



Financial Aid Information

If you plan to attend a college in Georgia, there are four state financial aid opportunities of which you should be aware:

- The **HOPE Scholarship** is a merit-based award for Georgia residents who graduate from high school with a minimum 3.0 GPA and maintain a 3.0 GPA in college. It provides tuition assistance.
- The **HOPE Grant** is tuition assistance available to students who maintain a 2.0 GPA after high school and seek to obtain a certificate or diploma from a Technical College System of Georgia or University System of Georgia institution.
- The **Zell Miller Scholarship** is a merit-based award for Georgia residents who graduate from high school with a minimum 3.7 GPA and a minimum SAT score of 1,200 (on math and reading) or a minimum ACT composite score of 26. Students must also maintain a 3.3 GPA in college. Students who receive this will receive full tuition assistance.
- The **Zell Miller Grant** is tuition assistance available to students who maintain a 3.5 GPA after high school and seek to obtain a certificate or diploma from a Technical College System of Georgia or University System of Georgia institution.

To find out more about the financial aid you could receive if you go to an eligible Georgia high institution of learning, visit gsfc.georgia.gov.

Whether you plan to attend college in Georgia or elsewhere, there are several steps you need to take to ensure you get the most financial aid possible:

1. Talk to your college advisor.

Your advisor will be aware of various scholarships and in contact with a number of institutions.

2. Contact admissions and financial aid officers at institutions of interest AND departments at those institutions at which you would like to study.

- Colleges offer their own merit and needs-based scholarships, so investigate the financial aid potentially available to you at institutions of interest.
- Departments (i.e. English, Sciences, etc.) at those schools may offer financial aid to students who plan to major in those disciplines. Contact those departments directly for more information.

3. Use scholarship search services — throw a wide net.

- FastWeb.com, scholarships.com, findtuition.com, and unigo.com are useful national databases of scholarships.

- Consider local scholarships such as the Achieve Atlanta Scholarship (achieveatlanta.org) or the Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship (<http://coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/>).

4. Apply for as many scholarships as possible.

5. Complete the FAFSA.

- Go to studentaid.ed.gov to complete the FAFSA.