

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College believes that the primary purpose of student financial aid is to provide assistance to students who, without such assistance, would be unable to attend college. The main responsibility for educational financing is the obligation of the student and his or her family.

In most cases, financial aid is awarded to eligible students on the basis of financial need. Exceptions are scholarships, which have been provided by donors for the purpose of recognizing academic promise or achievement, and the Georgia HOPE Scholarship and Grant. Students may be eligible for more than one type of financial aid. Special Admit students are ineligible for any federal or state financial aid.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College does not participate in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. WGTC will certify private loans that are disbursed to the college from a student's private lender.

Students may apply online for Federal Pell Grant and Georgia's HOPE program at <http://fafsa.gov>. Applicants who elect not to complete the FAFSA should apply for HOPE by using the Georgia Student Financial Aid Application System (GSFAPPS) online at <http://gacollege411.org>, or [gafutures.org](http://gafutures.org). High school students will complete the Move On When Ready Application online at <http://gacollege411.org>, or [gafutures.org](http://gafutures.org) or complete a paper MOWR application as applicable. Applications, computers, and assistance are available in the Office of Financial Aid, or designated areas on each campus.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The determination of financial need is provided to Wiregrass Georgia Technical College electronically through the use of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Financial aid is available in the form of federal and state grants, scholarships, federal work-study, and private sources. Information may be obtained online at <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov> or [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org).

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the preferred application for students applying for financial aid (except for high school students). A FAFSA booklet may be requested by calling 1-800-433-3243 or the TTY line at 1-800-730-8913 for the hearing impaired. The completed application must be mailed in the envelope provided. The FAFSA can also be filed electronically at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (which is the fastest and recommended method). The information reported must be accurate and is subject to verification. .

An application for student financial aid must be completed each academic year. Wiregrass Georgia Technical College's academic year consists of Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. All applications for the upcoming academic year should be completed preferably by May 1; but no later than the WGTC priority date. Students may access all necessary forms for financial aid in the Office of Financial Aid or by download at [http://www.wiregrass.edu/admissions/finaid\\_forms.php](http://www.wiregrass.edu/admissions/finaid_forms.php).

### General Eligibility Requirements – Who Gets Aid?

Most students receive some type of financial aid. To receive federal and/or state financial aid, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be enrolled as a regular or provisional student in an eligible technical certificate, diploma, or degree program of study and meet all specific program requirements;
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Demonstrate financial need;
- Be at least 16 years of age for federal programs or at least a 9th grade student for MOWR
- Have earned a high school diploma or equivalent unless enrolled in MOWR or other eligible program
- Not hold a bachelor's degree
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP);

- Be able to prove registration with the Selective Service (Males 18 years of age or older – unless able to prove exemption);
- Not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a refund on a previously received grant; or have completed all requirements of a satisfactory payment arrangement (this option will not restore HOPE eligibility); completed an acceptable rehabilitation plan, or have an approved loan consolidation;
- Agree to use any funds received for educationally related purposes only;
- Certify that he or she will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of a controlled substance while receiving financial aid;
- Cannot be recently convicted on felony drug related charges.

***NOTE: Students receiving Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) should not apply for a loan unless they no longer desire to receive TAA. TAA participants are advised of this during orientation sessions, in the trade act handbooks, and in the DOL 2417 Application for training participant acknowledgements that, “students may not use loans or personal funds to pay any part of their direct training costs.”***

## **Federal Financial Aid Programs**

### ***Federal Pell Grant***

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College participates in the Federal Pell Grant program. The Pell grant is awarded to students who do not have a bachelor's or professional degree and who are enrolled in a degree, diploma, or eligible technical certificate. The Federal Pell Grant Program is the largest federal student aid program available. Unlike educational loans, grants do not have to be repaid. To have eligibility determined, students must submit an application for federal student aid once a year, no later than 6 to 8 weeks before fall semester. The Department of Education uses a standardized formula, which is revised and approved annually by Congress, to evaluate the information reported by students when they apply for the Pell Grant Program. The amount actually awarded will depend on a student's enrollment status (full-time or part-time), length of annual enrollment, and the cost of education. **Early application is encouraged to ensure availability of funds for enrollment.** The Pell Grant is not available to students who are accepted with a Special Admit or Developmental admission status, or those who are concurrently attending two or more colleges as a regular student. The amount of Federal Pell Grant funds a student may receive over his or her lifetime is limited by a new federal law to be the equivalent of six years (12 semesters) of Pell Grant funding. Since the maximum amount of Pell Grant funding a student can receive each year is equal to 100%, the six-year equivalent is 600%. Once a student has exceeded the 12 semester maximum, Pell eligibility will end.

