

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

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

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| TOPS BULLETIN NUMBER: | T2015-6 |
| DATE ISSUED: | August 17, 2015 |
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| DISTRIBUTION: | High School Counselors, High School Principals, Parish Superintendents, College and University Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, LAICU Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, Louisiana Community and Technical College System Personnel |
| TOPICS: | Changes to the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules for TOPS to Implement Acts 101, 230 and 403 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature relative to citizenship and changes to the TOPS Tech Core Curriculum. |

At its July 14, 2015 meeting, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission approved Emergency Rules and a Notice of Intent that implement Acts 101, 230, and 403 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. A brief summary of these Acts are below:

Act 101 – TOPS Citizenship Requirement

Effective: 2019 Graduates

This Act provides that students who are not citizens of the United States but who are children of non-citizens serving in the Armed Forces or honorably discharged from the Armed Forces meet the citizenship requirements of the TOPS statute. This provision will go into effect for graduates of 2019 and later.

Act 230 – TOPS Tech Award Provisions

Effective: 2017 Graduates

This Act makes significant changes to the TOPS Tech Award. Currently, students who are eligible for the TOPS Tech award may pursue any skill or occupational training, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree. TOPS Tech awardees are not currently eligible to receive their award if they are enrolled in an academic program of study. Under Act 230, 2017 high school graduates will only be able to use the TOPS Tech Award to pursue an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs, including skill, occupational, vocational, technical, certificate, and academic, that the Workforce Investment Council and the Board of Regents determine are aligned to state workforce priorities. Based on the lists of proposed programs provided to the legislature, the programs will be limited to specified postsecondary institutions. This means that TOPS Tech awardees may be able to use their award to enroll in academic associate's degree programs, provided that the student is enrolled in an eligible program at an eligible school. Students may not be able to enroll in some traditional technical programs or in cosmetology. LOSFA will provide an update on the implementation of this Act when an approved list of eligible courses is provided by the Workforce Investment Council and the Board of Regents.

Act 403 – TOPS Tech and Tech Early Start**Effective: 2015-16 academic year**

This Act aligns the TOPS Tech core curriculum and the career diploma graduation requirements so that students who pursue and graduate high school with a career diploma will be eligible for TOPS Tech, provided the student meets other eligibility requirements, including a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on the core curriculum and at least a 17 on the ACT. Both the current TOPS Tech core curriculum and the new curriculum will be effective through the 2016-2017 academic year; thereafter, only the curriculum that is aligned with the career diploma will be available.

Act 403 also adds alternate standardized tests for the TOPS Tech Early Start (TTES) award. Eligibility requirements now allow a score of 15 or above on the mathematics and English portion of the ACT PLAN Assessment or a successor assessment, or on the ACT, or the equivalent concordant value on the SAT, or a Silver Level score on the ACT WorkKeys assessment.

In addition to Acts 101, 230, and 403, the Legislature passed Act 228, which amended the state privacy act that was passed during the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Act 228 provides that parents will only be required to provide one completed consent form to their student's high school instead of one form each year the student is enrolled. The purpose of the consent form is to allow the parents the opportunity to determine whether to allow the high school to release their student's transcript data to LOSFA for the purpose of tracking and determining their child's eligibility for TOPS and to provide college access services. The form also allows the release of student transcript data to the Board of Regents so that state colleges and universities can determine a student's eligibility to enroll in college. The first executed form will be valid until the student graduates or until a new consent form is signed and returned to the student's high school. Parents will be notified each year of the process for granting or revoking consent.

A copy of the administrative rules implementing Acts 101, 230, and 403 are attached to this bulletin.

For more information on the changes outlined in this bulletin, please e-mail custserv@la.gov.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
Student Financial Assistance Commission
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
Acts of the 2015 Regular Session
(LAC 28:IV.301, 703, 801, 803, 805, 1005, 1903)

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)).

This rulemaking implements Acts 101, 403, and 230 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by amending the TOPS rules to provide an alternative citizenship requirement, align the TOPS Tech core curriculum with the Career Diploma graduation requirements, and to change the TOPS Tech award to align its use with workforce priorities. This rulemaking also implements Act 403 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by adding alternative standardized tests that can be taken to be eligible for the TOPS Tech Early Start award.

