

HOPE Scholars Pick Up Increasing Share of College Costs

By Claire Suggs, Senior Education Policy Analyst

Students from low- or moderate-income families must clear ever-higher financial hurdles to complete a postsecondary program in Georgia. The HOPE Scholarship will cover 59 percent of tuition and mandatory fees at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the next school year and 62 percent at the University of Georgia. This is well below what it covered in 2011, when the HOPE Scholarship covered all tuition and mandatory fees and provided a book allowance at these schools and all others in the university system. HOPE will cover between 62 and 66 percent of tuition and mandatory fees next fall at most other schools in the university system.

The shrinking share of costs covered by the HOPE Scholarship makes paying for college harder for families across Georgia as many struggle financially. The median family income is still below pre-recession levels in Georgia, according to data from 2012, the most recent year available.

A growing number of low-income students in lower grades signals more high school graduates will need financial assistance to enroll in and complete a postsecondary program in the future. The number of low-income students in Georgia's K-12 schools is now about 62 percent, up from about 45 percent in 2002. These students and their families have limited financial resources to cover the gap in tuition and fees created by the diminished HOPE award.

If Georgia is to reach its goal to add 250,000 postsecondary graduates by 2020, it must ensure that students of all income levels can get adequate financial assistance.

How Much the HOPE Scholarship Will Cover in the 2015 Fiscal Year¹

Institution Type	Tuition per Semester	Mandatory Fees per Semester	Total Cost per Semester	HOPE Award Amount per Semester ²	% HOPE Covers of Total Cost
Research Universities					
Georgia Institute of Technology	\$4,501	\$1,196	\$5,697	\$3,375	59%
Georgia Regents University: Health Sciences	\$4,018	\$925	\$4,943	\$3,375	68%
Georgia Regents University: Summerville Campus ³	\$2,893	\$770	\$3,663	\$2,236	61%
Georgia State University	\$4,046	\$1,064	\$5,110	\$3,375	66%
University of Georgia	\$4,295	\$1,123	\$5,418	\$3,375	62%
Comprehensive Universities					
Georgia Southern University	\$2,549	\$1,046	\$3,595	\$2,194	61%
Kennesaw State University	\$2,549	\$917	\$3,466	\$2,194	63%
University of West Georgia	\$2,549	\$929	\$3,478	\$2,194	63%
Valdosta State University	\$2,549	\$1,032	\$3,581	\$2,194	61%

How Much the HOPE Scholarship Will Cover in the 2015 Fiscal Year

Institution Type	Tuition per Semester	Mandatory Fees per Semester	Total Cost per Semester	HOPE Award Amount per Semester²	% HOPE Covers of Total Cost
State Universities					
Albany State University	\$2,370	\$700	\$3,070	\$2,040	66%
Armstrong Atlantic State University	\$2,370	\$737	\$3,107	\$2,040	66%
Clayton State University	\$2,370	\$727	\$3,097	\$2,040	66%
Columbus State University	\$2,549	\$900	\$3,449	\$2,194	64%
Fort Valley State University	\$2,370	\$854	\$3,224	\$2,040	63%
Georgia College & State University	\$3,485	\$995	\$4,480	\$3,000	67%
Georgia Southwestern State University	\$2,370	\$683	\$3,053	\$2,040	67%
Savannah State University	\$2,370	\$867	\$3,237	\$2,040	63%
Southern Polytechnic State University	\$2,761	\$711	\$3,472	\$2,377	68%
University of North Georgia ⁴	\$2,549	\$859	\$3,408	\$2,194	64%
State Colleges					
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	\$1,495	\$501	\$1,996	\$1,286	64%
Atlanta Metropolitan State College	\$1,330	\$465	\$1,795	\$1,145	64%
Bainbridge State College	\$1,330	\$523	\$1,853	\$1,145	62%
College of Coastal Georgia	\$1,495	\$685	\$2,180	\$1,286	59%
Dalton State College	\$1,495	\$496	\$1,991	\$1,286	65%
Darton State College	\$1,330	\$587	\$1,917	\$1,145	60%
East Georgia State College	\$1,330	\$443	\$1,773	\$1,145	65%
Georgia Gwinnett College	\$1,774	\$852	\$2,626	\$1,528	58%
Georgia Highlands College	\$1,330	\$467	\$1,797	\$1,145	64%
Georgia Perimeter College	\$1,330	\$509	\$1,839	\$1,145	62%
Gordon State College	\$1,495	\$550	\$2,045	\$1,286	63%
Middle Georgia State College	\$1,459	\$541	\$2,036	\$1,286	63%
South Georgia State College	\$1,330	\$515	\$1,845	\$1,145	62%

¹Tuition and mandatory fees for the 2015 fiscal year are available at http://www.usg.edu/fiscal_affairs/tuition_and_fees

²GBPI calculations based on 3 percent increase to fiscal year 2014 HOPE scholarship award amounts. The increase was approved by the General Assembly in 2014. FY 2014 award amounts are available at http://www.gsfc.org/main/publishing/pdf/2012/hope_award_amounts.pdf.

³Tuition cited for Georgia Regents University-Summersville Campus is for students who enrolled at the Summersville campus beginning in the 2014 academic year and beyond.

⁴Tuition cited for the University of North Georgia is for students in four-year degree programs. Mandatory fees cited for the institution are the Dahlonega campus.