



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Welcome to the LFOS Training Workshop

Day 2

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Creating an FSA ID



What is the FSA ID?

- The FSA ID, which replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN in May 2015, is the username and password you use when you visit certain U.S. Department of Education websites.
- It identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®])* at fafsa.gov.
- The FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. It has the same legal status as a written signature.

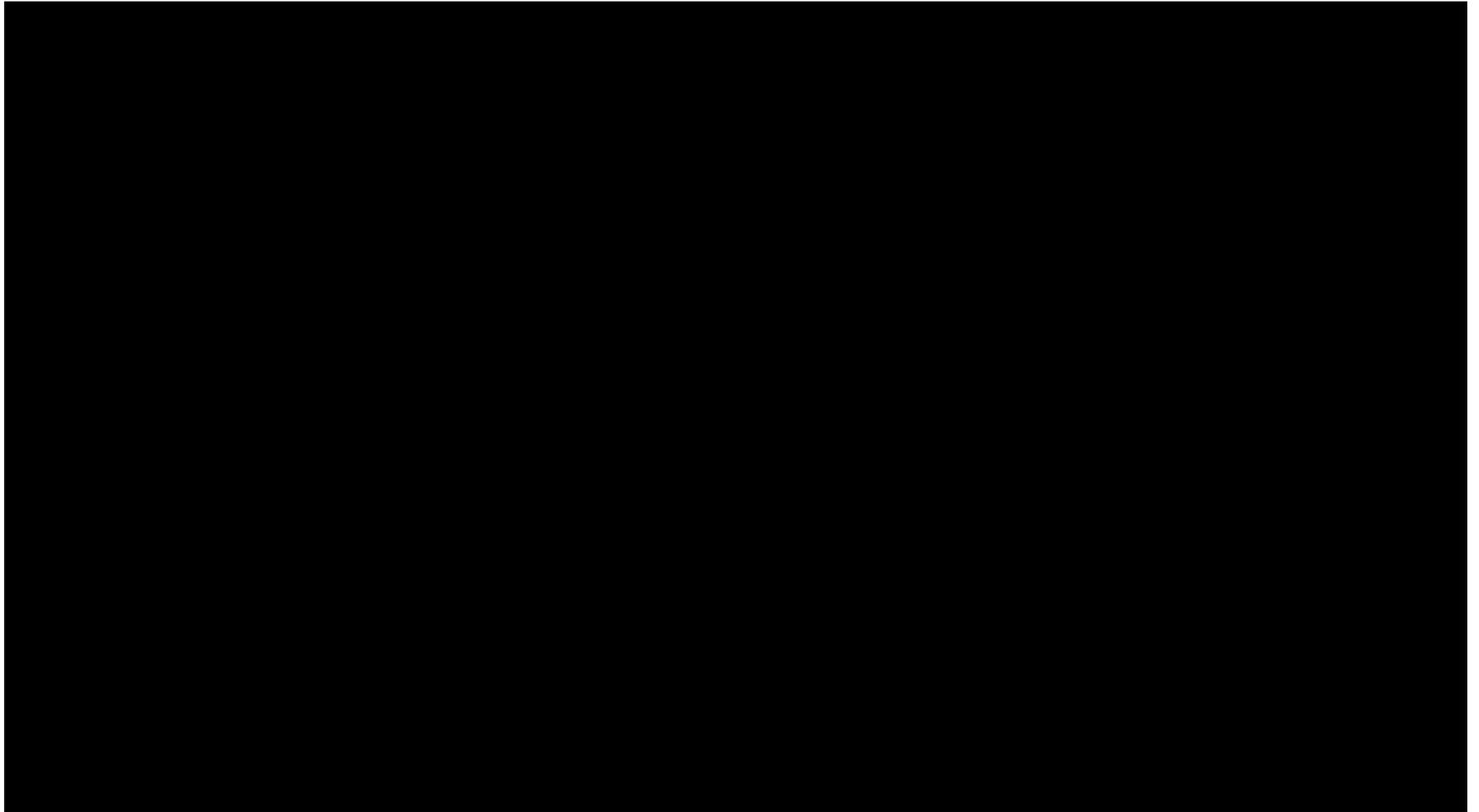


Using the FSA ID

Website	What You Can Do at the Site
fafsa.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronically sign your (or your child's) FAFSA• Import your tax information from the Internal Revenue Service• Prefill data in this year's FAFSA if you filed a FAFSA last year (Renewal FAFSA)• Make online corrections to an existing FAFSA• View or print an online copy of your <i>Student Aid Report (SAR)</i>
My Federal Student Aid at StudentAid.gov/login or the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®) at www.nsls.ed.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• View a history of any federal student aid that you have received• Look up your loan servicer's contact information
StudentLoans.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete entrance counseling, the <i>Financial Awareness Counseling Tool</i>, or exit counseling• Electronically sign a master promissory note (MPN).• Complete PLUS loan requests• Estimate your student loan payments using the <i>Repayment Estimator</i>• Apply for an income-driven repayment plan or a consolidation loan
Agreement to Serve (ATS) at www.teach-ats.ed.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign your ATS for the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)



LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



What to Do: I Forgot My Username or Password



Forgot My Username

- Select “Forgot My Username” at the Log In Screen
- The appearance of the link may vary depending on what website you are visiting

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Edit Your FSA ID

Enter your username and password and select LOGIN to edit your FSA ID information. If you do not have an FSA ID:

Create New FSA ID Edit My FSA ID

(Username or Verified E-mail Address) *

Password *

[Forgot My Username?](#)

LOGIN

Edit My FSA ID Screen

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FAFSA® Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Home Help

SEARCH

STUDENT Login

Student Information

Instructions are provided for each FAFSA question in the Help and Hints section on the right side of the page and are also available by clicking **Need Help?** at the bottom of the page.

Enter either your (the student's) FSA ID or personal information to log in to FAFSA on the Web.

Enter your (the student's) FSA ID Enter the student's information

Do not log in with the FSA ID if you are not the student.

[Create an FSA ID](#)

FSA ID Username or Verified E-mail Address *

[Forgot Username?](#)

Password *

[Forgot Password?](#)

NEED HELP?

Form Approved OMB No. 1845-0045 App. Exp. 12/31/2015

Help and Hints

Login Options

The FSA ID, which consists of a user-created username and password, replaced the PIN effective May 2015. It allows users to electronically access personal information on Federal Student Aid Web sites as well as electronically sign a FAFSA.

Select one:

Enter your FSA ID (only the student should log in with an FSA ID).

OR

Enter the student's name, Social Security Number and date of birth. (You may have to enter your FSA ID later in the process.)

FAFSA Log In Screen



Forgot My Username

You can retrieve your username by either:

- Having a secure code e-mailed to you (enter the e-mail address associated with your FSA ID account and click the “E-mail Secure Code” button)
- Providing personal information and answering your challenge questions (click the “Challenge Questions” button)

Retrieve Your Username

To retrieve your FSA ID username, use one of the following options:

1. E-mail

If you provided an e-mail address with your FSA ID, enter it and select E-MAIL SECURE CODE. We will send you a secure code that you will enter on the next page. If you're accessing your e-mail via the Web, make sure to open a separate browser window.

E-mail

E-MAIL SECURE CODE

2. Challenge Questions

Provide your Social Security number, last name and date of birth on the next screen and then answer three of your five challenge questions. Select CHALLENGE QUESTIONS for this option.

