WHAT IS TOPS?

Louisiana’s Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a comprehensive program of state scholarships and one of the most innovative and progressive student assistance programs in the nation. TOPS has four award components. See the table on the reverse for eligibility and renewal requirements of each award, except the Tech Award, which is presented in a separate brochure.

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY FOR TOPS?

To apply for TOPS, the student must complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov or the TOPS On-line Application at https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPSISCoreCurriculum.pdf. The FAFSA must be completed by students who qualify for federal grant aid and by students who are seeking other forms of financial aid. The TOPS On-line Application may be completed by students who can certify that they do not qualify for federal grant aid.

Grades of 2019 - The TOPS application deadline is July 1 following the one year anniversary of high school graduation. You MUST file your FAFSA or TOPS On-line Application so that it is received by the federal processor by July 1, 2020 to receive full TOPS funding. However, to ensure timely processing and award notification, students are strongly encouraged to file at least six weeks prior to entry into college. Be sure to PRINT and RETAIN your dated FAFSA or TOPS On-line Application confirmation page that includes the confirmation number in case verification of timely filing is required. No payment of a TOPS award will be made until the initial FAFSA or on-line application has been received and you have been determined eligible for a TOPS award.

TOTAL = 19 Units

INITIAL APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE RECEIVES TOPS FUNDING FOR:
Oct. 1, 2018 - July 1, 2020 8 semesters (12 quarters) beginning with Academic Year 2019-2020*
July 2 - Aug. 30, 2020 7 semesters (10 quarters) beginning with Academic Year 2019-2020 **
Aug. 31, 2020 - Oct. 29, 2020 6 semesters (9 quarters) beginning with Academic Year 2019-2020 ***

*If your initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1 immediately following your graduation from high school, the payment of your TOPS award will not be made until your application is received and you are determined eligible for a TOPS award. If you enroll for the first time as a full time student before your FAFSA or on-line application is received, you must meet the TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements to receive payments of your TOPS award after the first semester, quarter or term of your full time enrollment at an eligible college or university.

** If you are a 2019 high school graduate and your application is received from July 2, 2020 through August 30, 2020, you will be eligible to receive seven semesters of TOPS funding beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year. You must also meet TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements if you attend college during the 2019-2020 academic year.

*** If you are a 2019 high school graduate and your application is received from August 31, 2020 through October 29, 2020, you will be eligible to receive six semesters of TOPS funding with the 2019-2020 academic year. You must also meet TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements if you attend college during the 2019-2020 academic year.

DISCLAIMER: This brochure is current as of the edition date and is provided for informational purposes only. The eligibility requirements and rules governing the TOPS program are subject to legislative and regulatory amendments subsequent to the edition date of this brochure. TOPS applicants are responsible for determining the program requirements at the time of application and should not rely on this brochure as a full statement of qualifications required for a TOPS award.

CONTACT LOSFA:
E-mail LOSFA: custserv@la.gov
www.facebook.com/LOSFA
www.twitter.com/LOSFA
http://instagram.com/LOSFA001

LOSAF can only evaluate TOPS eligibility for those students whose parents granted consent for LOSFA to receive their academic data. Consent forms may be accessed here: http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/ConsentForm.pdf. Consent may be withdrawn by written notice at any time. Once a student reaches 18 years of age, he or she may grant consent by using this form: http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/ConsentFormOver18.pdf.
### Standard Eligibility Requirements

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<th>Requirement</th>
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| High School Grade Point Average (GPA) | Calculated on all core courses attempted and may not be the same as that calculated by the school.  
| Core Units | 2.50 (GPA computed on core courses only) |
| ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent) | Prior year state average, Currently 20  
| BESE-Approved Home-School Student Eligibility | Currently an ACT of 22 (2 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)  
| Out-of-State Student Eligibility | Currently an ACT of 23 (3 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)  
| Must Enroll Full Time | As a first-time freshman, by the fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation  
| Eligible Institutions | Prior to receiving TOPS funding, students at public-degree granting schools in Louisiana may apply for TOPS, including public and LAICU institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools.  
| Maximum Award at Public Schools | Louisiana public & LAICU postsecondary institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools  
| Maximum Award at LAICU Institutions | Payment of TOPS is contingent upon applications by the Louisiana Legislative.  
| RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS | Weighted average of prior TOPS payments to students at public-degree granting schools  
| Maintain Steady Academic Progress | 2.30 end of first academic year  
| | 2.50 end of all other academic years  
| Hours Earned Per Academic Year | Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)  
| Award Reinstated Upon Recovery of Required GPA | Enroll full time and maintain continuous enrollment each semester, earn 24 hours or more each academic year  
| Award Limit | Yes  
| | Weighted average of prior TOPS payments to students at public-degree granting schools |

### Opportunity Award

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<tr>
<td>Core Units</td>
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| ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent) | Prior year state average, Currently 20  
| BESE-Approved Home-School Student Eligibility | Currently an ACT of 24 (1 point above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)  
| Out-of-State Student Eligibility | Currently an ACT of 26 (3 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)  
| Must Enroll Full Time | As a first-time freshman, by the fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation  
| Eligible Institutions | Prior to receiving TOPS funding, students at public-degree granting schools in Louisiana may apply for TOPS, including public and LAICU institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools.  
| Maximum Award at Public Schools | Louisiana public & LAICU postsecondary institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools  
| Maximum Award at LAICU Institutions | Payment of TOPS is contingent upon applications by the Louisiana Legislative.  
| RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS | Weighted average of prior TOPS payments to students at public-degree granting schools  
| Maintain Steady Academic Progress | 3.00 end of each academic year  
| | Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)  
| Hours Earned Per Academic Year | Enroll full time and maintain continuous enrollment each semester, earn 24 hours or more each academic year  
| Award Reinstated Upon Recovery of Required GPA | Yes, but reinstated as an Opportunity Award |

### Performance Award

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| ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent) | Prior year state average, Currently 20  
| BESE-Approved Home-School Student Eligibility | Currently an ACT of 28 (1 point above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)  
| Out-of-State Student Eligibility | Currently an ACT of 30 (3 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)  
| Must Enroll Full Time | As a first-time freshman, by the fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation  
| Eligible Institutions | Prior to receiving TOPS funding, students at public-degree granting schools in Louisiana may apply for TOPS, including public and LAICU institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools.  
| Maximum Award at Public Schools | Louisiana public & LAICU postsecondary institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools  
| Maximum Award at LAICU Institutions | Payment of TOPS is contingent upon applications by the Louisiana Legislative.  
| RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS | Weighted average of prior TOPS payments to students at public-degree granting schools  
| Maintain Steady Academic Progress | 3.00 end of each academic year  
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