### ***Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)***

Grant recipients with exceptional financial need may be eligible for the FSEOG which is a campus-based program administered through the Financial Aid Office. The award amount is contingent upon the availability of FSEOG funds, and the amount of other aid received by the student. Eligible students are processed first by selection of those with the lowest Expected Family Contributions (EFC) attending at least half-time and making satisfactory academic progress. The FSEOG Grant is not available to students whose admission status is learning support or students who are concurrently attending two or more colleges as a regular student.

### ***Federal Work-Study (FWS)***

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a campus-based program that provides Pell Grant applicants with part-time employment to assist with the cost of their college education. Students must be enrolled in an eligible technical certificate, diploma, or an associate degree program and attending classes to be eligible. Students must be enrolled at least half time and demonstrate financial need based on their official EFC and the cost of attendance. Students normally work 20 hours per week and income from work study and all other aid cannot exceed their cost of attendance for any given semester. FWS pay rate may vary based on place of employment and type of work. If at all possible, students are employed on campus in jobs related to their area of study. Off-campus jobs may be available to support federal community service requirements. Any interested students should check the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Job Listings and apply online at the Employment link on the home page. The FWS is not available to students whose admissions status is learning support or students who are concurrently attending two or more colleges as a regular student.

## State Aid Programs

### ***HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program – Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally***

**The HOPE Grant** program, funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, provides financial assistance to qualified Georgia students and active duty military personnel stationed in Georgia and their dependents. (See *Georgia Residency Requirements* section below for more information on residency eligibility requirements.)

Beginning Fall semester 2015, the HOPE Grant will pay for tuition at the rate of \$67 per credit hour. The HOPE Grant will continue to pay for remedial coursework (Learning Support courses) and joint enrollment coursework at the \$67 per credit hour rate for the 2015-2016 academic year.

The HOPE Grant will pay for up to 63 semester hours of study. A student must meet a GPA requirement of 2.0 at the point that the student has accumulated 30 semester of courses toward a diploma or certificate for which the student received HOPE Grant funds.

This applies to currently enrolled students. Students with 30 semester grant paid hours must have a 2.0 GPA based on previously paid HOPE Grant hours to continue their Grant eligibility into Fall Semester. There will be two eligibility checkpoints for the HOPE Grant: 30th semester hour and 60th semester hour based on HOPE Grant paid hours.

Students can regain HOPE Grant eligibility once at the second check point. Any coursework paid for by HOPE, with the exception of Learning Support and Joint Enrollment coursework, will apply to the GPA calculation and checkpoints. However, such credit hours for which a student received HOPE Grant payment prior to his or her high school graduation must be counted as Paid-Hours, if the student was participating in Joint Enrollment.

Students with a bachelor's degree are not eligible for the HOPE Grant.

**The Zell Miller HOPE Grant** is an expansion of the HOPE Grant program, this grant pays 100% of tuition for technical college students that are HOPE Grant eligible in a technical certificate or diploma program with a GPA of 3.5 or greater.

**The HOPE Scholarship** program, also funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, is a merit-based scholarship program available to Georgia residents seeking associate degree level programs or higher, who have demonstrated specific academic achievements.

HOPE Scholarship will pay for tuition at the rate of \$67 per semester hour.

There are several ways to gain eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship: graduate from high school as a HOPE Scholar, earn it while in college, or those who graduated from an ineligible high school, completed an ineligible home study program, or earned a GED® credential, can score in the national composite 80th percentile or higher on the SAT or ACT tests.

Eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship is determined in the Office of the Registrar by designated staff. Applications for HOPE Scholarship Evaluation must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar. Final, official transcripts must be received from all previously attended postsecondary schools prior to the HOPE Scholarship Evaluation being processed. All previous degree-level coursework counts in a student's Attempted-Hours and towards their GPA. Students may be required to provide additional residency verification for HOPE Scholarship. (See *Georgia Residency Requirements* section below for more information on residency eligibility requirements.) Students who did not graduate from a Georgia high school or home school program must be Georgia residents for 24 months prior to the first day of the term. Active duty military service members, spouses, or dependent children stationed in Georgia must meet residency requirements.

