LOSFA

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

ALL THINGS TOPS

Your Guide to the
Taylor Opportunity Program for Students

2026-2027

WHAT IS TOPS?

The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a program of state merit-based scholarships for Louisiana residents who attend one of the Louisiana public colleges and universities, Louisiana approved proprietary and cosmetology schools, or institutions that are a part of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU). TOPS has five award levels: Opportunity, Performance, Honors, Excellence (OPHE), and TOPS Tech.

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for TOPS or TOPS Tech, a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.*
- Meet TOPS Louisiana residency requirements.*
- Complete all required units of the TOPS OPHE or TOPS Tech core curricula.
- Meet minimum TOPS Core GPA requirements (listed with each award level) upon graduation from a BESE-approved high school.
- Meet minimum ACT composite score requirements (listed with each award level).

To qualify for TOPS Tech on the Jumpstart Diploma Pathway, a student must meet the top 2 requirements above* and achieve at least two of the following:

- Meet minimum TOPS Tech Core GPA requirements (listed on page 3) upon graduation from a BESE-approved high school.
- Meet minimum ACT composite score requirements (listed on page 3).
- Earn 9 early college credits.

DISCLAIMER: The most accurate and up-to-date information on the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students can be found on LOSFA's TOPS webpage at losfa.laregents.edu/TOPS

REVISED: 8/2026

TOPS WEBPAGE

AWARD LEVELS

TOPS OPPORTUNITY - 4 YEAR AWARD

- Completion of TOPS OPHE Core Curriculum
- TOPS Core Minimum GPA: **2.50**
- **One or more** of the following minimum test scores:
  - ACT composite score equal to the previous year's state average (**but never below 20)**
  - SAT: **1030**
  - CLT: **66**

TOPS PERFORMANCE - 4 YEAR AWARD

- Completion of TOPS OPHE Core Curriculum
- TOPS Core Minimum GPA: **3.25**
- **One or more** of the following minimum test scores:
  - Composite ACT: **23**
  - SAT: **1130**
  - CLT: **80**

TOPS HONORS - 4 YEAR AWARD

- Completion of TOPS OPHE Core Curriculum
- TOPS Core Minimum GPA: **3.50**
- **One or more** of the following minimum test scores:
  - Composite ACT: **27**
  - SAT: **1260**
  - CLT: **91**

TOPS EXCELLENCE - 4 YEAR AWARD

- Completion of TOPS OPHE Core Curriculum
- TOPS Core Minimum GPA: **3.50**
- **One or more** of the following minimum test scores:
  - Composite ACT: **31**
  - SAT: **1390**
  - CLT: **101**

TOPS TECH - 2 YEAR AWARD

On the TOPS University Diploma Pathway

- Completion of TOPS OPHE Core Curriculum with a minimum TOPS Core GPA of **2.50**
- One of the following minimum test scores:
  - Composite ACT: **17**
  - WorkKeys: **Silver Level**
  - SAT: **920**
  - CLT: **54**

On the TOPS Jumpstart Diploma Pathway

Must achieve at least **two** of the following:

- Completion of TOPS Tech Jumpstart Core Curriculum with a minimum TOPS Core GPA of **2.50**
- One of the following minimum test scores:
  - Composite ACT: **17**
  - WorkKeys: **Silver Level**
  - SAT: **920**
  - CLT: **54**
- Earn 9 early college credits

AWARD REDUCTION

Your award may be reduced by one or more semesters because: **1.** Your application was submitted after the deadline; **2.** You qualified for TOPS based on an ACT score achieved in May, June, and/or July of the year you graduated from high school; or **3.** You enrolled in an out-of-state college. See pages 6 and 7 for additional information.

AWARD AMOUNTS

TOPS OPPORTUNITY AWARD

AWARD AMOUNT: TOPS Award Amount
The TOPS Opportunity Award pays the TOPS Award Amount, which is based on the cost of tuition set by the administering agency for a student at that particular institution for the 2016-2017 academic year unless increased by an act of the legislature.

LAICU AWARD AMOUNT: Weighted Average of the TOPS Award Amount
If a student attends a college within the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU), the award amount will be the weighted average award amount, which is calculated by dividing the amount paid to all students who were enrolled at a public four-year institution during the 2016-2017 academic year by the number of students paid.

