



LOSFA

Louisiana's First Choice for College Access

TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards

LOSFA Administered Programs

TOPS

START Saving Program

TOPS Tech Early Start Program

Chafee Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program

Safer Volunteer Firemen's Tuition Reimbursement

Early Start

Go Grant

Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship



Citizenship, Residency & Criminal Convictions

- **Citizenship**
- A student must be a U.S. citizen, or a permanent resident who is eligible to apply for citizenship
- **Residency**
- 24 consecutive months for a parent or custodian of a dependent student OR
- A student who has resided in Louisiana, completed their last two full years of high school in an approved school and graduated, as certified by the high school, shall have met the residency requirement for TOPS
- **Criminal Convictions**
- Must not have any criminal convictions. This does exclude misdemeanor traffic violations



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- English
 - English I
 - English II
 - English III
 - English IV

TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- Math
 - Algebra I or Integrated Mathematics I
 - Or Applied Algebra 1
 - Or Algebra I – Parts 1 & 2 (two units)
 - Or Applied Algebra 1A & 1B (two units)
 - Or Applied Mathematics I & II (two units)
 - Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics II
 - Geometry, Applied Geometry, Calculus, Advanced Math Pre-Calculus, Advanced Math Functions and Statistics, Pre-Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Algebra III, Applied Mathematics III, Integrated Mathematics III or AP Calculus BC

TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- Science
 - Biology I or II
 - Chemistry I or II, or Chemistry Com
 - Earth Science, Physical Science, Environmental Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, Physics for Technology I or II, Integrated Science, Anatomy and Physiology or Agriscience I and II (two units)



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- Additional Math or Science
 - Geometry, Applied Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus BC, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Advanced Math- Functions and Statistics, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Algebra III, or Integrated Mathematics III
 - Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or Anatomy and Physiology



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- Social Studies
 - American History
 - Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined), Civics (1 unit), or AP Government and Politics: United States
 - World History, Western Civilization, World Geography, or European History



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- Foreign Language
 - Two units in the same language
 - English is not considered a foreign language
 - American Sign Language (2 units)

TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- Fine Arts Survey
 - or two units of performance courses in music, dance or theater*
 - or two units of studio art*
 - or two units of visual art*
 - or both Speech III & IV*
 - or both Agriscience I and Agriscience II
 - or 1 unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum

* The two units may be any combination of whole and half units



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2012 and 2013

- ½ unit of Computer Science I or II, Computer Technology Literacy, Business Computer Applications, Introduction to Business Computer Applications, or Computer Science Elective
 - Or substitute Word Processing, Computer Multimedia Presentations, Desktop Publishing, Web Design, Telecommunications, Computer Applications, Computer Architecture, Computer Systems/Networking I, Digital Graphics and Animation, Multimedia Productions, Webmastering, Independent Study In Technology Applications, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science AB, Database Design and Programming, Java Programming, Database Programming with PL/SQL Training, Digital Media I or II, Advanced Technical Drafting, or Computer Electronics I or II
- or 1/2 unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in the core curriculum



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2014 and thereafter

- English (4 units)
 - English I
 - English II
 - English III
 - English IV



LOSFA

Louisiana Office of
Student Financial Assistance

TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2014 and thereafter

- **Math (4 Units)**
 - **1 unit:** Algebra I or Integrated Mathematics I
 - Or Applied Algebra 1
 - Or Algebra I – Parts 1 & 2 (two units)
 - Or Applied Algebra 1A & 1B (two units)
 - Or Applied Mathematics I & II (two units)
 - **1 unit:** Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics II
 - **2 units:** Geometry, Applied Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus BC, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Advanced Math-Functions and Statistics, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Algebra III, or Integrated Mathematics III



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2014 and thereafter

- Science (4 Units)
 - 1 unit: Biology I or II
 - 1 unit: Chemistry I or II, or Chemistry Com
 - 2 units: Earth Science, Physical Science, Environmental Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, Physics for Technology I or II, Integrated Science, Anatomy and Physiology or Agriscience I and II (both courses)

TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2014 and thereafter

- **Social Studies (4 Units)**
 - **1 Unit:** American History
 - **1 Unit:** Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined), Civics (1 unit), or AP Government and Politics: United States
 - **2 Units:** World History, Western Civilization, World Geography, European History or History of Religion (non-public schools only)



TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2014 and thereafter

- Foreign Language (2 Units)
 - Two units in the same language
 - English is not considered a foreign language
 - American Sign Language (2 units)

TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating in 2014 and thereafter

- Fine Arts Survey (One Unit)
 - or one unit of performance courses in music, dance or theater*
 - or one unit of studio art*
 - or one unit of visual art*
 - or both Speech III & IV

Students no longer have the option to substitute one unit as an elective from among the other TOPS Core curriculum courses.

