

# DEQUINCY HIGH SCHOOL

**FRESHMEN&SOPHOMORE**

**Parent Meeting**

**2026**  
*Class of*

**2027**  
*Class of*

**February 1, 2024**

# Graduation Requirements for 9<sup>th</sup> graders of 2023-2024 & T9s of 2022-2023

TOPS University	
<b>4 English courses</b>	
	English I
	English II
	English III
	English IV
<b>4 Math courses</b>	
	Algebra I
	Geometry
	Algebra II
	Higher level math
<b>4 Science courses</b>	
	Biology
	Chemistry
	<b>2 units from the following:</b> Physical Sci or Prin of Engineering, Environmental Science, Agriscience II (Ag I is pre-requisite), Biology II or Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry II, Physics
<b>4 Social Studies courses</b>	
	Civics or AP American Gov't
	US History
	<b>2 units from the following:</b> World Geography or AP Human Geography, World History, AP European History, African American History, AP Psychology
<b>Physical Education and Health</b>	
	PE I
	PE II (.5)
	Health Ed (.5)
<b>2 Foreign Languages(same lang) or 2 Computer Science courses</b>	
	Foreign Language I <u>or</u> Computer Science course
	Foreign Language II (same lang. as Foreign Lang I) <u>or</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Computer Science course
<b>1 Fine Art</b>	
	Fine Arts Survey, Art, Band, Chorus, Photography, etc
<b>3 Elective courses</b>	
	Elective
	Elective
	Elective

Total – 24 Credits

**\*\*All students must pass LEAP 2025 tests in the following categories:**  
 English I or English II  
 Algebra I or Geometry  
 Biology or US History

TOPS Tech (JumpStart)	
<b>4 English courses</b>	
	English I
	English II
	<b>2 units from the following:</b> English III, English IV, Business English, Technical Writing
<b>4 Math courses</b>	
	Algebra I
	Geometry
	<b>2 units from the following:</b> Algebra II, Financial Literacy, Math Essentials, higher level math
<b>2 Science courses</b>	
	Biology
	Phy Sci or Prin of Engineering, Environmental Science, Agriscience II (Ag I is pre-requisite), Biology II or Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry II, Physics
<b>2 Social Studies courses</b>	
	Civics or AP American Gov't
	US History
<b>Physical Education and Health</b>	
	PE I
	PE II (.5)
	Health Ed (.5)
<b>9 Courses in JumpStart 2.0 Pathway</b>	
	1 Career Readiness Course: Ag I, Quest for Success, JAG I, JAG II
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9

Total – 23 Credits

**\*\*Must earn credential(s) associated with JumpStart Pathway to graduate.**

**Grade Level Placement:**  
 0 - 6 credits = 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
 7 – 11 credits = 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
 12 – 18 credits = 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
 19+ credits = 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Note:** AP or Dual Enrollment courses with the same name as a course listed above can be substituted.

# Graduation Requirements for 9<sup>th</sup> graders of 2022-23 & T9s of 2021-2022

TOPS University	
<b>4 English courses</b>	
	English I
	English II
	English III
	English IV
<b>4 Math courses</b>	
	Algebra I
	Geometry
	Algebra II
	Higher level math
<b>4 Science courses</b>	
	Biology
	Chemistry
	<b>2 units from the following:</b> Physical Science or Prin of Engineering, Environmental Science, Agriscience II (Ag I is pre-requisite), Biology II or Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry II, Physics
<b>4 Social Studies courses</b>	
	Civics or AP American Gov't
	US History
	<b>2 units from the following:</b> World Geography or AP Human Geography, World History, AP European History, African American History, AP Psychology
<b>Physical Education and Health</b>	
	PE I
	PE II (.5)
	Health Ed (.5)
<b>2 Foreign Languages(same lang) or</b>	
<b>2 Computer Science courses</b>	
	Foreign Language I <u>or</u> Computer Science course
	Foreign Language II (same lang. as Foreign Lang I) <u>or</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Computer Science course
<b>1 Fine Art</b>	
	Fine Arts Survey, Art, Band, Chorus, Photography, etc.
<b>3 Elective courses</b>	
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Total – 24 Credits

