

TELS, TNP, and TNR Rule Changes Webinar FAQ

1. Will TSAC be monitoring the five-semester timeline for Tennessee Promise students impacted by enrolling less than full-time in a semester and receiving an award?

Yes, the FAST system has been updated to correctly monitor and calculate the maximum assistance for a student in this situation.

2. What are the full-time enrollment exceptions for Tennessee Promise and how do these impact a student's five-semester limit?

Students may now enroll less than full-time in the following scenarios and receive an award:

- A semester where the program of study stipulates less than full-time enrollment
- A semester where the course offerings in the declared program of study are less than full time
- A semester leading to completion of the declared eligible program of study
- A summer semester
- Other situations as determined necessary by the Institutional Review Panel

Most importantly, any situation where a student is enrolled less than full-time and receives an award will no longer count toward the five-semester limit

3. Will a Tennessee Promise student seeking payment in a summer semester when enrolled part-time still be required to complete and submit 8 hours of community service?

Yes, for any term in which a student is seeking to receive a payment, the student must complete and submit at least 8 hours of community service.

4. Does the less than full-time semester count as a partial semester when a Tennessee Promise student is enrolled part-time?

No, any semester in which a student is enrolled less than full-time does not count against the five-semester limit.

5. Does a less than full-time semester, other than a summer semester, count against the five-semester limit?

No, any semester where the student is enrolled less than full-time where one of the exceptions detailed in Rule or approved by the IRP is present does not count against the five-semester limit.

6. What are the part-time enrollment exceptions for Tennessee Reconnect?

Students may now enroll less than part-time in the following scenarios and receive an award:

- A semester where the program of study stipulates less than part-time enrollment
- A semester where the course offerings in the declared program of study are less than part-time
- A semester leading to completion of the declared program of study
- A summer semester
- Other situations as determined necessary by the Institutional Review Panel

Contrary to the Tennessee Promise enrollment exceptions, these enrollment exceptions will count against the five-year limit for a student's Tennessee Reconnect maximum assistance

7. When do the allowances for less than part-time payments take effect for HOPE Scholarship recipients?

November 5, 2023, but they are effective for the entire 2023-24 academic year.

8. What are the three conditions in which a student may receive a HOPE Scholarship award if enrolled in less than 6 credit hours?

- A semester leading to completion of the declared program of study
- A semester where course offerings are limited to less than part-time
- A semester where the student's declared program of study stipulates less than part-time enrollment

9. Is there a pro-rated award chart available?

Yes, there is a pro-rated HOPE Scholarship award chart available in FAST at the HELP Link.

10. How is the enrollment level determined for a student seeking a HOPE Scholarship award while in pursuit of an advanced degree?

Enrollment status will be determined based on institutional policy for students enrolled in an advanced degree program seeking a HOPE Scholarship award. (Ex. – a student enrolled in 9 credit hours may receive a full-time award IF institutional policy defines full-time for a graduate student as 9 credit hours).

- 11. If a student seeking admission to an associate degree level Nursing program only has one course remaining before applying for admission to the Nursing program, may the student be awarded the HOPE Scholarship when enrolled less than part-time? The student's current declared program of study is Associate of Health Sciences in which there are multiple courses offered in the program, but only the one course remains prior to applying for admission to a non-declared program of study.**

Unfortunately, the exceptions for HOPE, TN Promise, and TN Reconnect would not apply in this example since the student's declared program of study has sufficient course offerings to enroll at the required level. The enrollment exceptions are based on the declared program of study rather than an intended program of study.

- 12. If a student seeking admission to a B.S. level nursing program only has one course remaining before applying for admission to the program, may the student be awarded the HOPE Scholarship when enrolled less than part-time? Unlike the previous question/scenario, the student has no course offering in a different declared program of study.**

Yes, the exception to award where course offerings are limited to less than part-time would apply.

- 13. Student is enrolled in the last course leading to completion of the declared program of study, eligible for payment, receives the payment for the course, but then subsequently fails the course and earns the F. May the student be awarded again in the next semester for the same course. This assumes the student has not reached a benchmark or the 5-year terminating event.**

Yes, assuming the student has not reached a benchmark for GPA review or the five-year terminating event, the student may receive an award in the subsequent semester to repeat the previously failed final course.

- 14. Student is enrolled in the last course leading to completion of the declared program of study, eligible for payment, receives the payment for the course, but then subsequently stops attending the course. Would this student lose HOPE, TN Promise, or TN Reconnect eligibility?**

Yes, the student would lose future program eligibility for a failure to maintain continuous enrollment in a fall or spring semester. If in a summer semester, this would not be considered a change of enrollment for TN Promise or TN Reconnect purposes since the statutory requirement to enroll is full-time (TNP) and part-time (TNR). Enrollment at levels below these are not held to traditional change of enrollment policies. In this scenario, the student would become ineligible for HOPE due to a change of enrollment unless an appeal is approved by the IRP or TSAC Appeal Panel.

15. How should an institution document the student's enrollment exception to support the payment?

A student may not be required to submit an appeal or exception form to initiate payment. As these exceptions are now approved in TSAC Rule, this no longer requires an appeal or exception process, except in a situation where none of the specific exceptions apply and the student is seeking a specific exception. The institution should develop a policy to document this. Institutional policy may stipulate that students submit a form to initiate payment where one of the exceptions applies; however, no deadline may be placed on the use of the form. Additional examples of acceptable supporting documentation would be a copy of the student's program of study for a given semester, an email from the student's advisor confirming limited course offerings or completion of the program of study. No documentation or support is necessary for a student to receive an award for part-time enrollment in the summer semester. This TSAC guidance applies to all enrollment exceptions for HOPE, TN Promise, and TN Reconnect.