

## Questions and Answers Concerning Lottery Scholarships and Grants

### General Questions Applicable to All Types of Lottery Scholarships and Grants

1. What types of lottery scholarships and grants will be available?

(A) Tennessee HOPE scholarships will be available for study towards an associate or baccalaureate degree.

(B) Tennessee HOPE access grants will be available for study towards an associate or baccalaureate degree. These grants are for the freshman year only for certain students with limited incomes.

(C) Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants will be available for study towards a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee Technology Center.

More information about each type of lottery scholarship or grant is given in the questions and answers below.

2. When will the lottery scholarships and grants start?

The first scholarships and grants will be awarded for the fall semester 2004. No scholarships or grants will be awarded before that time.

3. Can the amounts of the lottery scholarships or grants change?

Yes, the legislature will set the amount of the scholarships and grants for each academic year. If the amount of the lottery proceeds does not meet revenue estimates, then the scholarships and grants can be reduced pro rata by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

4. What are the general eligibility requirements for lottery scholarships and grants?

Students receiving lottery scholarships or grants must be Tennessee citizens who have been residents of the state at least one year prior to application for the scholarship or grant. Additionally, recipients must comply with selective service registration requirements, if such requirements are applicable to the recipient, must not be in default on or owe a refund for student financial aid, and must not be currently incarcerated. Please see the questions below concerning other eligibility requirements for each program.

5. Is eligibility for a lottery scholarship or grant limited by a student's adjusted gross income?

No, receipt of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship or a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant is not limited by income. There is, however, additional financial assistance from lottery proceeds for a student whose adjusted gross income does not exceed \$36,000 annually. See question 6 below for a definition of student's adjusted gross income. See question 9 below under Tennessee HOPE scholarships and the questions below concerning

Tennessee HOPE access grants for more information about financial assistance from lottery proceeds for a student whose adjusted gross income does not exceed \$36,000.

6. What is a student's adjusted gross income?

A student's adjusted gross income is:

- (A) The adjusted gross income of the student's parents or guardians, if the student is a dependent of parents or guardians; or
- (B) The adjusted gross income of the student and the student's spouse, if applicable, if the student is financially independent of parents or guardians.

7. Will lottery scholarship and grant recipients have to attend school full-time or may they attend part-time?

Students may attend either part-time or full-time, but, upon receipt of a scholarship or grant, the student must maintain continuous enrollment. The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation will make rules for part-time attendance.

8. Who will administer the lottery scholarship and grant programs and will any state agencies make rules and regulations that will apply to scholarships and grants?

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission will administer the scholarship and grant program. The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission are in the process of making rules and regulations for the administration of the scholarship and grant programs. Rules and regulations will be established for the application procedure, for part-time attendance, for the amounts of the awards for part-time attendance, and for other procedural and administrative matters.

9. Does a student apply for a lottery scholarship or grant to the school that the student will attend?

No, application for a lottery scholarship or grant will be made with the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation will publicize the application process through high schools and by other means when the process for administering the scholarship and grant programs has been developed.

## Tennessee HOPE Scholarships

1. Who is eligible for a HOPE scholarship?

Students must have completed high school in Tennessee after January 1, 2003, and prior to July 1, 2005.<sup>1</sup> Home school students must have completed the last two years of high school in a home school program in Tennessee that complies with state law on home schools.

2. Is a student who completed high school or obtained a GED before January 1, 2003, eligible for a HOPE scholarship?

No.

3. Will all students be eligible for HOPE scholarships in the freshman year of college?

No, only those students who complete high school or obtain a GED after January 1, 2004, will be eligible for scholarships in the freshman year of college.

4. Will students who complete high school or obtain a GED in 2003 be eligible for a HOPE scholarship?

Yes, these students will be eligible in the sophomore year of college. A student, who is seeking a scholarship for the sophomore year, must meet the applicable eligibility requirements pertaining to the method by which the student completed high school (see question 5 of this section) and must have a 2.75 grade point average for the freshman year in college. Such student will be eligible to receive a lottery scholarship for the sophomore year, but not for the freshman year.

A student, who is seeking a scholarship for the sophomore year, must attend during the 2003-2004 academic year one of the Tennessee institutions at which a scholarship may be used (see question 13 of this section) or a postsecondary institution outside of Tennessee that is accredited by certain regional accrediting associations. If a student chooses to go to a school outside Tennessee for the 2003-2004 academic year, the student must transfer to a Tennessee school at which the scholarship may be used for the sophomore year to obtain the scholarship.

