1. What is Georgia's HOPE Program?

HOPE - Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally - is Georgia's unique scholarship and grant program that rewards students with financial assistance in degree, diploma, and certificate programs at eligible Georgia public and private colleges and universities, and public technical colleges. HOPE programs available to students at South Georgia State College include HOPE Scholarship and HOPE GED.

2. What is the HOPE Scholarship?

The HOPE Scholarship is for degree-seeking students (students pursuing one of SGSC's Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Applied Science programs) who are legal residents of Georgia, are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and who have not already earned a bachelor's degree. Students must also have graduated high school with a "B" average (3.0 if the student completed the College Prep curriculum, 3.2 if the student completed the Vocational curriculum).

If the student did not qualify for HOPE Scholarship as a freshman, then the student must have attempted at least 30 semester hours, but no more than 127 semester hours, and must have earned a minimum grade point average of a 3.0 at either the 30th, 60th, or 90th attempted hour, whichever is appropriate.

Currently, HOPE Scholarship pays a percentage of a student's tuition established by the Georgia Finance Commission each fiscal. There is no enrollment hour restriction, so students are not required to enroll full-time to receive the Scholarship. HOPE Scholarship does not pay for remedial course work.

3. What is the Zell Miller Scholarship?

Georgia's Zell Miller Scholarship is available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship provides money to assist students with their educational costs of attending college in Georgia. To receive Zell Miller Scholarship funding, students must meet one of the following academic requirements:

- Graduate from a HOPE-eligible high school as the Valedictorian or the Salutatorian.
- Graduate from an eligible high school with a minimum 3.7 grade point average combined with a minimum score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT test or a 26 composite score on the ACT test in a single test administration.
- Complete a HOPE eligible home study program with a 3.7 grade point average combined with a minimum score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT test or a 26 composite score on the ACT test in a single test administration.
- Graduate from an ineligible high school or complete an ineligible home study program with a minimum score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT test or a 26 composite score on the ACT test in a single test administration., and then earn a 3.3 grade point average on 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of college degree-level coursework taken after high school graduation or home study completion.
- Have first enrolled in an eligible post-secondary institution in 2007 or later, as a freshman, meeting one of the academic qualifications listed above and having earned a 3.3 cumulative grade point average at the most recent HOPE Scholarship checkpoint.
4. **Is there a limit on the number of hours a student can attempt or receive payment under the HOPE Scholarship?**

Yes.
For HOPE Scholarship, students can attempt up to 127 semester hours, which includes hours that are not paid for by the Scholarship. In addition, students can receive payment for no more than 127 semester hours.

5. **I withdrew from a class not long after a semester began. Will the hours associated with that class be counted in my checkpoint hours and in my lifetime attempted hours limit of 127?**

Yes. The HOPE program tracks attempted hours, any hours you attempt but do not complete because you withdrew from the course are still considered attempted hours and will be included in determining your grade point average checkpoint and your 127 attempted hours limit.

6. **What is the HOPE GED?**

The HOPE GED program provides for a one-time only payment of $500.00 to students who earned a GED Diploma after June 30, 1993. Students must be enrolled in a certificate, diploma, or degree program at an eligible GA postsecondary school and must be a legal resident of Georgia and a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
Eligible students should receive a HOPE GED voucher from the Georgia Student Finance Commission, which should be presented to the aid office upon enrollment. Students must use their GED award within 24 months from the date of the GED diploma.
Also, a student must present the voucher for payment during the first term of enrollment as a degree-seeking student. A student who does not present the voucher during this time can not be paid a HOPE GED award during a subsequent term.

7. **How do I apply for a HOPE Scholarship?**

You will need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid), the aid office will use your FAFSA application as your application for HOPE Scholarship.