

The Basics: HOPE high school GPAs



New guidelines for calculating high school grade point averages to determine eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship

In 2004, the Georgia General Assembly modified the law governing the HOPE Scholarship Program. One change revises guidelines used to evaluate high school academic achievement to determine HOPE eligibility. The new guidelines, summarized below, apply to anyone beginning college after April 30, 2007. **The first big group of students to be affected will be the high school Class of 2007.**

Briefly, under the new guidelines:

- Grades in **all** attempted core academic coursework count. Previously, failing grades were not counted, nor were other low grades if the student re-took the course and received a higher grade.
- Only grades in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are weighted (For AP and IB grades earned prior to the 2006-2007 school year, the standard weight is 1.0 on a 4.0 scale. For AP and IB grades earned during the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter, the standard weight is .5 on a 4.0 scale.) Previously, Honors courses also were weighted, and schools and systems decided how much extra credit to give weighted courses.
- All grades are converted to grade point averages (GPAs) based on a traditional 4.0 scale; then an overall average GPA is calculated. Numeric grade averages are no longer considered. On the traditional 4.0 scale: a grade of A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, and F=0.0. (Note: Even with weights, 4.0 is the highest grade possible on the 4.0 scale.)
- The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) is responsible for collecting transcripts for all graduating seniors and calculating GPAs, according to the new guidelines, to determine HOPE eligibility. Basically:
 - Each high school sends GSFC the official transcripts for every senior enrolled in the school.
 - The school provides GSFC with the school grading scale (or scales) used while the seniors were in high school, as well as an explanation of the school's weighting policy (or policies).
 - GSFC looks at the grades earned in all core academic coursework taken by the student in high school.
 - GSFC subtracts all the local weights that the school has added to the grades.
 - GSFC converts all the un-weighted grades to a grade point based on the 4.0 scale.
 - GSFC then adds the statewide standard 1.0 or .5 weight to all grades earned in AP and IB courses.
 - Finally, GSFC calculates the student's overall high school HOPE GPA.
- **A high school student enrolled in the college preparatory curriculum must have an overall high school HOPE GPA of at least 3.0 (in all core academic coursework) to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship as an entering college freshman.**

A high school student enrolled in a non-college preparatory curriculum must have an overall high school HOPE GPA of at least 3.2 (in all core academic coursework) to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship as an entering college freshman.

When final grades are assigned at the end of the senior year, GSFC makes the final HOPE GPA calculations. A report is sent to each school so that the school can review the results. After the school reviews the report, GSFC will announce which seniors are HOPE eligible, usually sometime in June.

Important Note: *The above guidelines apply **only** to calculating GPAs for HOPE purposes. Schools and systems will continue using their own methods to calculate GPAs for other purposes, such as determining class standing and preparing transcripts to send to colleges.*

For additional information and detailed guidelines, contact your school's Transcript Exchange contact person. Go to the GAcollege411.org homepage and click [More News and Announcements](#) » [For Students And Parents: Transcript Exchange And Hope GPA](#) » [Transcript Exchange School Contacts](#) from the *Latest News and Announcements* section to see the statewide list for Contacts.