



Welcome to Brookwood High School's Financial Aid Night!!

Our presentation will begin promptly at 6 pm AND will be recorded and posted on our website.

Upon entry to the ZOOM meeting, **please shut off your camera** and make sure **you are muted**.

You may ask a question within the Chat forum. We hope to answer every question tonight. Those left unanswered will be answered and posted on the Brookwood Counseling website next week.



The Top Ten Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid

Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid



10. You Must Apply for Financial Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Opens every October 1st for the following academic year (October 1, 2020 the FAFSA will open for the 2021-2022 academic year)
 - Create an FSAID account and complete FAFSA online at <https://studentaid.gov/>; **both student and parent** must create own accounts
 - FAFSA must be completed under **student's** account; parent account is used for tax info and electronic signature
 - Uses income tax information from two years ago (Prior-Prior Tax Year; for example, the 2021-2022 FAFSA will use 2019 Income Tax Information)
 - Can transfer tax info electronically from IRS using **Data Retrieval Tool** on FAFSA
 - Determines eligibility for Federal Grant Programs, Federal Loan Program, and Federal Work Study Program



10. You Must Apply for Financial Aid

- GSFAPPS

- Complete online at <https://gafutures.org>
- Application is only for the HOPE and Zell Miller programs
- Application is valid for 120 months, or 10 years
- If you do not wish to complete the FAFSA each year, you can complete the GSFPPS instead to apply for HOPE and Zell Miller

10. You Must Apply for Financial Aid

- Scholarships at KSU

- KSU Foundation Scholarship Application is open every year from November to March; recipients are typically notified in May or June
- External Scholarships: <https://kennesaw.scholarshipuniverse.com>

- General Scholarship Search Tools

- <https://www.gafutures.org/scholarship-search>
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/FindTraining/Pay/scholarships.aspx>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- <https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>



9. There Are Many Types and Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal Programs

- Federal Pell Grant – awarded to students with a low Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the FAFSA
 - Amounts determined by EFC and by student's enrollment
 - Students may qualify for additional Summer Term funding depending on Fall-Spring usage and Summer enrollment
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant – awarded at college's discretion to students who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant
 - Limited funds available; not all students who qualify will receive funding
 - First priority is given to students with a \$0 EFC

9. There Are Many Types and Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal Direct Loan Program

- Subsidized Direct Loans – the government pays the interest while the student is in school
 - Students are limited in how much they can borrow by their academic level
 - Subsidized eligibility is based on need (determined by FAFSA)
 - Maximum a freshman can borrow in subsidized loans is \$3,500 per academic year or unmet need, whichever is less
- Unsubsidized Direct Loans – the student either pays the interest while in school or adds it to the loan balance
 - Students are limited in how much they can borrow by their academic level
- Total amount of combined subsidized and unsubsidized loans a first-year student can borrow in one year is \$5,500.



9. There Are Many Types and Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal Work Study Program
 - Allow a student to work on campus for no more than 20 hours per week
 - The funds are provided directly to the student in the form of a paycheck
 - Eligibility for Federal Work Study Program based on financial need
 - Non Work Study jobs on campus are also available
- Federal PLUS Loan
 - Loan that parents can borrow on behalf of their dependent student who is attending college
 - Parents can borrow up to the student's remaining cost of attendance
 - Credit check required to apply for the loan



9. There Are Many Types and Sources of Financial Aid

- HOPE Scholarship
 - Georgia Student Finance Commission notifies colleges of high school graduates who qualify for the HOPE Scholarship
 - Award rate differs by college; at KSU rate is \$167 per credit hour (90% of tuition)
 - Students must maintain a 3.0 **cumulative** GPA in college
 - GPA is checked when they attempt 30, 60, and 90 semester hours (or 45, 90, and 135 quarter hours) AND at the end of every spring semester
 - Limit of 127 semester hours (190 quarter hours) covered by HOPE or attempted total, whichever comes first
 - If a student was not eligible at high school graduation or has only lost eligibility **once**, they can earn the scholarship by achieving a 3.0 at the 30, 60 or 90 semester hour (45, 90, 135 quarter hour) checkpoint



