



GEORGIA COLLEGE

GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Financial Aid Guide

2011-2012



Welcome Students

Dear Students,

We are pleased that you are interested in studying at Georgia College, Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University. We are aware of your concerns for financing your education and want to assist you in making the appropriate decisions. The goal of our staff is to meet individual needs in a timely, efficient, and equitable manner by providing you with exceptional service and up-to-date information.

For new and returning students, the majority of communication regarding financial aid will be through e-mail using your University assigned school e-mail account. For new students who have not yet been assigned an e-mail account, we will use the e-mail address reported on your admission or financial aid application. We are pleased to be able to offer you immediate access to financial awards over the web at <http://paws.gcsu.edu/>. Once your award eligibility has been determined, you will be sent an e-mail with instructions on how you can view them on our website.

By completing the federal application process, you will be considered for federal and state aid including the HOPE Scholarship. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students and parents may obtain a PIN from the U.S. Department of Education at www.pin.ed.gov, which can be used as an electronic signature. Students whose files are complete by the March 1, 2011 priority date will receive full consideration for federal and state aid programs with limited funding.

Students who wish to apply **only** for the HOPE Scholarship may do so by visiting www.GAcollge411.org.

The most important factor in applying for financial aid is to apply early. Once we have received your application, we will notify you if additional information is needed. Keep in mind that students must be accepted for admission to the University before aid offers are made. The Financial Aid Office at GC has a staff of well-trained counselors available to assist you, Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Best wishes in your academic pursuit, and we look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Cathy Crawley
Director of Financial Aid

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

GC Financial Aid Office
(800) 342-0471
(478) 445-5149
www.gcsu.edu/financialaid

Admissions Office
(800) 342-0471
(478) 445-2774

Graduate Admissions
(800) 342-0471
(478) 445-6289

Registrar's Office
(800) 342-0471
(478) 445-6286

Business Office
(800) 342-0471
(478) 445-5254

University Housing
(478) 445-5160

**Federal Processor
(FAFSA Status; Duplicate
Student Aid Reports)**
(800) 433-3243
(319) 337-5665

HOPE Information
(800) 546-HOPE
www.GAcollge411.org

FAFSA On The Web
www.fafsa.ed.gov

PAWS
<http://paws.gcsu.edu>

APPLYING FOR THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Students who wish to apply **only** for the HOPE Scholarship may do so by visiting www.GAcollge411.org. Once a “profile” has been completed at this website, students should complete the GSFAPPS from the “Applications” menu. Financial awards for returning students will be made after Spring Semester 2011 grades are reported.

STATUS OF FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

Students are encouraged to check with the Financial Aid Office regarding the status of their application. This may be done by visiting or calling the office or checking the GC PAWS at <http://paws.gcsu.edu>.

Students may check the status of their FAFSA by returning to the FAFSA web site www.fafsa.ed.gov and selecting option #3 FAFSA Follow-Up. If additional help is needed, you may call the Department of Education at 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243) or obtain information online at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov.

Application Process

STEPS FOR APPLYING FOR AID

1. Apply and be accepted for admission to Georgia College.
2. Apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. (Students who have previously applied for aid and have supplied the Department of Education with an email address, will be sent notifications electronically via e-mail.)
3. When completing the FAFSA, be sure to list Georgia College in the school section of the application using our Federal School Code of **001602**. This will allow us to receive an electronic copy of the application. (Students should also be certain that all necessary signatures are included.)
4. In no more than four weeks, the student will receive an e-mail notification with a direct link to the student’s online Student Aid Report (SAR). If an e-mail address was not provided on the application, the information will be mailed to the student. An electronic copy will also be sent to GC if so indicated. Please carefully read the comment section on the SAR to determine if any further action is required to complete the application process. If any information is incorrect, follow the instructions provided on the SAR.
5. Please verify with the GC Financial Aid Office that an electronic copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) has been received.
6. Verification is the process by which the U.S. Department of Education requires schools to check a certain percentage of their financial aid applications for accuracy. If the application is selected, the student will be asked to submit additional information to the Financial Aid Office. At a minimum, this will include a completed verification worksheet, student’s federal tax return, and if applicable, the parent(s)’ or spouse’s tax returns.
7. Parents of dependent students may apply for a Direct PLUS Loan online at www.studentloans.gov. Parents will start the Federal Direct PLUS application process and sign the master promissory note online using the parent’s FAFSA pin.
8. Students will be notified via their school email of their eligibility for financial aid through either an electronic Award Letter or explanation of ineligibility. This notification is typically sent within a few weeks. However, it will take longer during peak processing times.
9. Be sure to report to the Financial Aid Office, in writing, any pending outside scholarships.