5. What are the academic eligibility requirements for HOPE scholarship students,

(A) Who graduate from Tennessee public high schools or Tennessee private high schools that are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools?

These students must have:

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<sup>1</sup>Public Chapter 298 provides that lottery scholarships under that act will be awarded to students who graduate after January 1, 2003, but prior to July 1, 2005. These students will be able to receive the scholarships until their eligibility is exhausted. Public Chapter 298 establishes a committee to study the method for providing lottery scholarships for students graduating after July 1, 2005. The study committee is to report its conclusions and recommendations to the general assembly by February 15, 2004.

- (1) An overall unweighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0 and a cumulative unweighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0 for all college core courses taken

**or**

- (2) A composite ACT score of at least 19 or a combined SAT score of at least 890.

- (B) Who graduate from Tennessee private high schools that are not accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or who complete high school in Tennessee home school programs?

These students must have a composite ACT score of at least 23 or a combined SAT score of at least 1060.

- (C) Who obtain a GED?

These students must:

- (1) Pass the GED tests with an average score of at least 525

**and**

- (2) Have a composite ACT score of at least 19 or a combined SAT score of at least 890.

6. What is an unweighted grade point average?

An unweighted grade point average is a grade point average on a 4.0 scale calculated without additional points awarded for advanced placement, honors, or other similar courses.

7. How much is the scholarship award?

For the 2004-2005 academic year, the award for full-time study at a four-year institution is \$3,000 and for full-time study at a two-year institution is \$1,500. For subsequent school years, the legislature will annually set the amounts of the awards.

8. Does the amount of the award for attendance at a public college or university differ from the amount of the award for attendance at a private college or university?

No.

9. If a student's adjusted gross income does not exceed \$36,000 annually, is the student eligible for additional financial assistance from lottery proceeds?

Yes, a full-time scholarship student whose adjusted gross income does not exceed \$36,000 qualifies for a supplemental award of \$1,000 for the 2004-2005 academic year. For subsequent school years, the legislature will annually set the amount of the

supplemental award. Eligibility for the supplemental award will be reviewed each academic year.

10. Are students with outstanding high school academic records eligible for additional financial assistance from lottery proceeds?

Yes, if a student, who qualifies for a HOPE scholarship, has:

- (A) An overall unweighted high school grade point average of at least 3.75 and a cumulative unweighted high school grade point average of at least 3.75 for all college core courses taken

**and**

- (2) A composite ACT score of at least 29 or a combined SAT score of at least 1280,

then the student qualifies for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship. A General Assembly Merit Scholarship consists of a HOPE scholarship and a supplemental award. For the 2004-2005 academic year, the supplemental award for full-time study is \$1,000. For subsequent school years, the legislature will annually set the amount of the supplemental award.

A General Assembly Merit Scholarship recipient need only meet the continuation requirements for a HOPE scholarship to continue to receive the General Assembly Merit Scholarship. See question 17 of this section.

11. Can a student whose adjusted gross income does not exceed \$36,000 and who has an outstanding high school academic record receive both the supplemental award for need and the General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental award?

No.

12. Will HOPE scholarships be available for study in any postsecondary program?

No, HOPE scholarships may only be used for study in programs that lead to an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree. HOPE scholarships will not be awarded for study beyond a baccalaureate degree. See the questions below concerning Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants for other educational opportunities.

13. At what colleges and universities may a HOPE scholarship be used?

Students receiving a scholarship must attend:

- (A) A public two-year or four-year institution operated by the Tennessee board of regents or the University of Tennessee system;
- (B) An institution offering undergraduate degrees that was created by testamentary trust for which the state acts as trustee and for which the governor appoints the commissioners of the institution; or

(C) A private two-year or four-year Tennessee college or university that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

14. May a HOPE scholarship be used at a college or university that is located outside of Tennessee?

No.

15. If a student meets the academic eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, is the student guaranteed admission to a college or university at which the student can use the scholarship?

No, each college or university has its own standards for admission. A student who meets the academic eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship must still apply and be admitted to a college or university. There is no guarantee that a student will gain admission to one of the institutions at which HOPE scholarships can be used.