LA NATIONAL GUARD AWARD AMOUNT: Tuition Exemption + $600 Annual Book/Materials Stipend
Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard will receive the tuition exemption as mandated by Louisiana state law. Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard and eligible for the Opportunity Award will receive a sum of $300 per semester ($600 per academic year) to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials.

TOPS PERFORMANCE AWARD

AWARD AMOUNT: TOPS Award Amount + $400 Stipend
The TOPS Performance Award pays the TOPS Award Amount, which is based on the cost of tuition set by the administering agency for a student at that particular institution for the 2016-2017 academic year unless increased by an act of the legislature plus an annual stipend of $400.

LAICU AWARD AMOUNT: Weighted Average of the TOPS Award Amount + $400 Stipend
If a student attends a college within the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU), the award amount will be the weighted average award amount, which is calculated by dividing the amount paid to all students who were enrolled at a public four-year institution during the 2016-2017 academic year by the number of students paid, plus an annual stipend of $400.

LA NATIONAL GUARD AWARD AMOUNT: Tuition Exemption + $600 Annual Book/Materials Stipend + $800 Annual Educational Stipend
Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard will receive the tuition exemption as mandated by Louisiana state law. Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard and eligible for the Performance Award will receive a sum of $300 per semester ($600 per academic year) to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials. In addition, Louisiana National Guard Performance Award recipients receive $400 per semester ($800 per academic year) for other educational expenses.

TOPS HONORS AWARD

AWARD AMOUNT: TOPS Award Amount + $800 Stipend
The TOPS Honors Award pays the TOPS Award Amount, which is based on the cost of tuition set by the administering agency for a student at that particular institution for the 2016-2017 academic year unless increased by an act of the legislature plus an annual stipend of $800.

LAICU AWARD AMOUNT: Weighted Average of the TOPS Award Amount
If a student attends a college within the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU), the award amount will be the weighted average award amount, which is calculated by dividing the amount paid to all students who were enrolled at a public four-year institution during the 2016-2017 academic year by the number of students paid, plus an annual stipend of $800.

LA NATIONAL GUARD AWARD AMOUNT: Tuition Exemption + $600 Annual Book/Materials Stipend + $1,600 Annual Educational Stipend
Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard will receive the tuition exemption as mandated by Louisiana state law. Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard and eligible for the Honors Award will receive a sum of $300 per semester ($600 per academic year) to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials. In addition, Louisiana National Guard Honors Award recipients receive $800 per semester ($1,600 per academic year) for other educational expenses.

TOPS EXCELLENCE AWARD

AWARD AMOUNT: Tuition and Fees or $12,000 (whichever is less)
If a student attends a public institution in Louisiana, the award pays an annual amount equal to tuition and fees as reported to the Board of Regents in the annual mandatory survey on tuition and fees, or $12,000, whichever is less.

LAICU AWARD AMOUNT: Tuition and Fees or $8,500 (whichever is less)
If a student attends a private institution within the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU), the award pays an annual amount equal to tuition and fees as reported to the Board of Regents in the annual mandatory survey on tuition and fees or $8,500, whichever is less.

LA NATIONAL GUARD AWARD AMOUNT: Tuition Exemption + $600 Annual Book/Materials Stipend + $2,000 Annual Educational Stipend
Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard will receive the tuition exemption as mandated by Louisiana state law. Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard and eligible for the Excellence Award, will receive a sum of $300 per semester ($600 per academic year) to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials. In addition, Louisiana National Guard Excellence Award recipients receive $1,000 per semester ($2,000 per academic year) for other educational expenses.

TOPS TECH AWARD

AWARD AMOUNT: TOPS Award Amount
The TOPS Tech Award pays the TOPS Award Amount, which is based on the cost of tuition set by the administering agency for a student at that particular institution for the 2016-2017 academic year unless increased by an act of the legislature.

LA NATIONAL GUARD AWARD AMOUNT: Tuition Exemption + $600 Annual Book/Materials Stipend
Students who are serving in the Louisiana National Guard will receive the tuition exemption as mandated by Louisiana state law. Students who are eligible for the TOPS Tech Award will receive a sum of $300 per semester ($600 per academic year) to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional material.

