

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

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

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TOPICS:	TOPS Academic Year Includes Summer Session, Summer-Fall Intersession

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On March 19, 2012, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission amended the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to provide that the definition of the academic year includes the Summer Session and Summer-Fall Intersession. Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year and thereafter, the academic year begins with the fall term of the award year and concludes immediately before the next fall term commences.

As a result of this amendment, the hours a student earns during a summer session or during the summer-fall intersession will be included in determining whether a student has met the requirement to earn 24 hours during the academic year. Students are not required to enroll for the summer session or in any intersession. TOPS will not automatically pay for a summer session. An award made for summer school expends one semester or term of TOPS eligibility for those students who qualify. Technical information, including specific criteria that must be satisfied for summer sessions to be eligible for TOPS payment will follow shortly.

All other TOPS Renewal requirements remain the same.

Questions concerning this or other TOPS matters should be directed to Dr. John Bell, TOPS Awards and Renewals Manager, [jbelle@osfa.la.gov](mailto:jbelle@osfa.la.gov), or by phone at 1-800-259-5626, ext. 7674.