

**GCIS Financial Aid Sort**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Development Advisement Activity #3**  
**Teacher as Advisor Program (TAP)**  
**Estimated time: 30-45 minutes**

**National Career Development Standard/Competency**

9. Skills to make decisions

- Identify steps to apply for and secure financial assistance for postsecondary education and training

**Goal:**

Students will use GCIS to identify sources of financial aid for postsecondary education/training.

**Objectives:**

- Understand different kinds of financial aid: scholarships, grants, loans
- Locate financial aid sources

**Materials:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Development Advisement Activity #3 handouts - **Financial Aid Types, Terms and Sources** and **GCIS Financial Aid Sort**
- Pen or pencil

**Activity:**

1. *Greet students:* “Welcome to advisement. Today we’re going to discuss financial aid for postsecondary education and training. Raise your hand if you plan to seek additional education and training after high school.” *Allow time for students to respond.* “In one way or another, you might require some financial aid to help you complete your studies.” You will have another opportunity to learn about financial aid in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade then again in the 12<sup>th</sup>.
2. *Distribute Handout #3, **Financial Aid Types, Terms and Sources**, to students. Go over the handout with students. Ensure that they understand the information.*
3. *Distribute Handout #4, **GCIS Financial Aid Sort**. Review the directions, ensure they understand them, and have them complete the activity by the due date. Encourage students to include their parents in this assignment (they will appreciate the opportunity to learn more about financial aid). Tell students in their junior year they will have an opportunity to learn more about the financial aid process and that their parents will be invited to a financial aid workshop.*

**Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated on their participation in the class discussions and on their handouts.

Financial Aid Types, Terms and Sources  
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**Types of Financial Aid**

Need-based aid depends on the financial need of the family and typically has specific eligibility requirements.

Merit-based aid is awarded to students who demonstrate special skills, talent, or academic achievement.

**Financial Aid Terms**

Financial Aid: money supplied by a source other than the family to assist with the cost of education beyond high school

Grant: based on financial need; sources include state government, federal government, or colleges

Loan: borrowed funds that require eventual repayment; typically need-based

Private Award: can be need-based, merit-based, or a direct gift; sources include high school, churches, businesses, and civic organizations

Scholarship: usually based upon merit, but are occasionally need-based; can come from a variety of sources and are often tied to special skills and/or abilities

Work Study: funds available to student through campus or community employment; can be need-based or open to general student population

**Sources of Financial Aid**

Private: funds provided by private sources typically targeted for specific careers or have ties to special interest groups (sources include foundations, professional organizations, religious organizations, civic clubs, and businesses)

Institutional: funds provided by individual educational institutions and coordinated through the financial aid office

State: government funds made available by legal mandate and coordinated by state agencies such as the State Department of Education

Federal: government funds made available by legal mandate and coordinated by federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Bureau of Health Professions

**The HOPE Grant**

Georgia residents, who are attending a Georgia public technical college to earn a certificate or diploma, are eligible for a HOPE Grant regardless of high school graduation date or grade average. You may receive the Hope Grant for an unlimited number of programs that qualify under the guidelines. Full-time enrollment is not required, but you must be making satisfactory academic progress to maintain eligibility. You are not required

to maintain a "B" average to renew your HOPE Grant. The HOPE Grant covers tuition, HOPE-approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance of up to \$100 per quarter. Beginning Fall term 2004, students are eligible for HOPE Grant payment for a maximum of 95 quarter hours or 63 semester hours. For the most current information, go to [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org) or [www.GAcollge411.org](http://www.GAcollge411.org).

### **The HOPE Scholarship for Recent High School Graduates**

If you are a recent high school graduate and wish to receive the HOPE Scholarship for a degree program at a technical college or one of Georgia's public or private colleges or universities as a first-year student, you must:

- Be a legal resident of Georgia
- Be a 1993 or later graduate of an eligible high school
- Earn a "B" average in high school (*a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or meeting the college preparatory track; if you are in the technical curriculum track, you must have a 3.2 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale meeting the curriculum requirements*). Effective beginning with the high school graduating Class of 2007, the high school academic requirements for the HOPE Scholarship will be a true "B average" of a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale, rather than an 80 numeric average, for all core curriculum courses.
- Effective Summer term 2004, the amount HOPE will pay for mandatory fees at public colleges, universities, and technical colleges is capped at the amount paid at each institution for the 2003-2004 award year and the book allowance will depend on lottery funds after the award year 2004-2005.

Students must also graduate meeting the curriculum requirements based on their diploma seal. Check with your high school counselor for the most current information on the core-curriculum requirements or go to [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org).

### **Scholarship Scams**

The College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act enhances protection against fraud in student financial assistance. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) cautions students to look for these telltale lines:

- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
- "The scholarship will cost some money."
- "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship" or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

To file a complaint or for free information, call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or visit <http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams>.

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Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions:

1. Log into GCIS using your personal portfolio User Name and Password.
2. Click on **My Portfolio Main Menu**, and then click on **My GCIS Favorites**.
3. Click on **Financial Aid Sort** on the left under **Education & Training**, and then click it again on the right. Show this file to your parents/guardians. They will appreciate this type of information.
4. Read and follow the instructions to complete the activity.
5. Follow the directions on the screen. You may start over at any time or ask for results at any time.
6. Once you have completed the activity and found your awards list, be sure to click on **Save Answers to My GCIS Favorites in My Portfolio**.
7. Answer the following questions about your experience.
  - a. Are you more interested in scholarships, loans, grants or work-study programs? Why?
  - b. Do you have a skill or ability that would qualify you for a scholarship? What is it?
  - c. What were the most interesting sources you found for financial aid?
  - d. Were there scholarships based on personal characteristics that interested you? Which ones?
  - e. Which financial aid sources from your list did you investigate further?
  - f. Which local community aid sources did your search uncover?
  - g. Which organizational affiliation aid sources did your search uncover?

It is important that you understand the financial aid process. Include your parents in this worksheet. They will be happy you did. It is not too early to begin to research scholarships. The more information you can gather, the better decision you will be able to make. Answering the above questions can keep you moving on the right track toward economic prosperity.