**\*\*All students must pass LEAP 2025 tests in the following categories:**  
 English I or English II  
 Algebra I or Geometry  
 Biology or US History

TOPS Tech (JumpStart)	
<b>4 English courses</b>	
	English I
	English II
	<b>2 units from the following:</b> English III, English IV, Business English, Technical Writing
<b>4 Math courses</b>	
	Algebra I
	<b>3 units from the following:</b> Geometry, Algebra II, Financial Literacy, Math Essentials, higher level math
<b>2 Science courses</b>	
	Biology
	Physical Science or Prin of Engineering, Environmental Science, Agriscience II (Ag I is pre-requisite), Biology II or Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry II, Physics
<b>2 Social Studies courses</b>	
	Civics or AP American Gov't
	US History
<b>Physical Education and Health</b>	
	PE I
	PE II (.5)
	Health Ed (.5)
<b>9 Courses in JumpStart Pathway</b>	
	1 Career Readiness Course: Ag I, Quest for Success, JAG I, JAG II
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Total – 23 Credits

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## Grade Level Placement:

0 - 6 credits = 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
 7 – 11 credits = 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
 12 – 18 credits = 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
 19+ credits = 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Note:** AP or Dual Enrollment courses with the same name as a course listed above can be substituted.

## Graduation requirements

2022-2023 9 <sup>th</sup> graders & prior years (2021-2022 T9 students)	2023-2024 9 <sup>th</sup> graders (2022-2023 T9 students)	2024-2025 9 <sup>th</sup> graders (2023-2024 T9 students)
N/A	1. TOPS Tech students required to take Geom (Act 447) as a math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Must have Algebra I and Geometry</li> <li>b. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> math can be chosen from acceptable list of math courses</li> </ul> 2. Last class to take US History as LEAP testing requirement	1. TOPS Univ students-Fin Lit required (Act 267) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 20 cr. required for TOPS scholarship</li> </ul> 2. TOPS Tech students required to take Geom (Act 447) & Fin Lit (Act 267) as "maths" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Must have Alg I, Geom, and Fin Lit</li> <li>b. 4<sup>th</sup> math can be any other math</li> </ul> First to take Civics as a LEAP grad testing requirement
<u><b>TOPS University</b></u> 4 English courses – English I, II, III, IV 4 Math courses – Alg I, Geometry, Alg II, and a higher level math 4 Science courses – Biology, Chemistry, and two additional sciences 4 Social Studies courses – US History, Civics, and two additional social studies Foreign Lang – 2 years of same language or two years of Computer science Art – one unit of Art <hr/> <i>PE/Health - 1 ½ PE &amp; ½ Health</i> <i>3 Electives</i> <hr/> <b>24 credits to graduate; 19 for scholarship</b>	<u><b>TOPS University</b></u> 4 English courses – English I, II, III, IV 4 Math courses – Alg I, Geometry, Alg II, and a higher level math 4 Science courses – Biology, Chemistry, and two additional sciences 4 Social Studies courses – US History, Civics, and two additional social studies Foreign Lang – 2 years of same language or two years of Computer science Art – one unit of Art <hr/> <i>PE/Health - 1 ½ PE &amp; ½ Health</i> <i>3 Electives</i> <hr/> <b>24 credits to graduate; 19 for scholarship</b>	<u><b>TOPS University</b></u> 4 English courses – English I, II, III, IV 5 Math courses – Financial Lit, Alg I, Geometry, Alg II, and a higher level math 4 Science courses – Biology, Chemistry, and two additional sciences 4 Social Studies courses – US History, Civics, and two additional social studies Foreign Lang – 2 years of same language or two years of Computer science Art – one unit of Art <hr/> <i>PE/Health - 1 ½ PE &amp; ½ Health</i> <i>2 Electives</i> <hr/> <b>24 credits to graduate; 20 for scholarship</b>
<u><b>TOPS Tech</b></u> 4 English courses – English I, II, and two additional English courses 4 Math courses – Algebra I and three additional math courses 2 Science courses – Biology and one additional science 2 Social Studies – Civics and US History 9 JS courses in a JS career pathway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-JS 1.0 OR 2.0 for 2020-2021 9<sup>th</sup> graders (2019-2020 T9 students)</li> <li>-only JS 2.0 for 2021-2022 9<sup>th</sup> graders (2020-2021 T9 students)</li> </ul> <hr/> <i>PE/Health - 1 ½ PE &amp; ½ Health</i> <hr/> <b>23 credits to graduate; 21 for scholarship</b>	<u><b>TOPS Tech</b></u> 4 English courses – English I, II, and two additional English courses 4 Math courses – Algebra I, Geometry, and two additional math courses 2 Science courses – Biology and one additional science 2 Social Studies – Civics and US History 9 JS courses in a JS 2.0 career pathway <hr/> <i>PE/Health - 1 ½ PE &amp; ½ Health</i> <hr/> <b>23 credits to graduate; 21 for scholarship</b>	<u><b>TOPS Tech</b></u> 4 English courses – English I, II, and two additional English courses 4 Math courses – Algebra I, Geometry, Fin Lit, and one additional math course 2 Science courses – Biology and one additional science 2 Social Studies – Civics and US History 9 JS courses in a JS 2.0 career pathway <hr/> <i>PE/Health - 1 ½ PE &amp; ½ Health</i> <hr/> <b>23 credits to graduate; 21 for scholarship</b>
<u><b>LEAP Graduation Testing Requirements</b></u> English I or English II Algebra I or Geometry Biology or US History	<u><b>LEAP Graduation Testing Requirements</b></u> English I or English II Algebra I or Geometry Biology or US History	<u><b>LEAP Graduation Testing Requirements</b></u> English I or English II Algebra I or Geometry Biology or Civics