HOW FINANCIAL NEED IS DETERMINED

Financial need is the difference between the estimated Cost of Attendance at GC and the Expected Family Contribution.

The Cost of Attendance, which is determined by GC, is an estimate of tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, personal, and miscellaneous expenses. This estimate is used in financial aid calculations and is prepared in advance of actual fees being established. The financial aid Cost of Attendance includes costs paid directly to GC as well as indirect costs that the student may incur associated with attending school.

Expected Family Contribution is derived from a formula that is applied to your family's income as reported on the FAFSA. By subtracting the Expected Family Contribution from the Cost of Attendance, financial need is determined. The Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loan, and Federal Direct Subsidized Loans are awarded on the basis of financial need.

Determining Eligibility

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible permanent resident.
2. Be in compliance with the Academic Requirements for Receiving Aid.
3. Be fully accepted for admission at GC in a degree-seeking program. Exception: (Applicable to Stafford or PLUS.) A non-degree seeker may be eligible for a loan under one or more of these programs if (s)he is enrolled or accepted for enrollment as at least a half-time (6 credit hours) in a program that is necessary for either a professional credential from a state, if that credential or certification is required for employment in the state as an elementary or secondary school teacher or to qualify him/her for enrollment in a degree or certificate program. The latter is restricted to length of program, verified by Chairman of the Department. For federal aid purposes, these students are considered fifth-year undergraduates.
4. Non-degree, transient, conditional, and/or unclassified students are not eligible for Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Stafford Loan, or Federal Direct PLUS.
5. Transient students may receive HOPE Scholarship funds, if eligible. Eligibility is determined by the students "home" institution. Payment is made by the "visiting" institution in accordance with HOPE regulations.
6. Not be in default on any loan or have borrowed in excess of loan limits at any institution.
7. Not owe a refund on any grant at any institution.
8. Certify registration with Selective Service, if required.
9. Demonstrate financial need for need-based programs.

Effective July 1, 2000, students are ineligible for Title IV federal financial aid funds if convicted of an offense involving the possession of an illegal substance that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the students were receiving federal student aid (grants, loans and/or work-study). The ineligibility period is:

- First Offense = 1 year
- Second Offense = 2 years
- Third Offense = Indefinite

For convictions involving sale of an illegal substance, the ineligibility period is:

- First Offense = 2 years
- Second Offense = Indefinite

A student may regain eligibility by successfully completing a drug rehabilitation program that complies with criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education. Contact the Financial Aid Office for further details. Report any convictions involving an illegal substance on question #23 of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Financial Aid Procedures

Important Dates

Priority Packaging Deadline	March 1, 2011
Fall Semester Deadline	July 1, 2011
Spring Semester Deadline	November 1, 2011
Summer Semester Deadline	April 1, 2012

Students must submit complete financial aid applications by the above "Priority Package Deadline" to be considered for programs that have a limited supply of funds.

Students must submit complete financial aid applications by these dates in order to use financial aid funds to pay for the semester's bill. Students whose files are not complete by this date should be prepared to pay costs until applications are processed and eligibility is determined.

The Federal Processing Center must receive the application(s) before June 30, 2012, and all verification processes must be completed before August 1, 2012, for the student to receive consideration for the academic year 2011-2012 or Summer 2012. Electronic Student Aid Reports must be submitted to GC before the student's enrollment period ends in order to be considered for aid.

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

Any resources that a student receives or expects to receive should be reported in writing to the Financial Aid Office. The receipt of outside scholarships or other resources may result in reduction, cancellation, and/or repayment of need-based aid.

SUMMER SESSION FINANCIAL AID

Students who wish to receive financial aid for the Summer Session 2012 must complete a Summer Aid Application as well as the FAFSA. Students who are receiving HOPE only must also complete a Summer Aid Application. Summer Aid Applications are available in March 2012 via the PAWS website, coinciding with course registration.

STUDY ABROAD

The International Education Center (IEC) provides information on the various approved study abroad and exchange programs offered by Georgia College, the University System of Georgia, and other accredited academic institutions. Studying abroad enables students to increase knowledge of a foreign language; provides the opportunity to gain insight into and appreciation for the cultures and institutions of other people; facilitates the development of relevant career skills; and contributes to personal maturity, a sense of independence, self-knowledge, and confidence. Georgia College students who are eligible for

financial aid may use that aid to participate in study abroad and exchange programs approved by the IEC. For specifics on transferability, contact the Financial Aid Office, 103 Parks Hall, (478) 445-5149 for guidelines. In addition, a number of study abroad scholarships are available through the International Education Center in Lanier Hall or call (478) 445-4789.

