior year
- Score of 3 or better on at least one AP exam before start of senior year
- At least 4 AP and/or Dual Enrollment core classes on transcript
- At least 20 A's earned in the following areas (increasing rigor):
  - 4 ELA
  - 4 Math
  - 4 Science
  - 3 Social Studies
  - 2 Foreign Language
  - 3 from Fine Arts, Health/Physical Education, CTAE, additional Foreign Language, or additional AP core course

### **Valedictorian/Salutatorian**

- Distinguished Honor Graduate AND
- Taken at least one AP class and exam in each of the following:
  - English
  - Math
  - Science
  - Social Studies
- Final class rank is based on highest and second highest weighted GPA
- Member of the graduating class cohort

## **SELECTION FOR VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES, AND HONOR GRADUATES FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023 AND BEYOND**

*For the graduating class of 2023 and beyond, the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates are those who have demonstrated the highest level of performance in all academic content areas in the most rigorous courses of study. These honors represent the best performance of the local high school graduating class; therefore, students must be enrolled in the Troup County School System for a minimum of four (4) semesters prior to their graduation date to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Students receiving Honor Graduate status represent those who have maintained a high simple grade point average in their desired course of study. Selection of Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Distinguished Honor Graduates, and Honor Graduates will be based on the criteria described below.*

### **CLASS RANK DETERMINATION:**

Class rank will be based on weighted GPA and used to determine the system's Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Transcript grades and grades that are posted to the report card at the end of the third nine weeks of the senior year will be used to calculate class rank. Class rank of students will be established using a four point scale where four (4) points are given for an A, three (3) points for a B, and two (2) points for a C for all classes, each receiving equal weighting with the exception of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses will carry honor weights of six (6) points for an A, five (5) points for a B, and four (4) points for a C. Dual enrollment in academic classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) will carry honor weights of five (5) points for an A, four (4) points for a B, and three (3) points for a C.

Per the Georgia Student Finance Commission, effective for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond, the Dual Enrollment program is subject to a Funding Cap. The Funding Cap is a maximum amount of financial assistance for tuition paid by the Dual Enrollment funding program for terms of enrollment. Only Dual Enrollment credit earned within the Funding Cap will be included in class rank and Valedictorian and Salutatorian calculations.

### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF HONOR GRADUATES OF EACH HIGH SCHOOL:**

Honor Graduates will be determined using a simple GPA calculation at the conclusion of the first semester of the senior year. Students earning a simple GPA of 3.75 or above (without rounding) will receive the Honor Graduate distinction. Only students having attained the status of Honor Graduate will be considered for Distinguished Honor status. Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian will be determined at the conclusion of the third nine weeks of the senior year. The grade that is received in the registrar's office on this date is the grade that will be used in determining Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian.

In order to attain the title of Distinguished Honor Graduate, the student must first receive an A in the categories using any combination of half or whole credits. The combination must be earned in an increasingly rigorous course of study.

- Four (4) units of mathematics
- Four (4) units of English
- Four (4) units of science
- Three (3) units of social studies
- Two (2) units of foreign language
- Three (3) units of fine arts; health and/or physical education; career, technical, agricultural education; or an additional foreign language unit(s).

Additionally, Distinguished Honor Graduates must take a minimum of four (4) Advanced Placement/**IB** and/or dual enrollment courses in academic classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) while enrolled in high school, and earn a score of 3 or above on at least one (1) AP test **or 4 or better on at least one (1) IB test** before the beginning of their senior year.

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE VALEDICTORIAN:

- The Valedictorian must be a member of the graduating class cohort.
- The Valedictorian must be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- The Distinguished Honor Graduate who has taken one or more AP/IB class(es) in each of the four academic areas (ELA, math, science, social studies), taken at least one AP/IB exam in each academic area, and who has the highest weighted GPA will be the Valedictorian.
- The Valedictorian will be awarded the highest class rank in the graduating class.
- In the event where a school has no Distinguished Honor Graduate(s), the Valedictorian will be the student with the highest weighted GPA, and by default will be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- In the event of a tie for Valedictorian, the honoree will be the student with the highest simple GPA on a 100 point scale calculated to four decimal places.
- In the event there is still a tie: the student with the highest number of Advanced Placement test scores earning a 3 or higher will be Valedictorian.