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 July 14, 2015, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act. (SG16163E)

Title 28
EDUCATION

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

Chapter 3. Definitions

§301. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

* * *

Eligible Noncitizen—

a. for students graduating in the 2017-2018 academic year (high school) and prior, an individual who can provide documentation from the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor that he is in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident, including, but not limited to, refugees, persons granted asylum, Cuban-Haitian entrants, temporary residents under the recent Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and others. A permanent resident of the United States must provide documentation from the USCIS to verify permanent residency. For 1997, 1998 and 1999 high school graduates, an eligible noncitizen

shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part.

b. for students graduating in the 2018-2019 academic year (high school) and later, a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is the child of a non-United States citizen who is either serving in any branch of the United States armed forces or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States armed forces shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part.

* * *

First-Time Student—

a. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), a student who is awarded TOPS-Tech and enrolls for the first time, full-time in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a Vocational or Technical Education Certificate or Diploma Program or a non-academic undergraduate degree to pursue a skill, occupational training, or technical training subsequent to high school graduation, and is enrolled full-time at the end of the 14th class day or later (9th class day or later for quarter schools) ~~continues to be enrolled full-time.~~

The fact that a student who is ~~awarded-eligible for a TOPS Tech TOPS Tech award~~ enrolls in an academic program at a post-secondary school prior or subsequent to graduation from high school, but prior to the required date for full time enrollment in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a Vocational or Technical Education Certificate or Diploma Program or a non-academic undergraduate degree, shall not preclude the student from being a first-time student.

b. For students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school) or later, a student who is eligible for a TOPS Tech award and enrolls for the first time, full-time in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council and is enrolled full-time at the end of the 14th class day or later (9th class day or later for quarter schools).

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 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:256 (February 1999), LR 25:654 (April 1999), LR 25:1458 and 1460 (August 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:65 (January 2000), LR 26:688 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1601 (August 2000), LR 26:1993, 1999 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2752 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:284 (March 2001), LR 27:1219 (August 2001), LR 27:1840 (November 2001), LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:45 (January 2002), LR 28:446 (March 2002), LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2331 (November 2002), LR 29:555 (April 2003), LR 29:879 (June 2003), LR 30:1159 (June 2004), LR 30:2015 (September 2004), LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 33:86 (January 2007), LR 33:439 (March 2007), LR 33:1339 (July 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:234 (February 2008), LR 34:1388 (July 2008), LR 34:1884 (September 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 36:311 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010), LR 36:2854 (December 2010), LR 37:1561 (June 2011), LR 37:1562 (June 2011), LR 38:1953 (August 2012), LR 38:3156 (December 2012), LR 39:308 (February 2013), LR 40:53 (January 2014), LR 40:281 (February 2014), LR 41:649, 658 (April 2015).

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

§703. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1.a. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2001-2002 and prior, be a United States citizen, provided however, that a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship

requirement, if within 60 days after the date the student attains the age of majority, the student applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of the application for citizenship. Those students who are eligible for U.S. citizenship and who otherwise qualify for a TOPS Award, will continue to satisfy the citizenship requirements for a TOPS Award for one year after the date of the student's application for citizenship, at which time, if the student has not provided proof of U.S. citizenship to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the student's TOPS Award will be suspended until such time as proof of citizenship is provided and canceled if such proof is not provided by May 1 of the following academic year (college). Students cancelled solely due to their failure to become a United States citizen within one year after the date of application shall be reinstated to their award if they are a United States citizen or a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and were eligible to apply for United States citizenship when cancelled and have met the requirements for maintaining eligibility for the award;

b. for students graduating in academic years (high school) 2002-2003 ~~through 2017-2018 and thereafter~~, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;

c. for students graduating in academic years (high school) 2018-2019 and later, be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301.

