

Will TOPS pay for graduate or professional school?

A. Yes. If you completed an undergraduate degree without exhausting all 8 semesters or 12 quarters of eligibility, you may receive the period of eligibility remaining if you enroll in an eligible graduate or professional school no later than the fall semester following the one year anniversary of completion of your undergraduate degree and have met the requirements for continuation of your award. If you have enrolled in an eligible Louisiana public professional school (veterinary, pharmacy, law, medical, etc.), the TOPS award amount is equal to the tuition charged by the school or an amount equal to the tuition charged by the highest cost public school for pursuit of a baccalaureate degree, whichever is less. If you have enrolled in an eligible Louisiana private professional school, the TOPS award amount is calculated by dividing the total dollar value of awards (excluding award stipends) made under TOPS at public postsecondary institutions in the prior academic year to students attending public colleges and universities, by the total number of students that received the awards (weighted average). If you enroll in a graduate degree program at an eligible Louisiana college or university, the TOPS award amount is equal to the tuition at the school or the tuition charged for a student while pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the highest cost public school in the state, whichever is less.

This information was taken from question #37 from the TOPS Q&A. To see the entire TOPS Q&A go to http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPS_Q_and_A.pdf