

NOTICE OF INTENT
Student Financial Assistance Commission
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
(LAC 28:IV.301, 701, 703, 705, 801, 803, 1901, 1903)

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 implements Acts 201, 641, 724 and 758 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. These Acts authorize an increase the book allowance and Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Performance and Honors stipends for members of the National Guard; provides a book allowance for members of the National Guard with the TOPS Tech Award; allow students to qualify for the TOPS Tech award with a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system; allow use of the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards at certain proprietary and cosmetology schools; and changes the TOPS Core Curriculum requirements for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards from 17.5 to 19 units beginning with students graduating in 2014.

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.* (SG10120NI)

Title 28
EDUCATION

Part IV. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education Scholarship and Grant Programs

Chapter 3. Definitions

§301. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in these rules shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

* * *

Average Award Amount (TOPS-Tech)—is applicable to those students awarded the TOPS-Tech and TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards ~~who attend LAICU colleges and universities and to those students awarded the TOPS-Tech Award who attend a regionally accredited independent college or university in Louisiana that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or~~ who attend an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school and are enrolled in a vocational, technical education certificate or

diploma program or non-academic undergraduate degree program, and is determined by dividing the total dollar value of awards, which are made to students enrolled in the same types of programs in the prior program year (non-academic program) at eligible public colleges and universities that do not offer academic degrees at the baccalaureate level, by the total number of students that received the awards. To ensure that the average award amount (TOPS Tech) is not reduced for students during program year (non-academic program) 2006-2007 because of the adverse affects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on student enrollment, the average award amount (TOPS Tech) for program year (non-academic program) 2006-2007 shall be the same as calculated for program year (non-academic program) 2005-2006.

Award Amount—an amount equal to tuition at the school attended, for those students attending a Louisiana public college or university, as determined by the commission, which may be used by the student to pay any educational expense included in that student's "Cost of Attendance." The amount paid for TOPS and TOPS-Tech Awards shall be as follows.

* * *

d. For students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending a regionally accredited independent college or university in Louisiana that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and

Universities or who attend an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the average award amount (TOPS-Tech).

* * *

Eligible Colleges or Universities—Louisiana public colleges or universities and regionally accredited independent colleges or universities in the state that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; ~~and~~ for recipients of the TOPS Tech Award only, beginning with the 2009-2010 Academic Year (College), and for recipients of the TOPS Tech, Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award, beginning with the 2010-2011 Academic Year (College), any school that has a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the State Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and any proprietary school that has a valid and current license issued by the Board of Regents in accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, 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 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:256 (February 1999), LR 25:654 (April 1999), LR 25:1458 and 1460 (August 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:65 (January 2000), LR 26:688 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1601 (August 2000), LR 26:1993, 1999 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2752 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:284 (March 2001), LR 27:1219 (August 2001), LR 27:1840 (November 2001), LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:45 (January 2002), LR 28:446 (March 2002), LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2331 (November 2002), LR 29:555 (April 2003), LR 29:879 (June 2003), LR 30:1159 (June 2004), LR 30:2015 (September 2004), LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 33:86 (January 2007), LR 33:439 (March 2007), LR 33:1339 (July 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:234 (February 2008), LR 34:1388 (July 2008), LR 34:1884 (September 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 36:311 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010).

Chapter 7. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards

§701. General Provisions

A. – E.3.b. ...

4. a. Through the 2009-2010 Academic Year (College), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus any applicable TOPS stipend and a sum of not more than \$150 per semester or \$300 annually for the actual cost of books and other instructional materials.

b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 Academic Year (College), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus a sum of \$300 per semester or \$600 per academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials. In addition, those students with the Performance Award shall receive \$400 per semester or \$800 per academic year for other educational expenses and those students with the Honors Award shall receive \$800 per semester or \$1,600 per academic year for other educational expenses.

E.5 – G.2. ...

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), amended LR 23:1645-1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1901 (October 1998), LR 25:256 (February 1999), LR 26:67 (January 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1995 (September 2000), LR 26:2000 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1848 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:2331 (November 2002), LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 29:2372 (November 2003), LR 30:1161 (June 2004), LR 31:2213 (September 2005), LR 35:228 (February 2009).

§703. Establishing Eligibility

A.- A.5.a.i(d) ...

