

NOTICE OF INTENT
Student Financial Assistance Commission
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
(LAC 28:IV.301, 1303, 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 modify the definition of “qualified summer session” beginning with the 2010-2011 award year to allow students to use their TOPS award to attend a summer session if they have at least 60 hours of college credit and request payment for the summer session from their remaining TOPS eligibility. Students will lose one semester of TOPS eligibility for each summer session paid by TOPS. Summer hours may not be used to comply with the TOPS requirement to earn at least 24 hours each academic year. Grades earned during a summer session will be included in computing the student’s cumulative grade point average.

This rulemaking changes the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) initial eligibility requirements to require a student pass the General Educational Development (GED) test with at least a minimum average score of 450. The GED is a nationwide test developed by the American Council on Education. The GED grading scale has been changed to 200 to 800 and the minimum average passing score has been raised from 45 to 450.

The proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, or autonomy, as described in LSA-R.S. 49:972. (SG09107NI)

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.

* * *

Qualified Summer Session—those summer sessions (includes terms and semesters conducted during the summer) for which the student’s institution certifies that:

a. – e. ...

f. Beginning with the summer of 2010, prior to the beginning of the summer session, the student:

i. has at least 60 academic college credit hours,

ii. has enrolled as a full time student for the summer session, and

iii. has signed a form provided by LOSFA:

(a). requesting payment for the summer session from the student’s remaining TOPS eligibility,

(b). stating the student understands that the use of the TOPS award for the summer session reduces the student’s TOPS eligibility by one semester or term,

(c). stating the student understands that the hours earned cannot be used to meet the TOPS requirement to earn at least 24 hours each academic year, and

(d). stating the student understands that the grades earned during the summer session will be included in the student’s cumulative grade point average.

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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 13. Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP)

§1303. Establishing Eligibility

A.1. – 3. ...

4. have a high school diploma with at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, or a minimum average score of ~~45~~ 450 on the General Educational Development (GED) test, or an ACT composite score of at least 20, or a post-secondary grade point average of at least 2.00 from the most recent term; and

A.5. – 12. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:641 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1910 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1861 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002).

Chapter 19. Eligibility and Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

§1903. Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

A.1. – F. ...

G. Certification of Qualified Summer Session.

1. Each student requesting payment must sign a form provided by LOSFA:

i. requesting payment for the summer session from the student's remaining TOPS eligibility,

ii. stating the student understands that the use of the TOPS award for the summer session reduces the student's TOPS eligibility by one semester or term,

iii. stating the student understands that the hours earned cannot be used to meet the TOPS requirement to earn at least 24 hours each academic year, and

iv. stating the student understands that the grades earned during the summer session will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average.

2. The institution's submission of a payment request for tuition for a student's enrollment in a summer session will constitute certification of the student's eligibility for tuition payment for the summer session; receipt from the student of a signed a written acknowledgment and consent that each payment will consume one semester of eligibility; and the student's enrollment in the summer session.

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 (SG09107NI) until 4:30 p.m., June 10, 2009, to Melanie Amrhein, Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202.

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