

LOUISIANA'S TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS "TOPS" TECH AWARD

For more information call the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance at (800) 259-5626 or visit our Web site at www.osfa.la.gov.

STANDARD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ¹	
High School Grade Point Average (GPA)	(GPA computed on core courses only)
Tech Core Units	Option 1 - 17 Core Units ² Option 2 - 19 Core Units ²
ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent)	17 ³ or higher or a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system
Must Enroll Full Time	As a first-time freshman, by the first semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation ^{4,5}
Eligible Institutions	Louisiana Technical College campuses and other public postsecondary or LAICU ⁶ schools that provide skill or occupational training and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools ⁷
Maximum Award at Public Schools That Do Not Offer a Baccalaureate Degree	An amount that equals tuition ⁸
Maximum Award at Public Schools That Offer Baccalaureate Degrees and at LAICU ⁶ Institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools ⁷	The average of TOPS Tech payments paid to students attending public schools that do not offer a baccalaureate degree
BESE-APPROVED HOME-STUDY STUDENT ELIGIBILITY ⁹	ACT of 19 (2 points above standard in lieu of core units and GPA)
OUT-OF-STATE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY ¹⁰	ACT of 20 (3 points above standard in lieu of core units and GPA)
RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS ¹¹	
Maintain Steady Academic Progress (Based on the TOPS cumulative GPA which is calculated on all course work attempted and may not be the same as that calculated by the school)	2.50 end of academic year Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms or semesters (2.00 cumulative GPA)
Hours Earned Per Academic Year	Enroll full time and maintain continuous enrollment each semester, earn 24 hours or more each academic year ⁵
Award Reinstated Upon Recovery of Required GPA	Yes ¹²
Award Limits	2 years

- 1 - Applicable to students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship; graduate from Louisiana public or approved non-public high schools; and 1) are the dependent of a parent(s) who is a resident of Louisiana for at least two years prior to the month of the dependent's high school graduation; or 2) a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces who claims Louisiana as his legal residence and has filed Louisiana tax returns; or 3) who is stationed in Louisiana and completes a DD Form 2056 to become a legal resident within 180 days of reporting to Louisiana; or 4) is an independent student who has been a resident for at least two years prior to the month of his or her high school graduation; or 5) is a dependent or independent student who actually resides in Louisiana while attending a Louisiana public or approved non-public high school for the period of this or her last two full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high school.
- 2 - Core units may NOT be waived if not offered at the high school attended. It is the student's responsibility to acquire any such course(s) through approved correspondence or distance learning venues. Individual courses may be waived for students with exceptionalities or disabilities that prevent enrollment or successful completion.
- 3 - A qualifying score achieved on a National, International, Military, or Special ACT or equivalent SAT taken no later than April 30 and a first time qualifying scores on test taken after April 30 but before July 1 of the year of high school graduation will be accepted. Scores on tests taken after June of the year of high school graduation will not be accepted unless the student is granted an exception for a score earned on a test taken before September 30 of the year of high school graduation based on proof that the student was prevented from taking the test prior to July 1 due to circumstances beyond the control of the student and attributable to the administration of the test. For an ACT or SAT score to be considered, the student must enter code 1565 on the ACT registration form or code 9019 on the SAT registration form. The score for the writing section is NOT included. Also be sure to enter your social security number on your ACT.
- 4 - A qualified student who enlists and enters on active duty in the Armed Forces within one year of graduation from high school must enroll in an eligible college no later than the semester, quarter or term following the one year anniversary of separation from active duty. The veteran must not have been discharged with an undesirable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharge. A student who meets these requirements and did not previously apply must file a FAFSA so that it is received within one year of separation from active duty.

TOPS TECH CORE CURRICULUM	
UNITS	COURSE
3	English I, II and III
1	English IV, Business English or Senior Applications in English
1	Algebra I, or Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2 (two units); or Applied Algebra I or Applied Mathematics I and II (two units)
2	Geometry, Applied Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics
1	Biology
1	Chemistry or Applied Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II,
1	Chemistry II, Physics I, Physics II, Physics for Technology or
1	Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit)
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit)
Remaining courses must be selected from one of the two following options:	
Option I	
1	Fine Arts Survey (or substitute two units of performance courses in music, dance or theater; or two units of visual art; or two units of studio art; or a career/technical studies course approved by Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) or substitute one unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum) or Speech III and Speech IV (two units)
2	Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II
1	Computer education program of studies approved by BESE
17	Total Core Curriculum Units ^{13, 14, 15}
Option II	
4	A career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses (scroll down to page 3 of this document) and approved for the school by BESE
1	Related or technical field course
1	Basic computer course
19	Total Core Curriculum.

- 5 - Exceptions for "first-time freshman", "full-time" and "continuous enrollment" and/or "24 hour" requirements may be granted for demonstrated cause. Contact LOSFA or go to www.osfa.la.gov/exceptionform for an application. The academic year includes the summer session.
- 6 - Non-public institutions that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU).
- 7 - Any school with a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology and any proprietary school with a valid and current license issued by the Board of Regents and accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- 8 - Tuition varies from institution to institution. Your institution may include fees in your tuition that are not covered by TOPS.
- 9 - Applicable to students who complete a La. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved home-study program at the twelfth grade level and who meet the residency requirements (See Note 1).
- 10 - Applicable to students who graduate from an approved out-of-state high school and who meet the residency requirements (See Note 1). Students who graduate from an approved high school located outside of the United States may also qualify for a TOPS Tech Award with an ACT score of 20 or higher, if a parent(s) of the dependent student (1) was actively engaged in work or other activity on behalf of a Louisiana employer or sponsor (2) actually lived in Louisiana for at least the 24-months preceding the date the work or activity outside the United States began, and (3) remained a Louisiana resident through the date of the student's graduation from high school.
- 11 - Unless the recipient of an award is ineligible for federal grant aid, a FAFSA must be filed annually to be received by the state deadline of July 1st.
- 12 - Provided that the period of ineligibility did not extend for more than one year.
- 13 - Other courses may be acceptable as substitutes for courses in the Core Curriculum. Contact LOSFA for more information on acceptable substitute courses.
- 14 - The student may also qualify by completing the Core Curriculum requirements for the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors awards. See the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award Brochure.
- 15 - Students following the La Department of Education career diploma path or LA Core 4 curriculum must incorporate the appropriate TOPS Tech Core Curriculum courses to qualify for an award under this program.