

Accel Program

REGULATIONS

2007- 2008 Award Year



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**Georgia Student Finance Commission
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PREFACE

The purpose of the Accel Program is to provide Georgia high school students with the opportunity to earn college degree-level credit hours, as they simultaneously meet their high school graduation requirements. Many students are able to successfully complete most of the academically meaningful coursework available at the high school level as early as the 10th grade. This program offers these students the option to begin working toward a college degree, while still pursuing a high school diploma.

The Accel Program is funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. It is designed to provide participating high school students with financial assistance toward the cost of postsecondary coursework. In order to be eligible for Accel funds, a student must be enrolled for college degree-level courses, rather than postsecondary coursework toward technical certificate or diploma programs of study. If they meet all other requirements, high school students who are simultaneously seeking a technical certificate or diploma from an eligible Georgia public postsecondary institution are eligible to participate in the Georgia HOPE Grant Program.

Careful consideration should be taken before a decision is made to participate in the Accel Program. The high school student, his or her parents, the high school counselor and principal, and officials of the postsecondary institution should be confident that it is in the best interest of the student to participate in Accel. It is **critical** that students understand that the credit hours for which they receive payment from the Accel Program will be included in the maximum total number of credit hours of payment they can receive from the HOPE Scholarship Program, after they graduate from high school. The following factors should be assessed before a student enters into the Accel Program.

Participation Guidelines and Considerations:

- It is important for the student and his or her parents to have a serious and open discussion of the student's postsecondary educational and career goals.
- A high school student's social and emotional maturity can often be the major determinate of success as a dual credit student.
- The quality and quantity of the academic coursework the student has completed, as early as the 8th grade, should be evaluated to determine exactly what additional coursework is required to meet high school graduation requirements and what coursework the high school can offer the student for the remainder of his or her high school studies.
- Although the Accel Program does not mandate specific academic requirements for participation, it is important for the student to understand that college credit hours earned at a private college or university as a dual credit student, are not transferable to a University System of Georgia institution unless the student has achieved at least a **970 SAT** score and earned a **3.0** cumulative grade point average. These requirements can be used as a guideline when deciding upon participation in the Accel Program.
- As the student and his or her parents make this major decision, full advantage should be taken of the knowledge and experience of officials at the student's high school and at the postsecondary institution the student plans to attend.

I. ACCEL REGULATIONS

A. ACCEL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to receive an Accel a student must meet the following eligibility requirements.

HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

1. The student must have completed all of the academic requirements of the 10th grade (high school sophomore) and be classified as an 11th grader (high school junior) or 12th grader (high school senior) by the student's eligible high school.
2. The student must not have already received a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) diploma.
3. The student must be enrolled in a public or private high school in Georgia that is eligible, according to these regulations, to participate in the Accel program. (See "Definitions")
4. The student must have been approved through the advisement process at both the student's high school and postsecondary institution to be a dual credit student so that the postsecondary credit hours earned can be applied to the student's high school graduation requirements.
5. The student must abide by the rules of both the high school and the postsecondary institution the student is attending, and can be denied participation in the Accel program for such violations by either the high school or the postsecondary institution.

ENROLLMENT

1. The student must be attending a branch of the University System of Georgia, a branch or affiliated branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, or an eligible private college in Georgia. (See "Definitions")
2. The student must be admitted and classified as a dual credit student enrolled in college degree-level course work.
3. There is no required minimum number of hours of enrollment and full-time enrollment is not a requirement.

PAYMENT AT PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

1. The Accel award covers tuition and HOPE-approved mandatory fees, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, to students attending eligible public postsecondary institutions.

2. The student who meets all of the eligibility requirements for an Accel at an eligible public institution is also eligible for a book allowance. The institution will allow a book allowance payment of \$100 per quarter/\$150 per semester if the student is at least half-time (six or more hours). A student who is enrolled for less than half-time will receive \$50 per quarter/\$75 per semester. Funds for the book allowance shall be made available by the institution to the student for the purchase of books and/or supplies.