# DEQUINCY HIGH SCHOOL

## 2024-2025 SCHEDULING INFORMATION

The purpose of this guide is to help students make good decisions concerning course selections for the next school year. Please use this information to assist with planning your high school career. Each class chosen should be part of an overall graduation plan.

### SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS

- Students must schedule 8 classes unless they are a senior and do not need 8 classes.
- Senior athletes shall be required to take at least four (4) subjects/units per semester and must pass all four (4) subjects/units in the fall semester to be eligible for the spring semester (LHSAA)
- Seniors should be aware that many scholarships require 4 classes.

### ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman = 0-6 credits

Sophomore = 7-11 credits

Junior = 12-18 credits

Senior = at least 19 credits

### GRADING SCALE & POLICY

A	=	100% - 93%	=	4.00 – 3.50	=	4 Quality Points
B	=	92% - 85%	=	3.49 – 2.50	=	3 Quality Points
C	=	84% - 75%	=	2.49 – 1.50	=	2 Quality Points
D	=	74% - 67%	=	1.49 – 1.00	=	1 Quality Points
F	=	66% and below	=	Below 1.00	=	0 Quality Points

#### *Nine Weeks Grade*

To determine a nine weeks' grade, divide the number of points the student earned by the number of points possible. This numerical average will then be converted to a letter grade.

#### *Final Grade*

The Final Grade in each course will be determined by averaging the students' 4 nine-week letter grades (and LEAP exam grade for LEAP 2025 Courses).

#### *LEAP Courses*

Courses with mandated LEAP test will be counted as 20% of the final average (the equivalent to a nine-week grade) for this class. The final course grade will be an average of the letter grades awarded each nine-weeks and the letter grade awarded on the LEAP exam.

