

NOTICE OF INTENT
Louisiana Board of Regents
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
National Guard Patriot Scholarship
(LAC 28:IV.Chapter 25)

The Louisiana Board of Regents 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 adds Chapter 25 to the Scholarship and Grant Program rules to implement the Patriot Scholarship Program, enacted by Act 279 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. (SG24214NI)

**Chapter 25. Louisiana National
Guard Patriot Scholarship**

§2501. General Provisions

A. Act 279 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature establishes the Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship in R.S. 17:4101 -4103.

B. Description and Purpose. The Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship provides scholarships to Louisiana National Guard members who are enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution and who are eligible for the Louisiana National Guard tuition waiver provided for in R.S.29:36.1. This program provides for the payment of mandatory fees charged to the student by the institution as funds are appropriated for such purpose.

C. Effective Date. Awards shall be made, and these rules shall apply, beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, when funds are appropriated for such purpose.

D. Authority to Audit. By participating in the scholarship and grant programs administered by the board and described in LAC 28:IV, all participants grant the board, LOSFA, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the programs for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and the board's rules and regulations.

E. Discrimination Prohibition. The exclusion of a person from equal opportunity for a Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship by the board because of race, religion, sex, handicap, national origin or ancestry is prohibited. No policy or procedure of this agency shall be interpreted as superseding or contradicting this prohibition.

F. Criminal Penalties. If an erroneous award has been made and the board determines that the award was made based upon incorrect information submitted by the student, the board may seek reimbursement from the student, and if it is further determined that the award was made due to an intentional misrepresentation by the student, then the board shall refer the case to the attorney general and to the Louisiana

National Guard. If a student is suspected of having intentionally misrepresented the facts which were provided to the board and used by it to determine the eligibility of the student for the program and the board has referred the case to the attorney general and to the Louisiana National Guard, then the student shall remain ineligible for future award consideration pending an outcome of said investigation which is favorable to the student.

G. Award amount.

1. The award amount shall be equal to the amount of mandatory fees charged to the student by the institution as evidenced on the student's fee bill.

2. Each postsecondary institution/provider shall determine the award amount for eligible students based on the requirements in these rules.

3. The award amount provided by this Chapter may be paid for up to 12 semesters, which shall include the fall, spring, and summer semesters at semester schools or up to 16 quarters, which shall include the fall, winter, spring, and summer quarters at quarter schools.

H. The total amount awarded for the National Guard Patriot Scholarships during any academic year is limited to the total amount appropriated for the award for the academic year. Eligibility for an award during any particular semester, quarter or term does not guarantee that a student will receive the scholarship in a subsequent semester, quarter, term or intersession.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

§2503. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter 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. The term "the board" refers to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Academic year—for purposes of this program, the academic year includes all semesters, quarters, terms, intersessions during the academic year beginning with the fall semester or term and ending immediately prior to the next fall semester or term.

Administering Agency—the Louisiana Board of Regents (the Board) through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

Eligible Postsecondary Institution — public postsecondary institutions within the state of Louisiana.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

§2505. Initial Eligibility

A. To be eligible for Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship, a student must:

1. Be a member in good standing with the Louisiana National Guard;
2. Be enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution; and
3. Be eligible for the Louisiana National Guard tuition waiver provided for in R.S. 29:36.1.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

§2507. Continuing Eligibility

To maintain eligibility to receive a Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship, a student must:

1. Be a member in good standing with the Louisiana National Guard;
2. Be eligible for the Louisiana National Guard tuition waiver provided for in R.S. 29:36.1 as of the billing date;
3. Not have received the scholarship for 12 semesters or 16 quarters, unless granted an extension due to mobilization or call to activity duty. Part-time enrollment, enrollment in a summer sessions or an intersession will count towards the maximum number of semesters or quarters a student is permitted;
4. Not be on academic probation; and
3. Not have achieved a baccalaureate degree utilizing the funds available to the student for this program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

§2509. Responsibilities of Eligible Postsecondary Institutions

A. Eligible postsecondary institutions shall provide LOSFA with the maximum dollar amount of mandatory fees that may be charged to a student during any semester or term by August 1 preceding the upcoming academic year, including any differential charged to students attending more than 12 hours in a semester.

B. Eligible postsecondary institutions shall submit payment requests each semester an eligible student is enrolled for an amount not to exceed the mandatory fees charged to that student on the fee bill. Such payments requests shall include all of the following for each student:

1. First name;
2. Middle name;
3. Last name;
4. Social security number;
5. Date of birth;
6. College code;
7. Term code;
8. Number of hours enrolled;
9. Payment request amount;
10. CIP code;
11. Degree level code;
12. Increment key;
13. Academic standing code; and
14. Contact information.

C. If available, postsecondary institutions may report gender and ethnicity.

D. Prior to submitting a payment request, postsecondary institutions shall verify with the Louisiana National Guard that a student is eligible for the tuition waiver provided by R.S. 29:36.1.

E. Over Award. In the event the student's total aid exceeds his financial need or the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the Louisiana GO Grant, then a TOPS Award, if applicable, then the Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

§2511. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

A. LOSFA shall consult with the Louisiana National Guard regarding the administration of this program, including for the promulgation of administrative rules and the determination of a student’s initial and continuing eligibility.

B. LOSFA shall determine the maximum mandatory fees charged by the postsecondary institution in which an eligible student is enrolled.

C. LOSFA shall pay each eligible institution/provider the amount requested by the eligible college in accordance with the provisions of §2509.

D. LOSFA shall maintain a database of all students who have received the Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship, including, but not limited to, all information reported by eligible colleges in accordance with §2409. In the event LOSFA receives a payment request in an amount that would exceed the maximum amount payable to a student, LOSFA will require the school to rebill.

E. LOSFA shall audit eligible Louisiana institutions to ensure compliance with these rules.

F. LOSFA shall provide a report to the Louisiana National Guard and to the Louisiana Board of Regents on October 1 and again on March 1 of each academic year that funds are appropriated for this scholarship detailing the dollar amount of funds expended as compared to the remaining annual appropriation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

§2513. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. The Louisiana Board of Regents shall promulgate administrative rules to implement the provisions of House Bill 485 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

B. In the event that funds appropriated for this scholarship are insufficient to fund all eligible students, the Louisiana Board of Regents shall consult with the Louisiana National Guard to develop a plan for the distribution of available funding and shall deliver such plan to LOSFA for implementation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

§2515. Responsibilities of the Louisiana National Guard

A. The Louisiana National Guard shall provide a list of students who are eligible for the tuition waiver provided by R.S. 29:36.1 to LOSFA no later than the beginning of each semester/quarter/term/intersession and at any time that additional students become eligible for the tuition waiver.

B. The Louisiana National Guard shall consult with the Louisiana Board of Regents to develop a plan for the distribution of funding in the event of a budget shortfall.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:4101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:

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

Poverty Impact Statement: The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in LSA-R.S. 49:973.

Business Analysis Statement: The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as described in LSA-R.S. 49:965.2 et seq.

Provider Impact Statement: The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on providers of services for individuals with developmental disabilities as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed changes (SG24214NI) until 4:30 p.m., October 10, 2023, by email to LOSFA.Comments@la.gov or to Sujuan Williams Boutté, Ed. D., Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, P. O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202.

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