TRANSIENT STUDY

Georgia College students who are planning on taking transient coursework with another institution may qualify for financial aid. In order for students to receive federal funds or other aid for transient coursework, a Consortium Agreement must be obtained from the GC Financial Aid Office and completed by the host institution. Please note that many institutions will not participate in the consortium process therefore causing student aid ineligibility. Students are required to pay all costs at the host institution and receive aid as reimbursement. HOPE eligible students may receive HOPE if attending an eligible institution. HOPE funds are paid by the host institution. Some institutions may choose not to process financial aid for transient students. Please check with the financial aid office of the school you wish to attend. For specifics on qualifying, contact the Financial Aid Office, 103 Parks Hall, (478) 445-5149.



Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

Academic Requirements for Receiving Financial Aid

The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by **Program Integrity regulations passed on October 29, 2010**, mandates institutions of higher education to establish a standard of satisfactory academic progress for students who receive financial aid. This standard must apply to the student's entire academic history, whether Title IV financial aid was received or not. In order to remain eligible to receive aid at Georgia College, students must meet the standards specified for acceptable academic performance and for satisfactory progress toward the completion of their program of study. The standards are established within the framework of applicable federal regulations specifically for the purpose of determining the eligibility of students to receive aid under the generally funded Title IV programs, including Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study, Georgia's HOPE Scholarship, and Federal Direct Loan Programs (Stafford, PLUS, and Grad PLUS). These standards should not be confused with Good Standing, Warning, Probation, Dismissal, or Exclusion as defined by Georgia College's academic policies.

COMPONENTS

The Georgia College definition of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for receiving financial aid includes the following components:

Qualitative (GPA) Standards

Georgia College uses the 4.0 grade point average and numerical code:

- 4.0 = A
- 3.0 = B
- 2.0 = C
- 1.0 = D
- 0.0 = F
- 0.0 = WF

Students are required to maintain the following overall **cumulative** grade point average (GPA) as indicated below:

Undergraduate Students	
Have 0-29 earned hours AND have not reached the end of second academic year (measured in time not grade level)	1.75
Have 30 or more earned hours OR have passed the end of second academic year (measured in time not grade level)	2.00
Graduate Students	
Every term	3.00

For purposes of this policy "earned" hours are defined according to GC academic policies. Only the last repetition of institutional repeated courses are included in hours earned and GPA. Only the last repetition of transfer repeated courses are included in transfer hours earned and transfer GPA for new Transfer students who matriculated in Spring 2010 or later. All repetitions of transfer repeated courses are included in transfer GPA, but are counted only once in transfer hours earned, for Transfer students who matriculated prior to Spring 2010 (Fall 2009 and prior). Courses initially completed at another institution and then repeated at Georgia College continue to be counted in the transfer GPA and the Georgia College GPA, but hours earned are counted only once.

Quantitative (Incremental Progress) Standards

Students are expected to successfully complete **67%** of all attempted coursework. This cumulative calculation includes all Georgia College and any transfer coursework attempted. Attempted hours and successful completed hours are based on all courses included on the students' official academic history. Further, all attempts of repeated coursework and non-credit coursework are included. The formula of this calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{Cumulative hours Successfully Completed}}{\text{Cumulative hours Attempted}} = \% \text{ Completed}$$

The following will be considered as **hours successfully** completed:

- Grades A, B, C or D
- "S" (Satisfactory)
- "K" (Credit by Examination)

Likewise, the following will be considered as **hours not successfully** completed:

“F”

“WF” (Withdrew Failing)

“W” (Withdrew)

“U” (Unsatisfactory)

“I” (Incomplete)

“IP” (In Progress)

Maximum Time Frame Standards

Students will have a maximum of **150%** of the average program to complete their degree requirements while continuing to qualify for federal and state aid. The maximum time frame allowed will consist of all attempted hours inclusive of hours described in the Quantitative Standards section of this policy. Students who have Learning Support courses will have these hours excluded for the maximum time frame standard calculation. The allowable time frames at Georgia College are as follows:

Undergraduate Students	180 Attempted Hours
Graduate Students	55 Attempted Hours

Allowances for 2nd Bachelor degree and Specialist degree will be made for eligible aid recipients.

REVIEW PROCESS

At the end of each academic term (Fall, Spring and Summer semesters), the Financial Aid Office staff will determine whether students are meeting the minimum standards for each of the components (qualitative, quantitative and time frame). Students not meeting the Time Frame standard will **immediately, without a Warning Semester**, become **ineligible** for all federal and state aid programs. The Financial Aid Office has the authority to cancel aid and request immediate repayment of federal and state aid programs at any time that a student is deemed ineligible. This may occur when access to the student’s academic history is not fully available due to the short amount of time between semesters as well as receipt of final transcripts from transfer institutions.