PROPRIETARY AND COSMETOLOGY SCHOOL AWARD AMOUNT: Weighted Average of the TOPS Award Amount
If a student attends an approved proprietary or cosmetology school, the award amount will be the weighted average award amount, which is calculated by dividing the amount paid to all students who were enrolled in a technical program of study during the 2016-2017 academic year by the number of students paid. *This award amount is now available for all TOPS Award levels (Opportunity, Performance, Honors, Excellence, and TOPS Tech).

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (LAICU):
There are currently no TOPS Tech-eligible programs at any LAICU institutions.

AWARD AMOUNTS BY **INSTITUTION**

TOPS
OPHE

TOPS
TECH

SECURING YOUR **TOPS AWARD**

2027 Public and Approved Private High School Graduates

You Need to Know This to Qualify for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Award

STUDENT INFORMATION

You are strongly encouraged to register for a Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) Student Hub account prior to high school graduation. The Student Hub allows you and your parents to track your progress toward being eligible for a TOPS Award while you are in high school. To register for a Student Hub account, you will need your LOSFA ID (contact LOSFA) or your Louisiana Secure ID (contact your high school counselor).

In order for LOSFA to receive your high school transcripts and to assist you in tracking your progress towards being eligible for a TOPS Award, your parents must have given written consent to your school for your private academic information to be shared.

It is very important that your full name, address, and date of birth are correct and that they are exactly the same on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)/TOPS Online Application, the ACT, and your high school transcript. If your name, address, or date of birth is incorrect or is different on any of these records, a determination of TOPS eligibility may be delayed.

CORE CURRICULUM AND GPA

Students must complete ALL courses in the applicable TOPS core curriculum. Exceptions will not be granted even if a course is not offered at your school.

Upon graduation from high school, you must have attained at least a 2.50 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) on the courses used to complete the applicable TOPS core curriculum, computed in accordance with program rules.

Grades earned in courses for which you received college credit while you were in high school will be included in the calculation of your cumulative college GPA after the first semester you enroll full-time in college. These grades will affect your continuing eligibility for TOPS.

ACT/SAT/CLT

The highest composite score achieved on a single exam of either the ACT, SAT, or CLT will be used to determine TOPS eligibility. TOPS does not consider the essay portion of the ACT or SAT in calculating the composite score needed to qualify. TOPS does not use a superscore when determining eligibility for a TOPS Award.

For 2027 high school graduates, a qualifying ACT, SAT, or CLT score must be achieved by the April ACT National Test Date: **April 10, 2027**. A qualifying ACT score earned on the **June 12** or **July 10, 2027** exams, or a qualifying SAT score earned on the **May 1** or **June 5, 2027** exams, or a qualifying CLT score earned on the **April 17**, **May 22**, or **June 17, 2027** exams will be accepted,

but you will be penalized one semester (or two quarters) of eligibility. A qualifying score earned before **September 30, 2027**, may be accepted if the Board of Regents finds you were prevented from taking the test **prior to August 1** of the year of graduation due to circumstances beyond your control and attributable to the administration of the test.

When registering for the ACT or SAT, you must enter code **1595 on the ACT** registration form or code **9019 on the SAT** registration form. When registering for the CLT, you must select **TOPS/ LOSFA** from the dropdown box.

APPLICATION

You have two options to apply for TOPS: the TOPS Online Application or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). The FAFSA® allows you to apply for TOPS, other state aid, and all federal aid.

To apply ONLY for TOPS, you should complete the TOPS Online Application.

To apply for federal student aid, TOPS, Louisiana GO Grant, and other state aid programs, you must complete the 2027-2028 FAFSA®: www.studentaid.gov

Federal student aid programs include Pell Grants, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), student loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), and the Federal Work Study (FWS) Program.

If you complete the FAFSA®, you do not have to fill out the TOPS Online Application to apply for TOPS.