A.2. – A.5.f.ii. ...

g. beginning with the 2004-2005 Award Year, eligible non-graduates who meet the following criteria:

i. (a) through the 2017-2018 academic year high school, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;

(b) beginning the 2018-2019 academic year (high school) and later, be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301;

A.5.g.ii. – J.4.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, 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 24:636 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1902 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:257 (February 1999), LR 25:655 (April 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:64, 67 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1996, 1999, 2001 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2753 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:702 (May 2001), LR 27:1219, 1219 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1850 (November 2001), amended LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2332 (November 2002), LR 29:125 (February 2003), LR 29:2372 (November 2003), LR 30:1162 (June 2004), LR 30:1471 (July 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR

31:37 (January 2005), LR 31:2213 (September 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 32:2239 (December 2006), LR 33:435 (March 2007), LR 33:2357 (November 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:1389 (July 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 36:312 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010), LR 36:2269 (October 2010), LR 36:2855 (December 2010), LR 37:2987 (October 2011), LR 38:354 (February 2012), LR 38:3158 (December 2012), LR 39:481 (March 2013), LR 39:2485 (September 2013), LR 40:54 (January 2014), LR 41:373 (February 2015), LR 41:651, 664 (April 2015).

Chapter 8. TOPS-Tech Award

§801. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The TOPS-Tech Award was created by Act of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

B. Description, History and Purpose.

1. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), the The TOPS-Tech Award is a merit based scholarship program for Louisiana residents pursuing skill, occupational or technical training at eligible colleges and universities that offer a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree. The purpose of TOPS-Tech is to provide an incentive for qualified Louisiana residents to prepare for and pursue technical positions in Louisiana.

2. Beginning with students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school), the TOPS-Tech Award is a workforce scholarship program for Louisiana residents who enroll in an eligible college or university on a full-time basis in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council.

C. – D.1.- 3. ...

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 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 26:1997 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 41:666 (April 2015).

§803. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for the TOPS-Tech Award, the student applicant must meet the following criteria:

~~1.a. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2001-2002 and prior, be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301, provided however, that a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship requirement, if within 60 days after the date the student attains the age of majority, the student applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of the application for citizenship. Those students who are eligible for U.S. citizenship and who otherwise qualify for a TOPS Award, will continue to satisfy the citizenship requirements~~

~~for a TOPS Award for one year after the date of the student's application for citizenship, at which time, if the student has not provided proof of U.S. citizenship to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the student's TOPS Award will be suspended until such time as proof of citizenship is provided and canceled if such proof is not provided. Students cancelled solely due to their failure to become a United States citizen within one year after the date of application shall be reinstated to their award if they are a United States citizen or a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and were eligible to apply for United States citizenship when cancelled and have met the requirements for maintaining eligibility for the award;~~

~~b. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2002-2003 and thereafter, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;~~

A.2. – A.3

4. initially apply and enroll as a *first-time freshman student* as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC, in an eligible post-secondary college or university defined in §301; and

A.4.a. – A.5.d.iii. ...

6. if qualifying under the terms of §803.A.5.a, at the time of high school graduation:

a. have successfully completed one of the following core curriculums:

i. high school course work constituting the TOPS core curriculum for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards as defined in §703.A.5 and documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education;

ii. for students graduating in the 2015-2016 academic year (high school) and later, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 2 | English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. |
| 1 | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course |

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Units | Course |
| 3 | Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits |
| 1 | Biology |
| 1 | Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, or AP or IB science courses |
| 1 | U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History |
| 1 | Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States |
| 9 | In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major. |

iii. for students graduating in the 2000-2001 school year through the 2012-2013 school year, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 1 | English III |
| 1 | English IV or substitute 1 unit of Business English |
| 1 | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II |
| 2 | Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics (2 units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and shall be considered the equivalent of the 3 required math units |
| 1 | Biology |
| 1 | Chemistry or Applied Chemistry |
| 1 | Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit) |
| 1 | American History |
| 1 | World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography |
| 1 | Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic) |

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---|--|
| Units | Course |
| Remaining Core Courses Shall Be Selected from One of the Following Options: | |
| Option 1—Total of 17 units | |
| 1 | Fine Arts Survey or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute 2 units of visual art courses; or substitute 2 units of studio art courses; or a course from the Career and Technical Program of studies that is approved by the BESE (must be listed under the Vocational Education Course Offerings in Bulletin 741 or the updates to Bulletin 741); or substitute 1 unit as an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum |
| 2 | Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II |
| 1 | One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that is approved by the BESE |
| or | |
| Option 2—Total of 19 Units | |
| 4 | In a career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses. In order for a student to use this option, the courses for the career major must be approved by BESE. |
| 1 | Credit in a basic computer course. |
| 1 | In related or technical fields. A related course includes any course which is listed under the student's major. A technical course is one that is listed in the approved career option plan for the high school at which the course is taken. |

iv. for students graduating through the 2001-2002 school year, the TOPS-Tech core curriculum as follows;