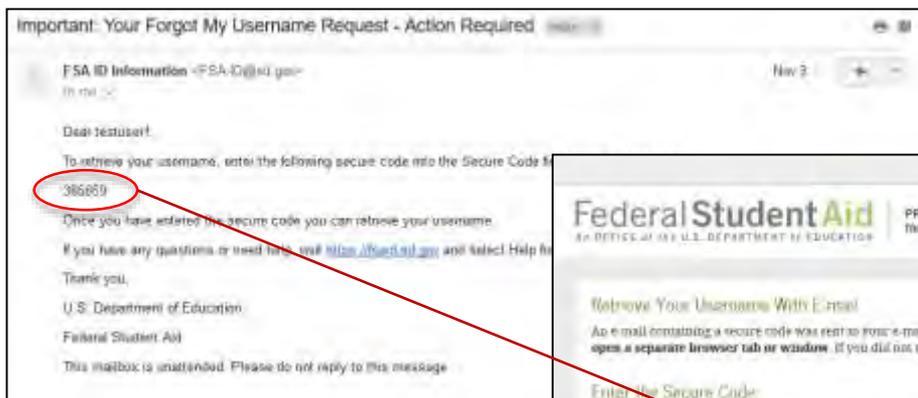
CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

CANCEL

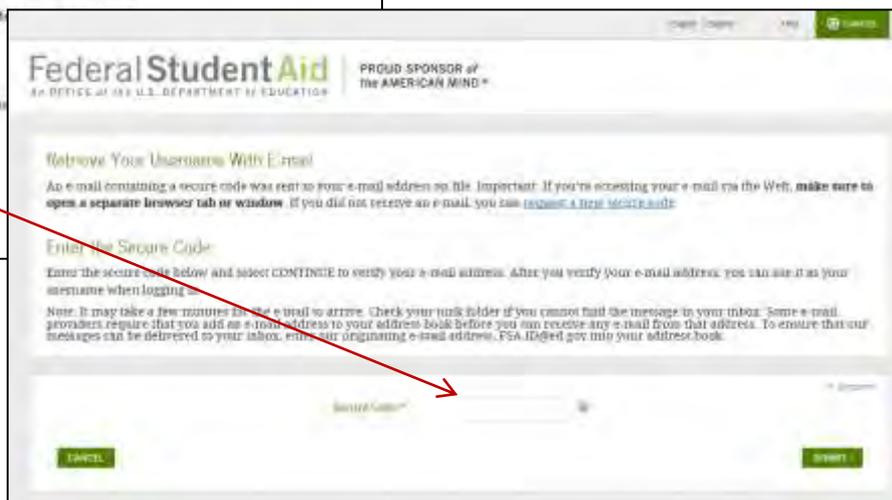


Retrieving Username Using Secure Code

- If you selected “E-mail Secure Code,” an e-mail will be sent to your e-mail account and you will be taken to a page where you can enter a secure code
- Do not close this page!
- Open your e-mail in a new browser window or tab or different device and copy the code from your e-mail and enter it into the “Secure Code” box



E-mail With Your Secure Code





Retrieving Username Using Secure Code

Once you enter the secure code the screen will display your username

Forgot Username

Your username is shown below.

Note: If you have an e-mail address associated with your FSA ID and have verified it, you can use it, with your password, to log in to FSA systems instead of your username.

- Your FSA ID username is: **fsatestuser1**

Select RETURN TO LOGIN to return to the log-in page.

[RETURN TO LOGIN](#)



Forgot My Username

If you prefer to retrieve your username by answering your challenge questions, click the “Challenge Questions” button

The screenshot shows the 'Retrieve Your Username' page on the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, there are links for 'English | Español', a 'Help' icon, and a 'CANCEL' button. The main heading is 'Retrieve Your Username' with the instruction: 'To retrieve your FSA ID username, use one of the following options:'. There are two main options listed:

- 1 E-mail**: 'If you provided an e-mail address with your FSA ID, enter it and select E-MAIL SECURE CODE. We will send you a secure code that you will enter on the next page. If you're accessing your e-mail via the Web, make sure to open a separate browser window.' This option includes an 'E-mail' input field and an 'E-MAIL SECURE CODE' button.
- 2 Challenge Questions**: 'Provide your Social Security number, last name and date of birth on the next screen and then answer three of your five challenge questions. Select CHALLENGE QUESTIONS for this option.' This option includes a 'CHALLENGE QUESTIONS' button, which is circled in red in the image.

At the bottom left of the form area, there is a 'CANCEL' button.



Retrieving Username Using Challenge Questions

If you selected “Challenge Questions,” you will be taken to a screen where you need to enter your Social Security number, last name, and date of birth

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, there are links for 'English | Español', 'Help', and a green 'CANCEL' button. The main header features the 'Federal Student Aid' logo and the text 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®'. Below this, the page title is 'Retrieve Your Username Using Challenge Questions'. A message states: 'Enter your Social Security number, last name, and date of birth below and select CONTINUE. We will ask you three of your challenge questions on the next page.' The form contains three input fields: 'Social Security Number *' (with a mask and a dropdown arrow), 'Last Name' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Date of Birth *' (with a dropdown arrow). At the bottom of the form, there are two green buttons: 'CANCEL' on the left and 'CONTINUE' on the right.



Retrieving Username Using Challenge Questions

IMPORTANT
If you retrieve your username using the challenge questions, you will need to wait 30 minutes before you can use your username

English | Español Help **CANCEL**

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Retrieve Your Username With Challenge Questions
Enter the correct answers to your challenge questions below and select VERIFY.
Be sure to enter the answers exactly as you created them. The answers are not case sensitive.

* Required

Challenge Question 1: Who was your first boss?
Answer 1 * Show Text

Challenge Question 2: What is your favorite color?
Answer 2 * Show Text

Challenge Question 3: What is your favorite food?
Answer 3 * Show Text

CANCEL **VERIFY >**



What to Do: I'm Locked Out of My Account



Locked Out

If you've been locked out of your FSA ID account for providing the wrong username or password, you can unlock your account using either e-mail or the challenge questions

The screenshot shows the 'Unlock Your FSA ID' page on the Federal Student Aid website. The page header includes the 'Federal Student Aid' logo and the text 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND'. The main heading is 'Unlock Your FSA ID' with a sub-heading 'Your FSA ID is locked. To unlock it, use one of the following options:'. There are two main options listed: '1. E-mail' and '2. Challenge Questions'. Each option has a brief description and a corresponding green button. At the bottom left, there is a 'CANCEL' button. The top right corner of the page has a 'CANCEL' button and a 'Help' link.

