



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)
A program of The Board of Regents



Don't Blow Your TOPS!



It pays to make
good grades!

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access



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TOPS

- Funding for TOPS is contingent upon appropriation.

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Citizenship

- A student must be a U.S. citizen, or a permanent resident who is eligible to apply for citizenship
- Beginning with 2019 high school graduates, children of non-citizens serving in the Armed Forces or honorably discharged from the Armed Forces meet TOPS citizenship requirements.

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Residency

- Any student who is a resident of the state and who graduates from a public or approved non-public high school meets the TOPS residency requirements if he or she actually resides or lives in Louisiana for the period of his or her last two full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high school
- Or, a parent or custodian of a dependent student must have been a resident of the state of Louisiana for the 24 months prior to high school graduation



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Residency: Military Dependents

- A dependent of a member of the U.S. Armed forces, who is transferred to Louisiana under permanent change of station orders, will be considered a resident for purposes of TOPS if the military member:
 - Changes his/her military personnel records to establish Louisiana as the member's official state of residence within 180 days of reporting
 - Complies with Louisiana income tax laws
 - Submits an Affidavit of Residency and DD Form 2058

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Criminal Record

- Have no criminal convictions
 - Excludes misdemeanor traffic violations
- A student who has a “final criminal conviction” may not accept a TOPS award
 - A juvenile conviction is not considered a “final criminal conviction” regardless of the nature of the offense
 - If the severity of the crime committed by a juvenile is such that he/she is tried as an adult, a subsequent conviction could be a “final criminal conviction”
 - The student should contact his/her attorney to determine if their conviction is a final “criminal conviction”



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Graduation Year

- For TOPS purposes, the annual academic year for high school begins on September 1 and ends on the following August 31

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Early Graduation

- Students who graduate early at mid-year will be eligible for a TOPS Award in the Spring semester following graduation
 - Certification for mid-year graduates will be done in conjunction with certification of May graduates
 - Awards for mid-year graduates who attend college in the Spring and who are determined eligible will be paid retroactively
- Students who graduate early in the Spring will be eligible for a TOPS award in the Fall semester following graduation
- Students who graduate early must comply with the same FAFSA and ACT deadlines applicable to the class that graduates in the Spring of that high school academic year

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TOPS Core Curriculum

- All TOPS core curriculum courses must be completed by the date of high school graduation
- Distance learning courses approved by the high school may be used to qualify for TOPS
- College courses taken in the classroom, online, or by correspondence may be used to qualify for TOPS provided that they are determined to be equivalent courses and appear on the student's official high school transcript
- **Effective for the graduating class of 2017-2018, the TOPS Core Curriculum requirements and the method of calculating the grade point average required for program awards will change.**

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TOPS Core Curriculum GPA

- The cumulative grade point average (GPA) for a TOPS award will be calculated using only those grades achieved in the core curriculum courses
 - If a student has completed more than 19 credits for courses that are included in the core curriculum, the GPA will be calculated by using the course in each core curriculum category for which the student received the highest grade

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TOPS Core Curriculum GPA

- If a student is substituting two units for a one unit category, the grades from the two units will be averaged together and substituted as one unit
- “P” grades are not included in the TOPS Core GPA calculation
- GPA cannot be rounded up

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

ENGLISH = 4 UNITS	Courses
1 Unit	English I
1 Unit	English II
1 Unit from the following:	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance)
1 Unit from the following:	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance)

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

MATH = 4 UNITS	COURSES
1 Unit	Algebra I
1 Unit	Geometry
1 Unit	Algebra II
1 Unit from the following:	Algebra III; Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or IB Math Methods I (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or IB Math Methods II (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

SCIENCE = 4 UNITS	Courses
1 Unit	Biology I
1 Unit	Chemistry I
2 Units from the following:	Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 UNITS	COURSES
1 Unit from the following:	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1 Unit from the following:	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
2 Units from the following:	Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

