

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

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

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DISTRIBUTION:	High School Counselors, College, University and LAICU Chancellors, Financial Aid Offices, Business Offices, Registrars and Auditors; Louisiana Legislators, Officials and the Congressional Delegation; Higher Education Board; Libraries; Commission Members; Technical College Campus Deans and Student Personnel Services Officers
TOPICS:	Eligibility for Students Returning from Out-of-State <u>After First Enrolling</u> in an Eligible Louisiana College or University and Returning from Out-of-State Application Receipt Date Grace Period with Penalty

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

Act 232 of the 2009 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature expanded the definition of "Returning Student" for purposes of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to include those students who first enroll as full-time freshmen in an eligible college or university in Louisiana, subsequently enroll in an eligible out-of-state college or university and then return to an eligible college or university in Louisiana during the 2009-2010 academic year and thereafter. If the student has met the TOPS minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) and the TOPS continuation requirements, including enrolling full time each semester, remaining continuously enrolled, and earning at least 24 hours each academic year, the student's TOPS award will be reinstated but the student will lose a semester of TOPS eligibility for every semester he was enrolled at an out-of-state college or university. If the student has met the TOPS continuation requirements, but does not have the minimum required GPA, the award will be reinstated, but suspended until the required GPA is met, if done so within two years of the suspension. If the student was unable to meet the continuation requirements due to circumstances beyond his immediate control, the student may request an exception for the affected semester(s). The student should contact a Public Information Representative at [custserv@osfa.la.gov](mailto:custserv@osfa.la.gov) or call 1-800-259-5626, Ext. 1012, or go to the agency's website at [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov) for further information.

Act 232 also provides a grace period of up to 120 days after the July 1<sup>st</sup> final deadline for receipt of the Application to Return from an Eligible Out-of-State College. Eligibility will be reduced by one semester if the application is one (1) to 60 days late and by two semesters if the application is 61 to 120 days late and are cumulative with any other penalties that apply. An application received more than 120 days late will not be considered.

**EXAMPLES:**

1. A returning student who enrolls in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2009, and whose Application to Return from an Eligible Out-of-State college is received on July 10, 2010, will be eligible for a TOPS award reduced by one semester or two quarters if any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts is received no later than January 15, 2011.

2. A returning student who enrolls in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2009, and whose Application to Return from an Eligible Out-of-State College is received on September 10, 2010, will be eligible for a TOPS award reduced by two semesters or three quarters if any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts is received no later than January 15, 2011.

There is no change to the January 15 supporting documentation deadline.

Full details are disclosed in the instructions found on the back of the Application to Return from an Eligible Out of State College and can be found on the LOSFA website at [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov) under the Forms tab.

If you need more information regarding these TOPS changes, please contact Ron Landaiche, TOPS Initial Eligibility Specialist, at 1-800-259-5626, ext. 3258 or [rlandaiche@osfa.la.gov](mailto:rlandaiche@osfa.la.gov).