



Urgent News: HOPE Grant Cap

Effective Fall Quarter 2004, students are eligible to receive HOPE Grant payments for a maximum of 95 quarter hours.

What does that mean to me as an East Central Technical College (ECTC) diploma/technical certificate student?

- The HOPE Grant will pay for your classes for a total of 95 quarter hours.

When did the new rule take effect?

- Fall Quarter 2004, which began September 27, 2004.

Why did the HOPE Grant change?

- The Georgia General Assembly passed legislation that limits the amount of HOPE Grant and Scholarship funding students may receive. (House Bill 1325).

What is the major impact on me?

- If you received the HOPE Grant anytime since Summer Quarter 2003 (**July 2003**), those hours will be used to determine if you have reached 95 quarter hours. *Note: Hours taken in high school did not count toward the 95 quarter hours until Fall Quarter 2004 (September 27, 2004).*

What if my program is longer than 95 quarter hours?

- If your program is longer than 95 quarter hours, you can receive the HOPE Grant for the number of hours required for graduation OR for a maximum of 130 quarter hours--**whichever is less**.
- A course retaken, and paid by the HOPE Grant, counts toward the 95 quarter hour limit.

If I take more than one educational program, will I receive additional hours to complete both programs?

- You **would not** receive additional hours to complete more than one program. You would be limited to 95 or 130 quarter hours as stated above.

If I have received the HOPE Scholarship for college degree classes, will this affect my HOPE Grant?

- You can receive the HOPE Grant plus the HOPE Scholarship for a combined total of 190 quarter hours. If you have received the HOPE Scholarship for college degree classes, you can receive the HOPE Grant if you have not exceeded 190 quarter hours under the HOPE Scholarship Program. **However, your HOPE Grant hours will be limited, which means you might not have 95 quarter hours available for your ECTC program of study.**

How can I find out how many hours I have taken since Summer Quarter 2003?

- Go to the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) website at www.gsfc.org and click "[Login to Your Account](#)." Select the "[Scholarship Status Link](#)." Log in using your SSN and date of birth.
- Under "[What Do You Want to See?](#)" Select "[Scholarships and Grants](#)." At the bottom of the screen, click "[Program Cap Hours](#)," which will show the number of quarter hours you have taken since Summer 2003 that are counted in the new 95 quarter-hour cap that began Fall Quarter 2004 (September 27, 2004). (Note: You will also see what your quarter hours would be if ECTC were using semester hours.)