FOREIGN LANGUAGE = 2 UNITS	COURSES
	Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, IB French IV, IB French V, IB Spanish IV, and IB Spanish V

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

ART = 1 UNIT	COURSES
1 Unit from the following:	Performance course in Music, Dance or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; IB Film Study I; IB Film Study II; IB Music I; IB Music II; IB Art Design III; IB Art Design IV; IB Theatre I or Drafting

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

Core Curriculum Course(s)	Recently Approved Equivalent (Substitute) Course(s)
Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Art	Media Arts I - IV; Photography I, Photography II, and Digital Photography
Algebra III; Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL	AP Computer Science A

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TOPS Core Curriculum

For Graduates of 2018 and thereafter

Core Curriculum Course(s)	Recently Approved Equivalent (Substitute) Course(s)
Biology II	Human Anatomy and Physiology
Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics	AP Psychology
Foreign Language	Mandarin Chinese I-IV Hindi I – IV Portuguese I-IV Vietnamese I-IV

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TOPS Core Curriculum GPA Requirements: 2021 and thereafter

- Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, the TOPS Core GPA for a Performance Award increases from a 3.00 to 3.25 and Honors Award from a 3.00 to 3.50.

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ACT

- Highest composite score will be considered
 - TOPS does not consider the Essay portion of the ACT in calculating the composite score needed to qualify
- ACT Registration
 - **TOPS Code 1595**
 - Date of Birth



ACT

- ACT Deadlines for 2018 Graduates
 - Without penalty: April 14, 2018
 - Loss of one semester eligibility: June 9, 2018
 - Special tests may be taken prior to July 1
 - A June ACT score **cannot** be used to upgrade an Opportunity award to an Honors or Performance award
 - A June ACT score **can** be used to upgrade a Tech Award to an Opportunity Award with a one semester or two quarter penalty
 - Students who fail to achieve a qualifying ACT score by July 1 of the graduating year shall not be considered for an award



SAT

- An equivalent SAT score may be substituted for the ACT score
 - TOPS does not consider the Essay portion of the SAT in calculating the composite score needed to qualify
- SAT Registration
 - **Scholarship Code 9019**
- SAT Test Deadlines
 - Without Penalty: March 10, 2018
 - Loss of 1 semester eligibility: May 4, 2018 and June 2, 2018



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Opportunity Award: Eligibility Requirements

- 2.50 minimum TOPS Core Curriculum GPA
- ACT score equal to the prior year's state average, but never less than 20
 - 20 for 2018 graduates
 - SAT score of 1020
- Completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum
- TOPS general eligibility requirements

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Opportunity Award Benefits

- Provides tuition or a portion of tuition based on funds appropriated at a Louisiana public institution
 - Or an amount equal to the weighted average public tuition at a LAICU private institution
 - TOPS does not cover academic excellence fees, energy surcharges, technology fees, books, room & board, parking fees, lab fees or any other fee that was not in effect on January 1, 1998
 - A TOPS award may be combined with other forms of financial aid up to the “Cost of Attendance” for the institution

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TOPS Eligible Institutions: Public

- Louisiana State University System
 - Louisiana State University – Alexandria
 - Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge
 - Louisiana State University – Eunice
 - Louisiana State University – Shreveport
 - LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans
 - LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport
- Southern University System
 - Southern University – Baton Rouge
 - Southern University – New Orleans
 - Southern University – Shreveport

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TOPS Eligible Institutions: Public

- University of Louisiana System
 - Grambling State University
 - Louisiana Tech University
 - McNeese State University
 - Nicholls State University
 - Northwestern State University
 - Southeastern Louisiana University
 - University of Louisiana – Lafayette
 - University of Louisiana – Monroe
 - University of New Orleans

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TOPS Eligible Institutions: Public

