

Academic Information

Credits: In order to be promoted each year, you will need:

10th Grade: 5 credits

11th Grade: 11 credits

12th Grade: 16 credits

Graduation: 23 credits

Honor Graduate Policy: Students earning a simple GPA of 3.75 or above (without rounding) will receive the Honor Graduate distinction. In addition, Distinguished Honor Graduates must take 4 Core AP/ Core Dual Enrollment courses, earn a score of 3 or higher on one AP test, and have 20.5 A's. **NEW HONOR POLICY FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 2019 AND BEYOND – PLEASE SEE POLICY ON HANDOUT.**

Grade Point Average

- **Simple:** A simple GPA is figured each semester by giving you 4 points for each A you make, 3 points for B's, 2 points for C's and zero points for F's. Those points are added together and then divided by the number of classes. That average is then your **GPA** for courses taken for that year. We figure a **cumulative GPA** each **year** by using this system to average **all** the courses you have taken to that point in your time at THS.
- **Weighted:** A weighted GPA is used for ranking purposes. It awards higher point values to AP and Dual Enrollment classes. In this GPA calculation, core AP grades are worth 6 for an A, 5 for a B, and 4 for a C. Core Dual Enrollment grades are worth 5 for an A, 4 for a B, and 3 for a C.
- **HOPE:** The HOPE GPA is calculated much like the simple GPA, but only core classes (English, math, social studies, science, and foreign language) grades are used in the calculation. The HOPE GPA is calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission and can only be found on your GAfutures account. It is used to determine if you qualify for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.

High School Transcript

A transcript is a document detailing a student's courses, grades, and credits for each year of high school. All colleges, and most scholarship programs, request that an **official** transcript be submitted with each application.

Must Visit Websites for Career and College Information

www.GAfutures.org – one stop website to help students compare Georgia colleges, apply to college and learn about financial aid.

ACCUPLACER: may be required for dual enrollment and entrance to two year and technical colleges.

Website for practice tests: www.accuplacer.org

SAT or ACT: Take at least once, if not twice, in your **junior** year and again at the **FIRST** administration of your senior year, preferably after you have taken Algebra II. ACT and SAT scores are also used by colleges when determining whether or not to accept an applicant. Some two-year colleges do not require an ACT or SAT score. **Websites for practice tests:** www.act.org www.collegeboard.com,

www.khanacademy.org/sat, or app.masteryprep.com

PSAT/NMSQT®

All sophomores will take the PSAT/NMSQT, which will be given in October. Use your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report and www.collegeboard.com/psatextra to prepare for the SAT.

Financial Aid

HOPE Scholarship – 3.0 GPA (core classes only) required at graduation, 4 rigor courses.

Zell Miller Scholarship – 3.7 core GPA, 4 rigor courses, 1200 SAT or 26 ACT composite.

HOPE Grant – For two year colleges offering certificate or diploma programs. No minimum GPA, but must maintain a 2.0 while in technical college.

fastweb.com – free scholarship search and automatic email updates

Information about HOPE rigor and to locate your HOPE GPA please visit GAfutures.org

Dual Enrollment: Earn college credit while in high school. Open to 10th grade students for programs of study and 11th -12th grade students for core courses. You must schedule a meeting with your counselor to participate in dual enrollment.

Get Involved and start a Resume! ! !

Keep a list of your awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

If you don't have the GPA, the core courses, or the test scores, you don't play sports in college. Don't let grades hold you back. 2.3 is the necessary core GPA. Web3.NCAA.org