PAYMENT AT PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

The Accel maximum award is \$3,000 per academic year, (\$1,000 per quarter or \$1,500 per semester), for students enrolled at least 12 hours (full-time) at the postsecondary level. The award amount is prorated for students enrolled at the postsecondary level for 1 through 11 hours (part-time), as follows:

Semester System:
\$125 per hour

Quarter System:
\$84 per hour

RESIDENCY

1. A student who is attending a Georgia University System institution and is classified as a resident of Georgia for purposes of in-state tuition under the Board of Regents policy, as of the first day of classes of the school term for which Accel Program payment is sought, will be considered a resident of Georgia for purposes of the Accel Program. If out-of-state tuition is waived for Military Personnel and their dependents by the institution, according to the Board of Regents policy, then the student meets the residency requirements of the Accel Program.
2. A student who is attending a Georgia public technical college and is classified as a resident of Georgia for purposes of in-state tuition under the rules of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE), as of the first day of classes of the school term for which Accel Program payment is sought, will be considered a resident of Georgia for purposes of the Accel Program. If out-of-state tuition is waived for Military Personnel and their dependents by the institution, according to DTAE policy, then the student meets the residency requirements of the Accel Program.
3. A student who is attending an eligible Georgia private college or university and is classified as a resident of Georgia, according to residency regulations promulgated by the Commission, as of the first day of classes of the school term for which Accel Program payment is sought, will be considered a resident of Georgia for purposes of the Accel Program. As an exception, students enrolled in eligible Georgia high schools, who are the dependent children of military personnel stationed in Georgia, are treated as residents of Georgia for purposes of the Accel Program.

CITIZENSHIP

A student must be a U.S. Citizen or a Permanent Resident Alien who meets the definition of an Eligible Non-citizen under Federal Title IV requirements for the 12-month period prior to the term for which Accel funds are sought.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

The student must meet federal Selective Service registration requirements.

REFUND DUE

The student must not owe a refund on a State of Georgia student financial aid program.

DRUG-FREE ACT

A student is ineligible if, in accordance with the Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990, he or she has been convicted of committing certain felony offenses involving marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs. A student is ineligible to receive an Accel from the date of conviction to the completion of the next academic term. Institutions are not required to obtain criminal justice records of Accel applicants.

ACCEL LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY

A student's participation in the Accel Program is limited to a maximum of two school years. Participation is also limited to the regular school year (i.e., Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters or Fall and Spring Semester). Accel is not available for Summer term.

CREDIT HOURS AND GRADE AVERAGE DETERMINATION

1. The postsecondary credit hours taken as a dual credit student, for which Accel payment was made, shall not be counted as college credit Attempted-Hours (see "Definitions") and the corresponding grades shall not be included in the postsecondary cumulative grade average for purposes of the HOPE Scholarship Program.
2. No student shall receive more Paid-Hours (see "Definitions") than a cumulative total of 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours of Accel, HOPE Grant, and HOPE Scholarship payment, except for students enrolled prior to the Fall quarter or semester beginning after July 1, 2005 in specific undergraduate degree programs that are designed to be more than 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours in length. Such students are eligible for a total of 225 quarter hours or 150 semester hours, or the number of hours required by the program of study, whichever is less. As an exception, hours for which a student received HOPE Grant payment while attending high school prior to Fall term 2004 are not included in the Paid-Hours limit.
3. Hours for which a student received Accel payment, beginning with the Fall school term of 2004, will be included in the Paid-Hours limit.

HOURS LIMITATION

1. Credit hours paid for duplicate courses will count toward the Paid-Hours limit for the HOPE Scholarship Program.
2. Courses that are audited, accepted by examination, or earned through advanced placement or international baccalaureate are not paid for by Accel and are not counted as Attempted-Hours or Paid-Hours.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For the purpose of dual credit students who are seeking Accel assistance prior to high school graduation, the Georgia Department of Education is responsible for the following:

1. Annually update and provide to the Commission the Course Directory, by February 1st, prior to the beginning of each future Accel program award year. Otherwise, the high school Course Directory information will roll forward for the upcoming award year.
2. Serve as a resource for advisement to high school and college officials regarding appropriate coursework for dual credit students.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL OR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