- Louisiana Community and Technical College System
 - Louisiana Technical College – all campuses
 - Baton Rouge Community College
 - Bossier Parish Community College
 - Delgado Community College
 - L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College
 - Louisiana Delta Community College
 - Nunez Community College
 - River Parishes Community College
 - South Louisiana Community College
 - SOWELA Technical Community College

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TOPS Eligible Institutions: Private

- Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU)
 - Centenary College
 - Dillard University
 - Louisiana College
 - Loyola University New Orleans
 - New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
 - Our Lady of Holy Cross College
 - Our Lady of the Lake College
 - St. Joseph Seminary College
 - Tulane University
 - Xavier University

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TOPS Eligible Institutions: Out-of-State

- Deaf or hard of hearing recipients of the Opportunity, Performance or Honors awards may use the award at a non-public, out-of-state college or university which primarily serves deaf or hard of hearing students
- TOPS may **not** be used out-of-state under any other circumstances

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Opportunity Award Benefits

- May be used to pursue:
 - Academic undergraduate degree
 - Vocational or technical certificate
 - Non-academic degree
- Students who use their Opportunity Award to pursue a technical program will receive the same benefits and be held to the same retention requirements as a TOPS Tech Award recipient
 - The award may be used at eligible Louisiana cosmetology and proprietary schools
 - See TOPS Tech Award presentation

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Opportunity Award Benefits

- May be received for a maximum of eight semesters or 12 quarters
- Not available for summer terms except for students enrolled in a Qualified Summer Session and contingent upon sufficient appropriation

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Opportunity Award Benefits

- Any recipient who successfully completes a Bachelor's degree in less than 8 semesters or 12 quarters of award benefits, may receive any remaining terms of eligibility for graduate study
 - The amount of the award shall equal the amount of tuition charged for the graduate study, OR the amount charged for undergraduate full-time enrollment at the highest cost public institution (LSU-BR), whichever is less
 - Performance and Honors award recipients will receive their stipends

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Performance Award

- Eligibility Requirements
 - 3.00 minimum TOPS Core Curriculum GPA
 - ACT score of 23
 - SAT score of 1130
 - Completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum
 - TOPS general eligibility requirements
- Award Benefits
 - Provides the same benefits as the Opportunity Award, plus
 - \$400 annual stipend (contingent upon appropriation)



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Honors Award

- Eligibility Requirements
 - 3.00 minimum TOPS Core Curriculum GPA
 - ACT score of 27
 - SAT score of 1280
 - Completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum
 - TOPS general eligibility requirements
- Award Benefits
 - Provides the same benefits as the Opportunity Award, plus
 - \$800 annual stipend (contingent upon appropriation)

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TOPS Alternate Eligibility

- Students who graduate from a Louisiana public or approved private high school **MAY NOT** qualify using alternate eligibility
- Expanded eligibility groups:
 - Students who complete a BESE approved home study program
 - Graduates of out-of-state high schools
 - Dependents of active duty military personnel attending DOD approved high schools
 - Graduates of out-of-country high schools
 - Qualified non high school graduates

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Disabled Students & Exceptional Children

- A core curriculum course may be waived for a disabled student or exceptional child if documentation is provided that the reason the student failed to successfully complete the course was due solely to the student's disability or exceptionality
- There is no exception to the GPA or ACT/SAT requirements
 - ACT or SAT Special Testing for Students with Disabilities is available
- Affected students should contact LOSFA for details

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TOPS Application

- There are two methods for applying for a TOPS Scholarship
 - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – ***www.fafsa.gov***
 - Must be completed if the student is eligible for federal grant aid (Pell Grant)
 - Must be completed if the student is seeking any other form of financial aid
 - The only application needed for TOPS

OR

- TOPS Online Application – ***www.osfa.la.gov***
 - May only be completed by students who can certify that they do not qualify for federal grant aid
 - Do not complete if you have completed the FAFSA

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Application Deadlines for 2018 Graduates