English | Español | Help | CANCEL

Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MINDSM
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Unlock Your FSA ID

Your FSA ID is locked. To unlock it, use one of the following options:

- 1. E-mail**
If you provided an e-mail address with your FSA ID, we will send you a secure code that you will enter on the next page. Select E-MAIL for this option. If you're accessing your e-mail via the Web, make sure to open a separate browser window. **E-MAIL**
- 2. Challenge Questions**
Answer three of your five challenge questions. Select CHALLENGE QUESTIONS for this option. **CHALLENGE QUESTIONS**

CANCEL



Locked Out

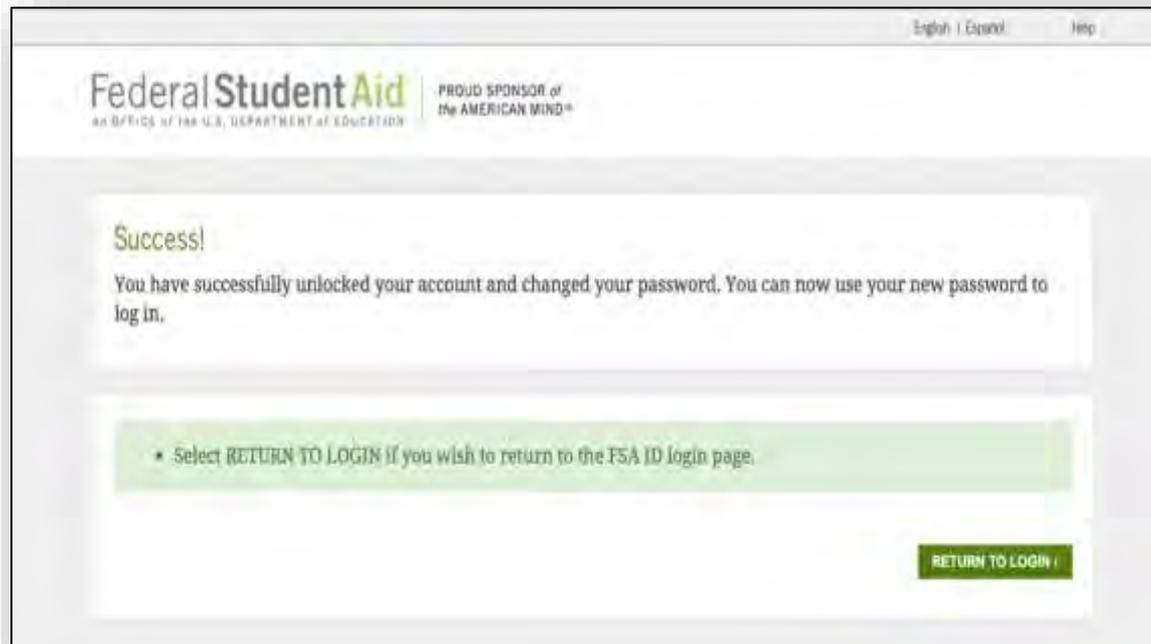
Once you successfully enter the secure code or answer your challenge questions, you will be taken to this screen to change your password

The screenshot shows the 'New Password' screen from the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it says 'Federal Student Aid' and 'PROUD SPONSOR of My AMERICAN MIND'. Below that, it says 'AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'. The main heading is 'New Password'. The instructions read: 'Enter your new password below. It may not include your name, date of birth, or Social Security number. Do not use a password you've used before. Enter it again to confirm and select CONTINUE.' There are two input fields: 'New Password *' and 'confirm New Password *'. At the bottom, there are 'CANCEL' and 'CONTINUE' buttons.



Locked Out

Once you enter a new password and re-enter it successfully, you receive the following message





Where can I get more information?



Where can I get more information?

Additional details on the FSA ID including answers to frequently asked questions and tips on creating an FSA ID, can be found at StudentAid.gov/fsaid

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators Presents ...

What You Need to Know About Financial Aid

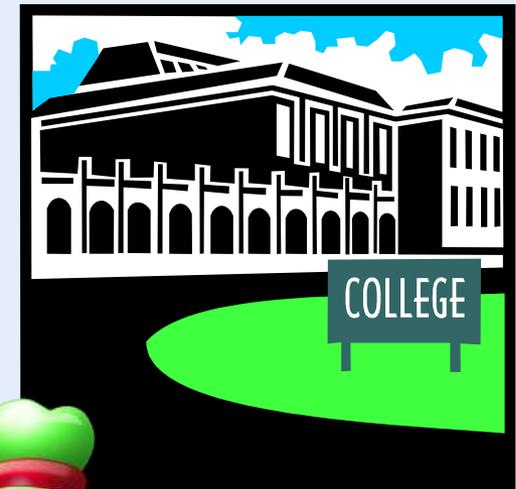
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Topics We Will Discuss Tonight

- What is financial aid?
- Cost of attendance (COA)
- Expected family contribution (EFC)
- Financial need
- Categories, types, and sources of financial aid
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary educational expenses



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What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?

- Direct costs
- Indirect costs
- Direct and indirect costs combined into cost of attendance
- Varies widely from college to college

What is Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

- Amount family can reasonably be expected to contribute
- Stays the same regardless of college
- Two components
 - Parent contribution
 - Student contribution
- Calculated using data from a federal application form and a federal formula

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What is Financial Need?

Cost of Attendance

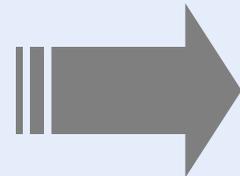
– Expected Family Contribution

= Financial Need

Categories of Financial Aid

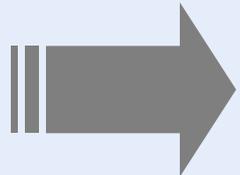
- Need-based aid
- Non-need-based aid

Types of Financial Aid



Grants

Scholarships



Work-Study

Loans

Other

Gift Aid: Grants

- Money that does not have to be paid back
- Usually awarded on the basis of financial need

Gift Aid: Scholarships

- Money that does not have to be paid back
- Awarded on the basis of merit, skill, or unique characteristic

Self-Help Aid: Loans

- Money students and parents borrow to help pay college expenses
- Repayment usually begins after education is finished
- Only borrow what is really needed
- Look at loans as an investment in the future



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Self-Help Aid: Work-Study Employment

- Allows student to earn money to help pay educational costs
 - A paycheck; or
 - Nonmonetary compensation, such as room and board
- Student may opt whether or not to work or number of hours to work

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Sources of Financial Aid

federal
government

state
government

college
(institutional aid)

outside/
private
sources

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Federal Government

- Largest source of financial aid
- Aid awarded primarily on the basis of financial need
- Must apply each year using the FAFSA

Federal Student Aid Programs

- Federal Pell Grant
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans (Direct Loans)
- PLUS Loans

States

- Residency requirements usually apply
- Award aid on the basis of both merit and need
- Use information from the FAFSA and/or state aid applications
- Deadlines vary by state
 - Check paper FAFSA or FAFSA on the Web website



Colleges and Universities

- Award aid on the basis of both merit and need
- Aid may be gift aid or self-help aid
- Use information from the FAFSA and/or institutional applications
- Deadlines and application requirements vary by institution
 - Check with each college or university



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Private Sources

- Foundations, businesses, charitable organizations
- Deadlines and application procedures vary widely
- Begin researching private aid sources early

Civic Organizations and Churches

- Research what is available in community
- To what organizations and churches do student and family belong?
- Application process usually occurs during spring of senior year
- Small scholarships add up!