Warning Semester

Students that are not meeting the Qualitative and/or Quantitative standards at the end of a term are automatically given **one (1) Warning semester**. During this Warning semester, students are allowed to receive federal and state aid. Students must be fully in compliance with all components by the end of the Warning semester to regain eligibility and receive funds for future semesters. Only one (1) Warning semester is allowed for a student’s entire degree

Program at Georgia College. Further, the Warning semester allowance is not applicable to the Time Frame standard.

Denial/Loss of Eligibility

Students that are not meeting the minimum Qualitative and/or Quantitative standards at the end of a term review and have received aid during a Warning semester will lose their eligibility for the upcoming and future terms. Students that are not meeting the maximum Time Frame standard at the end of a term review will immediately, without a Warning semester, become ineligible for aid.

Students will have a letter mailed to their current address on file with the Registrar’s Office. Students may receive consideration for aid reinstatement at the time they have satisfied all deficiencies with the Qualitative and/or Quantitative standards.

Appeal (Probation Period)

Students that experienced extenuating circumstances that attributed to their inability to meet the minimum standards have the option to submit a letter of appeal. *An extenuating circumstance must be due to situations beyond their control such as serious injury, illness or mental health condition involving the student or their immediate family, or death of an immediate family member.* The letter should be submitted to the Director of Financial Aid and must include a description of the situation with accompanying documentation as well as a summary of what has changed that will allow them to meet the minimum standards at the next evaluation.

Appeals approved will require that the student be in compliance with all standards by the next evaluation (term). In some instances, an academic plan designed to ensure compliance with the standards at a specific point in time may be utilized in needed situations. An approved appeal will allow students to receive aid for a Probationary period (usually one term).

Students that have an appeal denied by the Director of Financial Aid may appeal the Financial Aid Internal Review (FAIR) Committee. The same type appeal documentation must be submitted c/o FAIR to the GC Financial Aid Office. The FAIR Committee’s decision should be **considered final**.

In instances where the student has additional information or documentation related to a denied appeal, they may appeal the decision to the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management who has the **final authority**.

Types of Aid

Grants, Loans, Federal Work-Study and a **limited number of scholarships** are available through this office to help with educational expenses at Georgia College. Grants do not have to be repaid. Most loans must be repaid in cash. Federal Work-Study awards are earned during period of enrollment. Students must be enrolled at least half-time to receive a Federal Direct Stafford Loan or Federal Direct PLUS Loan. Federal Pell Grants are available for less than full-time students depending on need. HOPE Scholarships are available for one or more hours of enrollment. All student aid will be awarded based on anticipated full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted on your Award Letter. The following programs are available at GC.

GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM is designated for undergraduate students working toward a first undergraduate degree. The amount of the grant is determined by the Cost of Attendance, the Expected Family Contribution provided by the U.S. Department of Education, and your enrollment status. Students who are enrolled full-time (12 or more credit hours) will receive full eligibility. Students enrolled less than full-time will receive funds according to federal guidelines.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG) is designed for undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. There is a limited supply of these funds, so they are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) is funded by the Georgia Lottery for education and is available to eligible Georgia residents. HOPE covers the cost of tuition, some fees, and a book allowance. Students may not receive HOPE after attempting 127 semester hours.

Eligibility Requirements

- Georgia resident as defined in state-mandated regulations.
- Grade point eligibility for entering freshmen is based on a final high school grade point average of 3.0 or better as reported by the high school and determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC).
- Regardless of high school graduation or high school grade point average, students may be eligible for a HOPE Scholarship after attempting 30, 60, or 90 semester hours with a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average while in college. The grade point average is reviewed at the 30th, 60th, and 90th attempted semester hour, and also at the end of each Spring Semester. This covers all prior colleges attended as well as Georgia College.
- Students, who lose the HOPE Scholarship due to grade point average dropping below a 3.0, are eligible to be reevaluated at the 30th, 60th or 90th attempted semester hour, provided their cumulative grade point average is a 3.0.
- Full-time enrollment is not a requirement.

Students who have any questions may contact the Financial Aid Office at (478) 445-5149 or 1 (800) 342-0471 or contact the GSFC at 1-800-505-4732.