Initial Application Receipt Date	Receives TOPS funding for:
Oct. 1, 2017 – July 1, 2019	8 semesters (12 quarters) Beginning Academic Year 2018-2019
July 2, 2019 – Aug. 29, 2019	7 semesters (10 quarters) Beginning Fall 2019
Aug. 30, 2019 – Oct. 29, 2019	6 semesters (9 quarters) Beginning Fall 2019
Initial Applications Received After October 29, 2019	Ineligible for TOPS

Students who attend the 2018-2019 academic year who apply for TOPS between July 2, 2019 and October 29, 2019 must also have met the TOPS retention requirements to be eligible for TOPS funding at the beginning in the Fall 2019 semester

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TOPS Processing Cycle

- Students apply for TOPS
 - FAFSA data is electronically sent to LOSFA by the U.S. Department of Education
 - TOPS Online Applications are entered directly on the LOSFA Website
- LOSFA downloads ACT scores for students who have included the ACT code 1595 on their ACT Registration

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TOPS Processing Cycle

- Transcript data is submitted by public school boards and non-public high schools to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) through the Student Transcript System (STS) after graduation
 - Senior data must be received by LDE by June 15
 - STS calculates the TOPS Core GPA and determines if the TOPS Core Curriculum has been met
- LOSFA downloads transcript data each Wednesday

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TOPS Processing Cycle

- Processing cannot begin until we can match your FAFSA data, STS data and ACT data
- LOSFA runs the TOPS Eligibility Program each Monday and Thursday night

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TOPS Processing Cycle

- TOPS award notifications are e-mailed each Friday
 - Award notifications are e-mailed to the e-mail address the student used on the FAFSA
 - The award letter includes the student's ***Rights and Responsibilities***
 - Students can check their status on the LOSFA Web site LA Award System
 - Students who have not received notification of their TOPS award eligibility by mid-July should contact LOSFA



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TOPS Processing Cycle

- A Master Roster of TOPS eligible students is available for La. institutions to download from LOSFA each Monday
- Institutions electronically bill LOSFA for the TOPS Awards of eligible students who are enrolled full-time as of the fifteenth class day of the semester or ninth day of the quarter

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Tips To Make Sure Your TOPS Processing Goes Smoothly

- Write your name exactly the SAME on ALL documents. If your name is John Alan Smith, Jr., do not fill out one application as John A. Smith, Jr., another as J.A. Smith, Jr., or John Alan Smith. Spelling and punctuation matter. Your date of birth and address must also be the same on all documents, applications, etc.

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Tips To Make Sure Your TOPS Processing Goes Smoothly

- Include the ACT TOPS code of 1595 or the SAT TOPS code of 9019 on all ACT/SAT test registrations. Make sure that the Email address you put on your ACT registration and test matches the Email address you use on the FAFSA.
- Public School students: make certain that your school has a parent-signed Consent Form granting LOSFA access to grade data.

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Tips To Make Sure Your TOPS Processing Goes Smoothly

- Make sure you are taking the 19 units that comprise the TOPS Core Curriculum.
- Be aware that TOPS awards are based on TOPS Core GPA...not overall GPA...and GPA cannot be rounded up or down.
- Both the parent and the student must apply for and receive an FSA ID to electronically sign the FAFSA.

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Tips To Make Sure Your TOPS Processing Goes Smoothly

- FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the primary TOPS application. The 2018-2019 FAFSA will be available beginning October 1, 2017, at www.fafsa.gov and will use 2016 Federal Income Tax information. The earlier the FAFSA is filed, the earlier we can begin matching needed information for TOPS eligibility determination.

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Tips To Make Sure Your TOPS Processing Goes Smoothly

- Apply for Fall 2018 admission to the postsecondary institution of your choice by October 2017.
- “Like” LOSFA on Facebook and/or “Follow” LOSFA on Twitter for important TOPS information throughout the year.

