

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

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

TOPS BULLETIN NUMBER: T2017-1
 DATE ISSUED: August 7, 2017
 EFFECTIVE DATE: For 2018 graduates and thereafter
 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: TOPS Core Curriculum Regarding AP Physics I and AP Physics II

At its meeting of June 21, 2017, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved changes to the TOPS University Diploma as it pertains to AP Physics I and AP Physics II such that a student can meet high school graduation requirements by taking either course and that each course will be given a full Carnegie Unit of credit.

PLEASE NOTE that this change does not apply to TOPS eligibility requirements. **Students who chose to use AP Physics I and AP Physics II to fulfill their TOPS Core science requirements for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors award must take and earn credit for both AP Physics I and AP Physics II.** Students completing and earning credit for both courses will receive 2 units of the required 4 units of science required for TOPS. If a student only takes one of these courses, he will not receive any credit towards the two units of science electives required for TOPS.

The following is an example of how a student could qualify for graduation requirements with AP Physics I, but not meet the TOPS Core Curriculum Requirement.

Students Takes Following Courses:	Meets Graduation Requirements?	Meets TOPS Core Curriculum Requirements for Science?
Biology I	Yes	Yes
Chemistry I	Yes	Yes
Biology II	Yes	Yes
AP Physics I	Yes	No, not unless the student also completes AP Physics II to meet the science requirement for TOPS

The following is an example of how a student could qualify for graduation requirements and for TOPS utilizing AP Physics I and II.

Students Takes Following Courses:	Meets Graduation Requirements?	Meets TOPS Core Curriculum Requirements for Science?
Biology I	Yes	Yes
Chemistry I	Yes	Yes
AP Physics I and AP Physics II	Yes	Yes

The following is an example of how a student could qualify for graduation requirements

Students Takes Following Courses:	Meets Graduation Requirements?	Meets TOPS Core Curriculum Requirements for Science?
Biology I	Yes	Yes
Chemistry I	Yes	Yes
Physics I*	Yes	Yes
Environmental Science	Yes	Yes

*Note that this is NOT an AP Physics course. It is only when a student earns credit for AP Physics I that he must also earn credit for AP Physics II to be eligible for TOPS.