For the purpose of dual credit students who are seeking Accel assistance prior to high school graduation, the student's high school or local school system is responsible for the following:

1. Obtain written consent of the parent(s) or guardian(s), if the student is a minor, for the student to participate as a dual credit student.
2. Obtain written verification by the high school principal of the student's eligibility to participate as a dual credit student.
3. Accept toward state, local, or school graduation requirements the postsecondary credit of an eligible dual credit student who successfully completes an approved course at an eligible postsecondary institution.
4. Record on the student's high school transcript each approved course name, grade, and amount of credit hours earned for each course taken as a dual credit student.
5. Certify for Accel Program eligibility only coursework for which the student has time remaining that is normally required to complete the high school diploma, from the time of initial participation in the program, based upon the ratio of 45 quarter or 30 semester hours equaling six Carnegie units or a maximum of two school years.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

For the purpose of dual credit students who are seeking Accel assistance prior to high school graduation, participating postsecondary institutions are responsible for the following:

1. Annually update and provide to the Commission the list of eligible courses by March 1st prior to the beginning of each future Accel program award year. Otherwise, the college Course Directory information will roll forward to the upcoming award year.
2. Transfer postsecondary credit hours earned in this program from one eligible institution to another eligible institution on the same basis as such credit hours are customarily transferred
3. Notify the high school of each student's enrollment and grade(s) earned in the course(s).
4. 4. Verify Georgia residency, citizenship, Selective Service registration, and Drug-Free Act eligibility requirements.
5. Invoice Accel payment from the Commission by the same method as used for the HOPE Scholarship Program. (See "C. Invoicing Procedures")

B. ACCEL APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. A high school student must complete an Accel Program Application and submit it to his or her eligible high school.
2. An authorized high school official will list on the form each high school course the student will be substituting with a college degree-level course from the postsecondary institution the student will be attending as a dual credit student. The authorized high school official will also certify that:
 - a. The student completed all of the academic requirements of the 10th grade (high school sophomore) and is classified as an 11th grader (high school junior) or 12th grader (high school senior);
 - b. The student has not yet received a high school diploma or GED;
 - c. The student is enrolled in good standing at the eligible high school;
 - d. The student has been approved through the advisement process at both the high school and the participating postsecondary institution to be a dual credit student, so that the postsecondary credit hours earned can be applied to the student's high school graduation requirements.

2. The completed Accel Application must be forwarded by the high school to the postsecondary institution the student will attend. An authorized postsecondary official will list each postsecondary course the student will take in place of a high school course and certify that:
 - a. The postsecondary coursework listed on the application is eligible coursework that matches the appropriate high school coursework, in accordance with the Course Directory. **As an exception, dual credit students participating in the Advanced Academy of Georgia, located at the State University of West Georgia, and the Georgia Academy of Mathematics, Engineering, and Science (GAMES), located at Middle Georgia College, are not restricted, for purposes of Accel Program, to the core curriculum eligible high school courses identified in the Course Directory. The authorized officials of those two academies are responsible for approving coursework that is appropriate for inclusion in the Accel Program.**
 - b. The student is accepted as a dual credit student at the institution.
 - c. The student meets federal Selective Service registration requirements.
 - d. The student is in compliance with the Drug-Free Postsecondary Act of 1990.
 - e. The student meets Georgia residency and citizenship requirements.
3. An authorized postsecondary institution official must determine the number of college degree-level credit hours for which the student is enrolled, calculate the correct Accel award amount, as directed by these regulations, and invoice the Commission, according to the process provided in these regulations.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

An application deadline date may be set by the high school and postsecondary institution participating in the Accel Program. Regardless, a student must file the application online or in the institution's financial aid office on or before the last day of the academic term (semester or quarter) or the student's withdrawal date, whichever occurs first, in order to be paid for that academic term. The last day of the academic term is the last day of classes or exams for the institution, whichever occurs later. Supplemental documentation required by the institution or the Commission to support or verify a student's application information may be submitted after the deadline without jeopardizing the student's eligibility.