Eligible freshmen students receive HOPE assistance for the first 30 semester hours attempted. First time recipients of this award on or after July 1, 2011, MUST use the Scholarship within seven years (excludes Military service time) of graduating high school, receiving their GED® credential (or within seven years of when their high school class graduated, whichever comes first), or completing a home school program. Students who have not received HOPE Scholarship prior to July 1, 2011, and who graduated from high school more than seven years ago cannot receive HOPE Scholarship. (HOPE Grant recipients changing to a degree-level program meeting these criteria will not be eligible for HOPE Scholarship.)

HOPE Scholarship eligibility is checked at the 30th, 60th, and 90th semester hour marks, called tiers, to see if the student is still meeting HOPE Scholarship standards. Additionally, GPA is checked at the end of each spring semester. If the student loses the HOPE Scholarship at their first check point due to GPA dropping below 3.0, he or she is eligible to reapply for HOPE Scholarship once at the next check point, provided the cumulative Attempted-Hour GPA is a 3.0 (see Attempted-Hour definition below). Students can only regain eligibility one time after losing it.

This provision takes into account prior eligibility status. If a student had lost eligibility in the past and has since regained it, another loss of eligibility would be permanent.

A student that is not eligible during the term in which they have accumulated 90 Attempted-Hours (Tier 4 check-point) cannot regain HOPE Scholarship eligibility. Regardless of the funding source, once a degree seeking student has accumulated 127 semester Attempted-Hours of degree credit, or has received any combination of HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Grant, and/or Accel Program payment for a Combined-Paid total of 127 semester hours, or has earned a baccalaureate (four-year) degree, the student is no longer eligible for the HOPE Scholarship/Grant programs.

**Attempted-Hours:** Credit hours are counted as Attempted-Hours regardless of whether the course was completed, the hours were earned, or a letter grade was recorded on the student's official academic transcript. Credit hours are counted as Attempted-Hours regardless of whether the student receives payment for those hours from HOPE. There is not an expiration date for Attempted-Hours. Credit hours are counted regardless of whether they transfer towards the new degree or are still considered valid. HOPE Scholarship will not pay for remedial coursework (Learning Support courses); however, all remedial coursework previously counted in attempted hours will remain counted in the attempted hours calculation.

**Combined-Paid Hours:** Means the total number of Paid-Hours a student has accumulated from any combination of the HOPE Scholarship Program, HOPE Grant Program, and Accel Program.

## The Zell Miller Scholarship

Students graduating from an eligible Georgia high school with a grade point average of 3.7 (determined by GSFC) and having a SAT score of 1200 (critical reading and math) or ACT score of at least 26 may apply for the Zell Miller Scholarship. Zell Miller Scholarship pays 100% of current academic year standard tuition amount. Students who entered college as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2011, may be eligible as a recipient at the sophomore, junior, or senior levels. The Zell Miller Scholarship will also be awarded to the top two graduates from each high school (must still meet HOPE Scholarship eligibility requirements excluding the SAT/ACT test score and the 3.7 high school GPA). Recipients must maintain a 3.3 grade point average for all check points (30/60/90 semester hour check points).

If the student's GPA falls below 3.3, but is at least a 3.0, the student would be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. If a student loses eligibility for any reason, they may regain eligibility one time if they re-qualify at one of the checkpoints. This provision takes into account prior eligibility status.

If a student lost eligibility in the past and has since regained it, another loss of eligibility would be permanent.

For complete regulations and additional definitions regarding the HOPE Scholarship/Grant program, go online to, [https://www.gsfc.org/gsfnew/SandG\\_regs\\_2009.cfm](https://www.gsfc.org/gsfnew/SandG_regs_2009.cfm), or [gacollege411.org](http://gacollege411.org), or call the customer contact center at 1-800-505-GSFC (4732) or (770) 724-9000 in Metro Atlanta. GSFC's mailing address is 2082 East Exchange Place, Tucker, GA 30084.

## **Other Financial Assistance**

### ***Nelnet Payment Plan Option***

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College offers students a payment plan option through Nelnet Business Solutions for a small enrollment fee of \$30, \$35 or \$40. A minimum down payment is required with the remaining balance due in 2 or 3 monthly installments. The amount of the down payment, number of monthly payments, and the enrollment fee are determined by the date of enrollment in the plan. For more information, contact Nelnet at 800-609-8056.