GEORGIA'S HERO (HELPING EDUCATE RESERVISTS AND THEIR OFFSPRING) SCHOLARSHIP: This program provides assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and US Military Reservists who served in combat zones or the children of such members. Recipients may receive up to \$2,000 per academic school year for a maximum of \$8,000 for the equivalent of four years of study. Applications for the HERO program are available to download from the Georgia Student Finance Commission at www.GACollege411.org or applicants may contact their office at (770)414-3085 or toll-free at (800)505-4732.

INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

Entering Freshman scholarships are highly competitive and are awarded to qualified students on an annual basis. Most scholarships available to entering freshmen are offered to students who adhere to the Admissions Early Action application process **and** are selected to participate in the annual President's Scholarship Competition. The competition for Fall 2011 Freshmen was held on December 3, 2010. Most scholarships do not require an application as the admission portfolio is utilized; however, several opportunities do exist for students that require a separate application which should be downloaded at www.gcsu.edu/financialaid/scholarships.

Generally, students should meet all the following criteria to be competitive for these scholarships:

- Be admitted to Georgia College
- Score 1250 or better on the SAT or 29 on the ACT
- Graduate from high school with a 3.5 Grade Point Average based on a 4.0 scale
- Possess strong academic record
- Students must be enrolled full-time during both fall and spring semesters in order to receive their scholarships.

Continuing students will be considered for scholarships administered by GC by completing the GC Scholarship Application located on the PAWS website. Students should access their PAWS account at <http://paws.gcsu.edu> and select "GC Scholarship Application" from the Financial Aid menu. The application will be available from mid-December 2010 until February 4, 2011.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS: There are several other opportunities to explore. Be aware that hometown churches, clubs, professional organizations, and civic groups sometimes offer scholarships. Students who are awarded a scholarship from a source other than GC should contact the Scholarship Coordinator in the Financial Aid Office for further information. In general, private scholarship awards greater than \$1,000 are evenly divided between Fall and Spring semesters.

Loan Programs

The **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan)** allows eligible students and parents to borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education. **The Direct Loan programs include: Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Student (Stafford) Loans and Direct Parent PLUS Loans.** These loans are repaid directly to the U.S. Department of Education.

FEDERAL DIRECT STAFFORD LOAN PROGRAM

Federal Direct Stafford Loans are made in the student's name and can be either subsidized or unsubsidized.

A **subsidized loan** is awarded on the basis of financial need. Students will not be charged any interest before they begin repayment or during authorized periods of deferment. The federal government "subsidizes" the interest during these periods. This loan must be repaid.

An **unsubsidized loan** is not awarded on the basis of need. Students will be charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. Any interest that accumulates will be capitalized—that is, the interest will be added to the principal amount of the loan and additional interest will be based upon the higher amount. This will increase the amount that will have to be repaid.

By completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), students will be considered for the Federal Direct Stafford Loan. Our office will determine students' eligibility and award the maximum amount students' are eligible to receive. After applications are processed, students will receive an email notification with instructions to view awards online. Having eligibility determined for a Federal Direct Stafford Loan does not commit students to accepting the loan or the amount (students may borrow less than full eligibility).

Students should pay close attention to any additional requirements including Entrance Counseling and Promissory Notes, which are available online at www.studentloans.gov.

Under federal law, students must complete a **Loan Entrance Counseling** session before funds may be disbursed. It is important that students know and understand their rights and responsibilities as a student borrower. Students should contact our office if they have any questions.

Further, students must complete a **Master Promissory Note (MPN)**. In most cases, students will sign only one promissory note that will be used for all loans at Georgia College. By signing the MPN, students are confirming their understanding that Georgia College may make new loans for the duration of their education (up to 10 years) without having to sign another MPN. Each academic year, GC will disburse loan proceeds to students' accounts as indicated on the on-line Award Letter viewed from the GC Web Student Information System. Students are also agreeing to repay all loans made under the terms of the MPN. Therefore, it is very important to completely read and understand all of the information on the MPN before signing it.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan interest rates are fixed at 6.8% effective July 1, 2006. The interest rates for undergraduate Subsidized Stafford loans for the 2011-2012 school year will be fixed at 3.4%. Graduate Stafford loans, both unsubsidized and subsidized will remain at a fixed 6.8% interest rate. There are also loan fees up to 1.0% (Origination and Default fees) that may be deducted proportionately from each delivery of loan proceeds. This money is passed on to the federal government to help reduce the government's cost of supporting these low interest loans. Repayment must begin no later than six months following graduation or termination of at least half-time enrollment.

