

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

Student Financial Aid Bulletin

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TOPICS:	Change to the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules for TOPS to Implement Acts 140 and 359 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature relative to high school eligibility and changes to the TOPS Core Curriculum.

At its June 20, 2013 meeting, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission approved Emergency Rules and Notice of Intent that implement Acts 140 and 359 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Act 140 – Expands the list of high schools from which students may graduate and participate in TOPS to include high schools located outside of Louisiana that are authorized to offer an International Baccalaureate Diploma when the student graduates with such a diploma in 2009-2010 or later.

Act 359 –

- a. Revises the calculation of the TOPS Cumulative Grade Point Average for students graduating in 2017-2018 and thereafter to provide that Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Gifted and Dual Enrollment courses used to complete the TOPS Core Curriculum are calculated on a 5.00 scale. (All other courses used to complete the TOPS Core Curriculum will continue to be calculated on the 4.00 scale.)
Note: This new grading scale will be used for students entering the ninth grade in 2014-15 and thereafter.
- b. Revises the TOPS core curriculum to change the required courses to qualify for a TOPS award for students graduating in 2017-2018 and thereafter.
Notes:
 - 1. Students graduating through 2016-17 will use the existing TOPS Core Curriculum.
 - 2. The new TOPS Core Curriculum will be used for students entering the ninth grade in 2014-15 and thereafter.

See the charts below for the courses added to or removed from the TOPS Core Curriculum.

Courses Added to the TOPS Core Curriculum By Act 359	
AP Japanese Language and Culture	Government
AP Latin (Replaces AP Latin: Vergil)	IB Theatre I
AP Macroeconomics	IB Economics
AP Microeconomics	IB Further Mathematics HL
AP Physics I and AP Physics II	IB Geography
Economics	IB Mathematics

Deleted By Act 359	Notes	Deleted By Act 359	Notes
Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2	Former Equivalent	Applied Mathematics III	-
Anatomy and Physiology	Former Equivalent	Chemistry Com	Former Equivalent
AP American Government	<i>No longer offered</i>	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit)	<i>No longer offered</i>
AP French Literature	<i>No longer offered</i>	Discrete Mathematics	Former Equivalent
AP Latin Literature	<i>No longer offered</i>	IB Biology III	-
AP Latin: Vergil	<i>No longer offered</i>	Integrated Science	-
AP Spanish Literature	-	Physics for Technology	-
Applied Algebra 1A and 1B	-	Physics II	-
Applied Algebra I	-	Studio art as a general category	-
Applied Geometry	Former Equivalent	Visual art as a general category	-
Applied Mathematics I and II	-		

See Emergency Rule at http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG13147E.pdf.

See Notice of Intent at http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG13147NI.pdf.

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