

Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Frequently Asked Questions

Traditional Students

Question	Answer
<p>What makes a traditional student eligible for the TELS Scholarship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering freshmen must have a minimum of a 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests OR cumulative minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) • Home School graduates – minimum 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests • GED Applicants – minimum 525 and 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests <p style="text-align: center;">Students must take the ACT or SAT on a state or national test date prior to the first day of college enrollment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The “Arranged” ACT/SAT test is acceptable; however, the ACT/SAT Residual test is not.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Those interested in receiving lottery scholarship funds must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by September 1 each (if starting for the first time the fall semester) or February 1 each year (if starting the for the first time the spring semester)</p>
<p>What are the guidelines regarding retention of the HOPE Scholarship?</p>	<p>The cumulative GPA requirement at the 24 and 48 attempted hour benchmarks must be a minimum of 2.75. Additionally, students at the 72 hour benchmark and beyond will be able to retain the award in one of two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above (traditional method) • Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75-2.99 and achieve a semester GPA of 3.0 or above in the term immediately preceding the semester for which the scholarship is to be awarded (provisional method) <p style="text-align: center;">Students who retain on the traditional method will be</p>

	<p>reviewed at each benchmark. Students who retain the award through the provisional method will be reviewed on a semester-by-semester basis.</p> <p>These students must also be enrolled full time each term. This applies to both traditional and nontraditional students.</p>
<p>Can students regain once through the traditional method and once through the provisional method?</p>	<p>No. Students may regain the award one time through either the traditional method or the provisional method. Students who regain and lose the scholarship a second time may not regain the scholarship.</p>
<p>If a student loses the scholarship, can he/she regain between benchmarks? (example: if he/she had the 2.75 cumulative GPA but not the semester GPA at the most recent benchmark)</p>	<p>Students cannot regain the award between benchmarks; they can only retain the award between benchmarks.</p>
<p>If a student hits the 72 hour benchmark at the end of a semester with only a part-time load and he has a 2.88 cumulative GPA but a term GPA of 3.0, does that make him eligible for HOPE for the next term?</p>	<p>Yes. If he reaches the 72 hour benchmark and has a cumulative GPA between 2.75 and 2.99 and a semester GPA of at least 3.0 then he is eligible via the provisional method.</p> <p>However, during his eligibility on the provisional method, he must remain enrolled full time.</p>
<p>If a student hits the 72 hour benchmark at the end of the spring term with a 2.88 cumulative GPA but a term GPA of 3.0 then he receives HOPE for the following fall term. Does he have to enroll in 12 hours and make a term GPA of 3.0 for fall term to be eligible for the next spring term?</p>	<p>Yes. A student can enter into provisional status based upon progress in a semester in which he met a benchmark for evaluation and was enrolled either full time or part time.</p> <p>However, during his eligibility on the provisional method, he must remain enrolled full time.</p>
<p>If a student has a cumulative 2.75 GPA at the end of 72 hours, but a 3.0 term GPA, does he continue to receive HOPE regardless of whether or not his cumulative GPA reaches 3.0? (If he continues to be full-time and make a 3.0 each term – is he still eligible at 96 hours if his cumulative isn't 3.0?)</p>	<p>Yes. The student in this scenario can remain eligible without ever earning a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. Students on the provisional method must remain enrolled full time and keep their cumulative GPA between 2.75-2.99 and their semester GPA must be at least 3.0 in the preceding semester they will receive the award. Students on the provisional method should be reviewed at the end of each semester for continuing eligibility.</p>
<p>If students achieve a 3.0 cumulative GPA at any time, they will be reviewed at the next benchmark. So, if they end with a 3.0 cumulative between benchmarks and have a couple of semesters before they hit their next</p>	<p>Students on the provisional method should be reviewed at the end of each semester for continuing eligibility. Students on the provisional method must remain enrolled full time and keep their cumulative GPA between 2.75-2.99 and their semester GPA must</p>