The FAFSA® priority deadline for 2027 graduates is February 1, 2027. The final TOPS application deadline is July 1 following the one-year anniversary of high school graduation. You MUST file your FAFSA® or TOPS Online Application so that it is received by the federal processor or LOSFA by July 1, 2028, to receive full TOPS funding. **No payment of a TOPS award will be made until the initial FAFSA® or TOPS Online application has been received and you have been determined eligible for a TOPS award.**

Initial application receipt date	Receives TOPS funding for:
Oct. 1, 2026* - July 1, 2028	8 semesters (12 quarters) Beginning with Academic Year 2027-2028
July 2 - Aug. 30, 2028	7 semesters (10 quarters) Beginning with Academic Year 2027-2028
Aug. 31 - Oct. 29, 2028	6 semesters (9 quarters) Beginning with Academic Year 2027-2028
Initial applications received after Oct. 29, 2028	Ineligible for TOPS award

Students who enroll full-time before their initial application is received must also have met the TOPS continuing eligibility requirements to be eligible for TOPS funding for semesters, quarters, or terms attended prior to being made eligible.

KEEPING YOUR **TOPS AWARD**

You Need to Know This to Retain Your Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Award

ENROLLMENT

As a TOPS OPHE recipient, you must enroll as a full-time student during each fall and spring semester (or fall, winter, and spring term) during the academic year, remain continuously enrolled, and must earn 24 hours of credit during the academic year. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of your TOPS award. TOPS Tech recipients may enroll part-time, but must use all award eligibility within 3 years. For TOPS purposes, the academic year begins with the fall semester, quarter, or term and continues through all semesters, quarters, terms, and intersessions until the following fall semester, quarter, or term begins.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the requirements to enroll full-time, to remain continuously enrolled, or to earn 24 hours of credit each academic year may be granted for circumstances beyond the student's control. Students seeking an exception to these requirements must submit a request for exception form and provide all necessary documentation. If approved and all other continuation requirements are met, the award will be reinstated. Requests for exception must be received no later than six months after the date of the notice of cancellation. TOPS Tech recipients are no longer required to earn 24 hours each academic year.

Scan Here to Access TOPS Exceptions Form

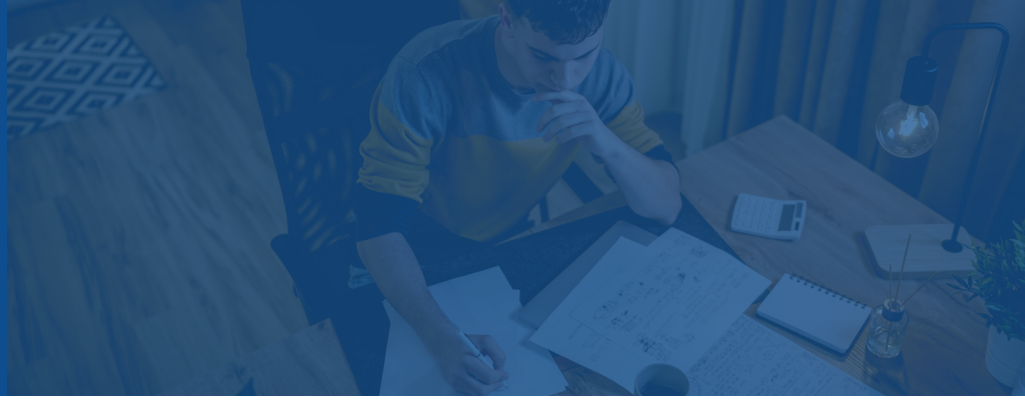
CREDIT HOURS

Earning (passing with a grade of "D" or better) 24 credit hours each academic year is the responsibility of the student. TOPS Tech recipients are no longer required to earn 24 hours each academic year. Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment (DE) credits earned while you are in high school cannot be used to meet the 24-hour requirement. All award recipients can use hours earned in summer sessions to meet their 24-hour per academic year requirement as well.

RENEWAL FAFSA®

Students who are eligible for federal financial aid are encouraged to complete the renewal FAFSA® as soon as possible. Students are not required to complete the FAFSA® to renew their TOPS Award.

STAY ON TRACK



CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Steady Academic Progress:
Students who fail to maintain steady academic progress at the end of any semester, quarter, or term shall have payment of their award suspended. Steady Academic Progress is defined as a 2.00 minimum TOPS cumulative GPA.