16. May a student receiving a HOPE scholarship transfer to another school and keep the HOPE scholarship?

Yes, but the school to which the student transfers must also be a Tennessee college or university at which the HOPE scholarship may be used. See question 13 of this section. The amount of the scholarship will be the amount applicable to the institution to which the student transfers. For example, if a student transfers from a four-year institution to a two-year institution, the scholarship award will decrease.

17. What collegiate academic requirements must a HOPE scholarship student meet to continue to receive the scholarship?

A HOPE scholarship student must have at least 2.75 grade point average after attempting 24 semester hours. Review of eligibility will also occur after a scholarship student has attempted 48, 72, and 96 semester hours. Starting with the review after 48 semester hours and at each review thereafter, the student must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 to continue to receive a scholarship.

18. If a student loses the HOPE scholarship, can the student regain the scholarship?

No.

19. Is there a limit on the length of time a student may receive a HOPE scholarship?

Yes, a student, who maintains eligibility for the scholarship, may receive a scholarship until the first of the following events:

- (A) The student attempts 120 semester hours of college work, or 136 semester hours, if the student is in a degree program requiring more than 120 semester hours;
- (B) The student obtains a baccalaureate degree; or

(C) Five years pass from the date the student entered a postsecondary institution.

20. May a student defer entrance into college after completing high school and receive a lottery scholarship?

Yes, for military service. If a student enters military service within two years after completing high school or obtaining a GED, but before attending a postsecondary institution, then the student may apply for a scholarship within seven years of entering military service or one year of honorable discharge, whichever occurs first. The student must meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship, including the applicable academic requirements for the method by which the student completed high school.

## Tennessee HOPE Access Grants

1. What students are eligible for a Tennessee HOPE access grant?

Only students graduating after January 1, 2004, from a Tennessee public high school or a Tennessee private high school that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools are eligible for access grants.

2. Is eligibility for an access grant limited by a student's adjusted gross income?

Yes, only a student whose annual adjusted gross income does not exceed \$36,000 is eligible for an access grant.

3. What are the academic eligibility requirements for a Tennessee HOPE access grant?

A student must have:

(A) An overall unweighted high school grade point average of at least 2.75 and a cumulative unweighted high school grade point average of at least 2.75 for all college core courses taken

**and**

(2) A composite ACT score of at least 18 or a combined SAT score of at least 860.

4. Can a student receive both a HOPE access grant and a HOPE scholarship?

No. Students who are eligible for a HOPE scholarship cannot receive a HOPE access grant.

5. How much is the access grant award?

The access grant award is fifty percent of the sum of the HOPE scholarship and the supplemental award for need that is applicable to the school that the access grant student is attending. If the amount of the HOPE scholarship or the supplemental award changes in the future, then the access grant award will also change.

6. Can a student receive an access grant for each year the student attends college?

No, an access grant is a one-time award for the freshman year only.

7. If a student with an access grant achieves a grade point average of at least 2.75 after 24 semester hours of collegiate work, will the student be eligible for a HOPE scholarship for the sophomore year?

Yes. Additionally, if the student's adjusted gross income does not exceed \$36,000, the student will be eligible for a supplemental award.

To maintain the HOPE scholarship after the sophomore year, the student will have to meet all continuing eligibility requirements for the HOPE scholarship. To be eligible for the supplemental award after the sophomore year, the student's adjusted gross income must not exceed \$36,000.

8. If a student fails to achieve a grade point average of at least 2.75 after 24 semester hours of collegiate work, will the student be able to obtain a Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the future?

No.

9. At what colleges and universities may an access grant be used?

An access grant recipient must attend one of the schools at which HOPE scholarships may be used. See question 13 under Tennessee HOPE scholarships.

## Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grants

1. Who is eligible for a Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant?

Any Tennessee citizen who has been a Tennessee resident for one year and has never received a Tennessee HOPE scholarship may apply for a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant for study in a program leading to a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee Technology Center.

2. How much is the technical skills grant award?

For the 2004-2005 school year, the award for full-time study is \$1,250. For subsequent school years, the legislature will annually set the amount of the award.

3. What academic requirements must a student with a technical skills grant meet to continue to receive the grant?

The student must maintain satisfactory academic progress in the program of study.

4. If a student loses a technical skills grant, can the student regain the grant?

No.

5. Is there a limit on the length of time a student may receive a technical skills grant?

A student may receive a grant until the student obtains the certificate or diploma awarded for the student's program of study, provided that the student remains eligible for the grant. A student may not receive another grant for study towards a second certificate or diploma.