

NOTICE OF INTENT
Student Financial Assistance Commission
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
(LAC 28:IV. 1101, 1103, 1107, 1109, 1111)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) announces its intention to amend its Scholarship/Grant rules (LSA-R.S. 17:3021-3025, LSA-R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, LSA-R.S. 17:3042.1, LSA-R.S. 17:3048.1, LSA-R.S. 17:3048.5 and LSA-R.S. 17:3048.6).

This rulemaking modifies the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program beginning with awards made for the 2010-2011 academic year by changing the Program from a loan forgiveness program to a scholarship program, increasing the award amounts, and changing the eligibility requirements for receipt of the scholarship.

The proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, or autonomy, as described in LSA-R.S. 49:972. The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as described in LSA-R.S. 49:965.2 *et seq.* (SG10115NI)

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part IV. Student Financial
Assistance—Higher Education
Scholarship and Grant Programs
Chapter 11. Rockefeller State
Wildlife Scholarship

§1101. General Provisions

A.1 – A.3. ...

B. Description, History and Purpose

1. The Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program was established in 1980 and is funded with dedicated monies. ~~Through the 2009-2010 academic year, the program provided and offers~~ competitively awarded ~~funds of scholarships valued at~~ \$1,000 per academic year to both undergraduate and graduate students majoring in forestry, wildlife, or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with a requirement that the awardee repay the funds if the student did not earn a degree in one of these fields. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the program offers competitively awarded scholarships of \$2,000 per academic year for undergraduate students and \$3,000 per academic year for graduate students.~~wildlife.~~

2. ~~a. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, students are~~ accepting the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship agreed:

~~i. the student agrees~~ to attain a degree in one of the required fields at a Louisiana public college or university offering such degrees; and degrees. ~~If the student fails to successfully complete an eligible course of study, as per the agreement made between LASFAC and the student, the funds must be repaid with interest.~~

~~ii. if the student failed or fails to successfully complete an eligible course of study, to repay the funds with interest as per the agreement made between LASFAC and the student.~~

~~b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship program is a pure scholarship for undergraduate students who have earned at least 60 credit hours and graduate students.~~

~~c. Students who received the award during the 2009-2010 academic year who have not yet earned 60 hours of academic credit may receive the award as a scholarship beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year if the requirements to maintain eligibility have been met.~~

C. Award Amounts

~~1. Through the 2009-2010 academic year:~~

~~a. the~~ The annual award is \$1,000;

~~b. the \$1,000. 2. The~~ cumulative maximum award is \$7,000 for up to five years of undergraduate and two years of graduate study.

~~2. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter:~~

a. the annual award is \$2,000 for undergraduate students;

b. the annual award is \$3,000 for graduate students;

c. the cumulative maximum award is \$12,000 for up to three years of undergraduate and two years of graduate study.

D. Award Disbursements

1. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, the award is disbursed:

a. at postsecondary institutions using semesters at the rate of \$500 each fall and spring semester; or

b. at postsecondary institutions using terms at the rate of \$333 for the fall and winter term and of \$334 for the spring term.

2. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, the award is disbursed:

a. at postsecondary institutions using semesters at the rate of:

i. \$1,000 each fall and spring semester for undergraduate students; and

ii. \$1,500 each fall and spring semester for graduate students; or

b. at postsecondary institutions using terms at the rate of:

i. \$667 for each fall and winter and of \$666 for the spring term for undergraduates; and

ii. \$1,000 for each fall, winter term and spring term for graduates.

3. In the event there are unawarded appropriated funds at the end of the spring semester or term, such funds may be disbursed pro-rata to students who received an award during the preceding academic year and are enrolled full-time during the summer.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:639 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1908 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 34:235 (February 2008).

§1103. Establishing Eligibility

A.1. – A.4.b. ...