(e). beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2007-2008 through 2012-13, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 17.5

units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
1	Geometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit; provided however, that such Agriscience unit shall not be considered a science elective for the purpose of the math or science elective requirement below)
1	An elective from among the following math subjects: Geometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Integrated Mathematics III or the following science subjects: Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics or Physics II
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute 2 units performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or 2 units of studio art or visual art; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

Units	Course
½	Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum). BESE has approved the following courses as computer related for purposes of satisfying the 1/2 unit computer science requirement for all schools (courses approved by BESE for individual schools are not included): Advanced Technical Drafting (1/2 or 1 credit) Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Applications or Computer/Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Architecture (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer/Technology Literacy (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking II (1/2 or 1 credit) Database Design and Programming (1/2 or 1 credit) Database Programming with PL/SQL (1/2 credit) Desktop Publishing (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Graphics & Animation (1/2 credit) Digital Media I (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Media II (1/2 or 1 credit) Introduction to Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Java Programming (1/2 or 1 credit) Multimedia Productions or Multimedia Presentations (1/2 or 1 credit) Technology Education Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Telecommunications (1/2 credit) Web Mastering or Web Design (1/2 credit) Word Processing (1/2 or 1 credit) Independent Study in Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit)

(f). beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2013-14, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 19 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
2	Geometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III, Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus, Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics, Integrated Mathematics III
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
2	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit)
1	American History
2	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography

Units	Course
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute 2 units performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or 2 units of studio art or visual art; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

A.5.a.ii.(a). – J.4.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, 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 24:636 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1902 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:257 (February 1999), LR 25:655 (April 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:64, 67 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1996, 1999, 2001 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2753 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:702 (May 2001), LR 27:1219, 1219 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1850 (November 2001), amended LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2332 (November 2002), LR 29:125 (February 2003), LR 29:2372 (November 2003), LR 30:1162 (June 2004), LR 30:1471 (July 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 31:2213 (September 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 32:2239 (December 2006), LR 33:435 (March 2007), LR 33:2357 (November 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:1389 (July 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 36:312 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010).

§705. Maintaining Eligibility

A. - A.6.b. ...

c. in an academic graduate or professional program at an eligible college or university, by the end of each academic year (college), earn at least the total college credit hours required by the college or university for full time enrollment for each semester or quarter as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or quarter in the academic year (college). These hours shall not include hours earned during qualified summer sessions, summer sessions nor intersessions nor by advanced placement course credits. Unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC, failure to earn the required number of hours will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility; and/or

d. in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school, meet the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school; and

A.7. – A.8.c. ...

d. the minimum grade necessary to maintain good standing, if enrolled in a graduate or professional program; and/or

e. meet the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school, if enrolled in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school; and

A.9 – E.3. ...

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 24:637 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1904 (October 1998), LR 25:257 (February 1999), LR 25:656 (April 1999), LR 25:1091 (June 1999), LR 26:67 (January 2000), LR 26:688 (April 2000), LR 26:1996 (September 2000), LR 26:2001 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1853 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1163 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:3115 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 34:1390 (July 2008), LR 36:491 (March 2010).

Chapter 8. TOPS-Tech Award

§801. General Provisions

A. – D.2. ...

3. Beginning with the 2010-2011 Academic Year (College), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students with the TOPS Tech Award participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus a sum of \$300 per semester or \$600 per program year (nonacademic program to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials).

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 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 26:1997 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001).

§803. Establishing Eligibility

A. – A.5.d.iii. ...

A.6.if qualifying under the terms of §803.A.5.a., at the time of high school graduation:

a. have successfully completed one of the following core curriculums:

i. ~~16.5 units of~~ high school course work constituting the TOPS core curriculum for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards as defined in §703.A.5. and documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education; or

A.6.a.ii. – A6.b. ...

7. have achieved an *ACT score*, as defined in §301, of at least:

a. if qualifying under §803.A.5.a, an ACT composite score of at least 17 or beginning with the 2010-2011 program year (non academic program) in the alternative, have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system; or

A.7.b.i. – B.4.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, 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 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:1795 (October 1999), LR 26:65 and 67 (January 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:773 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 (November 2002), LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:1164 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:39 (January 2005), LR 31:3114 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 33:2614 (December 2007), LR 35:230 (February 2009), LR 36:491 (March 2010).

Chapter 19. Eligibility and Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

§1901. Eligibility of Post-Secondary Institutions to Participate

A. – E. ...

F. Eligible cosmetology and proprietary schools may participate in TOPS for all awards, but only for the TOPS Tech Award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1 and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:645 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1914 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), LR 26:1998 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 31:3111 and 3114 (December 2005), LR 35:235 (February 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009).

§1903. Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

A. – B.5. ...

B.6. upon the school's certification that a recipient of a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award is enrolled full-time, institutions shall bill for and LASFAC will reimburse the institution for each such recipient as follows:

B.6.a. – h. ...

i. for students enrolled in eligible cosmetology and proprietary schools, institutions may bill for an amount of up to one quarter of the annual average award amount (TOPS-Tech), as defined in §301;

B.7. – D.5. ...

D.6. for TOPS ~~Tech~~ Awards at cosmetology or proprietary schools:

a. verify the student has continued to make steady academic progress; and

b. verify the student is enrolled full time on the billing date.

E. – G.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1, 17:3041.10-3041.15, 17:3041.21-3041.26 and R.S. 17:3048.1 and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:645 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1914 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), LR 26:1998 and 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:1760 (August 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 30:1166 (June 2004), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 31:3111, 3114 (December 2005), LR 33:1340 (July 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 35:1491 (August 2009).

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed changes (SG10120NI) until 4:30 p.m., September 9, 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