Continuation GPA:
At the end of each academic year, the following TOPS cumulative grade point average (GPA) as determined by LOSFA must be maintained:

Opportunity Award:	2.30 with 24-47 Hours of Academic Credit
	2.50 with 48 or More Hours of Academic Credit
Performance Award:	3.00 with 24 or More Hours of Academic Credit
Honors Award:	3.00 with 24 or More Hours of Academic Credit
Excellence Award:	3.00 with 24 or More Hours of Academic Credit
TOPS Tech Award:✿	2.50 with 24 or More Hours of Academic Credit

✿Also applies to Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and Excellence recipients enrolled in a technical program of study

The TOPS cumulative GPA is calculated on all coursework attempted and may not be the same as that calculated by the school.

Performance, Honors, or Excellence Award recipients who fail to maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA at the end of any academic year will have their award converted to the Opportunity Award, provided they have maintained the cumulative GPA necessary for renewal at that award level. Once the recipient's award is converted to the Opportunity Award, the Performance, Honors, or Excellence Award cannot be reinstated.

Grades earned for college credit courses taken while in high school through dual enrollment programs are included in the calculation of your cumulative college GPA and will affect your TOPS continuing eligibility.

Students whose awards are suspended for failure to maintain steady academic progress or the required continuation cumulative GPA may be reinstated upon attainment of the required continuation GPA, provided that the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years (or one year for the TOPS Tech Award) and the student has met the requirements under the Enrollment paragraph on Page 8.

WHAT IS THE STUDENT HUB?

The Student Hub is an online system for students to track their TOPS status in high school and throughout their college careers.

High school students whose schools report their grades in the Student Transcript System (STS) can use the TOPS Tracker to track their progress towards completing the TOPS core curriculum, view their TOPS Core GPA, and view the highest ACT scores LOSFA has on file.* Parental consent must be granted in STS to allow LOSFA to access high school transcript records.

After high school graduation, students can track their award letter, Rights and Responsibilities, and all notices sent by LOSFA via their Student Hub account. Once in college, all information relating to TOPS continuing eligibility and TOPS postsecondary GPA will be delivered via the TOPS Award Tracker.

*9th-grade students cannot set up a Student Hub account until their school reports grades via STS midyear or at the end of the school year.

HOW DO I LOG INTO THE STUDENT HUB?

To log into the Student Hub, go to **losfa.laregents.edu** and click on **"Student Hub"** at the **top of the homepage**.

In order to set up an account, you will need to use your assigned **LOSFA ID** or **LASecureID.**

Scan Here to Register for a Student Hub Account

Once logged into your account, you will be able to check your TOPS status, ACT score, notifications, etc.

While logged into your account, you will also have the ability to choose to grant your parent(s) permission to access your information.

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I HAVE TOPS?

LOSFA begins processing eligibility for TOPS in June each year. Although some high schools announce anticipated TOPS Awards at graduation, LOSFA is the only entity who determines eligibility, and you will receive an email notifying you of your eligibility from LOSFA once your eligibility has been determined. You can also monitor your TOPS eligibility status in your Student Hub account.

Scan Here to Access the Guide on Troubleshooting Student Hub Error Messages

APPLYING FOR TOPS

Students only interested in TOPS/TOPS Tech awards can apply using the TOPS Online Application. Students can submit a FAFSA® to be considered for all federal and some state financial aid.

NAVIGATING YOUR OPTIONS

EITHER of these options will allow you to apply for TOPS. Carefully consider your financial needs when navigating your options to apply for state and federal financial aid.

I would only like to apply for TOPS/TOPS Tech

TOPS Online Application

Apply for TOPS/TOPS Tech

I would like to apply for state aid and all available federal aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

Apply for Pell Grant, Work Study, GO Grant, federal loans, TOPS/TOPS Tech, etc.

Confirm with your college's financial aid office if you need to accept or reject your individual financial aid offers to complete the process.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

Students must be enrolled full-time at an eligible institution to receive their TOPS OPHE Award; however, some institutions may require students to take additional steps to accept their financial aid package. Follow the directions included with your financial aid offer and contact the financial aid office at your institution if you have any questions.