Undergraduate Student:		Maximum Subsidized Limit	Additional Stafford Limit	Combination Total
Dependent Student:	Freshman:	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
	Sophomore:	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
	Junior & Senior	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500
	Aggregate Loan Limits	\$23,000	\$8,000	\$31,000
Independent Students:	Freshman:	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
	Sophomore	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
	Junior & Senior	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500
	Aggregate Loan Limits	\$23,000	\$34,500	\$57,500
Graduate Students:	Yearly:	\$8,500	\$12,000	\$20,500
	Aggregate Loan Limits	\$65,500	\$73,000	\$138,500
Aggregate limits for graduate students are inclusive of all undergraduate loans received.				

Independent students and dependent students whose parents are denied under the Federal Direct PLUS Loan may borrow additional Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan funds. Freshmen and sophomores may borrow an additional \$4,000 per year; juniors and seniors may borrow an additional \$5,000 per year. Both may not exceed the student's COA.

The yearly maximum for the Federal Direct Stafford Loan will cover Fall, Spring and Summer Semesters. If the maximum has been received over Fall and Spring semesters, students will not be eligible to borrow additional funds for the Summer term.

Students **must be enrolled at least half-time** (6 or more hours for undergraduate students and 5 or more hours for graduate students) in order to have these funds disbursed to their student account. When the loan is approved, the funds will be disbursed directly into the system to go toward paying the balance of the account with the Business Office at the beginning of each semester. Please see the section entitled Disbursement of Financial Aid for specific details.

Students, currently receiving or who have received a loan through Georgia College, who graduate, transfer, drop below half-time enrollment status, or otherwise leave school must arrange for an Exit Interview for the Federal Direct Stafford loan at the GC Financial Aid Office.

DIRECT PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students)

PLUS Loans enable parents with good credit histories to borrow monies. These funds are designated to help pay the educational expenses of each child who is a dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time (6 semester hours). The yearly limit on a PLUS loan is equal to the student's Cost of Attendance (COA) minus any other financial aid the student is receiving.

Effective July 1, 2010, Federal Direct PLUS loan interest rates are fixed at 7.9%. Repayment usually begins within 60 days after the final loan disbursement for the period of enrollment for which the funds are borrowed. Application for the PLUS loan is accessed electronically at www.studentloans.gov. Students must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for eligibility to be determined.

Federal Direct PLUS Loans will be disbursed after a Master Promissory Note has been electronically signed with the Direct Loan Servicing Center. The PLUS MPN has a multi-year feature. This multi-year feature allows a parent of a dependent student to only have to sign one promissory note that can be used for up to 10 years.

Funds will first be used toward the student's bill at the Business Office. Any funds remaining can be used to purchase books at the GC Box Office Bookstore approximately three days prior to the first day of classes through the end of the drop/add period. Any remaining funds will be disbursed in a check payable to the parent, or check / direct deposit made payable to student as indicated on PLUS application, approximately seven days after the end of the drop/add period each semester.

FEDERAL PERKINS

The Federal Perkins Loan is a low-interest loan for students with exceptional financial need. Georgia College is the lender. The loan is made with government funds with a share contributed by GC, so your payments are through the university.

Eligibility for this loan program will be determined on a first-come, first-serve basis upon completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The aggregate amount of funds eligible students may borrow is (1) \$4,000 for students who have not completed two academic years of study toward a bachelor's degree and (2) \$8,000 for students who have completed two academic years of study for a bachelor's degree but have not received a degree.

Repayment begins nine months after the student graduates or leaves school. The student may be allowed up to ten years to repay the loan. During the repayment period, the student will be charged 5 percent simple interest on the unpaid balance of the loan principle. The minimum monthly payment is \$40.

Recipients must sign a promissory note in the Student Loan Collections Office prior to receiving funds.

Students, currently receiving or who have received a Federal Perkins Loan through Georgia College, who graduate, transfer, drop below half-time enrollment status, or otherwise leave school must arrange for an Exit Interview at the Student Loan Collections Office.

LOAN CANCELLATION

Borrowers who use loan funds to finalize Business Office bills may elect to cancel their loans and use another form of payment within 30 days of disbursement. The Financial Aid Office must be notified in writing of the cancellation within 30 days of disbursement to the student's account.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID OMBUDSMAN

If a problem or dispute regarding a student's federal education loan(s) arises that cannot be resolved through reasonable efforts, the student may contact the Student Financial Assistance Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's office can propose solutions that may help all parties come to a final agreement. The student should make sure good records of conversations and people involved are documented prior to calling this office. Students can reach the Ombudsman at:

Office of the Ombudsman
SFA US Department of Education
4th Floor, UCP-3/MS 5144 830 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20202-5144
1-877-557-2575
www.ombudsman.ed.gov