### ***Private Loans***

Private loans are credit-based loans to help students “bridge the gap” between the financial aid they have been awarded and any additional amounts that may be needed to pay for outstanding educational expenses, such as tuition, fees, books, or supplies.

### ***Student Access Loan - Student Access Loan (SAL)***

Student Access Loan – loan for eligible Georgia students attending an institution within the Technical College System of Georgia.

*SAL has a random selection process based on available funds.*

SAL will offer eligible students a 1% interest loan to assist in meeting the educational costs of a technical college education. Students must have a 2015-16 FAFSA on file and the applicant should have exhausted all other financial aid resources. Selected SAL applicants will be notified by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. The application for SAL is available online at <https://www.gsfc.org/secure/lg/>.

### ***Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)***

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a federal program that pays training costs for economically disadvantaged individuals and dislocated workers. Training costs can include tuition, books, insurance, tools, and uniforms. In addition, a stipend is available to help defray the cost of transportation. The WIOA scholarship may be received in conjunction with Pell and HOPE. Applicants must complete the assessment, eligibility, and selection process with a WIOA representative at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College WIOA Office.

### ***Veterans Benefits***

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College is approved for veterans training under U.S. Code 38. Eligible persons should complete the application for veteran’s education benefits using VA Form 22-1990 through their local or regional Veterans Administration Office or online through the Veterans On-line Application (VONAPP) at [vabenefits.vba.va.gov](http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov).

Students applying for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program use VA Form 22-1900. The VA Certifying Official in the Veterans Support Services Office is available to assist applicants in filing for education benefits.

Students receiving financial aid from the VA are personally responsible for paying tuition and fees at the time of registration if they are not eligible for other financial aid.

In order to receive benefits, students must meet VA attendance requirements. If a student drops or is dropped from a class, termination is forwarded to the VA Regional Office in Atlanta. However, the student may continue attending other classes without veteran benefits. The VA will not pay for any courses that are not listed in the student’s program curriculum. Students receiving VA benefits are required to notify the School Certifying Official as soon as possible in regards to enrollment status (i.e. adding/dropping classes, withdrawals, or transfer or school), change in program of study, and graduation.

Students receiving VA educational benefits are required to provide the School Certifying Official a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility from the VA for the following financial aid benefits:

- Post 9/11 GI Bill- Chapter 33
- Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty- Chapter 30
- Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve- Chapter 1606

- Reserve Educational Assistance Program- Chapter 1607
- Veterans' Educational Assistance Program- Chapter 32
- Dependents' Educational Assistance Program- Chapter 35

In addition, Chapter 1606 and 1607 students are required to obtain a Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) from their Commanding Officer to be provided to the School Certifying Official.

For students receiving benefits under the Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program, a copy of the Authorization and Certificate of Entrance into Vocational Rehabilitation (VA Form 28-1905) must be provided to the School Certifying Official.

VA students should contact the VA Education and Training Office at 1-888-GIBILL-1 or online at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/> for more information.

### ***Georgia's HERO Scholarship***

Helping Educate Reservists and their Offspring (HERO) is a non-need based scholarship to provide educational scholarship assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones, and the children and spouses of such members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reserves. Eligible recipients may receive up to \$2,000 per academic school year. Award amounts are prorated for school terms in which recipients are enrolled for less than full time (12 hours).

### ***Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)***

The IASG is available to eligible students whose parents or guardians died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, and who are not eligible for the Pell Grant. If your parent(s) or guardian(s) died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001 and you are eligible for the Pell Grant, you may qualify for an increase.

### ***Vocational Rehabilitation***

Individuals with disabilities who qualify may receive financial assistance while attending Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Contact your local vocational rehabilitation counselor for assistance.

### ***Georgia's Public Safety Memorial (GPSM) Grant***

The GPSM grant funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission was created to provide educational assistance to the dependent children of public safety officers permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty. The Georgia General Assembly appropriates funds each year during the preceding legislative session. For more information contact the WGTC Financial Aid Office or GSFC.