10 TIPS TO AVOID TOPS PROCESSING ERRORS

1. Ensure that your name, date of birth, and home address **are the same** on all documents (school records, ACT/SAT/CLT registrations, FAFSA®, college applications, etc.). A good rule of thumb is to write your name the way it is listed on your social security card. Check for accuracy when entering your information on documents. Spelling, spacing, punctuation, and abbreviations matter!

2. Include the **ACT TOPS code of 1595** and/or the **SAT TOPS code of 9019** on all ACT/SAT registrations. For the CLT registration, please choose **TOPS/LOSFA** in the drop-down box.

3. Be prepared to submit additional documentation to prove residency if you or the parent listed on your FAFSA®/TOPS Online Application were not Louisiana residents for at least 24 months prior to your anticipated graduation date.

4. Public school students: ensure your high school has a parent-signed Parental Consent form allowing LOSFA to access your high school transcript data.

5. Ensure that you are taking the correct number of units that make up the TOPS Core Curriculum or the TOPS Tech Core Curriculum.

6. Be aware that your TOPS eligibility is based on your TOPS Core GPA… **not** on your overall high school GPA, and that your TOPS Core GPA will not be rounded up.

7. Make sure that both the student and the contributor sign your FAFSA® before submission and that the email address on your FAFSA® is the one to which you want your TOPS eligibility notices sent.

8. Ensure your social security number is the same on your high school transcript and the FAFSA®.

9. Create a Student Hub account to track initial TOPS eligibility and notify LOSFA immediately if you cannot create your account, access your TOPS Tracker, or view your ACT score in the TOPS Tracker.

10. If you take a dual enrollment class using TOPS Tech Early Start, the name you use to register for the course is the name your Student Hub account will be created under. Remember - grades earned in dual enrollment courses for college credit become part of your cumulative TOPS GPA after your first semester of college.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

TRANSCRIPTS

- The cumulative grade point average (GPA) for a TOPS award will be calculated using only those grades achieved in the core curriculum courses. Your TOPS Core GPA is different from your overall high school GPA, which includes all courses on your high school transcript.
- The TOPS Core GPA will not be rounded up when determining TOPS eligibility.
- BESE-approved public and private high school transcripts are received through the Department of Education's Student Transcript System (STS). Faxed, emailed, or mailed copies of transcripts are not accepted.
- Students can qualify for TOPS Tech by completing the Opportunity, Performance, Honors or Excellence (OPHE) Award curriculum or the TOPS Tech Jumpstart Core Curriculum.
- There is no exception to the TOPS Core GPA requirement.

DOCUMENTATION

- All documentation required to establish initial eligibility, including ACT scores, high school transcripts, and citizenship/residency documentation, must be received by our office no later than January 15th following the one-year anniversary of your high school graduation date. For example, May 2027 graduates must submit documentation by January 15, 2029.

ACT/SAT/CLT

- LOSFA has an agreement with ACT, Inc that requires them to electronically report scores for students who indicate they are a resident of Louisiana. Additional agreements are in place with SAT and CLT to electronically report scores to LOSFA. You can also have scores sent to LOSFA by using our **ACT Code (1595)**, **SAT Code (9019)** or selecting **TOPS/LOSFA** in the drop-down box on the CLT during registration for the test.
- **The deadline to achieve a qualifying score for TOPS is on or before the ACT national test date in April in the academic year you graduate from high school. You may still qualify or upgrade your award by using May, June, and/or July test scores, including scores from a special ACT or SAT, but your period of eligibility for the award will be reduced by one semester or two quarters.**
- Students who fail to achieve a qualifying ACT score by July 31st of the graduating year shall not be considered for an award unless granted an exception to the ACT deadline. Exceptions can only be granted if you were registered for a previous exam that was not given due to circumstances beyond the student's control and which were attributable to the administration of the test (i.e., ACT canceled the test or the testing center flooded).
- TOPS uses the highest composite score achieved on a single test and does not use superscoring.
- There is no exception to the TOPS ACT/SAT/CLT requirement. Testing accommodations must be arranged with ACT, SAT or CLT.

