



How To Keep Your Hope Scholarship



So thanks to the Tennessee Lottery, you have a scholarship that will provide a large amount of money towards your college career. However, the money isn't free, you have to earn it with your grades. Here are the rules for keeping the Hope Scholarship:

GRADES~

- ✚ After every 24 credit hours you earn, your GPA will be checked to make sure you have met the standards to keep your scholarship. The standards are:
 - 24 credit hours – 2.75 GPA
 - 48 credit hours – 2.75 GPA
 - 72 credit hours – 3.0 GPA
 - 96 credit hours – 3.0 GPA
 - 120 credit hours – 3.0 GPA
 - 144 credit hours – 3.0 GPA

- ✚ If after the 72 hour mark your GPA is between 2.75 and 2.99, keeping a 3.0 semester average will also allow you to keep or regain your scholarship. However, your grades are then checked every semester, and you must be full-time in the fall and spring.

- ✚ If you lose your scholarship because your GPA is too low, you **CAN GET IT BACK** simply by bringing your GPA up to the right level by the next time they check your grades. **You can only do this one time.**

- ✚ If you fail a class or make a low grade that brings your GPA down, you can retake that one class and try to make a better grade to replace the bad grade. This is different from MTSU's policy, which allows you to retake any class over for a better grade. The Hope Scholarship will only recognize one such replacement, and you must file a form with Financial Aid in that case after completion of the course the second time.

- ✚ There are certain, unique situations where you can appeal losing your scholarship due to enrollment or grades. Consult Financial Aid if you think you have one of those situations.

ENROLLMENT~

- ✚ You can go either full-time or part-time each semester, but you have to at least be enrolled in 6 hours each fall and spring semester to get lottery money. You may enroll in one hour to keep your eligibility, but you won't get money for it.
 - If you begin a semester part-time, then you'll get a smaller portion of money as opposed to going full-time
 - If you begin a semester full-time, you only have 14 days to drop to part-time. After 14 days, if you drop to part-time you **LOSE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP FOREVER!!!** You can drop to part-time before the 14th day and keep your scholarship, but you may owe some money back to the university.
 - **Always consult an advisor before dropping classes to make sure you are not affecting your money!**

- ✚ If you meet all eligibility requirements, you will continue to get your lottery scholarship for 5 years from your first semester, or until you get your degree, whichever comes first.

- ✚ The Hope Scholarship will **not** cover summer school if you went full-time in the fall and spring. If you went part-time, whatever you did not use from your \$4000 can be put towards summer school. Also, summer school hours **DO** count towards your lottery GPA. If you have 22 hours before summer school and 25 after you take a class, your GPA will then be checked to see if it is high enough

- ✚ Dual Enrollment credits almost always do **NOT** count towards your Attempted hours or Lottery GPA. They will be factored into your MTSU GPA, so it is important to keep up with what your Lottery GPA actually is. Your Lottery GPA starts your first semester in college, when you begin receiving the Hope Scholarship money.

- ✚ Students can choose to wait 16 months after high school graduation to start college and claim Lottery Scholarship money. However, enrollment in **ANY** other institution, even cosmetology school or a trade school, makes you ineligible.

The Hope Scholarship can save you thousands of dollars in loans, all for the cost of going to class and keeping a B average. Don't waste such a valuable opportunity. Shoot for a 3.0 every semester, stay full-time, and always, ALWAYS, consult an advisor before dropping class and before registering for your next semester.

Questions? Contact either Tyler Henson (thenson@mtsu.edu) or Becca Seul (rseul@mtsu.edu) in the Academic Support Center at 898-2339, or call Financial Aid @ 898-2830