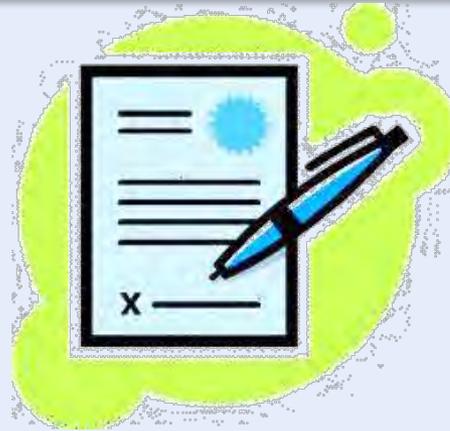
Employers

- Companies may have scholarships available to the children of employees
- Companies may have educational benefits for their employees



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Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



- A standard form that collects demographic and financial information about the student and family
- May be filed electronically or using paper form
 - Available in English and Spanish

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FAFSA

- Information used to calculate the expected family contribution (EFC)
 - Amount of money a student and his or her family may reasonably be expected to contribute towards the cost of the student's education for an academic year
- Colleges use EFC to award financial aid

FAFSA

- May be filed at any time during an academic year, but no earlier than the January 1st prior to the academic year for which the student requests aid
- For the 2016–17 academic year, the FAFSA may be filed beginning January 1, 2016
- Most colleges set FAFSA filing deadlines

FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)



- Website: www.fafsa.gov
- 2016–17 FAFSA on the Web available on January 1, 2016
- FAFSA on the Web Worksheet:
 - Used as “pre-application” worksheet
 - Questions follow order of FAFSA on the Web

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FAFSA on the Web

Good reasons to file electronically:

- Built-in edits to prevent costly errors
- Skip-logic allows student and/or parent to skip unnecessary questions
- Option to use Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool to import tax data

FAFSA on the Web

Good reasons to file electronically:

- More timely submission of original application and any necessary corrections
- More detailed instructions and “help” for common questions
- Ability to check application status online
- Simplified application process in the future

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IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- While completing FOTW, applicant may submit real-time request to IRS for tax data
- IRS will authenticate taxpayer's identity
- If match found, IRS sends real-time results to applicant in new browser window
- Applicant chooses whether or not to transfer data to FOTW

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Available early February 2016 for 2016–17 processing cycle
- Participation is voluntary
- Reduces documents requested by financial aid office

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Some will be unable to use IRS DRT
- Examples include:
 - Filed an amended tax return
 - No Social Security Number (SSN) was entered
 - Student or parent married but filed separately

FSA ID

- <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- Sign FAFSA electronically
- Not required, but speeds processing
- May be used by students and parents throughout aid process, including subsequent school year
- Only the owner should create a FSA ID

The screenshot shows the 'Create a New FSA ID' page on the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it features the 'Federal Student Aid' logo and the text 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®'. Below the logo, it says 'BY OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION'. The main heading is 'Create a New FSA ID', followed by the subtext 'An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature'. A warning states: 'Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. You are not authorized to create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else, including a family member. Misrepresentation of your identity to the federal government could result in criminal or civil penalties.' A note says: 'To create your own personal FSA ID, answer correctly for the questions below and select CONTINUE.' An important note reads: 'Important: When you are done click the CANCEL button to clear your data, even if you did not finish creating your FSA ID. Just closing your browser window or going to another website may not be enough to prevent other people using this computer from seeing your information until the session expires.' The form itself has two tabs: 'Create An FSA ID' (selected) and 'Edit My FSA ID'. It contains several input fields: 'Email', 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Date of Birth', 'Gender', 'Phone Number', 'Address', 'City', 'State', and 'Zip'. There are also radio buttons for 'Are you 17 years of age or older?' and 'Are you 13 years of age or older?'. A green 'CONTINUE' button is at the bottom right. On the right side of the form, there are links for 'Edit My FSA ID' and 'Forgot My FSA ID'.

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FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

FAFSA on the Web Worksheet contains:

- Instructions
- Questions that gather basic information on student and parent, if applicable

General Student Information

- Social Security Number
- Citizenship status
- Marital status
- Drug convictions
- Selective Service registration
- Level of parents' school completion

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Student Dependency Status

FAFSA asks questions to determine dependency status for federal student aid (not IRS) purposes:

- If all “No” responses, student is dependent
- If “Yes” to any question, student is independent

Information About Parents of Dependent Students

- Tax, income, and other financial information
- Dislocated worker status
- Receipt of federal means-tested benefits
- Assets
- Untaxed income

Information About Student (and Spouse)

- Tax, income, and other financial information
- Dislocated worker status
- Receipt of federal means-tested benefits
- Assets
- Untaxed income

Additional Information

- College and housing information
- FAFSA preparer information
- Certification of Statement of Educational Purpose

Signatures

- Required
 - Student
 - One parent (dependent students)
- Format for submitting signatures
 - Electronic using FSA ID
 - Signature page
 - Paper FAFSA



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Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Social Security Numbers
- Divorced/remarried parental information
- Income earned by parents/stepparents
- Untaxed income
- U.S. income taxes paid
- Household size
- Number of household members in college
- Real estate and investment net worth

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FAFSA Processing Results

Central Processing System (CPS) notifies student of FAFSA processing results by:

- Paper Student Aid Report (SAR) if paper FAFSA was filed and student's email address was not provided
- SAR Acknowledgement if filed FAFSA on the Web and student's email address was not provided

FAFSA Processing Results

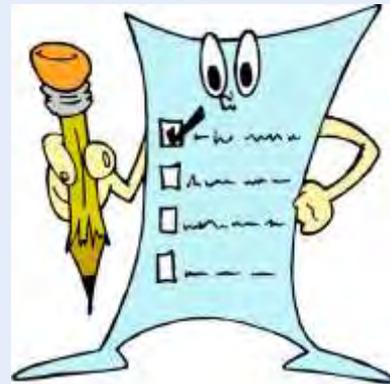
- CPS notifies student of FAFSA processing results by:
 - Email notification containing a direct link to student's online SAR if student's email was provided on paper or electronic FAFSA
- Student with FSA ID may view SAR online at www.fafsa.gov

FAFSA Processing Results

- Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) sent to colleges listed on FAFSA approximately 10 to 14 days after FAFSA is submitted
- College reviews ISIR
 - May request additional documentation

Student Aid Report

- Review data for accuracy and correct any errors
- Update estimated tax information when actual figures become available



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Making Corrections

If necessary, corrections to FAFSA data may be made by:

- Using FAFSA on the Web (www.fafsa.gov) if student has a FSA ID;
- Updating paper SAR (SAR Information Acknowledgement cannot be used to make corrections);
or
- Submitting documentation to college's financial aid office

Questions

Questions/Comments



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A chalkboard with mathematical diagrams and chalk pieces. The background is a light blue-tinted image of a chalkboard. In the foreground, several pieces of white chalk are scattered on a wooden ledge. The chalkboard surface shows faint mathematical diagrams, including a circle with a vertical line through its center and a horizontal line, and a larger circle with a vertical line through its center. The text "Verification: 101" is written in a large, dark brown serif font across the middle of the image.

Verification: 101

Miracle Davis
August 2, 2016

What does it mean to be selected for Verification?

- Verification is the confirmation through documentation that the information provided on a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is correct. The federal government requires colleges and universities to verify or confirm the data reported by students and their parent(s) on the FAFSA.

Required Written Policies and Procedures

- Deadlines for student to provide documentation and consequences of failure to meet deadlines
- Method by which students are notified of award changes resulting from verification
- Procedures for correcting FAFSA data
- Procedure you will follow to refer a student to the Office of Inspector General

Notification to Selected Students

- School must provide a written statement providing a clear explanation of the documents required for student to submit for verification.
- Student's responsibilities with regard to the verification process. This includes correction procedures, deadlines for completing any actions required & consequences of missing deadlines.
- Notification methods that the school will use to notify students of award changes as a result of verification and the time frame for notification.

How Are Applicants Selected?