C. INVOICING PROCEDURES

Accel is available for Fall, Winter, and/or Spring terms. Accel is not available for Summer term. A student may be awarded Accel for two semesters or three quarters per fiscal year. All award amounts should be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar.

1. Accel shall be paid to the postsecondary institution in one check or electronic transfer of funds on behalf of eligible students each school term upon submission to the Commission of an Accel Invoice.
2. Accel Invoices are transmitted from the postsecondary institution to the Commission through the use of the SURFER Internet system. Institutions can use either SURFER to data-enter the student information and transmit it individually to the Commission or extract the student information from their computer system's database and use SURFER to transmit it to the Commission as a file. Regardless of which of these two methods an institution uses, the data transmitted in a given day will be processed by the Commission that night and an award/denial report (when applicable) will be available the next day for the institution to download.
3. Upon receipt of Accel payments from the Commission, the institution shall credit the amount of payment on behalf of an eligible student to the account of the student for direct charges
4. At public postsecondary institutions, funds for the book allowance must be used to purchase books and/or supplies for the student's course of study and cannot be applied to other charges such as fees, room, or board.
5. In the event an Accel check is lost by the institution or through the mail, the procedures described below should be followed.
 - a. The appropriate institution official must contact the Commission and request a replacement check.
 - b. After following normal verification procedures that the lost check has not been cashed, the Commission will place a "Stop Payment" order on the original check. A replacement check will then be issued to the school for delivery to the student.
 - c. If the original check should subsequently be found, it should be voided and returned to the Commission.
 - d. If the institution has already reconciled for the fiscal year from which the check had been disbursed, then the institution cannot request replacement of these funds.

D. RECONCILIATION

A Term-Reconciliation must be conducted by the institution near the end of each term.

1. A Term-Reconciliation consists of an official acknowledgement by an authorized school official that the number of students and amount invoiced and the number of

students and amount disbursed, according to the SURFER system, is accurate as of that date.

2. Funds for the following school term will not be disbursed until the Term-Reconciliation is complete.
3. Surplus funds are not returned to the Commission as part of the Term-Reconciliation process.

After the completion of the award year, each institution will print a reconciliation report through SURFER that provides payment records for the award year.

1. The institution must conduct a complete student-by-student reconciliation with the Commission and submit a Reconciliation Certification Form to the Commission by July 1 of the current award year.
2. The Commission will provide the institution with a letter to confirm that reconciliation is complete and final for the award year.
3. The institution must return to the Commission by July 1 any Accel funds not utilized according to the final reconciliation. The institution must have a procedure in place to ensure that the Accel funds do not go to an unintended third party (i.e. State, institution).

E. REFUND POLICY

If the student officially withdraws, drops out, drops hours, is expelled, or otherwise fails to complete a period of enrollment, and is entitled to a refund, a portion of such refund may need to be returned to the Accel fund. If the student was awarded an Accel, the school must determine the amount of the refund, and return that amount to the Accel fund. The remainder of the Accel award is retained by the school to cover the school's cost for the portion of the school term that the student was enrolled. The book allowance awarded to a student at a public institution is not included in the refund calculation. If a refund is due and the student received Accel funds, then such amounts must be refunded to Accel, rounded to the nearest dollar, by applying the institution's refund policy to the student's original Accel award. The book allowance is not part of the refund calculation.

PAYMENT OF REFUND

When a student owes a refund, he or she shall pay the institution and the institution will pay the Commission or at its sole discretion, the Commission may require the student to pay the refund to the Commission. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit the Commission from using all available legal and equitable remedies to collect the refund.

F. RECORDS RETENTION

1. An Eligible Postsecondary Institution shall maintain accurate records, books, documents and other evidence concerning the Accel Program, including, but not limited to individual student files for the later of:
 - a. Three years after the award year in which the aid was awarded; or
 - b. For such other period as required by an applicable statute, rule, or regulation; or
 - c. Such other time as requested in writing by the Commission.
2. Documentation contained within an individual student file or record, which supports the original determination of a student's eligibility made by the institution, should be transferred to the student's file or record for the most current award year. Such documentation may include, but is not limited to, copies of Alien Registration Receipt Cards, Georgia State Income Tax Returns, applications and academic transcripts from previous institutions. As an alternative to the original hard copies, institutions are permitted to maintain these documents in an imaged media format. The imaged media format must be capable of reproducing an accurate, legible, and complete copy of the original document.
3. An institution may be required to retain student records involved in a program review, audit, or investigation for more than the three-year retention period described above. If the three-year retention period expires before the issue in question is resolved, the institution must continue to retain all associated records until resolution is reached.

