

# Educational Information for Students and Parents

## Financial Aid & Scholarships

Financial Aid information (grants & loans), as well as scholarship information, can be found on the HCHS website and at [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org). Federal financial aid information can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/>. Students and parents are responsible for viewing the websites to obtain this information.

## HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Grant, & the Zell Miller Scholarship

The HOPE scholarship program was established in Georgia to help students in Georgia with their college tuition costs. To qualify as a HOPE Scholar, students must graduate with at least a 3.0 GPA in their core classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language), as well as earn a minimum of four full rigor credits from the [Academic Rigor Course List](#). It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to ensure their student is taking the appropriate HOPE Rigor courses to be eligible for the HOPE scholarship. The scholarship award amount is dependent upon the specific institution.

The Zell Miller Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship that provides full tuition at a public postsecondary institution and tuition assistance at an eligible private postsecondary institution. A student must graduate from an eligible high school as valedictorian or salutatorian (meeting the requirements of the HOPE Scholarship) or graduate with a minimum 3.7 Zell Miller GPA (as calculated by GSFC in core classes) along with a minimum combined score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT or a minimum composite score of 25 on the ACT (single national administration of either test) and meet specific rigor course requirements.

The Hope Scholarship does not provide an allowance for books or other fees. To continue receiving the HOPE Scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 postsecondary GPA at designated checkpoints. The cumulative 3.0 postsecondary GPA does not include Dual Enrollment Coursework Credit taken before high school graduation or home study completion. A student will lose the HOPE Scholarship if their GPA is below the minimum requirement at one of the checkpoints and may only regain the scholarship one time. A student is ineligible to receive HOPE Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127-hour limit.

The HOPE Grant will pay tuition and fees to anyone enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a Georgia public technical college, regardless of GPA. However, students attempting to obtain an Associate Degree from a Georgia public technical college must meet the GPA requirements listed for the Hope Scholarship. The HOPE Grant requires recipients to earn a 3.0 GPA by the first HOPE checkpoint, once enrolled in technical college courses.

## Valedictorian, Salutatorian, & Honor Graduates

The cumulative GPA is used to determine honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian. To be an honor graduate, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 90 (not rounded up). Determination of honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian is made at the end of the first semester of the senior year. **The student's cumulative GPA and rank are listed on the student's transcript.** Transcripts will be available *after* the announcement of the salutatorian and valedictorian.

## Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus allows parents to access the grades and attendance of their children on a daily basis through the internet. You can access this center by going to the county's main web page, [www.hcbe.net](http://www.hcbe.net), and under "Parents", click on "Infinite Campus." You can also get step-by-step directions for creating an account in the guidance office.

## **Credit Recovery & Courseware**

At Houston County High School, Credit Recovery and Courseware courses are currently available to students who may not graduate on time due to being credit deficient or having failed a required class. The student can retake the failed course online. Please see your student's counselor for more information. Although Credit Recovery courses may meet Georgia graduation requirements, effective August 1, 2010, the NCAA will no longer accept the GADOE's Credit Recovery Program course credits for student-athletes. Additionally, the NCAA may not accept APEX courses.

## **Playing Sports in College**

To be eligible to play college sports as a freshman, students must meet certain course requirements and meet certain standards in GPA and SAT/ACT scores. The student and parents are responsible for ensuring that the proper courses are taken to meet NCAA standards.

It is the student's responsibility to be certain the NCAA Eligibility form is completed online. The registration form and more information can be found at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org).

Although GA Credit Recovery courses may meet Georgia graduation requirements, effective August 1, 2010, the NCAA will no longer accept the GADOE's Credit Recovery Program course credits for student-athletes. The NCAA will NOT accept courses earned through Milestone "testing out."

## **GA Virtual School**

Many students and parents choose to take courses through GA Virtual School over the summer to allow their students the opportunity to earn credits in addition to the regular school year. Georgia Virtual School (GaVS) offers opportunities and options for Georgia students to engage in Advanced Placement, college preparatory, career and technical courses, and other electives online to enhance their learning experiences. Information regarding this process can be obtained from the high school counselor. Registration opens 3/1/26 and summer courses begin 6/1/26. Additional information can be found at <https://gavirtuallearning.org/>.

## **CTAE+**

Students can fulfill the fourth-course requirements for Math, Science, and English for graduation with a traditional diploma by completing one of the state-identified CTAE pathways that are offered within the school district.

Fourth-course credits earned through CTAE+ fulfill admission criteria exclusively for the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and do not satisfy the admission requirements for the University System of Georgia (USG).