- CPS selection
 1. Edit checks which identify inconsistencies and potential errors
 2. Random selection
- School selection
 - Criteria set by school



Verification Exclusions

- Death of the student.
- Not an aid recipient. The student won't receive Title IV aid for reasons other than a failure to complete verification. This includes being ineligible for that aid and withdrawing without receiving it.
- The applicant is eligible to receive only unsubsidized student financial assistance.
- Applicant verified by another school. The student completed verification for the current award year at another school before transferring.
- Post enrollment. The student was selected for verification after ceasing to be enrolled at your school and all (including late) disbursements were made.

Required Verification Items

- ✓ Household size
- ✓ Number in college
- ✓ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
- ✓ Program (SNAP) benefits
- ✓ Child support paid
- ✓ High school completion status
- ✓ Identity/statement of educational purpose
- ✓ Adjusted gross income (AGI)
- ✓ U.S. income tax paid
- ✓ Education credits
- ✓ Untaxed IRA distributions
- ✓ Untaxed pensions
- ✓ IRA deductions and payments
- ✓ Tax-exempt interest
- ✓ Other untaxed income
- ✓ Income earned from work

Documents Needed for Verification

- Verification Worksheet
 - Household size
 - Number of household members in college
- Department of Education forms or School created forms
- Appropriate Tax Forms
 - IRS Tax Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)
 - IRS Tax Return Transcript
 - IRS Form 4868 (Filing extensions)
 - W-2's/1099's
 - Other signed IRS forms with tax data
 - Non-filer tax statement
- Signed statement or official agency documentation for untaxed income and benefits

How to Verify?

- Compare the verification documents with the original FAFSA information
- May create own checklist/spreadsheets
- May use verification tool on FAA Access
- Determine that information is correct or corrections must be made

FAFSA 2014-2015 Dependent Student's Information

Your 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) includes outstanding Federal Student Aid. We may ask you to verify that you provided correct information for (correct) on the application and submit your verification documents to the Federal Student Aid Processor at your school. You will be notified if the processor at your school indicates contact your financial aid administrator at your school.

A. Dependent Student's Information

Student's Last Name: _____

Student's Street Address (include apt. #): _____

City: _____

Student's Home Phone (include area code): _____

B. Dependent Student's F

List below the people living with you:

- Your spouse (if you are 24 or older)
- Your parents (if you are 24 or older)
- Other people (if you wish to provide information for them)

Include the name, address, and phone number of each person.

Name	Relationship

Internal Revenue Service
United States Department of the Treasury

This Product Contains Sensitive Taxpayer Data

Tax Return Transcript

Request Date: 02-04-2007
Response Date: 02-04-2007
Tracking Number: 13500076432

SSN Provided: 000-00-0000
Tax Period Ending: Dec. 31, 2006

The following items reflect the amount as shown on the return (PS), and the amount as adjusted (FC), if applicable. They do not show subsequent activity on the account.

SSN: 000-00-0000 SPOUSE SSN: 000-00-0000
NAME(S): SMITH OR SMITH JOHN DOE & JANE DOE
ADDRESS: 100 ANY STREET BLDG
DALLAS, TX 75459-9999-9999

FILING STATUS: Married Filing Joint
FORM NUMBER: 1040
CYCLE POSTED: 20070400
RECEIVED DATE: Feb 15, 2007
REMITTANCE: \$ 0.00
EXEMPTION NUMBER: 5
DEPENDENT 1 NAME CTEL: ABECE
DEPENDENT 1 SSN: 000-00-0000
DEPENDENT 2 NAME CTEL: ABECE
DEPENDENT 2 SSN: 000-00-0000
DEPENDENT 3 NAME CTEL: ABECE
DEPENDENT 3 SSN: 000-00-0000
DEPENDENT 4 NAME CTEL: ABECE
DEPENDENT 4 SSN: 000-00-0000
PREPARER SSN: ABECE
PREPARER EIN: ABECE

Income

Income	Amount
WAGES, SALARIES, TIPS, ETC.	\$ 87,000.00
TAXABLE INTEREST INCOME (SCH E)	\$ 0.00
TAX-EXEMPT INTEREST	\$ 0.00
ORDINARY DIVIDEND INCOME (SCH E)	\$ 0.00
QUALIFIED DIVIDENDS	\$ 0.00
RESTORE OF STATE/LOCAL TAXES	\$ 0.00
ALIMONY RECEIVED	\$ 0.00
BUSINESS INCOME OR LOSS (Schedule C)	\$ 0.00
BUSINESS INCOME OR LOSS (SCH C PER COMPUTER)	\$ 0.00
CAPITAL GAIN OR LOSS (Schedule D)	\$ 0.00
OTHER GAIN OR LOSS (SCH D PER COMPUTER)	\$ 0.00
TOTAL IRA DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 0.00
TAXABLE IRA DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 0.00

What Happens Next?

Award	Category	Career	Offered	Accepted	Accept	Decline
Federal Work-Study	Work/Study	Undergraduate	2,500.00	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal Subsidized Loan	Loan	Undergraduate	3,500.00	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal Unsub Loan	Loan	Undergraduate	2,000.00	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adams Scholarship	Scholarship	Undergraduate	1,000.00	1,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal SEOG	Grant	Undergraduate	600.00	600.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal Pell Grant	Grant	Undergraduate	4,481.00	4,481.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scarlet and Gray Grant	Grant	Undergraduate	3,000.00	3,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL			17,081.00	9,081.00		

[accept all](#) [decline all](#) [clear all](#) [update totals](#)

[SUBMIT](#)

Financial Aid Award is posted!!!



Professional Judgment: 101

Miracle Davis
August 2, 2016

Professional Judgment

- Definition – Professional Judgment is the Authority provided under the Higher Education Act for aid administrators to exercise discretion in specific areas of student aid administration



Importance of PJ

- We (FA Administrators) have flexibility in dealing with unique circumstances
- We are allowed opportunities to deal with special circumstances which cannot be anticipated by legislation
- Through PJ, we are able to analyze students' situation on a case-by-case basis that is not possible through the methodology.

Circumstances that are not unusual, does not merit PJ

- Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education;
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
- Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes; and/or
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.
- No Parental Information

Questions?



Miracle Davis

Associate Director of Financial Aid

Southern University and A & M College

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Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Don't Blow Your TOPS!



It pays to make
good grades!

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



TOPS

- TOPS is funded through the State General Fund and the Millennium Trust Fund
 - TOPS funding is contingent upon legislative appropriations each year



Citizenship

- A student must be a U.S. citizen, or a permanent resident who is eligible to apply for citizenship
- Beginning with 2019 high school graduates, children of non-citizens serving in the Armed Forces or honorably discharged from the Armed Forces meet TOPS citizenship requirements.