II. ACCEL PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

“Academic Year” means a period of time, usually eight or nine months, during which a full-time student would normally be expected to complete the equivalent of two semesters or three quarters of instruction.

“Attempted-Hours” means the number of college degree-level quarter or semester hours, after high school graduation or equivalent, for which a postsecondary student was enrolled. In the case of awarded experience credit such as military or work experience, Attempted-Hours includes the number of non-duplicative college degree level quarter or semester hours received after high school graduation or the equivalent by a postsecondary student. The number of Attempted-Hours is used to determine when the grade point average should be checked for the renewal of the HOPE Scholarship program and to determine when the student has reached his or her maximum hours of eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship program. The number of college degree-level credit hours attempted by a student while participating in the Accel Scholarship program, or attempted by any student prior to high school graduation, are not considered to be Attempted-Hours for purposes of the HOPE Scholarship program. Credit hours are considered Attempted-Hours regardless of whether or not the course was completed, the hours were earned, or a letter grade was recorded on the student’s official academic transcript. Such hours are considered Attempted-Hours regardless of whether or not the student receives payment for those hours from the HOPE Scholarship program. For purposes of HOPE Scholarship eligibility, credit hours attempted as part of a technical certificate or diploma program of study are only counted as Attempted-Hours if a postsecondary institution ever accepted those hours as credit hours toward a college degree.

“Award Year” means three consecutive quarters or two consecutive semesters that begins with the Fall Term and ends with the Spring Term.

“Book Allowance” means Accel funds made available to students to purchase books and/or supplies for their course of study.

“Carnegie Unit” means one unit of credit for a minimum of 150 clock hours of instruction.

“Certificate” means a credential indicating satisfactory completion of training in a technical program of study offered by a postsecondary educational institution; it is not an associate or baccalaureate degree.

“Clock Hour” means a period of time which is the equivalent of either (1) a 50 to 60 minute class, lecture, or recitation, (2) two hours of laboratory, shop training, or internship requiring outside preparation, (3) two hours of outside preparation related to (1) and (2); or (4) three hours of laboratory, shop training, or internship not requiring outside preparation.

“Commission” means the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

“Course” means instruction for which credit is awarded.

“Course Directory” means a document produced and updated annually by the Georgia Department of Education of eligible high school courses that can be substituted with college degree-level coursework and applied toward high school graduation requirements for dual credit students.

“Credit” means Carnegie units earned and applied toward high school graduation and credit hours earned toward the completion of a postsecondary program of study.

“Degree” means a two-year associate degree or four-year bachelor’s degree conferred on students by a postsecondary educational institution upon completion of a unified program of study at the undergraduate level.

“Diploma” means a credential indicating satisfactory completion of training in a technical program of study offered by a postsecondary educational institution, which is not an associate or baccalaureate degree.

“Dual Credit Student” means an agreement has been established between the student’s high school and a HOPE-eligible public or private postsecondary institution wherein a student enrolls in postsecondary courses and earns Carnegie units of credit that count toward both high school graduation requirements and hours of postsecondary credit. A dual credit student differs from a joint enrollment student in that the postsecondary credit hours earned by a joint enrollment student does is not applied toward the student’s high school graduation. A dual credit student differs from an early admissions student in that early admissions students enroll as full-time postsecondary students and pursue a postsecondary degree in lieu of a high school diploma.

“Dual Enrollment” means an arrangement between a high school and a postsecondary institution wherein a student enrolls in postsecondary classes and earns Carnegie units of credit that count toward high school graduation requirements and hours of postsecondary credit.