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 1 | English III |
| 1 | English IV or Business English |
| 1 | Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra IA and IB (2 units) |
| 1 | Algebra II |
| 1 | Geometry or Applied Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics |
| 1 | Biology |
| 1 | Chemistry or Applied Physics |
| 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) |
| 1 | American History |
| 1 | World History, Western Civilization or World Geography |
| 1 | Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, non-public) |
| 1 | Fine Arts Survey or any approved vocational course in the areas of Agriscience, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health Occupations, Marketing Education, Technology Education, or Trade and Industrial Education; (or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance or theater; or 2 units of studio art or 2 units of visual art courses; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum) |
| 2 | In a single Foreign Language. (1 unit for students graduating from high school during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years.) or Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II (2 units). |
| 1/2 | Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum) |

iv. for students graduating in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, the high school course work document on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum;

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|--|--|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 1 | English III |
| 1 | English IV or substitute 1 unit of Business English |
| 1 | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II |
| 2 | Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics (2 units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and shall be considered the equivalent of the 3 required math units |
| 1 | Biology |
| 2 | Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, or Chemistry or Applied Chemistry, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit) |
| 1 | American History |
| 1 | World History, Western Civilization or World Geography |
| 1 | Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, non-public) |
| Remaining Core Courses Shall Be Selected from One of the Following Options | |
| Option 1 – Total of 17 Units | |
| 1 | Fine Arts Survey or drafting (one unit) or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute 2 units of visual art courses; or substitute 2 units of studio art courses; or a course from the Career and Technical Program of studies that is approved by the BESE (must be listed under the Vocational Education Course Offerings in Bulletin 741 or the updates to Bulletin 741); or substitute 1 unit as an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum |
| 2 | Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II |
| 1 | One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that is approved by the BESE |
| or | |
| Option 2 – Total of 19 Units | |
| 4 | In a career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses. In order for a student to use this option, the courses for the career major must be approved by BESE. |
| 1 | Credit in a basic computer course |
| 1 | In related or technical fields. A related course includes any course which is listed under the student's major. A technical course is one that is listed in the approved career option plan for the high school at which the course is taken. |

A.6.b. – B.4.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, 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 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:1795 (October 1999), LR 26:65 and 67 (January 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated

LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:773 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 (November 2002), LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:1164 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:39 (January 2005), LR 31:3114 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 33:2614 (December 2007), LR 35:230 (February 2009), LR 36:491 (March 2010), LR 36:2270 (October 2010), LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 38:3159 (December 2012), LR 41:654 (April 2015).

§805. Maintaining Eligibility

A.1. – A.4. ...

5. a. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), continue to enroll and accept the TOPS Tech Award as a full-time student in an eligible college or university defined in §301, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic year (TOPS) (enrollment in a summer session is optional and is not required to meet this requirement), unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC; and

b. For students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school) and later, continue to enroll in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic year (TOPS) (enrollment in a summer session is optional and is not required to meet this requirement), unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC;

A.6. – E. ...

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 24:1905 (October 1998) amended LR 25:1091 (June 1999), LR 26:68 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1997, 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1856 (November 2001), amended LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1165 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:3115 (December 2005), LR 33:438 (March 2007), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 38:3160 (December 2012), LR 40:1002 (May 2014), LR 41:666 (April 2015).

Chapter 10. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award

§1005. Establishing Eligibility

A. – A.3. ...

4. score at least 15 on the English subsection and 15 on the mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment or a successor assessment administered as part of Louisiana's educational planning and assessment system or the ACT or an equivalent concordant value of the SAT or have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system;

5. enroll in a course in an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential program in a top demand occupation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1, R.S. 17:3048.1 and R.S. 17:3048.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 41:375 (February 2015).

Chapter 19. Eligibility and Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

§1903. Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

A.1. – A.2.h. ...

3. Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year (TOPS), an institution shall also report:

- a. a student's completion of a program of study;
- b. through the 2015-2016 academic year (TOPS) whether the program of study was academic or technical;
- c. type of credential (degree, certificate, diploma, baccalaureate);
- d. semester of completion; and-
- e. beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year (TOPS):
 - i. the CIP code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;
 - ii. the degree level code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;
 - iii. the increment key assigned by the Board of Regents that provides each program a unique key for the program of study in which the student is enrolled.

B. Program Billing. Each term, institutions shall bill LASFAC for students who are recipients of a TOPS Award or a GO-Youth ChalleNge Program Grant and who have enrolled at the institution in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. a. through the 2016-2017 academic year (college), institutions may only bill for students who have been certified by LASFAC as eligible for a TOPS Award or a GO-Youth ChalleNge Program Grant; and
 - b. beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year (college), institutions may bill for students who have been certified by LASFAC as eligible for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award and may only bill for a TOPS Tech award if the student is enrolled in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council at that institution;

B.2. – G.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1, 17:3041.10-3041.15, 17:3041.21-3041.26, R.S. 17:3048.1, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:645 (April 1998),

amended LR 24:1914 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), LR 26:1998 and 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:1760 (August 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 30:1166 (June 2004), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 31:3111, 3114 (December 2005), LR 33:1340 (July 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 35:1491 (August 2009), LR 36:2857 (December 2010), LR 40:282 (February 2014), LR 40:1003 (May 2014), LR 41:667 (April 2015).

Robyn Rhea Lively
Senior Attorney

NOTICE OF INTENT

Student Financial Assistance Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance Scholarship/Grant Programs Acts of the 2015 Regular Session (LAC 28:IV.301, 703, 801, 803, 805, 1005, 1903)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) announces its intention to amend its Scholarship/Grant rules (LSA-R.S. 17:3021-3025, LSA-R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, LSA-R.S. 17:3042.1, LSA-R.S. 17:3048.1, LSA-R.S. 17:3048.5 and LSA-R.S. 17:3048.6).

This rulemaking implements Acts 101, 403, and 230 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by amending the TOPS rules to provide an alternative citizenship requirement, align the TOPS Tech core curriculum with the Career Diploma graduation requirements, and to change the TOPS Tech award to align its use with workforce priorities.

This rulemaking also implements Act 403 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by adding alternative standardized tests that can be taken to be eligible for the TOPS Tech Early Start award. (SG16163NI)

Title 28 EDUCATION

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

Chapter 3. Definitions

§301. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

* * *

Eligible Noncitizen—

a. for students graduating in the 2017-2018 academic year (high school) and prior, an individual who can provide documentation from the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor that he is in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident, including, but not limited to, refugees, persons granted asylum, Cuban-Haitian entrants, temporary residents under the recent Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and others. A permanent resident of the United States must provide documentation from the USCIS to verify permanent residency. For 1997, 1998 and 1999 high school graduates, an eligible noncitizen shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part.

b. for students graduating in the 2018-2019 academic year (high school) and later, a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is the child of a non-United States citizen who is either serving in any branch of the United States armed forces or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States armed forces shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part.

* * *

First-Time Student—

a. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), a student who is awarded TOPS-Tech and enrolls for the first time, full-time in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a Vocational or Technical Education Certificate or Diploma Program or a non-academic undergraduate degree to pursue a skill, occupational training, or technical training subsequent to high school graduation, and is enrolled full-time at the end of the 14th class day or later (9th class day or later for quarter schools) continues to be enrolled full-time. The fact that a student who is ~~awarded-eligible for a TOPS Tech TOPS Tech award~~ enrolls in an academic program at a post-secondary school prior or subsequent to graduation from high school, but prior to the required date for full time

enrollment in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a Vocational or Technical Education Certificate or Diploma Program or a non-academic undergraduate degree, shall not preclude the student from being a first-time student.

b. For students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school) or later, a student who is eligible for a TOPS Tech award and enrolls for the first time, full-time in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council and is enrolled full-time at the end of the 14th class day or later (9th class day or later for quarter schools).