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ENTERING FALL 2019+

	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
ENGLISH 4 units	Literature/Comp or Adv Literature/Comp	World Literature (10 th) or Honor American Lit (EOC)	American Literature/Composition (EOC) or AP Language/Composition or ENG 1101/1102	12th English Literature/Composition or AP Literature/Composition or ENG 1101/1102
MATH 4 units	Found Algebra or GSE Algebra I (EOC) or GSE Accelerated Algebra I/ GSE Geometry A (EOC) or Accel Geom (9 th gr)	Algebra I (EOC) or GSE Geometry or GSE Accelerated Geometry B / GSE Algebra II or Accel Alg II (10 th gr)	Geometry or GSE Accelerated Pre- Calculus or MATH 1111/1113	Algebra II or GSE Pre-Calculus or AMDM or AP Statistics/ AP Calculus or MATH 1111/1113
SOCIAL STUDIES 3 ½ units	World History	Amer. Govt. (½ unit) or AP Govt. (US)	U. S. History (EOC) or AP U.S. History (EOC)	Economics
SCIENCE 4 units	Environmental Science or Adv Biology (EOC)	Biology (EOC) or Physical Sci or Chemistry (Accelerated Math students)	Physical Science or Chemistry or Earth Systems or Environmental Science or Physics (required if took Chemistry in 10 th) AP science course (in addition to Physics)	Anatomy/Physiology Forensics Environmental Science Earth Systems Physics AP science course CTAE course (see list-can take any year)
PATHWAY - CTAE/FOREIGN/ LANGUAGE/FINE ARTS** 3 UNITS				
HEALTH/PER FITNESS 1 UNIT OR JROTC 3 UNITS	½ Unit Health AND ½ Unit Personal Fitness or ½ Unit Advance Personal Fitness Or 3 Units JROTC			
3 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES				
LOCALLY REQUIRED FINE ARTS ½ UNIT				
TOTAL 23 UNITS				

- Pathways require a concentration of at least 3 classes in a specific area (CTAE, Foreign Language, Fine Arts)
- Post Secondary Option hours are accepted based on equivalent Carnegie Units.
- **Students planning to enter into a University System of Georgia institution or other post-secondary institution must take 2 units of the same foreign language.
- EOC=End of Course Test

**SELECTION FOR VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN,
DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES, AND HONOR GRADUATES
FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023 AND BEYOND**

For the graduating class of 2023 and beyond, the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates are those who have demonstrated the highest level of performance in all academic content areas in the most rigorous courses of study. These honors represent the best performance of the local high school graduating class; therefore, students must be enrolled in the Troup County School System for a minimum of four (4) semesters to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Students receiving Honor Graduate status represent those who have maintained a high simple grade point average in their desired course of study. Selection of Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Distinguished Honor Graduates, and Honor Graduates will be based on the criteria described below.

CLASS RANK DETERMINATION:

Class rank will be used for college/scholarship applications and to determine the system's Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Transcript grades and grades that are posted to the report card at the end of the first semester of the senior year will be used to calculate class rank. Class rank of students will be established using a four point scale where four (4) points are given for an A, three (3) points for a B, and two (2) points for a C for all classes, each receiving equal weighting with the exception of Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, and identified honors courses in academic classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language). Advanced Placement courses in academic classes will carry honor weights of six (6) points for an A, five (5) points for a B, and four (4) points for a C. Dual enrollment and/or designated honors classes will carry honor weights of five (5) points for an A, four (4) points for a B, and three (3) points for a C.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF HONOR GRADUATES OF EACH HIGH SCHOOL:

Honor Graduates and Distinguished Honor Graduates will be determined using a simple GPA calculation at the conclusion of the first semester of the senior year. Students earning a simple GPA of 3.75 or above (without rounding) will receive the Honor Graduate distinction. Only students having attained the status of Honor Graduate will be considered for Distinguished Honor status.

In order to attain the title of Distinguished Honor Graduate, the student must first receive an A in the categories using any combination of half or whole credits. The combination must be earned in an increasingly rigorous course of study.

- Four (4) units of mathematics
- Four (4) units of English
- Four (4) units of science
- Three and one half (3 ½) units of social studies
- Two (2) units of foreign language
- Three (3) units of fine arts; health and/or physical education; career, technical, agricultural education; or an additional foreign language unit(s).

Additionally, Distinguished Honor Graduates must take a minimum of four (4) Advanced Placement and/or dual enrollment courses in academic classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) while enrolled in high school, and earn a score of 3 or above on at least (1) AP test before the beginning of their senior year.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE VALEDICTORIAN:

- The Valedictorian must be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- The Distinguished Honor Graduate who has taken one or more AP class(es) in each of the four academic areas (ELA, math, science, social studies), taken at least one AP exam in each academic area, and who has the highest weighted GPA will be the Valedictorian.
- The Valedictorian will be awarded the highest class rank in the graduating class.
- In the event where a school has no Distinguished Honor Graduate(s), the Valedictorian will be the student with the highest weighted GPA, and by default will be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- In the event of a tie for Valedictorian, the honoree will be the student with the highest simple GPA on a 100 point scale calculated to four decimal places.
- In the event there is still a tie: the student with the highest number of Advanced Placement test scores earning a 3 or higher will be Valedictorian.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE SALUTATORIAN:

- The Salutatorian must be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- The Distinguished Honor Graduate who has taken one or more AP class(es) in each of the four academic areas (ELA, math, science, social studies), taken at least one AP exam in each academic area, and who has the second highest weighted GPA will be the Salutatorian.
- The Salutatorian will be awarded the second highest class rank in the graduating class.
- In the event where a school has no Distinguished Honor Graduate(s), the Salutatorian will be the student with the second highest weighted GPA, and by default will be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- In the event of a tie for Salutatorian, the honoree will be the student with the second highest simple GPA on a 100 point scale calculated to four decimal places.
- In the event there is still a tie: the student with the highest number of Advanced Placement test scores earning a 3 or higher will be Salutatorian.

PROCEDURES FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, AND DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES:

- Written explanation of selection process will be provided to all high school students in the student handbook each fall.
- Each high school principal will provide the Director of Secondary Education information and documentation regarding the candidates for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates for review prior to the April Board of Education meeting. Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates will be announced at the April Board of Education meeting.

HOPE AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FROM HIGH SCHOOL

HOPE Scholarship

- 3.0 HOPE GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, math, science, foreign language, social science)
- Rigor requirements

Zell Miller Scholarship

- Rigor requirements and one of the following:
- Designated valedictorian or salutatorian
- 3.7 HOPE GPA as calculated by GSFC in core curriculum courses
- AND**
- Test component: 1200 SAT combined score (Critical Reading and Math) or 26 ACT composite score

OR

WHAT ARE RIGOR REQUIREMENTS?

Rigor courses: *Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Foreign Language, Advanced Placement (AP) in core subjects, International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, degree-level Dual Credit Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at an eligible postsecondary institution.*

Students graduating from high school must earn four full credits from the above list.

AWARD AMOUNTS

	HOPE Scholarship*	Zell Miller Scholarship*
Public Institution	Portion of standard tuition [†]	Full standard tuition [†]
Private Institution Full-time	\$2,152 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,436 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$2,808 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,914 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)
Private Institution Half-time	\$1,077 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$719 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$1,404 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$957 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)

*Complete award amounts available on GAfutures.org. [†]Up to 15 credit hours.

MAINTAINING

HOPE Scholarship

● Students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.0, they will lose the HOPE Scholarship and will only be eligible to regain it once.

Zell Miller Scholarship

● Students must maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.3, they will lose the Zell Miller Scholarship but may still be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Students can regain the Zell Miller Scholarship only once.

*Postsecondary GPA calculation refers to all attempted hours after high school graduation. Approved postsecondary STEM courses taken fall 2017 and later receive .5 weight to grade B, C or D. Approved courses can be found at GAfutures.org. STEM courses taken during high school are not given the STEM weight for postsecondary GPA calculation.

LOSING ELIGIBILITY

A student will lose eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship and the Zell Miller Scholarship due to one of the following:

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum attempted and/or paid hours reached (127 semester/190 quarter)
- Funds not used within seven years of high school graduation or equivalent (military exception)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

HOPE GRANT

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school

AWARD AMOUNT

- Portion of standard tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org)

MAINTAINING

- Cumulative 2.0 postsecondary GPA or higher at designated checkpoints (30/60 paid semester hours; 45/90 paid quarter hours)
- Only eligible to regain the HOPE Grant once

LOSING ELIGIBILITY

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

ZELL MILLER GRANT

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- First term awarded retroactively after earning a 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA

AWARD AMOUNT

- Full standard rate of tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org)

MAINTAINING

- Cumulative 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA required at the end of every semester/quarter
- Eligible to regain Zell Miller Grant if minimum GPA earned at the end of the next term

LOSING ELIGIBILITY

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

HOPE CAREER GRANT

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Enrolled in certain high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply
- Dual credit and/or joint enrollment students not eligible

AWARD AMOUNT

- Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled
- Approved programs and award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org)

For more information on the HOPE Programs, visit [GAfutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org).