



TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS (TOPS) BULLETIN

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TOPICS:	TOPS Excellence Award and Classic Learning Test

Act 347 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the TOPS Excellence Award and provides for an additional test for purposes of determining initial award eligibility, the Classic Learning Test (CLT).

TOPS Excellence Award

Eligibility for the TOPS Excellence Award begins with high school students graduating in the 2024-25 academic year.

If a student attends a public institution in Louisiana, the TOPS Excellence Award pays an annual amount equal to tuition and fees as reported to the Board of Regents in the annual mandatory tuition and fees survey on tuition and fees, or \$12,000, whichever is less. Colleges may bill for differential tuition for high-cost programs or \$12,000, whichever is less, but they must be prepared to provide documentation during a future audit that the student was in the high cost program of study for every semester for which the award amount was determined based on the high-cost amount.

If a student attends a private institution with the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities/LAICU, the TOPS Excellence Award pays an annual amount equal to tuition and fees as reported to the Board of Regents in the annual mandatory tuition and fees survey on tuition and fees or \$8,500, whichever is less.

If a student attends a Proprietary or Cosmetology school, the TOPS Excellence Award is not available. These students will receive the TOPS Honors Award stipend in addition to the base award amount.

There is no stipend for students receiving the TOPS Excellence Award.

Students who qualify for the TOPS Excellence award and the Louisiana National Guard tuition exemption shall receive \$300 per semester/\$200 per term or \$600 for the academic year to be applied toward the cost

of books and other instructional materials plus \$1,000 per semester/\$666.66 per term or \$2,000 per academic year.

TOPS Award Amounts for the 2025-2026 Academic Year:

[2025-2026 TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honor Award Amounts](#)

[2025-2026 TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Graduate and Professional Award Amounts](#)

[2025-2026 TOPS Excellence Award Amounts](#)

[2025-2026 TOPS Tech Award Amounts](#)

The TOPS Excellence Award will be denoted in the Award System as TE. Students eligible for the TOPS Excellence Award will appear on the TOPS Master Roster as follows:

<u>LOSFA ID</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Award Level</u>	<u>Award Level</u>	<u>Stipend Award</u>	<u>Nat Gd Code</u>	<u>National Guard Award</u>	<u>Only Term Elig</u>
XXXXXX XX	LAST NAME, FIRST NAME	MM/DD/YYYY	TE	NEW EXCEL LENCE	NO STIPEND	01	INELIGIBLE FOR AWARD	1S2026

TOPS Award Amounts for Schools for BILLING PURPOSES ONLY:

[TOPS OPH Award Amounts FOR SCHOOLS-BILLING PURPOSES](#)

[TOPS OPH Graduate & Professional Programs Award Amounts FOR SCHOOLS-BILLING PURPOSES](#)

The Classic Learning Test (CLT)

Beginning with the Fall 2025 semester and effective with the high school graduating class of the 2024-25 academic year, the Classic Learning Test/CLT may be submitted in fulfilment of the examination component of the eligibility for all TOPS awards.

<u>Name of Award</u>	<u>ACT requirement</u>	<u>CLT Requirement</u>
TOPS Opportunity Award	20	66
TOPS Performance Award	23	80
TOPS Honors Award	27	91
TOPS Excellence Award	31	101
TOPS Tech Award	17	54

For additional information, please email sgar@la.gov.