### ***Strategic Industrial Workforce Development Grant (Effective Fall Semester 2015)***

The Strategic Industries Workforce Development (SIWDG) Grant is a state funded grant. Students within the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) receiving Hope Grant or Zell Miller Grant funds and enrolled in Commercial Truck Driving, Early Childhood Care & Education, Healthcare Technologies, Business Education and Computer Science, Practical Nursing, or Welding may be eligible for SIWDG. The SIWDG is available for one term only for Commercial Truck Driving. Students with a bachelor's degree are not eligible for the SIWDG. Visit our website for a complete list of updated programs.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED THROUGH THE WIREGRASS GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATIONS NORTH AND SOUTH**

**The Kevin DeMarcus Acree Scholarship** provides \$500 to a student enrolled full-time in the Culinary Program. This scholarship is for Valdosta Campus students only.

The **Adel-Cook County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship** provides \$500 to a student who is enrolled full-time at the Cook County Workforce Development Center in any major.

The **Buck and Libby Anderson Scholarship** provides \$600 to a resident of Atkinson, Ben Hill, Coffee, Irwin, or Wilcox County who is enrolled at Wiregrass Georgia Tech.

The **David Apperson Memorial Scholarship** provides \$250 to a student in any program enrolled full-time. This is for any campus, northern and southern region.

The **Azalea Health Innovations Inc. HIT Scholarship** provides \$500 for the RHIT Certification Exam. The scholarship is available for up to two (2) outstanding senior HIT students per year. The application must be submitted at the beginning of a student's final semester.

**Ronnie G. and Caryl Tucker Branch Scholarship** -- To be eligible for the Ronnie G. and Caryl Tucker Branch scholarship, applicant must be attending Wiregrass Georgia Technical College as a full-time student (enrolled in at least twelve credit hours). Applicants must have and maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA if selected. Scholarship is open to Telecommunications Technology students. The proceeds of the scholarship shall be used only for expenses associated with educational cost at Wiregrass Georgia Tech. Acceptance of this award will not preclude the student from receiving other financial aid for which he/she may be eligible. The scholarship amount to be determined based on earnings through the endowment to be presented in equal payments for two consecutive semesters. (i.e.: Earnings equal \$500 – student will be given \$250 for two consecutive semesters).

The **Brogdon EMS Scholarship** covers the cost of the certification exam for an EMS student enrolled full-time on the Valdosta campus. Students must apply at least one week prior to the exam.

The **CJB Industries Scholarship** provides \$1000 for one year to a student with a 3.0 GPA who is enrolled full-time in any program or enrolled part-time while working full-time. This application is for Valdosta Campus students only.

The **Mary Catherine Coffey Memorial Scholarship** is for two nursing students on the Valdosta Campus in their final year of study. The scholarship provides \$500 for each the two final terms of the program.

Recipient of the **Joe and Audis Compton Scholarship** must be a graduating senior from Fitzgerald High School or Irwin County High School and enrolled at Wiregrass Georgia Tech. The scholarship is for \$500 and applications are due no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of the semester.

The **Ben Copeland Scholarship** provides \$1500 to two students who reside in Lanier County (\$2500 total). Student must show proof of residence and must not be more than 25 years of age. This is for the southern region only (Valdosta and Cook Campuses).

The **Roger Crenshaw Memorial Scholarship** provides \$500 to a student enrolled full-time who resides in either Ben Hill, Crisp, Irwin or Wilcox County. Applications are due no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of the semester.

The **Ricky Dollar Memorial Scholarship** is available for students attending the Valdosta or Cook Campus of Wiregrass in any program of study taking at least nine credit hours with a GPA of at least 2.0. The scholarship covers up to \$2000 in educational expenses over the course of three semesters (one year).

**John Henry Dorminy, Jr. Scholarship** -- Each year two graduating seniors from Ben Hill, Irwin, and Wilcox counties are selected to receive the John Henry Dorminy, Jr. Scholarship. Each respective high school shall be responsible for student selection. The proceeds of the scholarship shall be used only for expenses associated with educational cost at Wiregrass Georgia Tech. Acceptance of this award will not preclude the student from receiving other financial aid for which he/she may be eligible. This is a \$500 scholarship to be presented in increments of \$250 for two consecutive semesters.

The **Douglas Lions Club Scholarship**, presented in honor of Francis Lott, provides \$500 to a student who is a resident of Coffee County. Deadline to apply for this scholarship is two weeks prior to the beginning of each semester.

The **Herring Horticulture Scholarship** provides up to \$500 to a student enrolled in the Horticulture program on the Valdosta campus.

