

To be considered for funding through the **SCHOLARSHIPS** program, potential applicants *must* apply for traditional federal and state financial aid and submit proof of award or denial. If you are approved for one form of financial aid and the award amount covers tuition and mandatory fees, **SCHOLARSHIPS** does not require you to apply to another source of funding. **SCHOLARSHIPS** awards qualified applicants a stipend of **\$250/semester for 1-3 credit hours and \$500 per semester for 4 or more credit hours even if tuition and fees are covered by another source.**

The chart below indicates the type of aid available to you based on the credential or degree you are pursuing:

Credential/Degree	Available Financial Aid
Technical Certificate of Credit	HOPE Grant (converts to Zell Miller Grant with 3.5 GPA) HOPE Career Grant
Technical College Diploma	HOPE Grant (converts to Zell Miller Grant with 3.5 GPA) HOPE Career Grant Pell Grant
Associate or Bachelor's Degree	
<i>At a public institution</i>	HOPE Scholarship Pell Grant
<i>At a private institution</i>	HOPE Scholarship Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant Pell Grant

How do I apply for financial aid?

You may fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) either online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or through the financial aid office of the college/university you plan to attend. Based on the results of your application, your school will determine your eligibility for **both** federal and state aid (i.e. Pell Grant or the HOPE Grant/Scholarship). If you are attending a **private** educational institution, you must also fill out the HOPE Scholarship/Tuition Equalization Grant form online at www.gacollege411.org or through your school's financial aid office to be considered for state aid. If you are applying for the HOPE grant only, the form is also available online at www.gacollege411.org.

You are currently **ineligible** for the HOPE Scholarship if:

- It has been more than seven years since high school graduation and you have never received the HOPE Scholarship.
- You graduated from an **ineligible** high school, home study or GED program less than 7 years ago and do not have at least 30 semester or 45 quarter hours completed with a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- You did not have a 3.0 GPA at the time you graduated.
- You have previously received the HOPE Scholarship but your GPA has dropped below 3.0.

Under these circumstances, you must apply for the Pell Grant to determine how much, if any, aid you might receive before also applying to the **SCHOLARSHIPS** program.

What documentation do I send with my **SCHOLARSHIPS** application?

Whether approved or denied, attach proof that you have applied for available funds, such as an official financial aid letter from your institution, or one of the following documents:

- If you have been awarded funds, you may submit a printout of your student account summary (viewable online through your school) reflecting the award amount credited to your student account **OR**
- If you have applied for the Pell Grant, you can submit your Student Aid Report (SAR) sent to you by the Department of Education either by email or letter. Your EFC (Expected Family Contribution) number indicates whether or not you will receive Pell.
- If you have exceeded the number of eligible credit hours covered by the HOPE Grant, HOPE Scholarship, or Pell Grant, or you have previously earned a degree, you are permanently ineligible for these programs. In lieu of a financial aid letter, you may submit your transcript reflecting the total number of hours you have taken or the award date of your degree to the **SCHOLARSHIPS** program as proof of your ineligibility for HOPE and Pell.

SCHOLARSHIPS participants must provide financial aid information each new academic year (beginning August semester or July quarter) in order to maintain participation in the program.