

High School HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19

The GSFC High School HOPE Scholarship Calculation is based on the high school transcript records submitted by the high school to GSFC and consists of two parts:

- High school HOPE GPA* – Based only on core courses with a numeric grade or letter grade of A, B, C, D or F. Core courses include English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, and those courses designated by GaDOE as meeting the fourth science requirement.
- HOPE Scholarship rigor credit requirement – Based only on courses on the GSFC Rigor Course List where the student earned course credit. Students will receive rigor credit for numeric grades and letter grades of A, B, C, D and “P” or “S”. No rigor course credit is awarded for grades of U, F, or their numeric equivalent.

*Public and private school districts continue to be responsible for determining their own grading policy. For public school districts, this practice is aligned to recent GaDOE-issued guidance on district grading policies. GSFC will continue to look at the transcript letter grade (based off of a district-assigned numerical grade) for high school students for HOPE eligibility and other GSFC programs. There have been no changes to the High School HOPE GPA calculation.

- 1) **Q:** If my private or home study high school gives students the option to receive a Pass/Fail instead of a letter grade, how will that impact my high school HOPE GPA?

A: *For the purposes of the initial high school HOPE GPA calculation, only numeric grades or letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F are included in the High School HOPE GPA calculation. If students choose to receive a P/S/U, the course will not be included in their initial high school HOPE GPA calculation.*

Students given a Pass/Fail option by their private or home study high school should ask if the Fail status will result in a grade of F or U. An F is considered failing and is included in the High School HOPE GPA calculation, even if the

grading scale is considered P/F. If a U is given the course will not be included in the High School HOPE GPA calculation.

- 2) Q: How can public, private, and home study students check their High School HOPE Scholarship GPA and status?

A: Students who have a GAfutures account can check their HOPE status on the High School HOPE GPA page when they sign into their MyGAfutures Profile. Students who do not have a GAfutures account should go to www.GAfutures.org, click on “My GAfutures”, and create their free account in order to check their HOPE status.

- 3) Q: Given that SAT and ACT testing has been canceled or postponed during spring 2020 due to COVID-19, how will my Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility be impacted?

A: Zell Miller Scholarship requirements are outlined in state law (O.C.G.A. § 20-3-519(27)) and part of the eligibility determination is based on qualifying ACT or SAT test scores. If a high school student already has a qualifying test score (ACT \geq 26 or SAT \geq 1,200), they will be evaluated for Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility. For those students without a qualifying test score, GSFC continues to monitor upcoming SAT and ACT testing opportunities and is evaluating options to address the cancellation of spring 2020 testing. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.