WORKKEYS

- LOSFA now receives ACT WorkKeys directly from ACT every May. Graduating seniors who earn qualifying WorkKeys scores after April 30th must submit their scores directly to LOSFA.
- The deadline to earn a qualifying WorkKeys score for TOPS is on or before the before the ACT national test date in April in the academic year you graduate from high school. You may still qualify for a TOPS Tech award by using May, June, and/or July test scores, but your period of eligibility for the award will be reduced by one semester.
- If you are interested in taking the WorkKeys assessment, first check with your high school counselor or school district office.

HOME STUDY

- To qualify for TOPS, home study students must meet citizenship and Louisiana residency requirements, earn a qualifying test score, and be enrolled in a BESE-approved home study program. Please **scan the QR code** to view all TOPS eligibility requirements for home study students and to access the TOPS Guide for Home Study Students.

COMMON TOPS QUESTIONS

WILL TOPS COVER ALL OF MY TUITION?

No. ACT 18 of the 2016 Louisiana Legislature decoupled TOPS from tuition and set the "fully funded" amount going forward as the amount of tuition charged by the institution for the 2016-17 Academic Year. Students still must pay all other attendance costs (COA).

CAN I USE TOPS OUT OF STATE IF MY MAJOR IS NOT OFFERED IN LOUISIANA?

No, TOPS cannot be used out-of-state except at out-of-state private colleges that are specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students, at which the majority of the students are deaf and hard of hearing.

CAN ACT SUPERSCORES BE USED TO QUALIFY FOR TOPS?

TOPS uses the highest composite score achieved on a single test and does not use superscoring to determine eligibility.

IF I GET A HIGHER GPA OR ACT SCORE IN COLLEGE, CAN I QUALIFY FOR TOPS THEN?

No. You are awarded TOPS based on your academic performance in high school. You must meet the TOPS requirements at the time of graduation from high school.

MY HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCED THAT I HAD TOPS DURING MY GRADUATION. DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE BEEN AWARDED?

No. Some high schools honor their graduates by naming those who are expected to qualify for a TOPS award; however, any official notification of TOPS eligibility will come from LOSFA once we begin processing for TOPS eligibility in June.

I'M NOT GOING TO COLLEGE IMMEDIATELY AFTER I GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL. WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PUT MY TOPS ON HOLD?

There is nothing you need to do, except apply by completing a TOPS Online Application or FAFSA®. Even if you are not planning to go to college immediately, you should still apply for TOPS in your senior year to avoid missing any deadlines. You must enroll for the first time as a full-time student in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than the fall semester following the first anniversary of the date you graduated from high school.

LINKS AND RESOURCES

TOPS
WEBPAGE

TOPS CORE
CURRICULUM

5-POINT
SCALE

TOPS
Q&A

TOPS
FORMS

FAFSA®
WEBPAGE

ACT/SAT/CLT
INFORMATION

NO MATTER YOUR GOAL, THERE'S A TOPS PATHWAY FOR YOU

FOUR-YEAR DEGREE PATHWAY

Use **TOPS OPHE** to earn a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university

1. Enroll at a Four-Year Institution
2. Complete Degree Requirements
3. Earn Your Bachelor's Degree
4. Launch Your Career

TWO-YEAR TRANSFER & TECHNICAL PATHWAY

Use **TOPS OPHE** or **TOPS Tech** to earn an associate degree, workforce credential, or transfer to a four-year college or university

1. Enroll at a Technical or Community College
2. Earn a Credential, Diploma, or Associate Degree
3. Enter the Workforce Sooner

OR

4. Transfer to a Four-Year Institution through Louisiana's Transfer Pathways.

WHICH PATHWAY?

The right pathway depends on your academic preparation, interests, and career goals. You can use either the TOPS OPHE or TOPS Tech award levels to pursue eligible programs that lead to in-demand careers.

You Have Choices

Use the TOPS award that aligns with your academic career goals and the eligible postsecondary program you choose.

Eligibility Matters

Each award level has its own academic requirements. Ensure you are meeting the TOPS program eligibility.

Funding Follows Eligibility

Awards can only be used for eligible institutions and programs as outlined by TOPS program rules.

We're Here to Help

LOSFA can help you understand your options and choose the pathway that's right for you.

REGENTS

Virtual Office Hours
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday

losfa.laregents.edu

225.219.1012

custserv@la.gov