The **Benjamin James Herron Memorial Scholarship** provides \$1000 to a student enrolled full-time in the EMS, Criminal Justice, or Fire Science program. This is for the Valdosta campus only.

**Johnson Distributing “Go Back” Scholarship** - If you are a student at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College with excellent work ethics, earned a high school diploma or GED® over seven years ago, and are enrolled in any program on the Valdosta Campus, you may qualify for a scholarship of up to \$1000. Two students will be awarded the \$1000 scholarship each year.

**Johnson Distributing Truck Driving Scholarship** - If you are a student at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College with excellent work ethics and enrolled in the truck driving program on the Valdosta Campus, you may qualify for a scholarship of up to \$1000.

The **Howard Jordan Scholarship** is a \$500 scholarship awarded to a full-time student at Wiregrass Georgia Tech who resides in either Atkinson, Ben Hill, Coffee, Irwin, or Wilcox County.

The **Kiwanis Club of Adel Scholarship** provides \$500 to a full time student enrolled on any Wiregrass Georgia Technical College campus. All majors will be considered.

The **Manufacturers Education Scholarship** of the Technical College System of Georgia Foundation will award two scholarships of \$1,250 each are to be awarded each semester. Funds are to be used for tuition, books, or program supplies. Before funds will be disbursed, the Technical College System of Georgia Foundation Office must receive a note of thanks from the recipient to the donor(s) to be mailed by the Foundation Office.

The **Carolyn King Panizzi Scholarship** applies to an accounting student who needs financial assistance for the cost of a Certified Bookkeeper Exam and/or the American Payroll Association Exam. Please print application for other criteria and regulations. This scholarship is for Valdosta Campus students only. It is an ongoing scholarship and there is not a deadline to apply.

The **Carolyn King Panizzi Scholarship #2** provides \$500 to an accounting student that is enrolled full time. This scholarship is for Valdosta Campus students only.

The **Stephen W. Pless Veterans Scholarship** of up to \$500 per academic year is for military-affiliated students. Major (USMC) Stephen W. Pless survived 780 combat helicopter missions in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1967. He was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident while stationed in Florida (July 20, 1969). Major Pless was from Newnan, Georgia, attended Decatur High School and graduated from Georgia Military Academy. A portion of his mother’s estate was used to establish a fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. The TCSG Foundation will help to distribute these funds according to the family’s wishes.

The **E. Lewis Vaughn Scholarship** provides up to \$500 to a full time student from Hamilton County, Florida enrolled on the Valdosta Campus of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Student must be enrolled in an approved major to promote the economic development of Hamilton County.

The **Wilson Eye Center Scholarship** is for an Ophthalmology student needing financial assistance for the cost to take the LDO, NCLE, or ABO. This scholarship is for Valdosta Campus students only. It is an ongoing grant and there is no deadline for the application.

The **Carolyn Zeigler Memorial Scholarship** provides \$250 to a student in any program enrolled full-time. Student must also have at least a 3.0 GPA and must be on the Valdosta campus. Please print the application for all criteria and regulations.

The Foundations may also provide some assistance with educational expenses to students who do not receive one of the above scholarships. Students who reside in Atkinson, Ben Hill, Coffee, Irwin, or Wilcox County should complete the following application. Students who reside in Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Lanier, or Lowndes County should complete the following application. For more information on the regulations and application process, please visit the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College website at: <http://wiregrass.edu/about/scholarships.php>.



## DEADLINES

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available in January for students to reapply for financial aid for the following award year. Application for financial aid is made once each year. Once approved, it is effective fall semester through summer semester of that award year. All HOPE and Pell financial aid expires at the end of summer semester of the current year.

## FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION PROCESS

Associate of Science Degree/Diploma/Technical Certificate Students: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (<http://ed.gov>) at least six to eight weeks prior to the expected registration date.

Georgia residents and active duty military stationed in Georgia and their dependents will automatically receive the HOPE Grant, based on results of the FAFSA, if pursuing a diploma or certificate of the required length. HOPE degree-seeking students must have their HOPE Scholarship eligibility determined by Wiregrass Georgia Technical College's Office of the Registrar.

**NOTE:** Military members who separate in the State of Georgia must establish Georgia residency for 12 or 24 months if their home of record at the time of separation was not Georgia. Students who receive aid must report any other assistance received, regardless of source, to the Financial Aid Office.