Residency

- Any student who is a resident of the state and who graduates from a public or approved non-public high school meets the TOPS residency requirements if he or she actually resides or lives in Louisiana for the period of his or her last two full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high school
- Or, a parent or custodian of a dependent student must have been a resident of the state of Louisiana for the 24 months prior to high school graduation



Residency: Military Dependents

- A dependent of a member of the U.S. Armed forces, who is transferred to Louisiana under permanent change of station orders, will be considered a resident for purposes of TOPS if the military member:
 - Changes his/her military personnel records to establish Louisiana as the member's official state of residence within 180 days of reporting
 - Complies with Louisiana income tax laws
 - Submits an Affidavit of Residency and DD Form 2058



Criminal Record

- Have no criminal convictions
 - Excludes misdemeanor traffic violations
- A student who has a “final criminal conviction” may not accept a TOPS award
 - A juvenile conviction is not considered a “final criminal conviction” regardless of the nature of the offense
 - If the severity of the crime committed by a juvenile is such that he/she is tried as an adult, a subsequent conviction could be a “final criminal conviction”
 - The student should contact his/her attorney to determine if their conviction is a final “criminal conviction”



Graduation Year

- For TOPS purposes, the annual academic year for high school begins on September 1 and ends on the following August 31



Early Graduation

- Students who graduate early at mid-year will be eligible for a TOPS Award in the Spring semester following graduation
 - Certification for mid-year graduates will be done in conjunction with certification of May graduates
 - Awards for mid-year graduates who attend college in the Spring and who are determined eligible will be paid retroactively
- Students who graduate early in the Spring will be eligible for a TOPS award in the Fall semester following graduation
- Students who graduate early must comply with the same FAFSA and ACT deadlines applicable to the class that graduates in the Spring of that high school academic year



TOPS Core Curriculum

- All TOPS core curriculum courses must be completed by the date of high school graduation
- Distance learning courses approved by the high school may be used to qualify for TOPS
- College courses taken in the classroom, online, or by correspondence may be used to qualify for TOPS provided that they are determined to be equivalent courses and appear on the student's official high school transcript
- **Effective for the graduating class of 2018, the TOPS Core Curriculum requirements and the method of calculating the grade point average required for program awards will change.**



TOPS Core Curriculum – 19 Units

For students graduating in 2014 - 2017

- English – 4 Units
- Math – 4 Units
- Science – 4 Units
- Social Studies – 4 Units
- Foreign Language – 2 Units (same language)
- Fine Arts – 1 Unit (or 1 Performance, Studio, Visual Art or Speech III & IV)



TOPS Core Curriculum

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses with the same name as a course listed in the TOPS Core Curriculum may be substituted.
- The unit compromised of $\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Civics and $\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Free Enterprise may NOT be used by students in public schools to meet high school graduation requirements if they entered the ninth grade after June 30, 2011, but can be used by students in public and non-public schools to meet the TOPS Core Curriculum requirements.



TOPS Core Curriculum GPA

- The cumulative grade point average (GPA) for a TOPS award will be calculated using only those grades achieved in the core curriculum courses
 - If a student has completed more than 19 credits for courses that are included in the core curriculum, the GPA will be calculated by using the course in each core curriculum category for which the student received the highest grade



TOPS Core Curriculum GPA

- If a student is substituting two units for a one unit category, the grades from the two units will be averaged together and substituted as one unit
- “P” grades are not included in the TOPS Core GPA calculation
- For high schools using any grading scale other than a 4.00 scale, all grade values must be converted to a 4.00 scale (through the graduating class of 2016 – 2017)
- GPA cannot be rounded up



ACT

- Highest composite score will be considered
 - TOPS does not consider the Essay portion of the ACT in calculating the composite score needed to qualify
- ACT Registration
 - **TOPS Code 1595**
 - Date of Birth



ACT

- ACT Deadlines for 2017 Graduates
 - Without penalty: April 8, 2017
 - Loss of one semester eligibility: June 10, 2017
 - Special tests may be taken prior to July 1
 - A June ACT score **cannot** be used to upgrade an Opportunity award to an Honors or Performance award
 - A June ACT score **can** be used to upgrade a Tech Award to an Opportunity Award with a one semester or two quarter penalty
 - Students who fail to achieve a qualifying ACT score by July 1 of the graduating year shall not be considered for an award



SAT

- An equivalent SAT score may be substituted for the ACT score
 - TOPS does not consider the Essay portion of the SAT in calculating the composite score needed to qualify
- SAT Registration
 - **Scholarship Code 9019**
- SAT Test Deadlines
 - Without Penalty: March 11, 2017
 - Loss of 1 semester eligibility: May 6, 2017 and June 3, 2017



Opportunity Award: Eligibility Requirements

- 2.50 minimum TOPS Core Curriculum GPA
- ACT score equal to the prior year's state average, but never less than 20
 - 20 for 2017 graduates
 - SAT score of 1020
- Completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum
- TOPS general eligibility requirements



Opportunity Award Benefits

- TOPS does not cover academic excellence fees, energy surcharges, technology fees, books, room & board, parking fees, lab fees or any other fee that was not in effect on January 1, 1998
- A TOPS award may be combined with other forms of financial aid up to the “Cost of Attendance” for the institution



TOPS Eligible Institutions: Public

- Louisiana State University System
 - Louisiana State University – Alexandria
 - Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge
 - Louisiana State University – Eunice
 - Louisiana State University – Shreveport
 - LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans
 - LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport
 - University of New Orleans
- Southern University System
 - Southern University – Baton Rouge
 - Southern University – New Orleans
 - Southern University – Shreveport



TOPS Eligible Institutions: Public

- University of Louisiana System
 - Grambling State University
 - Louisiana Tech University
 - McNeese State University
 - Nicholls State University
 - Northwestern State University
 - Southeastern Louisiana University
 - University of Louisiana – Lafayette
 - University of Louisiana – Monroe



TOPS Eligible Institutions: Public

- Louisiana Community and Technical College System
 - Louisiana Technical College – all campuses
 - Baton Rouge Community College
 - Bossier Parish Community College
 - Delgado Community College
 - L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College
 - Louisiana Delta Community College
 - Nunez Community College
 - River Parishes Community College
 - South Louisiana Community College
 - SOWELA Technical Community College



TOPS Eligible Institutions: Private

- Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU)
 - Centenary College
 - Dillard University
 - Louisiana College
 - Loyola University New Orleans
 - New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
 - Our Lady of Holy Cross College
 - Our Lady of the Lake College
 - St. Joseph Seminary College
 - Tulane University
 - Xavier University



TOPS Eligible Institutions: Out-of-State

- Deaf or hard of hearing recipients of the Opportunity, Performance or Honors awards may use the award at a non-public, out-of-state college or university which primarily serves deaf or hard of hearing students
- TOPS may **not** be used out-of-state under any other circumstances



Opportunity Award Benefits

- May be used to pursue:
 - Academic undergraduate degree
 - Vocational or technical certificate
 - Non-academic degree
- Students who use their Opportunity Award to pursue a technical program will receive the same benefits and be held to the same retention requirements as a TOPS Tech Award recipient
 - The award may be used at eligible Louisiana cosmetology and proprietary schools
 - See TOPS Tech Award presentation



Opportunity Award Benefits

- May be received for a maximum of eight semesters or 12 quarters
- Not available for summer terms except for students enrolled in a Qualified Summer Session
 - Students with 60 or more hours
 - Required to attend summer by major
 - Courses required for major only offered in summer
 - Technical Programs



Opportunity Award Benefits

- Any recipient who successfully completes a Bachelor's degree in less than 8 semesters or 12 quarters of award benefits, may receive any remaining terms of eligibility for graduate study
 - Performance and Honors award recipients will receive their stipends



Performance Award

- Eligibility Requirements
 - 3.00 minimum TOPS Core Curriculum GPA
 - ACT score of 23
 - SAT score of 1130
 - Completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum
 - TOPS general eligibility requirements
- Award Benefits
 - Provides the same benefits as the Opportunity Award, plus
 - \$400 annual stipend (contingent upon appropriations)



Honors Award

- Eligibility Requirements
 - 3.00 minimum TOPS Core Curriculum GPA
 - ACT score of 27
 - SAT score of 1280
 - Completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum
 - TOPS general eligibility requirements
- Award Benefits
 - Provides the same benefits as the Opportunity Award, plus
 - \$800 annual stipend (contingent upon appropriations)



