

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

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

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DISTRIBUTION:	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:	Revised Bulletin T2010-03

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**This Revised Bulletin replaces Bulletin T2010-03 dated September 24, 2010, in its entirety.**

**This Bulletin outlines changes to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS).**

**TOPS Application Deadline Change    Effective Date: For Students Graduating in 2009 and Later**  
On September 15, 2010, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission amended Section 505 of the Scholarship and Grant Program rules to modify the TOPS Application Deadline. This amendment deletes the provision requiring delayed payments and extends the deadline for students to file their initial FAFSA and receive TOPS the first year after graduating from high school to July 1 following the first anniversary of their high school graduation.

This change is effective beginning with the 2010 academic year (college) and applies to students graduating in 2009 and later. A TOPS payment will not be made until the TOPS application is received, the student is determined eligible for a TOPS award by LOSFA and an eligible Louisiana college has billed LOSFA for the student's full-time enrollment.

Payments for a student's full-time enrollment at a college prior to the date the student was made eligible for TOPS will be made retroactively to the student's semester, quarter or term of first-time, full-time enrollment. The award will be paid for each subsequent semester, quarter or term that the student met all of the TOPS continuation requirements.

NOTE: Students who file after July 1 following the first anniversary of their high school graduation, but no later than 120 days late, will also be paid beginning with the semester, quarter or term of their first-time, full-time enrollment; however, their TOPS eligibility will be reduced by one semester if no more than 60 days late or by two semesters if more than 60 days but not more than 120 days late.

LOSFA will provide each college with a listing of students identified by LOSFA as being eligible for a TOPS

award and having attended full-time during AY2010 at their college.  
See the Emergency Rule at [http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4\\_SG11123E.pdf](http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG11123E.pdf).

The Emergency Rules that implement the following acts can be seen at  
[http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4\\_SG10120E.pdf](http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG10120E.pdf)

### **Act 201 ACT 201 – TOPS**

#### **Increase of National Guard Stipends**

**Effective date: Fall 2010**

Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, the TOPS Award to National Guard Tuition Waiver recipients to apply to the costs of books and instructional materials will increase from \$150 per semester to \$300 per semester and from \$100 per quarter to \$200 per quarter at Louisiana Tech. Stipends for National Guard Tuition Waiver recipients will increase from \$200 per semester to \$400 per semester for the Performance Award and from \$400 per semester to \$800 per semester for the Honors Award. Stipends for National Guard Tuition Waiver recipients with the Performance Award who are enrolled at Louisiana Tech will increase from \$133 to \$267 for the Fall and Winter Quarters and from \$134 to \$266 for Spring Quarter and with the Honors Award from \$267 to \$534 for Fall Quarter, from \$267 to \$533 for Winter Quarter and from \$266 to \$533 for Spring Quarter.

Students who are eligible for the TOPS Tech Award and receive the Louisiana National Guard Tuition Waiver will receive \$300 per semester to apply to the costs of books and instructional materials.

### **ACT 724 – TOPS**

**Effective Date: Fall 2010**

Beginning with the 2010-11 Academic Year, students who are eligible for the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards may use their award to attend an eligible proprietary or cosmetology school. Students who are eligible for the Performance and Honors Awards will receive a stipend of \$100 and \$200 per term, respectively.

### **ACT 758 – TOPS**

#### **Changes to TOPS Core Curriculum**

**Effective date: 2014 Graduating Class**

Beginning with 2014 high school graduates, students must successfully earn 19 units to complete the TOPS core curriculum. The current ½ unit computer science and additional unit of math or science will be deleted (-1½ units) and one unit will be added for a course listed for each of advanced math, advanced science and social studies (+3 units).

### **Act 647 – TOPS Tech**

#### **WorkKeys Silver Level Score for TOPS TECH Eligibility**

**Effective date: July 1, 2010**

Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system may be used as an alternative to the requirement to earn a composite score of 17 on the ACT.