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Tips To Make Sure Your TOPS Processing Goes Smoothly

- Create a LOSFA Student Hub account to follow your progress toward earning a TOPS award and then to track your TOPS continuation eligibility throughout postsecondary studies. Public school students will initially log in with their Louisiana State Secure ID, non-public students with their SSN.

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Award Acceptance

- Must enter an eligible institution as a full-time student by the fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation

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Award Acceptance

Returning Out-of-State Students

- Any TOPS eligible student who enrolls in an out-of-state institution may return to Louisiana and accept their TOPS award
- All Returning Out-of-State Students must meet the following:
 - Must have met all TOPS continuation requirements that would have applied had the student been enrolled in an eligible in-state institution
 - Must apply for award reinstatement by July 1 following the academic year in which the student returns to Louisiana
 - TOPS eligibility will be reduced by the number of semesters attended out-of-state

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Award Acceptance

Military Service

- A TOPS eligible student who joins the Armed Forces on active duty within one year of high school graduation must enter an eligible institution by the semester immediately following the one year anniversary of separation from active duty.
 - Must have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions
 - Must apply within one year of separation from active duty

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National Guard TOPS Recipients

- TOPS recipients serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive:
 - The National Guard tuition exemption (equal to the TOPS tuition amount) in lieu of the TOPS tuition amount
 - **\$300 per semester for books and supplies**
 - Plus TOPS stipend
 - Performance Award: **\$400 per semester**
 - Honors Award: **\$800 per semester**

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TOPS Retention Requirements

- Should apply annually by July 1st by completing the Renewal FAFSA
- Must be continuously enrolled on a full-time basis during the academic year
 - A student is considered full-time for the semester if they are carrying full-time hours as of the 15th class day of the semester or 9th day of the quarter

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TOPS Retention Requirements:

Credit Hours

- Must earn 24 credit hours each academic year
 - Failure to earn 24 hours will result in permanent award cancellation
 - Hours earned in advanced placement or dual enrollment may not be used
 - Hours earned during any intersession held between the beginning of the fall semester and the beginning of the following fall semester can be used
 - Hours earned in required remedial courses may be used
 - “Earned Hours” are hours successfully completed with a passing grade

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TOPS Retention Requirements: Academic Year (College)

- All intersessions and summer sessions are included.
(Applies only to TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award recipients).

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TOPS Retention Requirements: TOPS and Summer Sessions

- The TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards will not pay for college Summer school except when:
 - You have earned at least 60 hours of college credit.
 - The summer session is required in your degree program for graduation and you enrolled for at least the minimum number of hours required for the degree program.
 - You can complete your program's graduation requirements in the summer session.

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TOPS Retention Requirements: TOPS and Summer Sessions

- The course(s) taken during the summer session is required for graduation in the program in which you are enrolled and is only offered during the summer session.
- The summer session is conducted for a nonacademic program in which you are enrolled.

Students who do not meet the above criteria may always attend a summer session at their own expense.

An award made for summer school expends one semester or term of TOPS eligibility.

Funding is contingent upon appropriation.

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TOPS Retention Requirements:

Credit Hours

- Exceptions to the continuous enrollment or 24 hour requirement may be granted by LOSFA for reasons beyond the student's control
 - Paternity (Maternity)
 - Physical Rehabilitation Program
 - Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program
 - Temporary Disability
 - Permanent Disability
 - Exceptional Educational Opportunity
 - Religious Commitment
 - Death of an Immediate Family Member
 - Military Service
 - Transfer to a Selective Enrollment Program
 - Exceptional Circumstances
 - Must request within 6 months of award cancellation



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TOPS Retention Requirements:

GPA

- At the end of each academic year, the following cumulative college GPA must be maintained:
 - Opportunity Award
 - 2.30 first academic year
 - 2.50 all subsequent academic years
 - Opportunity award recipients who fail to maintain the retention GPA will be suspended

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TOPS Retention Requirements:

GPA

- Performance and Honors Awards: 3.00
 - Performance or Honors award recipients who fail to maintain a 3.00 cumulative GPA will revert to the Opportunity award (Students will be funded only if they meet the Opportunity Award retention requirements)
 - Once the recipient reverts to the Opportunity award, the Performance or Honors award may not be reinstated

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TOPS Retention Requirements:

Steady Academic Progress

- “Steady Academic Progress” is defined as a 2.00 cumulative GPA
- Steady Academic Progress must be maintained at the end of any semester or quarter
- Failure to maintain Steady Academic Progress will result in award suspension

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TOPS Retention Requirements:

Award Reinstatement

- Students whose awards are suspended for GPA or Steady Academic Progress may be reinstated upon attainment of the required GPA
- Period of ineligibility may not persist for more than two years

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TOPS Tech Award

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TOPS Tech Award

General Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a U.S. citizen, or a permanent resident who is eligible to apply for citizenship
- Must be a Louisiana resident
 - See TOPS presentation for the definition
- Must have no criminal convictions
 - Excludes misdemeanor traffic violations

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TOPS Tech Award

Eligibility Requirements

- 2.50 minimum TOPS or TOPS Tech Core Curriculum GPA
- Minimum ACT score of 17
 - SAT score of 900
 - **WorkKeys Silver Level Score**
- Completion of one of two TOPS Core Curricula
 - Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award curriculum
 - TOPS Tech Jumpstart Core Curriculum

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TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

<u>Units</u>	<u>Courses</u>
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.

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TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

<u>Units</u>	<u>Courses</u>
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

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TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

<u>Units</u>	<u>Courses</u>
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

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TOPS Tech Core Curriculum

Units

Courses

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.

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TOPS Tech Award Benefits

- May be used to pursue
 - associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs, including skill, occupational, vocational, technical, certificate, and academic, that the Workforce Investment Council (WIC) and the Board of Regents (BOR) determine are aligned to state workforce priorities.
- May receive for two years
- Summer terms are covered for students attending a technical program (funding contingent upon appropriations). Summer attendance is not required.

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TOPS TECH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY COUNCIL APPROVED PROGRAMS

DEGREE	INSTITUTION	DISCIPLINE
AS	BRCC	COMPUTER SCIENCE
	SUSLA	
AS	Delgado	ELECTRICAL-ELECT. ENGINEER TECH
AS	SLCC	INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
AS	Nicholls	PETROLEUM SERVICES
		SAFETY TECHNOLOGY
AA	McNeese	PARALEGAL STUDIES
	Nunez	
AA AS	Delgado	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
	BRCC	
	FTCC	
ASCJ	LSUE	

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TOPS TECH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY COUNCIL APPROVED PROGRAMS

DEGREE	INSTITUTION	DISCIPLINE
AS	HSC-NO	DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY
AS	FTCC	CARDIOPULMONARY CARE SCIENCE
AS	LSUE	RESPIRATORY CARE
AS	BRCC	SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
AS	LSUA	RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY
	LSUE	

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TOPS TECH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY COUNCIL APPROVED PROGRAMS

DEGREE	INSTITUTION	DISCIPLINE
ASN	BPCC	NURSING
	BRCC	
	Delgado	
	FTCC	
	La Tech	
	LDCC	
	LSUA	
	LSUE	
	NSU	
	SLCC	
	SOEWELA	
SUSLA		

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TOPS TECH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY COUNCIL APPROVED PROGRAMS

DEGREE	INSTITUTION	DISCIPLINE
AS	BRCC	BUSINESS
	SLCC	
	Delgado	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
	SUSLA	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
AS	SUSLA	ACCOUNTING
	Delgado	

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- If one of the eligible programs becomes ineligible in future years, students who are currently in the program will be allowed to complete that program and receive their TOPS Tech Award. No new students would be eligible for TOPS Tech funding after a determination that the program has become ineligible.

