

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

***Tuition Opportunity Program for Students
(TOPS) Bulletin***

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TOPICS:	TOPS Core Curriculum changes

To assure that your *Rules* remain current, please record this document on your Bulletin index and retain it with your manual.

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission approved an Emergency Rule [and Notice of Intent](#) at its meeting held on April 12, 2007 that incorporates curriculum changes adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) into the rules governing the TOPS Core Curriculum.

This change adds the BESE-approved courses to the list of approved substitutes in the TOPS rules for the TOPS Core Curriculum Computer Science requirement. The added substitutes include: [Database Design and Programming \(1/2 or 1 credit\)](#), [Database Programming with PL/SQL \(1/2 credit\)](#), [Digital Media I \(1/2 or 1 credit\)](#), [Digital Media II \(1/2 or 1 credit\)](#) and [Java Programming \(1/2 or 1 credit\)](#).

In addition to the core curriculum computer additions, this change also corrects a date in an example and clarifies the final deadline for receipt of supporting documents to establish eligibility for a TOPS award.

For additional information, please contact Melanie Amrhein, Interim Executive Director at mamrhein@osfa.state.la.us or George Eldredge, General Counsel at geldredge@osfa.state.la.us.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Student Financial Assistance Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance Scholarship/Grant Programs (LAC 28:IV:505, 507 and 703)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) is exercising the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act [R.S. 49:953(B)] to amend and re-promulgate the rules of the Scholarship/Grant programs (R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, and R.S. 17:3042.1.1-3042.8, R.S. 17:3048.1, R.S. 56:797.D(2)).

The emergency rules are necessary to implement changes to the Scholarship/Grant programs to allow the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and state educational institutions to effectively administer these programs. A delay in promulgating rules would have an adverse impact on the financial welfare of the eligible students and the financial condition of their families. LASFAC has determined that these emergency rules are necessary in order to prevent imminent financial peril to the welfare of the affected students.

This declaration of emergency is effective April 12, 2007, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act. (SG0785E)

Title 28 EDUCATION

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

Chapter 5. Applications, Federal Grant Aid and ACT Test

§505. Application Deadlines for High School Graduates and Home Study Completers of 2004 and Later and Eligible Non-Graduates

A.1.a. – C.3.w. ...

x. A student, who enrolls for the first time as a full time student at an accredited out-of-state college and subsequently returns to Louisiana and enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university for the fall semester of 2006, will be eligible for his TOPS award beginning with the fall semester of ~~2007~~2006 if his initial FAFSA or the on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2007.

C.4. – G. ...

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 24:635 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1901 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1847 (November 2001), amended LR 30:2017 (September 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 32:2238 (December 2006), LR 33:83 (January 2007).

§507. Final Deadline for Submitting Documentation of Eligibility

A. – B.1. ...

2. Beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year (college), all documentation and certifications necessary to establish student initial eligibility including, but not limited to, high school and/or college transcripts and certifications, copies of student aid reports, applicant confirmation forms,

promissory notes, ACT and/or SAT scores, residency affidavits, proof of citizenship or permanent residency status and other documents that may be utilized in determining eligibility, must be received by LASFAC no later ~~the~~ than July 1 immediately following the academic year (college) the student is first eligible for payment of a TOPS award enrolls as a first-time, full-time student in an eligible college or university. For example, if a student's initial FAFSA is received no later than July 1, 2007, for that student to receive an award for the ~~2006-2007~~ 2007-2008 academic year (college), LASFAC must have in its possession all documents relevant to establishing eligibility by July 1, ~~2007~~2008.

C.1. – D.3. ...

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

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

§703. Establishing Eligibility

A.1.a. – A.5.a.i.(b) ...

(c) for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2004-2005 through ~~2006-2007~~ 2005-2006, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 16.5 units of high school course

work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting a core curriculum 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, Trigonometry*, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics *Trigonometry cannot be used to fulfill this requirement for students graduating in Academic Year (High School) 2005-2006 and thereafter
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology
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 one elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language
1/2	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) Desktop Publishing (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Graphics & Animation (1/2 credit) Introduction to Business Computer Applications (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)

(d). for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2006-2007, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 16.5 units of high school course work documented on the student's official

transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting a core curriculum 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, Trigonometry*, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics *Trigonometry cannot be used to fulfill this requirement for students graduating in Academic Year (High School) 2005-2006 and thereafter
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology
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 one elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language
1/2	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)

e. beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2007-2008, 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, Advanced Mathematics II, 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)

A.5.a.ii. – J.3.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

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George Badge Eldredge
 General Counsel

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