

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC)

As you know, changes have taken place to the Dual Enrollment Grant (DEG). TSAC would like to take this opportunity to send this information to you to ensure you understand the changes that have occurred. TSAC was “on the road” providing training and also sent e-mails regarding these changes. As we have worked our way through the legislation that mandated changes to the program, interpretations have changed from the first time information was provided to you. Again, we want to be sure that everyone has the same information regarding the new changes for the DEG.

A student, who meets the HOPE eligibility requirements (GPA of at least 3.0 **or** ACT score of at least 21), is eligible to take two (2) classes per semester. This can begin in the junior year of high school and the student can receive up to \$600 (\$100 per credit hour, up to \$300 per class), not to exceed four (4) courses per academic year.

Once a student meets the HOPE eligibility requirements then he/she is eligible to enroll in two (2) courses each semester from that point forward. The student must continue to meet the continuation requirements to retain the DEG. This is consistent with how the HOPE Scholarship works.

HOPE eligibility requirements vary based on the high school the student is attending. If a student is attending a Tennessee public high school, or category 1, 2 or 3 private school, the student can be eligible for HOPE based on scoring at least a 21 ACT/980 SAT on any single test taken on a national test date **or** at least a 3.0 cumulative weighted high school GPA.

If the student is attending a category 4 private school or Tennessee-based home school program, the student can qualify for HOPE based on the ACT/SAT composite score on any single test taken on a national or state test date **only**. If you need assistance determining which category a school is considered, please visit our web site at www.tn.gov/collegepays, click the “Money For College” link then click on “Lottery Scholarships” on the left side of the screen. You can then scroll down and there will be two links which will provide you with the requirements for the different types of schools. If you have questions and need help deciding whether a student meets the HOPE eligibility requirements please do not hesitate to contact me.

A student who receives funds for more than four (4) courses will have his/her HOPE Scholarship reduced on a dollar for dollar basis. These additional funds will be deducted from the HOPE Scholarship in the first semester of enrollment at an eligible HOPE postsecondary institution. If the full amount for the additional courses is not recovered in the first semester then the student’s HOPE Scholarship will continue to be reduced each semester until the deduction is eliminated.

If a student chooses to attend an out-of-state institution, he/she cannot be held accountable for the deduction unless the student later enrolls in an eligible postsecondary institution. If a student chooses to enroll in a Tennessee Technology Center after high school graduation, the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant will not be reduced.

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Based on the rules for the DEG and the HOPE Scholarship, the hours attempted at a postsecondary institution while the student is enrolled in high school, do not count against the student's HOPE Scholarship "clock" and grades earned are not calculated into the student's lottery GPA.