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- All current TOPS Tech eligible programs remain eligible for 2018 high school graduates. Funding for all TOPS awards is contingent upon appropriations.

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TOPS Tech Award Benefits: Eligible Institutions

- All Louisiana Community and Technical College System Institutions
- All Louisiana public and LAICU colleges and universities offering skill, occupational, or technical training
- Any Cosmetology school in Louisiana which has a current certificate of registration issued by the State Board of Cosmetology
- Any accredited proprietary school which has a valid license issued by the Louisiana Board of Regents

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TOPS Tech Award Benefits: Award Amounts*

(Funding is Contingent Upon Appropriations)

- Public 2-year Institution
 - The award will pay tuition or a portion of tuition based on funds appropriated.
- Public or LAICU 4-year Institution
 - The award will be an amount equal to the weighted average of tuition paid at public 2-year schools (contingent upon appropriations)
- Cosmetology or Proprietary School
 - The award will be an amount equal to the weighted average paid for students enrolled in a technical program at a public institution

**The TOPS Award Amount for TOPS Tech eligible students who enroll in a proprietary or cosmetology school or in an associate's degree program at a school that offers a baccalaureate degree in that same program is an average of the amounts paid to TOPS Tech eligible students in all other TOPS Tech eligible programs.*

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TOPS Tech Award

Retention Requirements

- Should apply annually by July 1st by completing the Renewal FAFSA
- Must be continuously enrolled on a full-time basis during the TOPS academic year
 - A student is considered full-time for the semester if they are carrying full-time hours as of the 15th class day of the semester

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TOPS Tech Award

Retention Requirements - Hours

- Must earn 24 hours of credit each program year
 - Failure to earn 24 hours will result in award cancellation
 - Exceptions to the 24 hour requirement can be granted by LOSFA for reasons beyond the student's control
 - Summer hours **are included** in the academic year for the TOPS Tech Award

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TOPS Tech Award

Retention Requirements - GPA

- A cumulative GPA of 2.50 is required at the end of each academic year
- Satisfactory Academic Progress of a 2.00 cumulative GPA at the end of each fall or summer term is required
- Failure to maintain the retention GPA requirement or Steady Academic Progress will result in award suspension
 - Students whose awards are suspended for GPA or Steady Academic Progress may be reinstated upon attainment of the required GPA provided the period of ineligibility does not exceed one year

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TOPS Tech Early Start

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TOPS Tech Early Start

- This program provides an incentive for Louisiana's **public** high school students to start early in preparing for a career in a qualifying **Top Demand Occupation**
- Created in the Regular Session of the 2005 Louisiana Legislature
- Funded as part of the TOPS Program – Funding is contingent upon appropriation.

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TOPS Tech Early Start

Eligibility Requirements

- Be in “Good Standing” as an 11th or 12th grade student in a Louisiana **PUBLIC** high school (“Good Standing” is defined by the student’s high school)
 - Have an approved 5-Year Education and Career Plan
 - Have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale on all courses attempted
 - Score a 15 or above on the mathematics AND English portion of the Pre- ACT or the ASPIRE, or on the ACT, or the equivalent concordant value on the SAT, or have achieved a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system

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Application

- TOPS Tech Early Start Application in PDF format is available for download from ***www.osfa.la.gov***

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TOPS Tech Early Start

Award Benefits

- Provides a payment of \$50 per credit hour with a limit of \$300 per semester
- Award is limited to six credit hours per semester
- Not available for summer sessions

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TOPS Tech Early Start

Retention Requirements

- Remain in “Good Standing” as an 11th or 12th grade student in a Louisiana public high school
- Maintain a 2.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale on all high school courses attempted
- Continue to pursue one or more courses leading to a credential in an Eligible Program
- Remain in “Good Standing” with the public or nonpublic college or approved training provider
- Maintain steady academic progress

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Contact LOSFA

www.osfa.la.gov

custserv@la.gov

800-259-5626

(225) 219-1012

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

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