Students who are selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education must submit all required documentation, complete and sign the Federal Verification Worksheet when required, and send this to the Financial Aid Office in order to be eligible for aid.

### **Federal Citizenship and State of Georgia Residency Requirements for Student Financial Aid**

#### ***Federal Citizenship Requirements***

To be considered for any form of student financial aid from the Federal government, a student must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen. An eligible non-citizen is defined as a student who is:

A United States permanent resident with an Alien Registration Receipt Card (1-551), or a conditional permanent resident (1-551C) or a non-citizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (1-94) from the U. S. Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee", "Asylum Granted", "Indefinite Parole", "Humanitarian Parole", or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant". The following examples of U.S. Immigration and Naturalization documents DO NOT meet the eligible non-citizen criteria:

- An F1 or F2 Student Visa
- A J1 or J2 Exchange Visitor Visa
- A G Series Visa (pertaining to international organizations) or any other temporary U.S. Visa

#### ***Georgia Residency Requirements***

In addition to being a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, a student must meet the Georgia residency requirement to be considered for the State of Georgia scholarships and grants. Verification documentation that may be requested include, but are not limited to a copy of your (or your parents') most recent Georgia income tax return; a copy of your driver's license; or a copy of your voter's registration card; location of property, including home purchase, and taxes paid thereon; reason for initially coming to Georgia; location of checking, savings, or other banking accounts and automobile title registration and tag taxes.

All documents must verify 24 consecutive months of domicile in the State of Georgia (which indicates the person's intent to maintain a permanent presence) or graduation from a Georgia High School which requires 12 consecutive months. For more information, please see Technical College System of Georgia, Policy and Procedure Manual online at <https://tcsge.edu/tcsgpolicy/docs/V.B.3.Residency.html>.

## **Federal Student Aid Verification**

It is the policy of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College to verify all Student Aid Reports selected by the central processor for verification. This verification procedure will be conducted in compliance with the latest regulations published by the U.S. Department of Education in the Title IV Student Financial Aid Handbook.

Applicants selected by the central processor for the verification process will be notified by the Office of Financial Aid as to the documentation they will be required to provide. The Office of Financial Aid must receive all documents within 45 days of the date of notification. Applicants who do not provide all of the requested documentation will be considered not eligible for the Pell Grant or any other Title IV Financial Aid Programs. Students should review their financial aid award on BanWeb to see the results of their verification. Actual award updates will be posted on the student's BanWeb account.

## **Unusual Enrollment**

The U.S. Department of Education has established new regulations to prevent fraud and abuse in the Federal Pell Grant Program by identifying students with unusual enrollment histories. Students who received a Federal Pell Grant at multiple institutions in recent academic years (2011-2012, 2012- 2013, 2013-2014, & 2014-2015) will have their 2015-2016 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) flagged for unusual enrollment history (UEH). The flags "2" and "3" will be indicated on the Student Aid Report (SAR) and the Financial Aid Office will be required to review the student's enrollment history to determine whether or not the student is enrolling only long enough to receive cash refunds of Federal student aid. Unusual Enrollment History (UEH) must be resolved before the student will receive Federal financial aid.

## **FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICIES**

Federal and state regulations require that students make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to continue to receive aid. SAP measures whether students applying for financial aid are in good academic standing and making SAP toward completion of their programs. Satisfactory progress is evaluated at the end of each semester for all students. (A student is not required to be meeting the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's SAP policy to receive payment from the HOPE GED® Grant Program; however, all other requirements must be met.)

### **1. Qualitative Standard: GPA Requirement**

Financial aid recipients must maintain the same minimum GPA as any other student enrolled at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Please refer to the Academic Regulations section of the Student Handbook for the method of determining GPA. The minimum GPA allowed is 2.0. Students falling below those minimums at the time of review will be placed on financial aid warning and will have one semester to remove themselves from that status by completing the required number of semester hours of coursework to achieve a cumulative 2.0 or higher GPA. Financial aid is extended for the warning semester for all classes not affected by the federal repeat coursework provision. Students who do not attain the 2.0 GPA at the end of the warning semester are on financial aid suspension and their financial aid award is terminated. Students on financial aid suspension must pay for and successfully complete the required number of semester hours to achieve a cumulative 2.0 GPA and a 66.66% earned rate to have aid reinstated. HOPE Grant students must maintain a 2.0 GPA at the 30th and 60th hour GPA checkpoints. Zell Miller Grant students must maintain a cumulative HOPE GPA of 3.5 at the 30th, 60th, 90th and end of sprint check points to retain the Zell Miller Grant. HOPE Scholarship students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to retain eligibility for the Scholarship. Zell Miller Scholarship students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.3. If the GPA falls below 3.3, but is at least a 3.0, the student would be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship.