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Each year Georgia College offers currently enrolled students the opportunity to earn funds through student employment to help meet their educational and living expenses. These programs also allow students to gain valuable work experience while working around their class schedule. Information regarding two types of student employment offered at Georgia College is listed below. Students interested in applying may access information regarding available positions at www.gcsujobs.com. Select the STUDENT POSITIONS tab.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY

Federal Work-Study (FWS) eligibility is based on established financial need and at least half-time enrollment of the individual student. Due to limited funding received by Georgia College for the FWS program each aid year, students completing the financial aid application process by the "Priority Package Deadline" of March 1 will be given priority consideration for FWS awards. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other required documentation before eligibility can be determined. All FWS recipients will be able to view their award amount at <http://paws.gcsu.edu>. FWS recipients should choose and apply for position listings with FWS included in the title. A Student Employment Verification/Agreement Form (SEVAF), which may be obtained from the Georgia College Financial Aid Office, must be completed by the FWS student and the Department Supervisor. Once completed, the SEVAF should be returned to the Financial Aid Office before continuing the hiring process. FWS money is not available at registration to pay fees; students are paid bi-weekly for actual hours worked. Community service positions are also available through the FWS program.

GEORGIA COLLEGE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The University Student Employment program provides additional opportunities for students to secure campus employment. While financial need is not a factor, earnings under this program could affect other aid received. However, students are not required to complete the FAFSA and should select position listings that do not include FWS in the title. Students are interviewed and hired by the various administrative, departmental and other offices at the University.

Once a position, through FWS or University Student Employment, has been offered to and accepted by the student, an employment packet must be completed by the student through the Office of Human Resources. Students will be notified via email from Human Resources once the process is complete and they are cleared to begin working.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

Awards are based on the information students provide on applications for aid. Change to that information (marital status, number of dependents, place of residence, withdrawal from period of enrollment, reduction in the number of hours carried, change in academic program, Social Security or Veteran's benefits, etc.) must be reported promptly in writing to our office for a determination of the impact, if any, on the amount of funds awarded to you. It is often necessary to revise awards, especially if federal or state funds are a part of the award, in order to avoid exceeding your demonstrated financial eligibility. We must, therefore, reserve the right to review and /or modify your award at any time. Failure to contact us may jeopardize continuation of your aid, cause cancellation of aid, or require repayment of funds already disbursed to you. All awards are contingent upon the availability of funds.

ENROLLMENT STATUS

Requirements for the number of semester hours of credit you must maintain for loans, scholarships, grants, and work may vary. At Georgia College, most financial aid is packaged based upon anticipated full-time enrollment: 12 hours for undergraduate, 9 hours for graduates.

REPAYMENT

Students who register, then withdraw, drop out, are expelled, or change enrollment status are subject to the University's Refund and Repayment policy (page 12), and may have to repay a portion or all of the aid received to the University.

Financial Aid Policies

DISBURSEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID

A. General Information

1. Student must be enrolled before funds may be disbursed.
2. Student eligibility must be confirmed by the Financial Aid Office before funds are disbursed.
3. Students are expected to have sufficient funds for miscellaneous expenses when they arrive on campus.
4. Students who are eligible for Federal financial aid must have on file a valid Student Aid Report in electronic form to the Financial Aid Office before funds are disbursed.
5. Students must be fully accepted for admission to GC before funds may be disbursed.
6. Specific questions on individual cases should be addressed to the Financial Aid Office at (478) 445-5149.

B. Loans (Students must be enrolled at least half-time.)

1. Federal Perkins Loan: Students awarded this loan must sign a promissory note in the Student Loan Collections Office before funds may be disbursed.
2. Federal Direct Stafford Loan: Under Federal Law: Students must complete a Loan Entrance Counseling session and sign a Master Promissory Note before funds may be disbursed.
3. Federal Direct PLUS Loan: Parents who are awarded a Federal PLUS Loan must receive an approved credit decision from the lender and complete an electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) before funds may be disbursed.
4. Federal Perkins, Federal Direct Stafford, Federal Direct PLUS Loans: Borrowers who use these funds to finalize Business Office bills may elect to cancel their loans and use another form of payment within 30 days of disbursement. The Financial Aid Office must be notified in writing of the cancellation within 30 days of disbursement.

