

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

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

TOPS BULLETIN NUMBER:	T2015-7
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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:	End of Academic Year Alignment

At its August 20, 2015, meeting, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission amended the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to set the End of the Academic Year as the deadline for achieving all TOPS Annual Renewal Requirements: earning 24 Hours and achieving the required cumulative grade point average requirement. This Rule Change is effective beginning with the 2014-15 Academic Year except for those students whose TOPS Status would be adversely affected by applying the new rule. For those students, the rule change will be effective beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year.

LOSFA will reprocess AY2015 Grades with the updated deadline shortly. The records of those students positively affected will be updated, and they will be notified by e-mail. The TOPS Dispositions of all other students will not be changed unless a record fails to complete processing. Those records, as well as records being updated due to the receipt of new grade information and payment requests, may show the following Dispositions:

Disposition 033 Renewal Pending AY Hours.

The student's TOPS Cum GPA is 2.0 or higher but the student earned less than 24 hours through the end of the Spring Semester/Term or Spring or Summer Intersession. Student must earn enough hours by the end of summer to meet the 24 hour requirement. Additional information is provided on the Student Eligibility Page:

331 Maintained Continuation GPA*; or

332 Achieved Continuation GPA*.

*Both Codes are eligible for Summer Payment, if student is otherwise eligible.***

Disposition 034 Renewal Pending GPA.

The student has earned 24 or more Academic Year Hours and has a GPA of 2.0 or greater, but he does not possess Continuation GPA (2.3 or 2.5, as applicable). This student is eligible to receive his TOPS Award

for summer, if otherwise eligible to receive summer payment. The student must achieve Continuation GPA by the end of the summer.

Disposition 042 Suspended for GPA

Under the new rules, the following apply:

If the student was in good standing for the spring semester, then

421 – Student was in good standing for the spring semester. By the end of spring, student has not earned required hours or grades for continuation but did meet SAP. Summer is payable if otherwise eligible for summer payment.

422 – Student was in good standing for the spring semester. By the end of spring, student has earned the required hours and met SAP, but did not meet the cumulative GPA requirement. Summer is payable if otherwise eligible for summer payment.

If the student was not in good standing for the spring semester, then

423 – Student has not earned the required hours and did not meet SAP. Student must earn at least 24 hours by the end of summer and bring his cumulative GPA up to that required for continuation (2.3 or 2.5, as applicable).

424 – Student has earned the required hours and met SAP. Student must bring his GPA up to that required for continuation (2.3 or 2.5, as applicable).

NOTE: A student's disposition is subject to change throughout the summer. If a student does not enroll during the summer or any intersession after the conclusion of the spring semester, his disposition will remain the same for the beginning of fall semester as it was at the end of the spring semester. However, if a student enrolls in summer or in any intersession after the conclusion of the spring semester, his disposition may change with every enrollment. For example, at the end of spring semester, student is 033 Renewal Pending AY Hours – Maintain Continuation GPA. Student enrolls in intersession immediately following the spring semester, and at the end of the intersession, his disposition changes to 034 Renewal Pending GPA. Then, he enrolls in summer school and at the end of summer school, his disposition changes to 001 Approved Renewal. Then, the student enrolls in summer intersession, and his status code changes to 042 – Suspended Due to GPA. This is the student's final disposition going into the fall semester.

***TOPS Tech awards will be paid for summer enrollment if the student has a 2.0 or greater at the end of the spring semester.

TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Awards will only be paid for summer under the following circumstances:

- The summer session is required in the student's degree program for graduation and the student enrolled for at least the minimum number of hours required for the degree program, or
- The student will graduate in the summer session, or
- The courses taken during the summer session are required by the student's degree program and are only offered during the summer session, or
- The student is enrolled in a technical program on a full-time basis, or
The student has earned at least 60 hours and has signed an acknowledgement that use of TOPS for a summer will reduce their total TOPS eligibility by one semester/quarter/term.