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 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:256 (February 1999), LR 25:654 (April 1999), LR 25:1458 and 1460 (August 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:65 (January 2000), LR 26:688 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1601 (August 2000), LR 26:1993, 1999 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2752 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:284 (March 2001), LR 27:1219 (August 2001), LR 27:1840 (November 2001), LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:45 (January 2002), LR 28:446 (March 2002), LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2331 (November 2002), LR 29:555 (April 2003), LR 29:879 (June 2003), LR 30:1159 (June 2004), LR 30:2015 (September 2004), LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 33:86 (January 2007), LR 33:439 (March 2007), LR 33:1339 (July 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:234 (February 2008), LR 34:1388 (July 2008), LR 34:1884 (September 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 36:311 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010), LR 36:2854 (December 2010), LR 37:1561 (June 2011), LR 37:1562 (June 2011), LR 38:1953 (August 2012), LR 38:3156 (December 2012), LR 39:308 (February 2013), LR 40:53 (January 2014), LR 40:281 (February 2014), LR 41:649, 658 (April 2015).

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

§703. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1.a. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2001-2002 and prior, be a United States citizen, provided however, that a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship

requirement, if within 60 days after the date the student attains the age of majority, the student applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of the application for citizenship. Those students who are eligible for U.S. citizenship and who otherwise qualify for a TOPS Award, will continue to satisfy the citizenship requirements for a TOPS Award for one year after the date of the student's application for citizenship, at which time, if the student has not provided proof of U.S. citizenship to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the student's TOPS Award will be suspended until such time as proof of citizenship is provided and canceled if such proof is not provided by May 1 of the following academic year (college). Students cancelled solely due to their failure to become a United States citizen within one year after the date of application shall be reinstated to their award if they are a United States citizen or a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and were eligible to apply for United States citizenship when cancelled and have met the requirements for maintaining eligibility for the award;

b. for students graduating in academic years (high school) 2002-2003 ~~through 2017-2018 and thereafter~~, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;

c. for students graduating in academic years (high school) 2018-2019 and later, be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301.

A.2. – A.5.f.ii. ...

g. beginning with the 2004-2005 Award Year, eligible non-graduates who meet the following criteria:

i. (a) through the 2017-2018 academic year high school, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;

(b) beginning the 2018-2019 academic year (high school) and later, be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301;

A.5.g.ii. – J.4.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, 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 24:636 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1902 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:257 (February 1999), LR 25:655 (April 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:64, 67 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1996, 1999, 2001 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2753 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:702 (May 2001), LR 27:1219, 1219 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1850 (November 2001), amended LR 28:772

(April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2332 (November 2002), LR 29:125 (February 2003), LR 29:2372 (November 2003), LR 30:1162 (June 2004), LR 30:1471 (July 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 31:2213 (September 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 32:2239 (December 2006), LR 33:435 (March 2007), LR 33:2357 (November 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:1389 (July 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 36:312 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010), LR 36:2269 (October 2010), LR 36:2855 (December 2010), LR 37:2987 (October 2011), LR 38:354 (February 2012), LR 38:3158 (December 2012), LR 39:481 (March 2013), LR 39:2485 (September 2013), LR 40:54 (January 2014), LR 41:373 (February 2015), LR 41:651, 664 (April 2015).

Chapter 8. TOPS-Tech Award

§801. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The TOPS-Tech Award was created by Act of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

B. Description, History and Purpose.

1. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), the The TOPS-Tech Award is a merit based scholarship program for Louisiana residents pursuing skill, occupational or technical training at eligible colleges and universities that offer a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree. The purpose of TOPS-Tech is to provide an incentive for qualified Louisiana residents to prepare for and pursue technical positions in Louisiana.

2. Beginning with students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school), the TOPS-Tech Award is a workforce scholarship program for Louisiana residents who enroll in an eligible college or university on a full-time basis in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council.

C. – D.1.- 3. ...

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 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 26:1997 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 41:666 (April 2015).

