



PRESS RELEASE

From the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance
A Program under The Board of Regents

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gus Wales

Phone Number: (225) 219-7576

E-mail: gus.wales@la.gov

February 12th is College Goal Sunday in Louisiana

Louisiana's tenth annual College Goal Sunday events will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017, from 1:30- 4:00 p.m.* at fifteen locations around the state.

The purpose of College Goal Sunday is to provide students and their families with free professional assistance in completing the primary student financial aid form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Completing the FAFSA is the first step to take in order to receive most forms of federal student aid including Pell Grants, low-interest federal student loans and to participate in the federal Work Study program. **In addition, several state student financial aid programs, including the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship program and the Louisiana Go Grant need-based aid program, require completion of the FAFSA in order to qualify for and access funds.** Many campus-based institutional scholarships also require completion of the FAFSA.

College Goal Sunday is a national initiative designed to help students and parents navigate the paperwork barriers that stand between them and the money they need to attend college. Completing the form correctly with detailed income, tax and other information can be a daunting task. On College Goal Sunday, financial aid professionals from Louisiana colleges and universities will be on hand to provide free line-by-line assistance.

Anyone, from a soon-to-be high school graduate to a returning adult student, who is planning to attend any postsecondary institution that participates in the Federal Title IV Aid programs during the 2017-2018 academic year can benefit from attendance. This includes public, private, technical, community, proprietary and career colleges.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged to ensure that each site has the resources needed to assist all participants. To do so, log on to www.osfa.la.gov and click the on College Goal Sunday link. The website also contains detailed information including the specific records and documentation that participants will need to bring to the event including their **2015** Federal Income Tax information.

Doors will open at each site at 1:30 p.m. and the program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Attendees are advised to arrive in time to sign in and be seated prior to 2:00 p.m.

Doors will open at 1:00 p.m. at the Baton Rouge Community College site ONLY.

IMPORTANT

Both the student and a parent must have a Federal Student Aid ID (FSAID) in order to electronically sign their completed FAFSA. Students and parents planning to attend a College Goal Sunday event, or to file a FAFSA later this spring, can save time by applying in advance for an FSAID at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>. Students and parents who previously had a FAFSA Personal Identification Number (PIN) must also apply for and receive an FSAID as the PIN numbers are no longer a valid means of signing your FAFSA. For assistance in completing the FSAID request, contact LOSFA at custserv@la.gov or 800-259-5626.

College Goal Sunday in Louisiana is co-sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

In addition to FAFSA completion assistance and information on federal and state aid programs, College Goal Sunday attendees will have the opportunity to learn about several related topics.

LOSFA staff will be in attendance at all sites to explain the TOPS processing cycle and to answer any questions relating to TOPS and other state aid programs.

Also, the Louisiana Jump\$tart Coalition will have representatives present at the Baton Rouge Community College, Southern University Baton Rouge, University of Louisiana Lafayette, Southeastern Louisiana University, LSU-Alexandria, Delgado Community College, and Xavier University sites to provide financial literacy information to attendees.

College Goal Sunday is a registered trademark of the National College Access Network (NCAN).

The fifteen 2017 College Goal Sunday site locations in Louisiana are:

Alexandria

LSU Alexandria

Barbara Brumfield Caffey Annex Ballroom

Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge Community College*

Mid-City Campus, Louisiana Building

*Doors open for registration at 1:00 p.m. at the Baton Rouge Community College site only

Southern University Baton Rouge

Multipurpose room - T.H. Harris Annex Building, Room 118

Bossier City

Bossier Parish Community College

Building D, Room 215

Hammond

Southeastern Louisiana University

Fayard Hall- Main Lobby

Lafayette

University of Louisiana Lafayette

Moody Hall

Lake Charles

SOWELA

Regional Training Center Auditorium

Monroe

Louisiana Delta Community College
7500 Millhaven Road
Louisiana Purchase Building (LPB) Room 310

New Orleans

Delgado Community College – Mid City Campus
Building 10

Dillard University

DUICEF Hall Room 106

Southern University New Orleans

College of Business, Room 100

Xavier University

University Center (Building 17) room 205

Schriever

Fletcher Technical Community College
Main Campus - 1407 Highway 311 Rooms 104 & 129

Shreveport

Louisiana State University – Shreveport
University Center Ballroom

Southern University – Shreveport

Jesse Stone Lecture Hall

For more information, contact LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626 or visit us online at www.osfa.la.gov.

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