# LOUISIANA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## Diploma Pathway

Students may choose to work toward a TOPS Tech Jump Start Pathway or the TOPS University Pathway. \*Students earning a TOPS University or TOPS Tech (Jump Start) Diploma may not necessarily earn the TOPS/TOPS Tech Scholarship. GPA and ACT/WorkKeys score are factored into eligibility.

## LEAP 2025 Tests

- Students must pass the following state assessments with an approaching basic or above to earn a diploma: English I or English II; Algebra I or Geometry; Biology or U.S. History
- Grades assigned for the achievement levels (based on the state scale aligned to the student's test score) are as follows:  
Advanced= A, Mastery= B, Basic= C, Approaching Basic= D, Unsatisfactory= F

## GRADUATION HONORS POLICY

The Honors GPA calculation is based on the 5.0 GPA.

### Honors GPA Positions (TOPS University or TOPS Tech Jump Start diploma)

- A. Summa Cum Laude..... 3.90 - 4.00+ GPA
- B. Magna Cum Laude..... 3.70 - 3.89 GPA
- C. Cum Laude..... 3.50 - 3.69 GPA

## Graduation Index Requirements

Students must earn at least 110 points in the graduation index/strength of diploma by one of the following:

- At least one passing course grade for TOPS core curriculum credit AP or Dual Enrollment class
- Basic or Advanced Jump Start credential
- Pass a CLEP exam

## Summa Cum Laude Graduation Address

Students who graduate with a 4.0 GPA or above will be eligible for selection to give a speech at graduation. Students must turn in a copy of their speech by the designated date to be considered for the selection process.

## TOPS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION (subject to change)

**TOPS University** – TOPS curriculum **AND** 2.5 GPA **AND** minimum 20 composite on ACT **AND** completed FAFSA  
**TOPS Tech Jump Start** - TOPS curriculum **AND** 2.5 GPA **AND** minimum 17 composite on ACT or *WorkKeys* Silver **AND** completed FAFSA

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

### Requirements

- See current McNeese/Sowela dual enrollment information

### Grading Scale for Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Courses

Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses will be weighted in the following manner:

A	=	100% - 90%	=	5 Quality Points
B	=	89% - 80%	=	4 Quality Points
C	=	79% - 70%	=	3 Quality Points
D	=	69% - 60%	=	2 Quality Points
F	=	59% and below	=	0 Quality Points



# Calcasieu Parish Honor Graduate Policy 2024 Graduates and Beyond

## Calcasieu Parish School System Honor Graduate Policy

The Honors GPA calculation is based on the 5.0 GPA.

### A. Honors GPA Positions (TOPS University and Jump Start Pathway)

Honor Distinction	GPA
Summa Cum Laude	3.90-4.00+
Magna Cum Laude	3.70-3.89
Cum Laude	3.50-3.69

### B. Graduation Index Requirements

~Students must earn at least **110 points** in the graduation index to be an Honor Graduate.

~Students that earn **150+ points** in the graduation index will be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.

Student Result	Points
HS Diploma plus Associate's Degree	160
HS Diploma plus (a) AP score of 3 or higher, IB Score of 4 or higher, or CLEP score of 50 or higher OR (b) Advanced statewide Jump Start credential *Students achieving both (a) and (b) will generate 160 points.	150
HS Diploma plus (a) At least one passing course grade for TOPS core curriculum credit of the following type: AP**, college credit, dual enrollment, or IB** OR (b) Basic statewide Jump Start credential *Students achieving both (a) and (b) will generate 115 points. **Students must take the AP/IB exam and pass the course to earn 110 points.	110
Four-year graduate (includes Career Diploma student with a regional Jump Start credential)	100
Five-year graduate with any diploma *Five-year graduates who earn an AP score of 3 or higher, an IB score of 4 or higher, a CLEP score of 50 or higher, or an Advanced statewide Jump Start credential will generate 140 points. Five-year graduates who earn an Associate's Degree will generate 150 points.	75
Six-year graduate with any diploma	50
HiSET plus Jump Start credential	40
HiSET	25
Non-graduate without HiSET	0