### **2. Quantitative Standard: Completion Rate**

Financial aid recipients must successfully earn at least 66.66% of the credit hours attempted to remain eligible for financial aid. Students falling below the 66.66% successful earned rate at the time of review are placed on financial aid warning. Students placed on financial aid warning must complete the warning semester with the required number of semester hours of coursework to achieve a minimum 2.0 GPA. Failure to do so will result in financial aid suspension. Students returning from suspension must pay for and successfully complete the required number of semester hours to achieve a cumulative 2.0 GPA and a 66.66% earned rate to have aid reinstated.

### **3. Maximum Time Frame**

Students must complete their educational program within a maximum time frame of one and a half (150 percent) times the length of the program in which they are enrolled. This means that students will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid once they have attempted one and one-half times the number of credit hours required for graduation in the program in which enrolled.

### **4. Grades**

Grades of "I," "IP," and "W" are not included in calculating a student's GPA. With the exception of "IP," and "W" grades are counted as coursework attempted, and will be used to determine SAP status. Students who receive "I" grades will have their SAP re-evaluated when the final grade is posted by the Office of the Registrar.

Grades received for Learning Support do not affect GPA, but the hours are calculated in the formula to determine the 66.66 percent completion rate.

### **5. Termination of Financial Aid**

Financial aid will be terminated when a student is determined by the Financial Aid Office to be ineligible, if the office has evidence that the student has falsified information on the application materials, or if federal or state funds are not provided to meet the award.

### **6. Appeal Process/Reinstatement of Aid**

Students have the right to appeal the denial of financial aid if they have extenuating circumstances which prevented them from making satisfactory progress. The appeal must be made in writing by contacting the Financial Aid Office. The student must complete the form and attach documentation to support the appeal. The completed form will be returned to the Financial Aid Office. Students who are approved for an appeal will be placed on financial aid probation for the semester the appeal was approved. In certain situations, an academic plan may be appropriate to outline the academic rigor the student will need in order to achieve the SAP policy. The Financial Aid Committee will review the appeal and if properly documented may approve the appeal for one semester. Subsequent appeals may be granted on a case-by-case based on the extenuating circumstances. If not documented, the appeal will be denied and the student will not be awarded financial aid for the semester. Written notification will be provided for all decisions.

### **Professional Judgment**

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College understands there may be cases of extenuating circumstances affecting a student's financial aid eligibility. The student, or the student's parents (in the case of a dependent students), may request special consideration called "professional judgment" by submitting the appropriate Special Circumstances Appeal form. The form may be obtained from the Office of Financial Aid or by downloading the form from [http://www.wiregrass.edu/admissions/finaid\\_forms.php](http://www.wiregrass.edu/admissions/finaid_forms.php). Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: loss of employment; loss of income due to divorce or separation; loss of untaxed income; loss of income due to death of a spouse; a one-time income increase such as lottery winnings; loss or hardship due to natural disaster.

Professional judgment may also be sought for students who want to be considered for a dependency override. This override will allow consideration for dependent students to change to an independent status due to an unusual or life threatening family situation, death of a custodial parent, or students who have no contact with their natural parents. All professional judgment decisions will be determined by the Director of Financial Aid. Professional judgment decisions may take 4 to 6 weeks to process.

### **Repeat Coursework – Financial Aid Implications**

Effective July 1, 2011, students may only receive federal financial aid funding for one repetition of a previously passed course; a previously passed course is one in which any grade higher than "F" was received. A student may receive federal financial aid funding more than once for repeating the same course in which a failing grade has been received, however the normal Satisfactory Academic Progress policy will still apply. Any student who is using federal financial aid to repeat a course, and withdraws before completion of the course, will not have this attempt count against his or her one attempt to retake a previously passed course. However, if after passing the first attempt the student decides to receive federal funds to retake a course for a second time and fails it, the second attempt failure will count as the one allowed repeat of a previously passed course and the student will not be paid for retaking the course a third time.