C. Disbursement Procedures

Once all requirements have been met:

1. Funds awarded from the following may be applied directly to the student's Business Office account:

GRANTS
Federal Pell
Federal SEOG
HOPE Scholarship

LOANS
Federal Perkins Loans
Federal Direct Stafford Loans
Federal Direct PLUS Loans

2. These awards will be **authorized** to the student's Business Office account once classes have been reserved.
3. Any remaining balance to the student's account must be paid to the GC Business Office prior to the published deadline in order to reserve classes.
4. Eligibility is reviewed again at the end of the drop/add period (census date), and appropriate funds are **disbursed** to the student's Business Office account.
5. Once the Business Office bill has been settled, remaining aid with the exception of the HOPE Book Allowance, which is released in a check or direct deposit, (if selected), may be used toward the purchase of books at the GC Bookstore beginning approximately 3 days prior to the first day of classes through the end of the drop/add period.
6. If the amount of financial aid awarded exceeds tuition and fees due at registration, the difference will be disbursed in the form of a check or direct deposit, if selected, by the GC Business Office, 111 Parks Hall, approximately seven days after the end of the drop/add period.
7. Students who use personal funds to pay for tuition and fees may receive reimbursement checks or direct deposit, if selected, from the GC Business Office approximately seven days after the end of the drop/add period if aid is received after payment is made.
8. Financial aid awards made after the student's bill is satisfied will be disbursed within 10 days after awards are made.

Refund Policies and Procedures

FEDERAL TITLE IV REFUNDS

Students who are entitled to a refund for withdrawal and are receiving student financial aid (SFA) are subject to having all or part of the refund returned to the appropriate financial aid programs. For those students who withdrew prior to 60 percent of the enrollment period elapsing, a pro-rated schedule is used to determine how much SFA funds were earned at the time of withdrawal. The University must return to SFA Programs the lesser of:

- The amount of SFA Program funds that the students do not earn; or
- The amount of institutional costs that students incurred for the period of enrollment multiplied by the percentage of funds unearned.

However, students are not required to return 50 percent of the grant assistance received.

SFA funds must be returned in the following order:

- Unsubsidized Stafford Loans
- Subsidized Stafford Loans
- Perkins Loans
- Federal PLUS Loans
- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grants
- State Scholarships

If more aid is received that could have been reasonably spent for non-institutional costs (excluding Direct Loan Programs), the unearned portion must be returned to SFA Programs.

Per federal regulations, students who fail to earn a passing grade in any course are considered to have unofficially withdrawn from GC.

HOPE-ONLY REFUND

If a refund is due and the student received HOPE funds only (no federal aid), then such amounts must be refunded to HOPE, rounded to the nearest dollar, by applying the institution's refund policy to the student's original HOPE award for tuition and HOPE-approved mandatory fees. The book allowance is not part of the refund calculation.

TITLE IV and HOPE REFUND

If the student received Federal Title IV funds in addition to HOPE funds, the school must follow the Title IV Return of Funds policy for any federal aid received. To determine the refund to HOPE, the school must then follow their institutional refund policy, if different from Title IV Return of Funds. If all or part of the student's Title IV aid was disbursed directly to the student, the school must bill the student for the refund. This will prevent the student from receiving any additional scholarships or grants from the Authority until the refund is paid.

Summary of Financial Aid Programs

Name of Aid Resource	Type of Aid	Eligibility	Application Deadline	Award Amount
Federal Pell Grant	Grant	Citizen or eligible non-citizen; Undergraduate; Exceptional need	July 1 for Fall Semester	Maximum \$5,550 (2010– 2011)
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Grant	Citizen or eligible non-citizen; Exceptional need	Priority– March 1	Maximum \$1,500
HOPE Scholarship	Scholarship	Legal resident of Georgia; graduate of an eligible high school with a “B” average; Maintain a 3.0 GPA	July 1 for Fall Semester	Tuition and Approved fees; Book Allowance
Georgia’s HERO Scholarship	Scholarship	Member of the Georgia National Guard and US Military Reservists who served in combat zones or the children of such members	To be announced	Up to \$2,000 Per academic year with A maximum of \$8,000
Federal Work Study	Employment	Established Financial Need	Priority– March 1	Maximum \$2,800
Federal Perkins Loan	Loan	Established Financial need; Enrolled six or more hours.	Priority– March 1	Maximum \$4,000
Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan	Loan	Established financial need; Enrolled six or more hours	July 1 for Fall Semester	\$3,500 Freshman \$4,500 Sophomore \$5,500 Junior and Senior \$8,500 for Graduate
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	Loan	Enrolled six or more hours; Non-need based	July 1 for Fall Semester	Up to \$6,000 Freshman and Sophomore Up to \$7,000 Junior and Senior Up to \$12,000
Federal Direct PLUS Loans	Loan	Parent of dependant, undergraduate student; Enrolled six or more hours, non-need based	July 1 for Fall Semester	COA minus other Aid received