# LOUISIANA'S TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS, "TOPS"

September 2021

For more information, call the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) at (800) 259-5626 or visit our Web site at [www.mylosfa.la.gov](http://www.mylosfa.la.gov)

AWARD COMPONENTS OF TOPS (EXCEPT TECH AWARD)			
STANDARD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS <sup>1</sup>	OPPORTUNITY AWARD	PERFORMANCE AWARD	HONORS AWARD
High School Grade Point Average (GPA) <sup>2</sup>	2.50 (GPA computed on core courses only)	3.25 (GPA computed on core courses only)	3.50 (GPA computed on core courses only)
Core Units	19 <sup>3</sup>	19 <sup>3</sup>	19 <sup>3</sup>
ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent)	Prior year state average <sup>4</sup>	23 <sup>4</sup>	27 <sup>4</sup>
BESE-Approved Home-Study Student Eligibility <sup>5</sup>	Currently an ACT of 22 (2 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)	Currently an ACT of 24 (1 point above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)	Currently an ACT of 28 (1 point above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)
Out-of-State Student Eligibility <sup>6</sup>	Currently an ACT of 23 (3 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)	Currently an ACT of 26 (3 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)	Currently an ACT of 30 (3 points above standard, in lieu of core units and GPA)
Must Enroll Full Time <sup>7, 8, 9</sup>	As a first-time freshman, by the fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation	As a first-time freshman, by the fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation	As a first-time freshman, by the fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation
Eligible Institutions <sup>10</sup>	Louisiana public & LAICU postsecondary institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools	Louisiana public & LAICU postsecondary institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools	Louisiana public & LAICU postsecondary institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools
Maximum Award at Public Schools *TOPS is fully funded for the 2021-2022 Academic Year	Payment of TOPS is contingent upon appropriations by the Louisiana Legislature.	Payment of TOPS is contingent upon appropriations by the Louisiana Legislature.	Payment of TOPS is contingent upon appropriations by the Louisiana Legislature.
Maximum Award at LAICU Institutions <sup>10</sup>	Weighted average of prior year TOPS payments to students at public-degree granting schools	Weighted average of prior year TOPS payments to students at public-degree granting schools	Weighted average of prior year TOPS payments to students at public-degree granting schools
RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS <sup>11</sup>	OPPORTUNITY AWARD	PERFORMANCE AWARD	HONORS AWARD
Maintain Steady Academic Progress (Based on TOPS cumulative GPA which is calculated on all course work attempted and may not be the same as that calculated by the school.)	2.30 with 24 - 47 Hours of Academic Credit 2.50 with 48 Hours of Academic Credit Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)	3.00 with 24 or More Hours of Academic Credit <sup>12</sup> Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)	3.00 with 24 or More Hours of Academic Credit <sup>12</sup> Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS Cumulative GPA)
Hours Earned Per Academic Year <sup>13</sup>	Enroll full time and maintain continuous enrollment each semester, earn 24 hours or more each academic year	Enroll full time and maintain continuous enrollment each semester, earn 24 hours or more each academic year	Enroll full time and maintain continuous enrollment each semester, earn 24 hours or more each academic year
Award Reinstated Upon Recovery of Required GPA <sup>14</sup>	Yes	Yes, but reinstated as an Opportunity Award	Yes, but reinstated as an Opportunity Award
Award Limit <sup>15, 16</sup>	4 years or 8 semesters	4 years or 8 semesters	4 years or 8 semesters