- * The one unit may be any combination of half units in a category.

ACT

- Without Penalty: April 14, 2012
- Loss of 1 semester eligibility: June 9, 2012
- Students who fail to achieve a qualifying ACT score by July 1 of the graduating year shall not be considered for an award
- Highest composite score will be considered
- TOPS does not consider the essay portion of the ACT when calculating the composite score to qualify
- List TOPS code 1595 & your SSN on the ACT



SAT

- An equivalent SAT score may be substituted for the ACT score
- SAT Test Deadlines
 - Without Penalty: March 10, 2012
 - Loss of 1 semester eligibility: May 5, 2012 and June 2, 2012
- Students must use the SAT scholarship code 9019 on the registration form
- TOPS does not consider the essay portion of the SAT when calculating the composite score to qualify



Opportunity, Performance & Honors Awards

- GPA on a 4.00 scale (not rounded) on 17.5 core units
- Must complete the 17.5 core classes
- Maximum of eight semesters or twelve quarters
- A TOPS award may be combined with other forms of financial aid up to the “Cost of Attendance” for the institution
- Provides amount equal to tuition to a public school in Louisiana or the average cost of a public education tuition to a private school
 - (\$1621 per semester for 2011-2012)



TOPS Eligible Institutions: LAICU

- Centenary College
- Dillard University
- Louisiana College
- Loyola University
- 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



TOPS Awards

- Opportunity Award (tuition amount)
 - 2.50 core curriculum GPA on a 4.00 scale
 - A minimum score of a 20 on the ACT (940 SAT)
- Performance Award (tuition plus \$400 stipend)
 - 3.00 core curriculum GPA on a 4.00 scale
 - A minimum score of 23 on the ACT (1050 SAT)
- Honors Award (tuition plus \$800 stipend)
 - 3.00 core curriculum GPA on a 4.00 scale
 - A minimum score of 27 on the ACT (1210 SAT)



TOPS Tech Award

- **Eligibility Requirements**
 - 2.50 core curriculum GPA on a 4.00 scale
 - A minimum score of 17 on the ACT (810 SAT)
 - Completion of one of the Tech Core Option curriculums or the OPH curriculum
- **Award Amounts**
 - Amount equal to full time tuition at any LA Technical college or community college if the student is enrolled in a 2-year Tech program
 - Can be used for a maximum of 2 years/4 semesters
 - 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



TOPS Application

- Apply Jan 1 – July 1
 - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – www.fafsa.ed.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



TOPS Processing Cycle

- STEP 1 – Student takes ACT
 - ACT scores are sent to LOSFA electronically
- STEP 2 – Student files FAFSA (Jan 1-July 1)
 - FAFSA data is sent to LOSFA electronically
- STEP 3 – Student completes 17.5 core units prior to high school graduation
 - Academic Records from the high schools are sent to LOSFA electronically
- STEP 4 – Student is determined eligible for TOPS
 - Students will be mailed an award letter (by mid-July)
 - College will see student online at TOPS Master Roster
- STEP 5 – College will send LOSFA a bill
 - Students enrolled full-time through the 14th class day



TOPS Award Status

- Students eligible for a TOPS award will be notified by means of an official award letter from LOSFA
 - TOPS recipients should familiarize themselves with the *Rights and Responsibilities* included with their award letter
 - TOPS recipients are personally responsible for knowing and complying with the TOPS continuation requirements
- Students can check their TOPS award status online by creating a Louisiana Award System Account at www.osfa.la.gov after June 1, 2012



Award Acceptance

- Must enter an eligible institution as a full-time student by the first semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation
- Military Students – join the Armed Forces on active duty within one year of high school and must return by the fall following the 5th anniversary of high school graduation
- TOPS Recipients serving in the National Guard will receive: the tuition exemption equal to the TOPS award amount; any applicable TOPS stipend; \$600 annually for books and supplies
- Returning Out of State Students
- Graduate Study
- Summer Sessions



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 through the 14th class day of the semester or 9th day of the quarter



TOPS Retention: 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 may not be used
 - Hours earned in summer school or summer intersession may not be used
 - Hours earned during any intersession held between the beginning of the fall semester and the end of the spring semester can be used
 - Hours earned in required remedial courses may be used
 - “Earned Hours” are hours successfully completed with a passing grade

LOSFA Social Sites



<http://www.facebook.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.twitter.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>



<http://www.Flickr.com/LOSFA>



TOPS Blog

<http://www.louisianatopsprogram.com/>

www.osfa.la.gov

Contact Information

LOSFA

1-800-259-5626 x1012

custserv@osfa.la.gov

www.osfa.la.gov