9. There Are Many Types and Sources of Financial Aid

- Zell Miller Scholarship

- Georgia Student Finance Commission notifies colleges of high school graduates who qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarship
- Pays 100% of the college's standard in-state tuition rate (no other fees)
- Students must maintain a 3.3 **cumulative** GPA in college
- GPA is checked at the same checkpoints as HOPE
- Limit of 127 semester hours (190 quarter hours) covered by Zell Miller and/or HOPE **or** attempted overall, whichever comes first
- If student qualifies for Zell Miller, it **replaces** HOPE (cannot receive both scholarships at same time)
- Must be eligible at time of high school graduation



8. Apply Early

- FAFSA for the next year opens on October 1st
- Some types of aid are offered on a first come, first served basis
- The earlier you apply, the earlier you know about how much you will qualify for in financial aid funds
- Some FAFSA applicants are selected for verification; requires additional documentation before aid eligibility can be determined
- If you apply late or submit documents late, your aid may not be in place by the time tuition is due

7. All Communications Are Sent to the Student

- Federal laws and regulations prohibit certain information from being sent to anyone but the student (this includes parents!)
- At KSU – all communications from our office are sent to the student at their university-issued email address
- Other colleges may have similar policies
- Any communication regarding the student's financial aid awards or financial aid application requires the student to be present and for the student to have a government-issued photo ID



6. Dates and Deadlines Matter

- Many colleges set Priority Deadlines for students to complete FAFSA (KSU's is March 1st for the Fall Semester)
- Pay attention to your college's deadlines for other documents such as Verification requirements, appeals, etc.
- Make sure you know how much financial aid you have (and what you owe) by your college's payment deadline
- Many colleges & universities will cancel a student's registration for nonpayment

5. Grades Matter

- HOPE Scholarship requires a 3.0 GPA
- Zell Miller Scholarship requires a 3.3 GPA
- For all types of financial aid (grants, loans, work study), students must:
 - Maintain a 2.0 GPA
 - Complete 67% of all classes they attempt
 - Complete their degree within 150% of the time requires
 - These requirements are called Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - These are federal minimums; colleges can have stricter requirements



4. Borrow Conservatively

- We encourage students to only borrow what they need
- Average student loan debt in Georgia is around \$27,000 when a student graduates
- Monthly payment of \$310 based on the 10 year repayment plan
- Students will be sent a debt letter at least annually reminding them how much they have borrowed and what the monthly payments will be

3. Communication Matters

- Our primary form of communication is email, but we will also call a student as well if needed
- Please encourage your student to monitor their student email address for important communications, not only from our office but from other offices on campus
- Please encourage your student to keep phone number and mailing address up to date

2. Financial Aid Process Occurs Every Year

- Students must reapply for financial aid every year
 - Exception: students only interested in HOPE/Zell Miller may complete one-time GSFAPPS application at [GAFutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org)
- The FAFSA for 2021/2022 will be available beginning October 1st
- Many scholarships also require an annual application

1. We Are Here to Help

- If your situation has changed, please contact the financial aid office and let us discuss what options are available
- Every student is assigned a financial aid counselor by the first letter of their last name
- If you need assistance with anything involved in the financial aid process, please reach out and let us help
- We want you and your student to understand and feel comfortable with the process

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 770-423-6074

Email Address: finaid@kennesaw.edu

Campus Locations

Kennesaw Campus - Offices are located in Kennesaw Hall

Marietta Campus - Offices are located in the Administration Building B

We also offer video chat appointments!

To locate your student's assigned financial aid counselor, visit:

<https://financialaid.kennesaw.edu/contact-us/index.php>



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Questions & Answers