Disabled Students & Exceptional Children

- A core curriculum course may be waived for a disabled student or exceptional child if documentation is provided that the reason the student failed to successfully complete the course was due solely to the student's disability or exceptionality
- There is no exception to the GPA or ACT/SAT requirements
 - ACT or SAT Special Testing for Students with Disabilities is available
- Affected students should contact LOSFA for details



TOPS Application

- There are two methods for applying for a TOPS Scholarship
 - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – ***www.fafsa.gov***
 - Must be completed if the student is eligible for federal grant aid (Pell Grant)
 - Must be completed if the student is seeking any other form of financial aid
 - The only application needed for TOPS

OR

- TOPS Online Application – ***www.osfa.la.gov***
 - May only be completed by students who can certify that they do not qualify for federal grant aid
 - Do not complete if you have completed the FAFSA



Application Deadlines for 2017 Graduates

Initial Application Receipt Date	Receives TOPS funding for:
Oct. 1, 2016 – July 1, 2018	8 semesters (12 quarters) Beginning Academic Year 2017-2018
July 2, 2018 – Aug. 29, 2018	7 semesters (10 quarters) Beginning Fall 2018
Aug. 30, 2018 – Oct. 29, 2018	6 semesters (9 quarters) Beginning Fall 2018
Initial Applications Received After October 29, 2018	Ineligible for TOPS

Students who attend the 2017-2018 academic year who apply for TOPS between July 2, 2018 and October 29, 2018 must also have met the TOPS retention requirements to be eligible for TOPS funding at the beginning in the Fall 2018 semester



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

TOPS Tech Award

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



TOPS Tech Award

General Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a U.S. citizen, or a permanent resident who is eligible to apply for citizenship
- Must be a Louisiana resident
 - See TOPS presentation for the definition
- Must have no criminal convictions
 - Excludes misdemeanor traffic violations



TOPS Tech Award

Eligibility Requirements

- 2.50 minimum TOPS or TOPS Tech Core Curriculum GPA
- Minimum ACT score of 17
 - SAT score of 900
 - **WorkKeys Silver Level Score**
- Completion of one the four TOPS Core Curricula
 - Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award curriculum
 - TOPS Tech Option 1
 - TOPS Tech Option 2
 - TOPS Tech Jumpstart Core Curriculum



TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating through 2016-2017

Units

Courses

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 | English I, II, III |
| 1 | English IV, Business English or Senior Applications in English |
| 1 | Algebra I or Applied Algebra I
or, Algebra I, Parts 1 & 2 (two units)
or, Applied Mathematics I and II (two units) |
| 2 | Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Advanced Mathematics - Pre-Calculus, Advanced Mathematics - Functions and Statistics, Financial Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics or Applied Geometry |
- * Integrated Math I, II, and III can be substituted as a series for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.



TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating through 2016-2017

Units

Courses

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Biology |
| 2 | Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Integrated Science; Biology II; Chemistry II; Physics; Physics II; Physics for Technology; Anatomy and Physiology; <i>Agriscience I&II (two units)</i> Chemistry or Applied Chemistry |



TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating through 2016-2017

Units

Courses

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | United States History |
| 1 | World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, AP Human Geography, European History, or AP European History |
| 1 | Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit, combined) or Civics (one unit) |

13 Units, Plus Option 1 or Option 2



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating through 2016-2017

Option 1

Units

Courses

1

Fine Arts Survey

or 2 units of performance courses in music, dance or theater

or 2 units of visual art

or 2 units of studio art

or a career/technical studies course approved by BESE

or 1 unit of an elective from among the other subjects in this core curriculum

or 2 units of Speech III and Speech IV

or 1 unit of Drafting

2

Foreign Language, ***Technical Writing, Speech I, or Speech II***

1

Computer Education program approved by BESE

17 Units

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TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating through 2016-2017

Option 2 – *For students enrolled in a Career Major*

Units

Courses

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 | A career major comprised of a sequence of specialty related courses as defined in the career options law |
| 1 | Related or technical course |
| 1 | A basic computer course |

19 Units



TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2015-2016 and thereafter

<u>Units</u>	<u>Courses</u>
1	English I
1	English II
2	English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.



TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2015-2016 and thereafter

Units

Courses

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course |
| 3 | Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math -Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits |



TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2015-2016 and thereafter

<u>Units</u>	<u>Courses</u>
1	Biology
1	Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, or AP or IB science courses
1	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States



TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2015-2016 and thereafter

Units

Courses

- 9 In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major.



TOPS Tech Award Benefits

- May be used to pursue
 - vocational or technical education certificate or diploma
 - or non-academic degree in skill or occupational training
- May receive for two years
- Summer terms are covered for students attending a technical program
 - Summer attendance is not required
 - Funding is contingent upon appropriations



TOPS Tech Award Benefits: Eligible Institutions

- All Louisiana Community and Technical College System Institutions
- All Louisiana public and LAICU colleges and universities offering skill, occupational, or technical training
- Any Cosmetology school in Louisiana which has a current certificate of registration issued by the State Board of Cosmetology
- Any accredited proprietary school which has a valid license issued by the Louisiana Board of Regents



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

LOSFA Special Programs

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



Other LOSFA Programs

- Go Grant
- TOPS Tech Early Start Program
- Chafee Education & Training Voucher Program (ETV)
- Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship
- John R Justice Student Loan Repayment Program



Other LOSFA Programs

- Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
- START Saving Program
- Supplemental Course Allocation



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Go Grant

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



Go Grant

- The Go Grant provides need-based financial aid for Louisiana residents
- Program is administered by LOSFA on behalf of the Louisiana Board of Regents



Go Grant Framework 2016-2017

- Award Amounts
 - Award amounts to eligible students are based on the institutions allocation and their packaging policy.
 - Awards may vary with each academic year
 - Awards will not be paid for summer sessions, quarters or terms.



Go Grant Framework 2016-2017

- Award Amounts, cont.
 - Maximum and minimum annual award amounts for the 2016 – 2017 academic year:
 - Minimum Annual Award - \$300
 - Maximum Annual Award - \$3,000

(Annual Award Amounts may vary based on each school's packaging policy, but **must not** be less than \$300 and **must not** exceed \$3,000)



Go Grant

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Apply by completing the FAFSA annually
 - Louisiana Resident as of the date the FAFSA is filed
 - Certificate or degree seeking undergraduate student at a Louisiana public or LAICU institution
 - Must receive a Pell Grant
 - Must have a Remaining Financial Need (RFN)
 - Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by the institution



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

TOPS Tech Early Start

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



TOPS Tech Early Start

- This program provides an incentive for Louisiana's **public** high school students to start early in preparing for a career in a qualifying **Top Demand Occupation**
- Created in the Regular Session of the 2005 Louisiana Legislature
- Funded as part of the TOPS Program



TOPS Tech Early Start

Eligibility Requirements

- Be in “Good Standing” as an 11th or 12th grade student in a Louisiana **PUBLIC** high school (“Good Standing” is defined by the student’s high school)
 - Have an approved 5-Year Education and Career Plan
 - Have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale on all courses attempted
 - Score a 15 or above on the mathematics AND English portion of the ACT PLAN Assessment or a successor assessment, or on the ACT, or the equivalent concordant value on the SAT, or have achieved a silver level score in an Industry-Based Occupational or Vocational Education Credential Program in a top demand occupation (Eligible Program)



