

NOTICE OF INTENT
Student Financial Assistance Commission
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
(LAC 28:IV.301, 805, 1901, 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 will provide the regulatory framework necessary to implement Act 754 of the 2008 Regular Session to allow students who qualify for the TOPS Tech Award to use their award at an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school. The rulemaking provides definitions, requirements to maintain eligibility and billing procedures for the affected schools.

The proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, or autonomy, as described in LSA-R.S. 49:972. (SG09105NI)

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 these rules 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.

* * *

Average Award Amount (TOPS-Tech)—is applicable to those students awarded the TOPS-Tech and TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards who attend LAICU colleges and universities and to those students awarded the TOPS-Tech Award who attend an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school and are enrolled in a vocational, technical education certificate or diploma program or non-academic undergraduate degree program, and is determined by dividing the total dollar value of awards, which are made to students enrolled in the same types of programs in the prior program year (non-academic program) at eligible public colleges and universities that do not offer academic degrees at the baccalaureate level, by the total number of students that received the awards. To ensure that the average award amount (TOPS Tech) is not reduced for students during program year (non-academic program) 2006-2007 because of the adverse affects of

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on student enrollment, the average award amount (TOPS Tech) for program year (non-academic program) 2006-2007 shall be the same as calculated for program year (non-academic program) 2005-2006.

* * *

Eligible Cosmetology or Proprietary School—a cosmetology or proprietary school that is included as an eligible college or university in this section.

* * *

Full-Time Student—

a. – f. ...

g. a student enrolled in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school who is considered by the school to be enrolled full time on a billing date as provided in §1903.B.2.b.

* * *

Steady Academic Progress—the maintenance of a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale, except at eligible cosmetology or proprietary schools, where it is meeting the federal grant aid requirement for steady academic progress at that school. ~~Students will be required to maintain steady academic progress effective for the beginning of the 1999 Fall Semester.~~

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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 24:632 (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).

Chapter 8. TOPS-Tech Award

§805. Maintaining Eligibility

A.1. – 6. ...

7. maintain, by the end of the spring term, a cumulative college grade point average of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 maximum scale, provided that this requirement does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a cosmetology or proprietary school that is an eligible college or university and the student has met the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school; and

8. earn a total of at least 24 college credit hours as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or term in the program year (non-academic program). Unless granted an exception for cause by LASFAC, failure to earn the required number of hours will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility, provided that this requirement does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a cosmetology or proprietary school that is an eligible college or university and the student has met the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school.

B. – D.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 24:1905 (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).

Chapter 19. Eligibility and Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

§1901. Eligibility of Post-Secondary Institutions to Participate

A. – E. ...

F. Eligible cosmetology proprietary schools may participate in TOPS, but only for the TOPS Tech Award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and 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 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 31:3111 and 3114 (December 2005).

§1903. Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

A. – B.1 ...

2. institutions will bill LASFAC based on their certification that the recipient of a TOPS Award or a GO-Youth Challenge Program Grant is enrolled full-time, as defined in §301.2;

a. at eligible colleges and universities, except cosmetology and proprietary schools, at the end of the 14th class day or later for semester schools and the 9th class day or later for quarter and term schools, and for any qualifying summer sessions at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the full summer session. Institutions shall not bill for students who are enrolled less than full-time at the end of the 14th class day for semester schools or the 9th class day for quarter and term schools, and for any qualifying summer sessions at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the summer session, unless the student qualifies for payment for less than full-time enrollment as defined in §2103.C. Students failing to meet the full-time enrollment requirement are responsible for reimbursing the institution for any awards received. Refunds of awards to students who are not receiving federal Title IV aid, for less than full-time enrollment after the 14th or 9th class day, as applicable, shall be returned to the state. Refunds to students who are receiving federal Title IV aid shall be refunded to the state in accordance with the institution's federal Title IV aid refund procedures;

b. at eligible cosmetology or proprietary schools, on a billing date for students who were

enrolled full time on that date. The billing dates are September 1, December 1, March 1 and June 1. Institutions shall not bill for students who are enrolled less than full-time on a billing date, unless the student qualifies for payment for less than full-time enrollment as provided in §2103.C. Students failing to meet the full-time enrollment requirement are responsible for reimbursing the institution for any awards received. Refunds of awards to students who are not receiving federal Title IV aid, for less than full-time enrollment shall be returned to the state. Refunds to students who are receiving federal Title IV aid shall be refunded to the state in accordance with the institution's federal Title IV aid refund procedures;

B.3. – 7.a. ...

b. all other eligible colleges and universities, except eligible cosmetology or proprietary schools, may bill for an amount up to the *average award amount (TOPS-Tech)*, as defined in §301;

c. eligible cosmetology and proprietary schools may bill for an amount of up to one quarter of the annual average award amount (TOPS-Tech), as defined in §301;

B.8. – D.5.a. ...

b. verify the student is in good standing-;

6. for TOPS-Tech Awards at cosmetology or proprietary schools;

a. verify the student has continued to make steady academic progress; and

b. verify the student is enrolled full time on the billing date.

E. – G. ...

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 and 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).

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed changes (SG09105NI) until 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2009, to Melanie Amrhein, Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202.

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