

# Tennessee HOPE Scholarship Information

TUSCULUM  
COLLEGE

Office of Financial Aid

## HOPE Scholarship Renewal Criteria

Your GPA will be checked at the end of the semester in which you reach a benchmark. Your GPA must meet the benchmark requirements or you will be ineligible for the Hope Scholarship for succeeding semesters. You can regain your Hope Scholarship at the next benchmark.

### Benchmarks and GPA Requirements

- 24 hour benchmark – 2.75+ cumulative TELS GPA
- 48 hour benchmark – 2.75+ cumulative TELS GPA
- 72 hour benchmark – must meet one of the following requirements:
  - o 3.0+ cumulative GPA **OR**
  - o 2.75-2.99 cumulative GPA **AND** a semester GPA of 3.0+ (the semester is the one you just completed)
- 96 hour benchmark – must meet one of the following requirements:
  - o 3.0+ cumulative GPA **OR**
  - o 2.75-2.99 cumulative GPA **AND** a semester GPA of 3.0+ (the semester is the one you just completed)
- 120 hour benchmark – must meet one of the following requirements:
  - o 3.0+ cumulative GPA **OR**
  - o 2.75-2.99 cumulative GPA **AND** a semester GPA of 3.0+ (the semester is the one you just completed)
- ***Students who fall under the provisional rules must also maintain FULL-TIME enrollment.***

For **ALL** student receiving the Hope scholarship, you must also meet these requirements:

- Must maintain satisfactory academic progress **AND** continuous enrollment
- Be enrolled in at least 6 hours; 12 hours if eligible on provisional basis

## Enrollment Status

Students enrolled in a full-time status, 12 credit hours or more, may not convert to part-time status within the same semester and receive a scholarship award for the succeeding semesters unless the student requests and the institution approves the change to part-time status.

Tusculum's Financial Aid Office may allow a change from full-time to part-time status within the same semester only when there are documented medical or personal grounds. Such medical or personal grounds shall include, but not be limited to, illness of the student, illness or death of an immediate family member, extreme financial hardship of the student or student's immediate family, or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control where continued full-time attendance by the student creates a substantial hardship.

***If you are planning on dropping a class or taking a semester off, you must talk to the Financial Aid Office first. There are appeal forms that you will need to fill out BEFORE dropping or taking a leave of absence.***

## Continuous Enrollment

Except for the summer semester or inter-session summer terms, once an eligible student enrolls at an eligible postsecondary institution, he must maintain continuous enrollment at the eligible postsecondary institution or another eligible postsecondary institution. If the student ceases to be enrolled at an eligible postsecondary institution, he shall become ineligible and forfeit future awards upon his return to an eligible postsecondary institution.

***Unless you are approved by the Appeals Committee for a leave of absence, you must stay in school.***

A leave of absence may be granted by the Appeals Committee only for medical or personal reasons. Allowable medical or personal reasons shall include, but not be limited to, illness of the student, illness or death of an immediate family member, extreme financial

hardship of the student or student's immediate family, to fulfill a religious commitment expected of all students of that faith, or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control where continued attendance by the student creates a substantial hardship. Acceptable reasons shall also include a student's participation in an internship or co-op program that is required or encouraged as part the academic program in which he/she is enrolled.

Contact the Office of Financial Aid for the form to request a leave of absence.

### **Deadlines**

In order to receive the Hope Scholarship for the fall semester, your FAFSA must be completed and have a valid EFC by September 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are a spring start, you FAFSA must be completed and have a valid EFC by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Regaining the Hope Scholarship after losing it**

A student can regain the Hope scholarship by meeting the GPA requirements at a benchmark. The Hope scholarship can only be regained at a benchmark, not in between them. Also, the Hope Scholarship cannot be awarded retroactively to semesters in which the student was attempting to regain eligibility.

A student can only regain the Hope one-time. If a student regains the Hope and then fails to meet the requirements to keep it again then the Hope scholarship is lost for good and cannot be regained.

If a student loses the Hope for a non-academic reason (did not maintain continuous enrollment, dropped below full-time without prior approval), the Hope scholarship cannot be regained without filing an appeal.

### **One Time Repeat Provision**

All credit hours attempted at all postsecondary institutions the student has attended after graduating from high school and their corresponding grades must be included in the calculation of the postsecondary cumulative grade point average, regardless of whether the receiving institution will apply the credit hours toward the student's degree requirements. Except as provided in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, credit hours that were repeated shall be included in the postsecondary cumulative grade point average calculation, and are counted towards the limitation on credit hours.

(a) A student shall have a one-time option to repeat one course and utilize only the higher of the two grades in the calculation of their postsecondary grade point average for purposes of determining continued eligibility for a TELS award. The semester hours for both attempted courses, however, will be included in the one hundred twenty (120) semester hours limitation.

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid if you need to use this option to help you keep your Hope Scholarship or to regain your Hope Scholarship.

### **Terminating Events for Hope Recipients**

A student may receive the Hope Scholarship until the first of the following events:

1. Student has earned a bachelor's degree;
2. Five years have passed from the date of the student's initial enrollment at any postsecondary institution; or
3. Student has attempted 120 hours (or the number of hours equivalent to completing his/her degree program) or has received the Hope Scholarship for 8 full-time equivalent semesters at any postsecondary institution; whichever occurs later of these two options.