



### HOPE Lottery Scholarship Appeals

The Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) is awarded based on policies set forth by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). TSAC's TELS policy allows an appeal process for students who fail to meet enrollment requirements due to extenuating medical or personal circumstances.

Tennessee Lottery Legislation **DOES NOT** grant the authority to allow appeals (**regardless of the circumstances**) for the following:

- GPA requirements for both initial and continuing eligibility.
- Score requirements for ACT, SAT, and GED tests.
- Limit on attempted hours or years of enrollment.
- Income limit for a Need-Based Supplemental Award.
- Residency status.

However, TELS regulations **DO** allow for students who are denied eligibility to appeal the following:

- Change of enrollment from full time to part time or from part time to less than 6 hours after the last day to drop a class without a "W". The change of enrollment must be approved in advance for non-emergency situations.
- Withdrawal from the university.
- Failure to enroll within 16 months of high school graduation, home school completion, or GED test date.
- Failure to enroll for one or more required semesters.
- Other extraordinary circumstances beyond your control (must be verifiable and thoroughly documented by authoritative sources).

If, after reviewing the information above, you feel that you can meet the criteria for an appeal, please complete the Milligan University TELS Appeal Form. Make sure you supply all information requested on the form, sign and date the form, attach all appropriate documentation, submit the form to the Scholarship Office, and keep a copy of the form and all documentation for your records.

**REMEMBER: Appeals will not be reviewed without verifiable documentation of one's extenuating and/or personal circumstances.**

Please use the following table for example reasons for appeals and examples of appropriate, verifiable documentation.

Example Reasons for Appeals	Examples of Appropriate, Verifiable Documentation
Major illness or injury of student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Statement from medical doctor or other licensed health care provider, on letterhead, indicating the type of illness or injury, the date of onset, and whether the student is still under medical care or has been released.</li><li>✓ Police accident report</li></ul>

<p><b>Major illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member (parent, sibling, spouse, child) with whom the student lives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Statement from medical doctor or other licensed health care provider, on letterhead, indicating the name of the patient, relationship to the student, the type of illness or injury, the date of onset, and whether the patient is still under medical care or has been released.</li> <li>✓ Police accident report.</li> <li>✓ Copy of obituary or other death notice published in a newspaper.</li> <li>✓ Copy of an official death certificate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Extreme financial hardship of student or immediate family with whom the student lives or upon whom the student is dependent</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A letter explaining in detail the nature of the extreme financial hardship and what action the student and/or family is taking to deal with the situation.</li> <li>✓ Documentation of the current family income, outstanding medical expenses not covered by insurance, etc.</li> <li>✓ Copies of court documents that will support the basis for appeal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fulfillment of religious commitment of all students in a specific faith</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A letter stating the name of the religion, how and when the student became a member of that religion, and the contact information of the local branch with which the student is affiliated.</li> <li>✓ A letter from a cleric or officer of the local branch of the religion stating what type of religious commitment is required of the student, when the commitment must be fulfilled, the time frame for fulfilling that commitment, and who is expected to fulfill that commitment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Military obligations of student or of immediate family member with whom the student lives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Copy of activation letter for student who is activated is sufficient.</li> </ul>



## HOPE Appeal Guidelines

Milligan University has established an Institutional Review Panel (IRP) to hear appeals for students who are denied or who lose their HOPE Scholarship. If you receive notice that you have lost your eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship, you have 30 days to file an appeal with the Scholarship Office. (Additional time, up to a maximum total of 45 days, will be granted in the event of verifiable, documented extenuating circumstances).

The IRP has six (6) meetings a year to hear appeals for the HOPE Scholarship. According to TSAC TELS policies and procedures, students must receive notification within fourteen (14) days of their appeal decision.

Important Reminders:

In the event you receive notification of loss of TELS eligibility, you...

- ✓ Must submit your appeal during the above specified dates.
- ✓ Should give the Scholarship Office and the TELS Institutional Review Panel (IRP) a minimum of two (2) weeks to review and respond to your appeal;
- ✓ Have the right to appeal to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) in Nashville within 45 days upon receipt from the IRP that your appeal has been denied:

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation  
% Lottery Scholarship Award Appeals Panel  
Suite 1510, Parkway Towers  
404 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

For more details, visit the TSAC website at <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/tels-program-and-tn-promise-scholarship---appeals-and-exceptions.html>

\*Annual Updates to the TELS Rules: The state legislature typically makes changes to the TELS rules in June of each year. Milligan University receives official notification of the new rules and procedures in late July or August of that year. This website may include basic information about the changes before that time, but detailed information about the new rules is generally not available until early October. If you wish to learn about any recent changes, please visit TSAC's website at <http://www.tn.gov/collegepays>.



## Milligan University TELS Award Appeal Form

Complete the information below and return to the Scholarship Office (Tracy Brinn, tnbrinn@milligan.edu). You will be notified within fourteen days regarding your appeal. Prior to completing this form, please review all information attached.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*NOTE: You will be notified by e-mail regarding your appeal**

For what semester are you appealing? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate future HOPE reinstatement semester? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check which type of appeal applies: ☐ Change in enrollment status ☐ Withdrawal from the University

Indicate the reason for the appeal: ☐ Personal Illness ☐ Extreme Financial Hardship  
☐ Military Service ☐ Religious Commitment  
☐ Other extraordinary circumstance beyond student's control  
☐ Illness or death of immediate family member

To submit an appeal, you must read all material attached, supply all information requested on this form, sign and date the form, submit form to the Scholarship Office **within 30 days**, and provide the following information:

1. Attach a detailed letter that is typed explaining your petition for eligibility, and what actions you have taken to correct the situation (if applicable).
2. Enclose copies of supporting documentation (such as death certificate or statements from medical doctors, advisors, psychologists, etc.)

**REMEMBER: Appeals will not be reviewed without verifiable documentation of one's extenuating and/or personal circumstances.**

I certify that I have reviewed the HOPE Lottery Scholarship appeal guidelines attached. I also certify that all of the above statements and attached documentation are true and accurate.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For IRP Use Only: IRP Appeal Decision ☐ Approve ☐ Denied

Signature of IRP Official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_