- 1 - Applicable to students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship and who graduate from Louisiana public or approved non-public high schools, and who are the dependent of a parent(s) or a court ordered custodian who is a resident of Louisiana for at least two years prior to the month of the dependent's high school graduation; or a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces who claims Louisiana as his legal residence and has filed Louisiana tax returns or who is stationed in Louisiana and completes a DD Form 2058 to become a legal resident within 180 days of reporting to Louisiana; or is a student who actually resides in Louisiana while attending a Louisiana public or approved non-public high school for the period of his or her last two full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high school.
- 2 - Students who are non high school graduates with superior intellect who enter college full-time prior to their nineteenth birthday without completing high school or an approved home study program may qualify for a TOPS award. Contact LOSFA for more information.
- 3 - 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. See reverse side for TOPS Core Curriculum.
- 4 - A qualifying score achieved on a National, International, Military, or Special ACT or equivalent SAT taken before August 1 of the year of high school graduation will not be accepted unless the student is graduation will be accepted. Scores on tests taken after August 1 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 August 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 1595 on the ACT registration form or code 9019 on the SAT registration form. The score for the writing section is NOT included.
- 5 - 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). If the student previously attended a Louisiana high school, he must complete at least the 11th and 12th grade of an approved home study program.
- 6 - Applicable to students who graduate from an approved out-of-state high school and who meet the residency requirements (See Note 1).
- 7 - 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 or university 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 within one year of separation from active duty.

- 8 - 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 <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Exception-Request-Form4.pdf> for an application.
- 9 - Students who met the academic requirements for a TOPS award and enrolled as a first-time freshman at an out-of-state college or at an eligible in-state college but subsequently enrolled at an eligible out-of-state college may apply for TOPS by submitting the Application to Return from an Out-of-State College no later than July 1st immediately following the semester, quarter or term during which the student returns and enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible Louisiana college. All supporting documents must be received no later than January 15th following the deadline. The student must have met the renewal requirements for TOPS while enrolled out-of-state. Students who first enrolled full-time in a Louisiana college must meet the deadline listed on the reverse side of this brochure. The deadline for students who first enrolled full-time in an out-of-state college is July 1 following the first semester, quarter or term of enrollment at an eligible Louisiana college.
- 10 - LAICU schools are those institutions that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "Certain cosmetology and proprietary schools" include any school with a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and any proprietary school with a valid and current license issued by the Board of Regents that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- 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 1.
- 12 - Students who fail to maintain a 3.00 GPA will have their award converted to the Opportunity Award.
- 13 - The academic year begins with the fall semester, quarter or term and ends at the beginning of the following fall semester, quarter or term. All summer sessions and intersessions within this time frame are included. Only courses for which credit is earned during an academic year will be counted towards the 24-hour requirement. In order to earn credit for a course, you must receive a grade of "D" or better.
- 14 - Provided that the period of ineligibility did not last for more than two years.
- 15 - Any student who successfully completes an academic undergraduate degree in less than the eight semesters of eligibility may receive any remaining award benefits if the student enrolls in a professional/postgraduate academic program at an eligible institution and continues to meet all academic and other requirements for continuation of the award. TOPS may not be used to pursue a second baccalaureate degree.
- 16 - Recipients may pursue an academic degree or technical diplomas or both, but may not exceed the award limit.

## WHAT IS TOPS?

Louisiana's Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a comprehensive program of state scholarships and one of the most innovative and progressive student assistance programs in the nation. TOPS has four award components. See the table on the reverse for eligibility and renewal requirements of each award, except the Tech Award, which is presented in a separate brochure.

## HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY FOR TOPS?

To apply for TOPS, the student must complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) or the TOPS On-line Application at <https://www.osfa.la.gov/AwardSystem/>. The FAFSA must be completed by students who qualify for federal grant aid and by students who are seeking other forms of financial aid. The TOPS On-line Application may be completed by students who can certify that they do not qualify for federal grant aid.