<p>benchmark, are we still to monitor for the 2.75 cumulative/3.0 term or just switch back to monitoring at the next benchmark?</p>	<p>be at least 3.0 in the preceding semester they will receive the award.</p> <p>If a student on the provisional method achieves a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in any given semester then his eligibility will not be reviewed until the next benchmark.</p>
<p>If a student covered by the provisional method enrolls below full-time, will this end their eligibility or would he simply not receive funds for that semester of part-time enrollment but remain eligible for the next semester at full-time enrollment with a cumulative GPA between 2.75 and 2.99?</p> <p>Would a minimum 3.0 semesters GPA be required when registered below full-time?</p>	<p>A student on the provisional method must maintain full-time enrollment to remain eligible. If the student is not enrolled full time, he will lose eligibility and must regain the award at a later benchmark.</p> <p>If the student has regained the award and loses the award again because of not maintaining full-time enrollment, he is permanently ineligible.</p>
<p>Will there be a retroactive award for students who lost the award when they exceeded the 120 hour limitation?</p>	<p>No. There will be no retroactive awards made for students who exceeded the 120 hour limitation.</p>
<p>If a traditional student who is in the military has leave, how does the five-year rule work?</p>	<p>Members of the military who are called to active duty or deployed overseas will have their five-year limitation extended if the leave of absence is approved by the institution or TSAC.</p>
<p>If a traditional student has a leave of absence, does their five-year rule extend for that period of time?</p>	<p>Yes. If the student has a personal or medical leave of absence approved by the institution or Tennessee Student Assistant Corporation (TSAC) then the five-year limitation is extended.</p>
<p>What are the terminating events for a HOPE Scholarship for traditional students?</p>	<p>Eligibility for a HOPE Scholarship terminates when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student has earned a baccalaureate degree or • Five (5) years have passed from the date of initial enrollment at any postsecondary institution.

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Non-Traditional Students

Question	Answer
What makes a non-traditional student eligible for the TELS Scholarship	<p>Non-traditional students who were enrolled at any postsecondary institution are potentially eligible for HOPE so long as you enrolled with at least two (2) years break in enrollment since last attending any postsecondary institution.</p> <p>No minimum number- of- enrolled hours are required by the non-traditional student leading up to the semester in which 12 attempted hours are achieved. Students are required to be continuously enrolled prior to attempting 12 semester hours.</p> <p>Your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) must not exceed \$36,000 at the point of award. Married student's combined AGI must not exceed \$36,000 at the point of award. You are required to have a processed FAFSA on file each year.</p>
Can non-traditional students be prior HOPE recipients?	Yes. Non-traditional students can be prior HOPE recipients.
If they are in the group that takes the two-year hiatus, do any credits hours and GPA from those prior years count or do they start fresh with the 12 attempted hours to get on the scholarship?	<p>Only the coursework and grades attempted as a nontraditional student shall count toward the benchmarks and the calculation of the cumulative GPA.</p> <p>However, if the student is a prior HOPE recipient then the coursework and grades shall count.</p>
Can a non-traditional student be awarded the HOPE for the first time at the 72/96/120 hour benchmark based on the semester 3.0 or must the cumulative be a 3.0 GPA?	Yes. Non-traditional students can receive the award for the first time at the 72, 96, or 120 hour benchmark if they have a cumulative GPA between 2.75-2.99 and a semester GPA of 3.0; or a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

<p>What are the terminating events for non-traditional students?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student has earned a baccalaureate degree, or • The sum of the number of years of receiving a HOPE Scholarship as a traditional and non-traditional student equals five (5) years, or • Five (5) years have passed since the student enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution as a non-traditional student
<p>If a non-traditional student has a leave of absence, does their five-year rule extend for that period of time?</p>	<p>Yes. If the student has a personal or medical leave of absence approved by the institution or Tennessee Student Assistant Corporation (TSAC) then the five-year limitation is extended.</p>
<p>If a non-traditional student who is in the military has leave, how does the five-year rule work?</p>	<p>Members of the military who are called to active duty or deployed overseas will have their five-year limitation extended if the leave of absence is approved by the institution or TSAC.</p>