5. a. beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year:

i through the 2009-2010 academic year, a-to be eligible for the awardscholarship for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application and a master promissory note so that they are received by LOSFA no later than July 1 preceding the fall semester for which the awardscholarship is sought; or

ii b.to be eligible for the award,scholarship, if funds are available for the spring semester of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application and a master promissory note so that they are received by LOSFA no later than December 1 immediately preceding the spring semester for which the awardscholarship is sought; and

b. beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year:

i. to be eligible for the scholarship for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application so that it is received by LOSFA no later than July 1 preceding the fall semester for which the scholarship is sought; or

ii. to be eligible for the scholarship, if funds are available for the spring semester of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application so that it is received by LOSFA no later than December 1 immediately preceding the spring semester for which the scholarship is sought; and

6. agree that award proceeds will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and

7. a. through the 2009-2010 academic year, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a Louisiana public college or university majoring in forestry, wildlife or marine science as it pertains to wildlife,; with the intent of obtaining a degree from a Louisiana public college or university offering a degree in one of the three specified fields; ~~or and~~

b. for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, be an undergraduate recipient of the award during the 2009-2010 academic year and enrolled full-time or an undergraduate with at least 60 earned hours of college credit and enrolled full-time or graduate student and enrolled full-time at a Louisiana public college or university majoring in forestry, wildlife or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with the intent of obtaining a degree from a Louisiana public college or university offering a degree in one of the three specified fields; and

8. a. through the 2009-2010 academic year, must have graduated from high school, and if at the

time of application the student applicant has earned less than 24 hours of graded college credit since graduating from high school, have earned a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale for all courses completed in grades 9 through 12, have taken the ACT or SAT and received test score results and, beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year (college), have an ACT Score of at least 20; or

b. beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year (college) and through the 2009-2010 academic year, must be a qualified home study completer and, if at the time of application the student applicant has earned less than 24 hours of graded college credit since graduating from high school, achieve an ACT Score of at least 22; or

c. i. through the 2009-2010 academic year, if, at the time of application, the student applicant has earned 24 or more hours of college credit, then the applicant must have at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average; or

ii. beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the student applicant has earned 60 or more hours of college credit with at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average; or

d. if, at the time of application, the student is in graduate school, then the applicant must have at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on all credits earned in graduate school.

9. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, to ~~To~~ be a qualified home study completer for the purposes of this Section, the applicant must:

a. successfully complete at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by BESE; or

b. if a Louisiana public high school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, an approved non-Louisiana high school, or an out-of-state high school was previously attended, has provided LASFAC with certification by the previously attended high school that said student was in good standing at the time the student last attended such school.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:639 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1908 (October 1998), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 29:125 (February 2003), LR 30:2020 (September 2004), LR 33:87 (January 2007), LR 34:235 (February 2008).

§1107. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, recipients must meet all of the following criteria:

1. a. for recipients first accepting the award through the 2009-2010 academic year,~~4.~~ have received the scholarship for not more than seven academic years (five undergraduate and two graduate); ~~and~~

b. for recipients first accepting the award for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, have received the scholarship for not more than five academic years (three undergraduate and two graduate); and

A.2. – A.5. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 31:2215 (September 2005), LR 34:235 (February 2008).

§1109. ~~Completion of Promissory Note and~~ Acceptance of Award

A. 1. For recipients first accepting the award through the 2009-2010 academic year, prior ~~Prior~~ to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program Promissory Note (LASFAC-Form RS02), by completing the form and returning it to LASFAC by the specified deadline. The promissory note obligates the recipient to obtain a Wildlife, Forestry or Marine Science degree or repay the scholarship funds received, plus accrued interest and any collection costs incurred;

2. For recipients accepting the award for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, prior to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program Application, by completing the form and returning it to LASFAC by the specified deadline. The scholarship obligates the recipient to seek a Wildlife, Forestry or Marine Science degree or lose eligibility for future awards.~~incurred.~~

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1860 (November 2001).

**§1111. Discharge of Obligation for Recipients First
Accepting an Award through the 2009-
2010 Academic Year**

A. The loan obligation for awards received through the 2009-2010 academic year may be discharged by graduation in an eligible major, monetary repayment or cancellation.

B. – D.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1860 (November 2001), amended LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 30:780 (April 2004), LR 30:1168 (June 2004).

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed changes (SG10115NI) until 4:30 p.m., July 12, 2010, to Melanie Amrhein, Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202.

George Badge Eldredge
General Counsel