§803. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for the TOPS-Tech Award, the student applicant must meet the following criteria:

~~1.a. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2001-2002 and prior, be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301, provided however, that a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship requirement, if within 60 days after the date the student attains the age of majority, the student~~

~~applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of the application for citizenship. Those students who are eligible for U.S. citizenship and who otherwise qualify for a TOPS Award, will continue to satisfy the citizenship requirements for a TOPS Award for one year after the date of the student's application for citizenship, at which time, if the student has not provided proof of U.S. citizenship to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the student's TOPS Award will be suspended until such time as proof of citizenship is provided and canceled if such proof is not provided. Students cancelled solely due to their failure to become a United States citizen within one year after the date of application shall be reinstated to their award if they are a United States citizen or a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and were eligible to apply for United States citizenship when cancelled and have met the requirements for maintaining eligibility for the award;~~

~~b. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2002-2003 and thereafter, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;~~

A.2. – A.3

4. initially apply and enroll as a *first-time freshman student* as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC, in an eligible post-secondary college or university defined in §301; and

A.4.a. – A.5.d.iii. ...

6. if qualifying under the terms of §803.A.5.a, at the time of high school graduation:

a. have successfully completed one of the following core curriculums:

i. high school course work constituting the TOPS core curriculum for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards as defined in §703.A.5 and documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education;

ii. for students graduating in the 2015-2016 academic year (high school) and later, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 2 | English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. |

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course |
| 3 | Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits |
| 1 | Biology |
| 1 | Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, or AP or IB science courses |
| 1 | U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History |
| 1 | Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics; Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics; United States |
| 9 | In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major. |

iii. for students graduating in the 2000-2001 school year through the 2012-2013 school year, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 1 | English III |
| 1 | English IV or substitute 1 unit of Business English |
| 1 | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II |
| 2 | Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics (2 units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and shall be considered the equivalent of the 3 required math units |
| 1 | Biology |
| 1 | Chemistry or Applied Chemistry |
| 1 | Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit) |
| 1 | American History |

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---|--|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography |
| 1 | Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic) |
| Remaining Core Courses Shall Be Selected from One of the Following Options: | |
| Option 1—Total of 17 units | |
| 1 | Fine Arts Survey or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute 2 units of visual art courses; or substitute 2 units of studio art courses; or a course from the Career and Technical Program of studies that is approved by the BESE (must be listed under the Vocational Education Course Offerings in Bulletin 741 or the updates to Bulletin 741); or substitute 1 unit as an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum |
| 2 | Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II |
| 1 | One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that is approved by the BESE |
| or | |
| Option 2—Total of 19 Units | |
| 4 | In a career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses. In order for a student to use this option, the courses for the career major must be approved by BESE. |
| 1 | Credit in a basic computer course. |
| 1 | In related or technical fields. A related course includes any course which is listed under the student's major. A technical course is one that is listed in the approved career option plan for the high school at which the course is taken. |

iv. for students graduating through the 2001-2002 school year, the TOPS-Tech core curriculum as follows;

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 1 | English III |
| 1 | English IV or Business English |
| 1 | Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra IA and IB (2 units) |
| 1 | Algebra II |
| 1 | Geometry or Applied Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics |
| 1 | Biology |
| 1 | Chemistry or Applied Physics |
| 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) |
| 1 | American History |
| 1 | World History, Western Civilization or World Geography |
| 1 | Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, non-public) |
| 1 | Fine Arts Survey or any approved vocational course in the areas of Agriscience, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health Occupations, Marketing Education, Technology Education, or Trade and Industrial Education; (or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance or theater; or 2 units of studio art or 2 units of visual art courses; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum) |
| 2 | In a single Foreign Language. (1 unit for students graduating from high school during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years.) or Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II (2 units). |

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1/2 | Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum) |
|-----|---|

iv. for students graduating in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, the high school course work document on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum;

| Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award | |
|--|--|
| Units | Course |
| 1 | English I |
| 1 | English II |
| 1 | English III |
| 1 | English IV or substitute 1 unit of Business English |
| 1 | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II |
| 2 | Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics (2 units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and shall be considered the equivalent of the 3 required math units |
| 1 | Biology |
| 2 | Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, or Chemistry or Applied Chemistry, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit) |
| 1 | American History |
| 1 | World History, Western Civilization or World Geography |
| 1 | Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, non-public) |
| Remaining Core Courses Shall Be Selected from One of the Following Options | |
| Option 1 – Total of 17 Units | |
| 1 | Fine Arts Survey or drafting (one unit) or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute 2 units of visual art courses; or substitute 2 units of studio art courses; or a course from the Career and Technical Program of studies that is approved by the BESE (must be listed under the Vocational Education Course Offerings in Bulletin 741 or the updates to Bulletin 741); or substitute 1 unit as an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum |
| 2 | Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II |
| 1 | One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that is approved by the BESE |
| or | |
| Option 2 – Total of 19 Units | |
| 4 | In a career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses. In order for a student to use this option, the courses for the career major must be approved by BESE. |
| 1 | Credit in a basic computer course |
| 1 | In related or technical fields. A related course includes any course which is listed under the student's major. A technical course is one that is listed in the approved career option plan for the high school at which the course is taken. |

