



REACH GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

“Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen”

**Scholar Transition from High School to
Postsecondary Education**



GSFC | Georgia Student
Finance Commission

REACH Scholarship Eligibility in HS

Throughout their high school career, REACH Scholars must graduate from high school in the state of Georgia after having met the program's general requirements for:

- **Mentoring/Academic-Coaching sessions**
- **Discipline**
- **Attendance**
- **And ...**

REACH Scholarship Eligibility in HS

Academics

- Scholars must graduate high school with a final, HOPE-Calculated GPA of 2.5 or greater
- The HOPE GPA is calculated from your high school transcripts and only include core classes
- HOPE GPAs are usually a lower number than the cumulative GPA you might see on your report card
- Your HOPE GPA *cannot* be “rounded up”

Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

FAFSA

- The [“Free Application for Federal Student Aid”](#) must be completed annually to access REACH financial aid
- Your college/university may select you for [FAFSA verification](#). If so, the required documentation must be submitted to them before you can access REACH
- Find your [Outreach Rep](#) at Gafutures. They will meet with you to assist your completing the FAFSA!

Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

GAfutures

It is essential that students in the state of Georgia create a student account at GAfutures.org, and maintain it with your most updated contact info

This site will help with:

- **Checking your HOPE-calculated GPA**
- [Quick Guides](#) for [College Planning](#)
- [Student Resources](#) and [FAQs](#)

Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

Important to Note:

- REACH Scholarship funds can be used for (but not exceed) the cost of attendance, not just tuition. “Cost of attendance” is defined differently by each institution
- These funds can *only* be used toward the completion of an undergraduate degree, certificate, or diploma
- REACH can only be accessed during terms where the Scholar is enrolled *full-time* at a [HOPE-Eligible college or university](#) within the state of Georgia

Length of REACH Eligibility

After High School Graduation

- REACH Scholars will be eligible to access their scholarship funds within the eligibility length of 10 years after the date of high school graduation.
- Once a REACH Scholar has been awarded their lifetime maximum of \$10,000 in REACH funds, they are no longer eligible for the scholarship.

REACH Awards & Disbursement

Award Amounts

- \$10,000: total lifetime award for REACH Scholars
- \$2,500: maximum award that can be disbursed per academic year.*
- \$1,250: maximum award that can be disbursed per semester (\$833/quarter)

**An “Academic Year” is a time during which a Full-Time student is expected to complete the equivalent of 2 semesters (or 3 quarters) of postsecondary coursework*

REACH Awards & Disbursement

Disbursement

- Your college/university will not be receiving a check.
- The financial aid or bursar office *must invoice* GSFC for REACH funds very similar to how they invoice for HOPE. REACH funds are directly transferred from GSFC to your college.
- REACH funds should be applied first once tuition-only state scholarships or grants like HOPE/ZELL are awarded.

REACH Awards & Disbursement

Additional Financial Assistance

- [Some Postsecondary Institutions in Georgia](#) may have agreed to match the REACH Scholarship or offer additional financial assistance. Please contact the college/university for more information.
- Additional financial support is authorized by the individual college or university; authorized financial assistance may be limited and the amount or existence of additional financial support may change without notice.

REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

Academic Requirements

- A **2.5 HOPE GPA** is required at high school graduation in order to begin accessing REACH at your college or university.
- Once you enroll at your postsecondary institution, a **2.0 HOPE GPA** at the end of each Hourly Checkpoint and End of Spring Checkpoint will be required to maintain your REACH eligibility.

REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

Academic Requirements

- Failing to maintain a HOPE-Calculated GPA of 2.00+ at their college or university will result in losing REACH eligibility until the student can post a 2.00+ HOPE GPA
- Scholars who lose REACH once due to academics can regain it again, but losing it twice will result in permanent REACH ineligibility

REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

Discipline Requirements

- Scholars who are convicted of committing a drug-related felony will no longer be eligible for REACH awards
- REACH funding will cease at any time a Scholar is incarcerated, and the student will be immediately ineligible to further participate in the REACH program

REACH Award Letter

- At the end of this summer, all REACH students who graduate high school with a 2.5+ HOPE GPA and have remained Scholarship eligible will receive an “award letter” via email from Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). Check your spam folders too!
- The first page of the award letter will provide helpful information directed to students about accessing their REACH Scholarship funds.
- The second page can be presented to the student’s financial aid counselor and/or bursar office to help assist REACH scholars with accessing their REACH funds.

Contacts for REACH Scholars

Student Support

- Scholars will need to contact [REACH Georgia](#) to notify them of all transfers and changes to your enrollment location throughout your postsecondary career
- We encourage staying connected with your high school mentors and coordinators, but your postsecondary financial aid and student support offices along with REACH Georgia are your best contacts once you've graduated high school!

Contacts for REACH Scholars

Student Support

- You may be one of the first REACH Scholars at your Institution, but that's okay! Don't hesitate to remind your financial aid, bursar, and/or student support offices that you identify as a REACH Scholar.
- If you run into any difficulty accessing REACH funds, please contact the [REACH Georgia](#) office so we can address your issue as soon as possible

REACH Georgia Scholarship Program

- For REACH GA Program questions, please:
Email us at REACH@gsfc.org
- Visit our website at GAfutures:
<https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/reach-georgia/>
- To read REACH [Program Regulations](#) and Dear Colleague Letters, you may access the latest versions at www.gsfc.org