

Shorter College Professional Studies Program and the HOPE Scholarship  
September 2007

▶ Eligibility:

- To be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship, you must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the HOPE GPA checkpoints. The GPA is checked at 30, 60, and 90 **career attempted semester hours** and every May. At each checkpoint you must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA for **all hours attempted at any college**. At any checkpoint that you do not have a 3.0 cumulative GPA you will lose your HOPE Scholarship until the next checkpoint. When in doubt about your situation, contact your Financial Aid Advisor.

Example: A student transfers in with 36 attempted hours and a 3.2 GPA. The student meets all other HOPE requirements, including Georgia residency. This student is eligible to receive HOPE at Shorter College Professional Studies Program after **successfully completing 12 credit hours with a 3.0 cumulative GPA**.

- You must be an undergraduate, working toward your first baccalaureate degree.
- The HOPE Georgia residency requirements must be met for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes of the school period for which HOPE payment is sought.
- You 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 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes of the school period for which HOPE payment is sought.

▶ Application:

- As a Shorter College Professional Studies Program student, you must complete the paper HOPE application, **not** the online electronic application, and submit it to the Financial Aid Office of Shorter College.
- The application should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office as soon as you have accumulated 30, 60, or 90 career **attempted** hours. Your total number of career **attempted** hours includes credit hours you attempted prior to attending Shorter College and the corresponding grades are included in your HOPE GPA calculation.

Example: A student transfers to Shorter College with 40 attempted hours and a 2.99 GPA. The student must wait until he or she reaches the 60 attempted hours checkpoint to apply for HOPE. If the student has a cumulative 3.0 GPA at the 60 attempted hours checkpoint, then he or she can receive HOPE payment, after attempting 12 more hours. This first HOPE disbursement is for the 12 hours attempted from 60 hours to 72 hours.

- Once you have been determined to be eligible for HOPE at Shorter College, no additional application is required. If you are determined to be ineligible, you must reapply at the next HOPE checkpoint.

- ▶ Award Amount:  
The maximum award amount is \$3,000 per academic year (for 24 credit hours), or two disbursements of \$1,500 (one disbursement at the end of each 12 credit hours completed after eligibility is confirmed)

*NOTE: Professional Study students must successfully complete 12 hours after the point of eligibility before funds can be released by the state.*

- ▶ Award Limits:  
You are no longer eligible for HOPE payment once you have attempted 127 hours, or received HOPE payment for 127 hours, (including credit hours for courses you withdrew from, dropped, or failed), or you have earned a baccalaureate degree.
- ▶ Enrollment Changes:  
Dropping a course or withdrawing from the program **will** change your HOPE eligibility.
- ▶ Crediting Accounts:  
HOPE funds are requested monthly by Shorter College from the Georgia Student Finance Commission, on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, and should appear on your account 6-8 weeks after the funds are earned.

## HOPE