A.6.b. – B.4.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, 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 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:1795 (October 1999), LR 26:65 and 67 (January 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:773 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 (November 2002), LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:1164 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:39 (January 2005), LR 31:3114 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 33:2614 (December 2007), LR 35:230 (February 2009), LR 36:491 (March 2010), LR 36:2270 (October 2010), LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 38:3159 (December 2012), LR 41:654 (April 2015).

§805. Maintaining Eligibility

A.1. – A.4. ...

5. a. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), continue to enroll and accept the TOPS Tech Award as a full-time student in an eligible college or university defined in §301, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic year (TOPS) (enrollment in a summer session is optional and is not required to meet this requirement), unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC; and

b. For students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school) and later, continue to enroll in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic year (TOPS) (enrollment in a summer session is optional and is not required to meet this requirement), unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC;

A.6. – E. ...

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 24:1905 (October 1998) amended LR 25:1091 (June 1999), LR 26:68 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1997, 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1856 (November 2001), amended LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1165 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:3115 (December 2005), LR 33:438 (March 2007), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 38:3160 (December 2012), LR 40:1002 (May 2014), LR 41:666 (April 2015).

Chapter 10. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award

§1005. Establishing Eligibility

A. – A.3. ...

4. score at least 15 on the English subsection and 15 on the mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment or a successor assessment administered as part of Louisiana's educational planning and assessment system or the ACT or an equivalent concordant value of the SAT or have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system;

5. enroll in a course in an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential program in a top demand occupation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1, R.S. 17:3048.1 and R.S. 17:3048.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 41:375 (February 2015).

Chapter 19. Eligibility and Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

§1903. Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

A.1. – A.2.h. ...

3. Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year (TOPS), an institution shall also report:

- a. a student's completion of a program of study;
- b. through the 2015-2016 academic year (TOPS) whether the program of study was academic or technical;
- c. type of credential (degree, certificate, diploma, baccalaureate);
- d. semester of completion; and-
- e. beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year (TOPS):
 - i. the CIP code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;
 - ii. the degree level code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;
 - iii. the increment key assigned by the Board of Regents that provides each program a unique key for the program of study in which the student is enrolled.

B. Program Billing. Each term, institutions shall bill LASFAC for students who are recipients of a TOPS Award or a GO-Youth ChalleNge Program Grant and who have enrolled at the institution in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. a. through the 2016-2017 academic year (college), institutions may only bill for students who have been certified by LASFAC as eligible for a TOPS Award or a GO-Youth ChalleNge Program Grant; and

b. beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year (college), institutions may bill for students who have been certified by LASFAC as eligible for a TOPS Opportunity,

Performance, or Honors Award and may only bill for a TOPS Tech award if the student is enrolled in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council at that institution;

B.2. – G.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1, 17:3041.10-3041.15, 17:3041.21-3041.26, R.S. 17:3048.1, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:645 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1914 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), LR 26:1998 and 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:1760 (August 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 30:1166 (June 2004), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 31:3111, 3114 (December 2005), LR 33:1340 (July 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 35:1491 (August 2009), LR 36:2857 (December 2010), LR 40:282 (February 2014), LR 40:1003 (May 2014), LR 41:667 (April 2015).

Family Impact Statement: The proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, or autonomy, as described in LSA-R.S. 49:972.

Poverty Impact Statement: The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in LSA-R.S. 49:973.

Business Impact Statement: The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as described in LSA-R.S. 49:965.2 *et seq.*

Provider Impact Statement: The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on providers of services for individuals with developmental disabilities as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed changes (SG16163NI) until 4:30 p.m., September 9, 2015, by email to LOSFA.Comments@la.gov or to Sujuan Williams Boutté, Ed. D., Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202.

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