**Graduates of 2022** - The TOPS application deadline is July 1 following the one year anniversary of high school graduation. You **MUST** file your FAFSA or TOPS On-line Application so that it is received by the federal processor by July 1, 2023 to receive full TOPS funding. However, to ensure timely processing and award notification, students are strongly encouraged to file at least six weeks prior to entry into college. Be sure to **PRINT** and **RETAIN** your dated FAFSA or TOPS On-line Application confirmation page that includes the confirmation number in case verification of timely filing is required. *No payment of a TOPS award will be made until the initial FAFSA or on-line application has been received and you have been determined eligible for a TOPS award.*

INITIAL APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE	RECEIVES TOPS FUNDING FOR:
Oct. 1, 2021 - July 1, 2023	8 semesters (12 quarters) beginning with Academic Year 2022-2023*
July 2 - Aug. 30, 2023	7 semesters (10 quarters) beginning with Academic Year 2022-2023 **
Aug. 31 - Oct. 29, 2023	6 semesters (9 quarters) beginning with Academic Year 2022-2023 ***
Initial applications received after Oct. 29, 2023	Ineligible for TOPS Award

\*If your initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1 immediately following your graduation from high school, the payment of your TOPS award will not be made until your application is received and you are determined eligible for a TOPS award. If you enroll for the first time as a full time student before your FAFSA or on-line application is received, you must meet the TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements to receive payments of your TOPS award after the first semester, quarter or term of your full time enrollment at an eligible college or university.

\*\* If you are a 2022 high school graduate and your application is received from July 2, 2023, through August 30, 2023, you will be eligible to receive seven semesters of TOPS funding beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year. You must also meet TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements if you attend college during the 2022-2023 academic year.

\*\*\* If you are a 2022 high school graduate and your application is received from August 31, 2023 through October 29, 2023, you will be eligible to receive six semesters of TOPS funding beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year. You must also meet TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements if you attend college during the 2022-2023 academic year.

## TOPS CORE CURRICULUM

Students must take the courses required for TOPS within their TOPS University curriculum requirements. Substitute core courses can be found at <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/TOPSCoreCurriculum.pdf>

UNITS	COURSES
English = 4 units	
1 unit	English I
1 unit	English II
1 Unit from the following:	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance)
1 Unit from the following:	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance)
Math = 4 units	
1 unit	Algebra I
1 unit	Geometry
1 unit	Algebra II
1 Unit from the following:	AAlgebra III; Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or IB Math Methods I (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or IB Math Methods II (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL; AP Computer Science A
Science = 4 units	
1 unit	Biology I
1 unit	Chemistry I
2 units from the following:	Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriculture I and Agriculture II (one unit combined); Chemistry II or AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics C; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II or AP Biology or IB Biology II or Human Anatomy and Physiology
Social Studies = 4 units	
1 unit from the following:	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1 unit from the following:	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
2 units from the following:	Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics; AP Psychology, or African American History
Foreign Language = 2 units	
	Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may also include the following AP and IB courses: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, IB French IV, IB French V, IB Spanish IV, IB Spanish V, Mandarin Chinese I-IV, Hindi I - IV, Portuguese I-IV, Vietnamese I-IV
Fine Arts = 1 unit	
1 unit from the following:	Performance course in Music, Dance or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; IB Film Study I; IB Film Study II; IB Music I; IB Music II; IB Art Design III; IB Art Design IV; IB Theatre I, Drafting, Media Arts I - IV; Photography I, Photography II, or Digital Photography
Total = 19 Units	

## CONTACT LOSFA



#AskLEX at:  
[mylosfa.la.gov](https://mylosfa.la.gov)

Internet



<https://mylosfa.la.gov/>

E-mail



[custserv@la.gov](mailto:custserv@la.gov)

