

Scholarship Calculation Eligibility Rules

Can I earn the HOPE Scholarship after high school?

- If you are not eligible for the HOPE Scholarship upon high school graduation, you may be able to earn eligibility after attempting 30 semester (45 quarter) hours. Your college must report your transcript data to GSFC for your academic eligibility to be determined.
- Keep in mind your college will determine if you meet all other HOPE Scholarship eligibility qualifications.

Can I earn the Zell Miller Scholarship after high school?

- You can only be eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship if you were eligible upon high school graduation.

How do I maintain HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility?

- If you have received the HOPE Scholarship you must maintain a Checkpoint Calculation GPA of 3.0 and for the Zell Miller Scholarship you must maintain a Checkpoint Calculation GPA of 3.3.
- Your GPA is checked at certain Checkpoints.

What is the Scholarship GPA Grade Scale?

- The HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Calculation GPA is equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, where an "A" equals 4.0, "B" equals 3.0, "C" equals 2.0, "D" equals 1.0, and "F" equals 0.
- Even if your college awards grades with pluses and minuses, for the Scholarship Calculation GPA the pluses and minuses are not used.

Why is my Scholarship Calculation GPA different than my institution GPA?

- The HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship Calculation includes all grades and hours from degree coursework attempted after high school graduation including repeated courses.
- Grades and hours excluded from HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship GPA calculation consist of anything taken prior to high school graduation as well as Audit, Continuing Education and/or some Learning Support courses, etc.
- An additional weight of 0.5 will be added to grades of B, C, and D for approved degree level Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) courses.

What is included in the Scholarship Calculation GPA?

- Grades received from all corresponding Attempted-Hours, taken after high school graduation or equivalent, are counted toward your HOPE GPA.
- Each grade you earn will be counted in the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship total Attempted-Hours and Checkpoint Calculation GPA even if a course is taken more than once.
- Grades and hours not included in the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship GPA calculation consist of anything taken prior to high school graduation as well as Audit, Continuing Education and/or some Learning Support courses, etc.

How does a withdrawal from a term or a class affect my Scholarship eligibility?

- Withdrawn courses are included in the Attempted-Hours to determine 30/60/90 semester (45/90/135 quarter) Checkpoints, but they are not included in the GPA calculation.
- Depending on your individual situation, this can affect your scholarship or may have no affect at all.

What are Attempted-Hours?

- Attempted-Hours are college credit hours, taken after high school graduation or equivalent, that are used to determine when you have reached a HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship Checkpoint and to determine when you have reached the Attempted-Hours limit.
- Attempted-Hours include all college degree credit hours taken at any college, even if those hours and grades are not accepted by the institution you may transfer to or currently attend.
- Attempted-Hours includes courses which you received grades of Withdrawn, Pass, Satisfactory, etc.
- Hours excluded from Attempted-Hours consist of anything taken prior to high school graduation as well as Audit, Continuing Education and/or some Learning Support courses, etc.

What is a Scholarship Checkpoint?

- The Checkpoint is the end of a term at which a student's academic transcript data must be calculated to determine the student's continued HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship GPA and eligibility.
- The HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship programs have several Checkpoints that determine when a student gains, loses, or regains eligibility. Your total Attempted-Hours and when you have received the Scholarship determine the terms when Checkpoints occur.
- The 30/60/90 semester Attempted-Hours Checkpoints occur when you have taken at least 30 credit hours, 60 credit hours, and 90 credit hours. At each of these Checkpoints, your GPA will be calculated to determine eligibility for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.
- The 45/90/135 quarter Attempted-Hours Checkpoints occur when you have taken at least 45 credit hours, 90 credit hours, and 135 credit hours. At each of these Checkpoints, your GPA will be calculated to determine eligibility for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.
- Your GPA will also be calculated at the end of each spring term if you received the Scholarship that year.
- HOPE Scholarship can be earned or regained at the 30/60/90 semester (45/90/135 quarter) Attempted-Hours Checkpoints with a minimum required Checkpoint Calculation GPA of 3.0.
- Zell Miller Scholarship can be regained at the 30/60/90 semester (45/90/135 quarter) Attempted-Hours Checkpoints with a minimum required Checkpoint Calculation GPA of 3.3. (Zell Miller Scholarship cannot be earned after high school).

| Scholarship Semester Hour Checkpoints | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Students can gain and lose eligibility | | |
| 30 Attempted-Hours | 60 Attempted-Hours | 90 Attempted-Hours |
| 1st Checkpoint | 2nd Checkpoint | 3rd Checkpoint |
| Scholarship Quarter Hour Checkpoints | | |
| Students can gain and lose eligibility | | |
| 45 Attempted-Hours | 90 Attempted-Hours | 135 Attempted-Hours |
| 1st Checkpoint | 2nd Checkpoint | 3rd Checkpoint |

Note: Checkpoints occur at the end of the term.

How many credit hours do I have to take to be eligible for HOPE Scholarship?

- Students attending a public institution do not have a minimum number of hours per semester to be eligible.
- Students attending private colleges and universities must be enrolled at least six (6) hours to be eligible.

Can I receive HOPE Scholarship if I transfer to another school?

- If you are receiving the Scholarship and transfer to another HOPE-eligible institution in Georgia and continue to meet all eligibility requirements.

What happens if I lose my HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility?

- You become ineligible for the scholarship until the next Second or Third Checkpoint Calculation occurs.
- You are permanently ineligible if you lose eligibility at the Third Checkpoint. Contact your financial aid office for assistance with other financial aid options.

How do I regain HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility?

- You can regain the HOPE Scholarship at the next 30/60/90 semester (45/90/135 quarter) Attempted-Hours Checkpoints with a 3.0 Checkpoint Calculation GPA.
- You can regain the Zell Miller Scholarship at the next 30/60/90 semester (45/90/135 quarter) Attempted-Hours Checkpoints with a 3.3 Checkpoint Calculation GPA.
- A Zell Miller Scholarship recipient who drops below 3.3 at the end of spring term or 30/60/90 semester (45/90/135 quarter) Attempted-Hours Checkpoints can maintain HOPE Scholarship eligibility if the Checkpoint Calculation GPA is 3.0 or above.
- Scholarship eligibility cannot be regained at the End of Spring Checkpoint, unless that term is also when you reach the 30/60/90 semester (45/90/135 quarter) Attempted-Hours Checkpoint.
- You may only regain the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship one time.
- On the second loss of scholarship, you become permanently ineligible.

When do I become ineligible for HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility?

- You are ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship when your GPA drops below 3.0 at a Checkpoint (as calculated by CHECS).
- You are ineligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship when your GPA drops below 3.3 at a Checkpoint (as calculated by CHECS)
- You are permanently ineligible after you have attempted the maximum 127 semester or 190 quarter attempted/paid hour award limit
- Other reasons for ineligibility include:
 - change in Georgia residency status,
 - noncompliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990,
 - defaulted state/federal student loans,
 - unmet enrollment requirements (as stated by your institution)
 - noncompliance with Selective Service registration requirements.

Disclaimer: The Scholarship Calculation Eligibility Rules are a general overview of the academic eligibility calculations based on transcript information provided to GSFC by the HOPE eligible colleges you are enrolled at and, previously attended. Should you have questions regarding the courses and/or grades listed, please contact your college. Specific program regulations regarding each program are available on the GAfutures website.