Application

- TOPS Tech Early Start Application in PDF format is available for download from ***www.osfa.la.gov***



TOPS Tech Early Start

Award Benefits

- Provides a payment of \$50 per credit hour with a limit of \$300 per semester
- Award is limited to six credit hours per semester
- Not available for summer sessions



TOPS Tech Early Start Retention Requirements

- Remain in “Good Standing” as an 11th or 12th grade student in a Louisiana public high school
- Maintain a 2.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale on all high school courses attempted
- Continue to pursue one or more courses leading to a credential in an Eligible Program
- Remain in “Good Standing” with the public or nonpublic college or approved training provider
- Maintain steady academic progress



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Chafee Education & Training Voucher Program (ETV)

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



Chafee Education & Training Voucher Program (ETV)

- Administered by LOSFA on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
- Available to students who are or were (prior to age 18) in the foster care system
- Maximum Annual Award: \$5,000



Chafee Education & Training Voucher Program (ETV)

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Ages 16-21 (age 23 if receiving ETV continuously since age 21)
 - Enrolled in Louisiana public or LAICU institution or an approved Louisiana proprietary school
 - Must complete the FAFSA annually
 - Must have financial need
 - Must make Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by the institution
 - The institution will notify LOSFA of any student meeting the eligibility criteria



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship

- Open to college juniors, seniors and graduate students majoring in Forestry, Wildlife or Marine Science at a Louisiana public institution
- Maximum Annual Award:
 - Undergraduate: \$2,000
 - Graduate: \$3,000
- Total Maximum Award: \$12,000
 - 3 years undergraduate study
 - 2 years graduate study



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Strategies To Empower People (STEP) Program

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



Strategies To Empower People (STEP) Program

- LOSFA administers the STEP program in collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services
- The STEP Program assists Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) recipients with educational, training and work related activities designed to lead to employment and self-sufficiency.



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA)

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA)

- LOSFA administers the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education
- Enables districts and charter schools to simplify coursework taken for dual enrollment and change course choice.



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

TOPS Legislative and Rule Changes

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- **Act 18** of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature sets a floor for the TOPS Award Amount beginning with the fall semester of 2016 and provides that the qualifying ACT score shall be truncated to a whole number rather than rounded to the next whole number. **This change is effective beginning with the fall semester of 2016.**



- **Act 388** of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature increases the grade point average (GPA) requirement to qualify for a TOPS Performance Award from 3.0 to 3.25 and increases the GPA requirement to qualify for a TOPS Honors Award from 3.0 to 3.50. **This change is effective for high school graduates of 2021 and later.**



- **Act 503** of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature changes the methodology for eliminating students' TOPS Awards in the event of a budget shortfall. Under this law, when there is a budget shortfall, each student's TOPS award -- including Performance and Honors Award stipends -- is subject to a reduction. TOPS Awards will be distributed to all students according to a pro-rata distribution of the available funds.
- Neither the TOPS Tech Early Start Award nor the National Guard stipends are subject to reduction under this law.



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

- **Act 503** also allows a student to “opt out” of receiving his TOPS Award during a budget shortfall. Students will be required to log in to their Louisiana Award System account to reject payment of their TOPS Award during a budget shortfall year.
- If the student rejects his TOPS Award, he will not be required to enroll full time in school or maintain continuous enrollment during that academic year. NOTE that the time period for students whose awards are suspended for failure to meet steady academic progress WILL NOT be extended, even if the student opts out. In addition, a student who opts out must use all of his TOPS eligibility within 5 years of the budget shortfall, which time may be extended if the student requests an exception for cause in accordance with the administrative rules. **This change is effective beginning with the 2016-2017 award year.**



- **FROM ACT 359 of the 2013 Legislature**
- Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2018, certain honors, advancement placement, gifted, and dual enrollment courses approved by BESE and the Board of Regents will be graded on a 5.0 grading scale for purposes of calculating students' grade point average on the TOPS core curriculum courses.



- **FROM ACT 230 of the 2015 Legislature** provides that 2017 high school graduates will be able to use the TOPS Tech Award to pursue an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs, including skill, occupational, vocational, technical, certificate, and academic, that the Workforce Investment Council (WIC) and the Board of Regents (BOR) determine are aligned to state workforce priorities.



- If one of the eligible programs becomes ineligible in future years, students who are currently in the program will be allowed to complete that program and receive their TOPS Tech Award. No new students would be eligible for TOPS Tech funding after a determination that the program has become ineligible.



- All current TOPS Tech eligible programs remain eligible for 2017 high school graduates. Funding for all TOPS awards is contingent upon appropriations.



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

TOPS TECH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION		
DEGREE	INSTITUTION	DISCIPLINE
AS	BRCC	COMPUTER SCIENCE
	SUSLA	
AS	Delgado	ELECTRICAL-ELECT. ENGINEER TECH.
AS	SLCC	INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
AS	Nicholls	PETROLEUM SERVICES
		SAFETY TECHNOLOGY
AA	McNeese	PARALEGAL STUDIES
	Nunez	
AA	Delgado	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AS	BRCC	
	FTCC	
ASCJ	LSUE	
AS	HSC-NO	DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY
AS	FTCC	CARDIOPULMONARY CARE SCIENCE
AS	LSUE	RESPIRATORY CARE
AS	BRCC	SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
AS	LSUA	RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY
	LSUE	



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

ASN	BPCC	NURSING
	BRCC	
	Delgado	
	FTCC	
	La Tech	
	LDCC	
	LSUA	
	LSUE	
	NSU	
	SLCC	
	McNeese	
	Sowela	
SUSLA		
AS	BRCC	BUSINESS
	Delgado	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
	SLCC	BUSINESS
	SUSLA	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
AS	SUSLA	ACCOUNTING
	Delgado	



- **RULE CHANGE**

- The Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved AP Computer Science as a course to be graded on a 5.0 grading scale at its joint meeting in June 2016 and as an allowable substitute for the fourth math requirement beginning with high school graduates of 2018 and thereafter.



- A Consent Form for every student is required by the law to ensure that PII is disclosed only for those students whose parent or legal guardian has consented and that the parents who deny consent do so with full knowledge of the effect of denial of consent.
- If you filled out a consent form during the 2015-16 the form will be good through the end of high school unless consent is revoked.



- The Consent Form must be signed by the student rather than the parent or legal guardian if the student is 18 or is judicially emancipated or is emancipated by marriage.



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)



LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



- ***LCAM 2015 Overview***
 - 86 schools / 41 parishes / 5, 526+ students / 9,676 applications completed

- ***LCAAM – Louisiana College Application and Access Month – October 2016***
 - Application & “Access”
 - Encourage participation from students who are applying to 2 and 4 year institutions; as well as credential and career track students. (Military and Job applications, My Life My Way (website), JumpStart credentials, etc.)

- ***Early Registration***
 - PDF registration (sent by e-mail or downloaded from site (Firefox))
 - LOSFA website online registration (Chrome)



- ***Not a “Recruiting” Event***

- ***LCAAM Admission – LOSFA Student Survey Pre-Event***
 - College Match and Fit

- ***Staffing/Volunteers***
 - LOSFA Staff
 - Volunteers (recruited by schools) *Let us know who will attend/help out with your events.*

- ***Social Media***
 - #GeauxApply2017 #IHaveApplied2017

- ***Contact:*** Brandi Morrison - 225.219.7583 - brandi.Morrison@la.gov