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE SALUTATORIAN:

- The Salutatorian must be a member of the graduating class cohort.
- The Salutatorian must be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- The Distinguished Honor Graduate who has taken one or more AP/IB class(es) in each of the four academic areas (ELA, math, science, social studies), taken at least one AP/IB exam in each academic area, and who has the second highest weighted GPA will be the Salutatorian.
- The Salutatorian will be awarded the second highest class rank in the graduating class.
- In the event where a school has no Distinguished Honor Graduate(s), the Salutatorian will be the student with the second highest weighted GPA, and by default will be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- In the event of a tie for Salutatorian, the honoree will be the student with the second highest simple GPA on a 100 point scale calculated to four decimal places.
- In the event there is still a tie: the student with the highest number of Advanced Placement test scores earning a 3 or higher will be Salutatorian.

### TRANSFER CREDITS

- For the determination of Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian, only those transfer credits which are equivalent to those available to all TCSS students will be considered.
- For the determination of Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian, only courses approved by TCSS will be considered. Self-funded courses will not be utilized for honors distinctions.

### PROCEDURES FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, AND DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES:

- Written explanation of selection process will be provided to all high school students in the student handbook each fall.
- Each high school principal will provide the Director of Secondary Education with information and documentation regarding the candidates for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates for review prior to the April Board of Education meeting. Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates will be announced at the April Board of Education meeting.

# HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships

## Academic Eligibility from High School

### HOPE Scholarship

- Minimum 3.0 HOPE GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, math, science, foreign language, social science)
- \*Rigor requirements

### Zell Miller Scholarship

\*Rigor requirements and one of the following:

Designated valedictorian or salutatorian	OR	Minimum 3.7 HOPE GPA as calculated by GSFC in core curriculum courses <b>AND</b> total test score of 1200 SAT on a single national administration or composite test score of 26 ACT on a single national or state/district administration earned by graduation date
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\*Academic Rigor courses are determined by the course number. Refer to the full Academic Rigor Course List on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org).

### What are Rigor Requirements?

**Rigor courses:** Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Foreign Language, Advanced Placement (AP) in core subjects, International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, degree-level Dual Credit Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at an eligible postsecondary institution.

Students graduating from high school must earn four full credits from the above list.

## Award Amounts

	HOPE Scholarship*	Zell Miller Scholarship*
<b>Public Institution</b>	Portion of standard tuition†	Full standard tuition†
<b>Private Institution Full-time</b>	\$2,282 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,523 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$2,977 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$2,029 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)
<b>Private Institution Half-time</b>	\$1,141 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$762 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$1,489 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,015 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)

\*Complete award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org). †Up to 15 credit hours.

## Maintaining

### HOPE Scholarship

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 calculated HOPE GPA\* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's calculated HOPE GPA falls below a 3.0, they will lose the HOPE Scholarship and will only be eligible to regain it once.

### Zell Miller Scholarship

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.3 calculated HOPE GPA\* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's calculated HOPE GPA falls below a 3.3, they will lose the Zell Miller Scholarship but may still be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Students can regain the Zell Miller Scholarship only once.

\*Calculated HOPE GPA refers to all attempted hours after high school graduation. Approved postsecondary STEM courses taken fall 2018 and later receive .5 weight to grade B, C or D. Approved courses can be found at [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org). STEM courses taken during high school are not given the STEM weight for postsecondary GPA calculation.

## Losing Eligibility

A student will lose eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship and the Zell Miller Scholarship due to one of the following:

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum attempted and/or paid hours reached (127 semester/190 quarter)
- Funds not used within ten years of high school graduation or equivalent
- Bachelor's degree received
- On the second loss, a student becomes permanently ineligible

# HOPE Grant

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## Academic Eligibility

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a participating University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school

## Award Amount

- Portion of standard tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

## Maintaining

- Minimum 2.0 calculated HOPE Grant GPA or higher at designated checkpoints (30/60 paid semester hours)
- Only eligible to regain the HOPE Grant once

## Losing Eligibility

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester)
- Bachelor's degree received

# Zell Miller Grant

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## Academic Eligibility

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a participating University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- First term awarded retroactively after earning a minimum 3.5 or higher calculated HOPE Grant GPA

## Award Amount

- Full standard rate of tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

## Maintaining

- Minimum 3.5 calculated HOPE Grant GPA required at the end of every semester/quarter
- Eligible to regain Zell Miller Grant if minimum 3.5 calculated HOPE Grant GPA earned at the end of the next term

## Losing Eligibility

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester)
- Bachelor's degree received

# HOPE Career Grant

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## Academic Eligibility

- Enrolled in specific high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a participating University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply

## Award Amount

- Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled
- Approved programs and award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

*For more information on the HOPE Programs, visit [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org).*