Wiregrass offers some of the lowest tuition and fee rates in the state, but we understand that even at the low rates some students may struggle financially to afford a college education. From the Governor’s initiative to provide funding for in-demand career fields to changes in the HOPE programs to benefit students, there are several new programs that you may be eligible for to help cover all of the cost of your tuition and fees at Wiregrass.

**The Good News:**
The new Zell Miller HOPE Grant will pay 100 percent of tuition for students who are enrolled in a certificate or diploma program, and maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA. Students are eligible for retroactive funding if they reach a 3.5 GPA after their first semester.

**That’s not all!**
28 Wiregrass diploma and technical certificate programs are part of the expanded Georgia’s Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant (SIWDG). If you are enrolled in one of these programs and are eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Grant, you are automatically eligible for additional funds to cover tuition, fees, or books. Grant award amount is based on the number of credit hours you are taking per semester. A complete list of eligible programs can be found on the website.

Students who need additional financial assistance may apply for a one percent loan through the Georgia Student Finance Commission called a SAL Loan. Students who graduate with a 3.5 GPA or better may request a service cancellation of a portion of the loan if employed in public service or teaching in a STEM field. Visit https://www.gsfc.org/secure/lg/ to find out more or contact the Wiregrass Financial Aid Offices at the campus near you.

For more details, visit wiregrass.edu
The following are NEW opportunities available this Fall!

**Zell Miller HOPE Grant**

This grant is for students enrolled in a technical certificate or diploma program who have 3.5 GPA or higher. **The Zell Miller HOPE Grant will pay 100% of your tuition as long as you maintain a 3.5 GPA!**

If you are currently enrolled at Wiregrass in a diploma or technical certificate program and you have a 3.5 GPA, you will need to;

- Make sure you have a current 2015-2016 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application completed and approved for Fall Semester. You can complete the application by visiting [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). (Wiregrass school code is 005256). The Zell Miller Grant will be applied to your account when you register for Fall Semester 2015.

If you are a new student enrolling in a diploma or technical certificate program for Fall Semester 2015, you will need to;

- Apply for financial aid for the 2015-2016 academic year by completing the FAFSA at [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or the HOPE Grant application at [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org). If you maintain a 3.5 GPA for your first semester, and are HOPE Grant eligible, the Zell Miller Grant will be retroactively applied to your account.

**SAL Application and Selection Process:**

- Students must have a 2015-16 FAFSA on file. The applications for SAL will be available online at [https://www.gacollege411.org](https://www.gacollege411.org) from until 4:00 pm on September 1, 2015. SAL is a random selection process and is based on available funds. (selected SAL applicants will be notified by email). Students may apply at any time during this application period.

**Key Components of SAL**

1. The first selection cycle will be limited to HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship recipients with a FY2015 invoice or an eligible 2015 high school HOPE GPA record.
2. The interest rate will be 1% interest rate. The rate only changes if a borrower goes into default.
3. All borrowers will be required to make a monthly Keep in Touch (KIT) Payment of $10.00 while in school (at least halftime - 6 or more credit hours) and during the grade period. This will be applied towards interest and principal and is meant to improve payment behavior.
4. An Origination Fee of 5% of the total loan amount up to $50.00 will be deducted from the first disbursement for all loans.
5. After the grade period, borrowers will enter Repayment with a required minimum payment of $50 per month and a maximum repayment period of 15 years.
6. SALT borrowers may request a discharge of a portion of a SALT loan(s) based upon graduation from the program of study for which the SALT loan was received and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 at the time of graduation.
7. SAL borrowers may request a Service Cancellation of a portion(s) of a SAL loan(s) based upon employment in Public Service as defined in the SAL regulations or be employed as a teacher in a Georgia Public School System in a STEM field.

**Student Eligibility for SAL**

**In order to receive the SAL, students must:**

- Be considered a Georgia resident and United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Complete a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to apply for this program.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in accordance with the SAP policy at their college or university.
- Must be enrolled in an eligible Georgia postsecondary institution.
- Meet all eligibility requirements.
- Exhaust all other funding options to meet cost of attendance.

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**Georgia’s Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant (SIWDG)**

28 Wiregrass diploma and technical certificate programs are part of the expanded SIWDG. If you are enrolled in one of these programs and are eligible for the HOPE Grant, you are automatically eligible for additional funds to cover tuition, fees, or books. Grant award amount is based on the number of credit hours you are taking per semester.

**Eligible SIWDG programs:**

- Advanced Child Development Specialist (TCC)
- Advanced Shielded Metal Arc Welder (TCC)
- Animation and Game Design Specialist (TCC)
- Child Development Specialist (TCC)
- Commercial Truck Driving** (TCC)
- Computed Tomography Specialist (TCC)
- Computer Programming (Diploma)
- Design & Media Production Technology (Diploma)
- Design & Media Production Technology (Technology)
- Early Childhood Care and Education (Diploma)
- Early Childhood Program Administration (TCC)
- Game Development (Diploma)
- Game Development Specialist (TCC)
- Gas Metal Arc Welder (TCC)
- Gas Tungsten Arc Welder (TCC)
- Health Information Coding (Diploma)
- Information Security Specialist (Diploma)
- Information Security Specialist (TCC)
- Medical Language Specialist (TCC)
- Networking Specialist (Diploma)
- Nurse Aide (TCC)
- PC Repair and Network Technician (TCC)
- Pharmacy Technology (Diploma)
- Phlebotomy Technician (TCC)
- Practical Nursing (Diploma)
- Surgical Technology (Diploma)
- Web Site Design (Diploma)
- Welding and Joining Technology (Diploma)

The amount of the SIWDG Award is a fixed amount* for each term of enrollment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolled Hours</th>
<th>Award Amount per term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9+ hours</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 8 hours</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 2 hours</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Commercial Truck Driving - enrolled 9+ hours; one-time award of $1,000.00