“Eligible High School Courses” means core curriculum courses of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Science, and Foreign Language that can be used to satisfy core curriculum graduation requirements. **As an exception, dual credit students participating in the Advanced Academy of Georgia, located at the State University of West Georgia, and the Georgia Academy of Mathematics, Engineering, and Science (GAMES), located at Middle Georgia College, are not restricted, for purposes of Accel Program, to the core curriculum eligible high school courses identified in the Course Directory. The authorized officials of those two academies are responsible for approving coursework that is appropriate inclusion in the Accel Program.**

“Eligible Private High School” means a private high school in Georgia that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Georgia Accrediting Commission, the Georgia Association of Christian Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council, the Accrediting Commission for Independent Study, or the Southern Association of Independent Schools.

“Eligible Public High School” means a public high school in Georgia that is operated by a local unit of administration or a school administered or chartered by the State Board of Education and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or the Georgia Accrediting Commission.

“Eligible Postsecondary Institution” means any branch of the University System of Georgia, any branch or affiliated branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE), or any private independent, non-profit college or university located in Georgia, and which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The definition also includes any proprietary institution of higher education located in the State of Georgia which: is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution; is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; is not a Bible college; admits as regular students only persons who have a high school diploma, a General Education Development (GED) diploma, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution; has been reviewed and approved for operation by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; has been in existence for at least ten years; and whose students are eligible to participate in the Federal Pell Grant program. All eligible institutions must also be approved by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in federal Title IV programs and be actively participating in at least the Federal Pell Grant program. Additionally, private colleges and universities must also be eligible to participate in the Tuition Equalization Grant Program.

“Eligible Student” means any student enrolled in an eligible high school who is classified as a high school junior (11th grade) or high school senior (12th grade) by the high school, has not received a high school diploma, and meets all other requirements as specified in these regulations.

“Full-Time Student” means a student attending an eligible postsecondary educational institution who is enrolled for the equivalent of at least 12 quarter or semester credit hours.

“HOPE Scholarship Program” means Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally Scholarship Program administered the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

“Mandatory Fees” means HOPE-approved fees charged by the institution to every student enrolled at that institution, regardless of their program of study. The specific fees and dollar amounts for HOPE-approved fees are identical for the Accel Program, the HOPE Scholarship Program, and the HOPE Grant Program.

“Paid-Hours” means the quarter or semester hours used to determine: (1) when a student has reached the maximum number of hours for which a student can receive HOPE Grant payment, and (2) when a student has reached the maximum number of hours for which a student can receive HOPE Scholarship payment. The “Paid-Hours” limit for HOPE Grant eligibility is determined by totaling only the hours for which a student received HOPE Grant payment. The hours for which a student received HOPE Grant payment prior to the Summer term of 2003 are not counted as “Paid-Hours.” The hours for which a student received HOPE Grant payment for the Summer term of 2003, Fall term of 2003, Winter term of 2004, Spring term of 2004, and Summer term

of 2004 are counted as "Paid-Hours," except if the student was also enrolled in high school during these terms. Beginning with Fall term of 2004, all hours for which a student received HOPE Grant payment are counted as "Paid-Hours," regardless of whether the student is also enrolled in high school. The "Paid-Hours" limit for HOPE Scholarship eligibility is determined by totaling all hours for which a student received payment from any combination of Accel, HOPE Grant (as described above), and/or HOPE Scholarship programs. All hours for which a student received HOPE Scholarship payment for the Fall term of 1993, and all terms thereafter, are counted as "Paid-Hours" for purposes of the HOPE Scholarship "Paid-Hours" limit. All hours for which a student received Accel payment, beginning with Fall term of 2004, are included in the "Paid-Hours" limit for HOPE Scholarship eligibility.

"Part-Time Student" means a student attending an eligible postsecondary educational institution who is enrolled for less than 12 quarter or semester credit hours.

"School Term" means a typical school semester or quarter.

"Tuition" means the charges to a student for instruction without regard to other fees such as technology, activity, athletic, health, etc.

"Withdrawal Date" means the date the student withdraws, as determined by the institution. The institution must determine the withdrawal date in accordance with the procedures set forth for determining withdrawal date under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

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