Call Us



1-800-2595626 or  
(225) 219-1012

Write Us



P.O. Box 91202  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202

## LOSFA Social Media



@LOSFA



@LOSFA



@losfa001

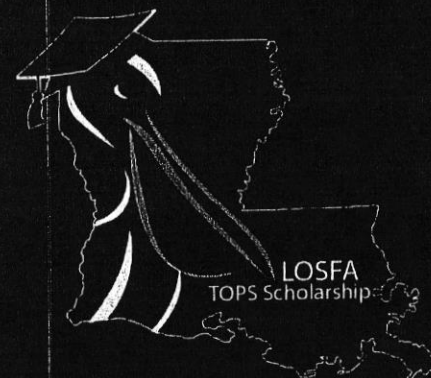


@LOSFA1000

### Consent to Receive Academic Data

LOSFA can only evaluate TOPS eligibility for those students whose parents granted consent for LOSFA to receive their academic data. Consent forms may be accessed here: <http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/ConsentForm.pdf>. Consent may be withdrawn by written notice at any time. Once a student reaches 18 years of age, he or she may grant consent by using this form: <http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/ConsentFormOver18.pdf>

**Disclaimer:** This brochure is current as of the edition date and is provided for informational purposes only. The eligibility requirements and rules governing the TOPS program are subject to legislative and regulatory amendments subsequent to the edition date of this brochure. TOPS applicants are responsible for determining the program requirements at the time of application and should not rely on this brochure as a full disclosure of all qualifications required for a TOPS award.



Taylor Opportunity Program for Students  
Opportunity, Performance and  
Honors Awards  
September 2021 Edition



Louisiana Office of Student Financial  
Assistance  
A Program of the Board of Regents  
This brochure incorporates changes as of  
the edition date and applies to high school  
graduates of the class of 2022.



# 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 Website at [mylosfa.la.gov](http://mylosfa.la.gov).

December 2020,

STANDARD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS <sup>1</sup>	TECH AWARD
High School Grade Point Average (GPA)	2.50 (GPA computed on core courses only)
Tech Core Units	21 Jumpstart Career Path Core Units <sup>2</sup>
ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent)	17 <sup>3</sup> 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 fall semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation <sup>4,5</sup>
Eligible Institutions	Louisiana Technical College campuses and other public postsecondary or LAICU <sup>6</sup> schools that provide skill or occupational training and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools <sup>7</sup>
Maximum Award at 2- Year Public Schools	TOPS Tech Award Amount Payment of TOPS is contingent upon appropriations by the Louisiana Legislature. <sup>8</sup>
Maximum Award at 4- Year Public Schools that do not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the Bachelors level	TOPS Tech Award Amount Payment of TOPS is contingent upon appropriations by the Louisiana Legislature. <sup>8</sup>
Maximum Award at 4- Year Public Schools that do offer an academic undergraduate degree at the Bachelors level	TOPS Tech Average Award Amount The average of TOPS Tech payments paid to students attending public schools that do not offer a baccalaureate degree <sup>8</sup>
Maximum Award at LAICU <sup>6</sup> Institutions and certain cosmetology and proprietary schools <sup>7</sup>	TOPS Tech Average Award Amount The average of TOPS Tech payments paid to students attending public schools that do not offer a baccalaureate degree <sup>8</sup>
BESE-Approved Home-Study Student Eligibility <sup>9</sup>	ACT of 19 (2 points above standard in lieu of core units and GPA)
Out-of-State Student Eligibility <sup>10</sup>	ACT of 20 (3 points above standard in lieu of core units and GPA)
RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS <sup>11</sup>	TECH AWARD
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 with 24 or More Hours of Academic Credit 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 <sup>5</sup>
Award Reinstated Upon Recovery of Required GPA	Yes <sup>12</sup>
Award Limit	2 years

TOPS TECH CORE CURRICULA	
UNITS	COURSE
2	English I and English II
2	English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
1	Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course
3	Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math; Algebra III, Advanced Math -Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits
1	Biology
1	Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, Physics, or AP or IB science courses
1	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
9	In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major.
Students may also qualify for a TOPS Tech Award by completing the high school course work constituting the TOPS core curriculum for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards.	

- 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 2058 to become a legal resident within 180 days of reporting to Louisiana; or 4) is a student who actually resides in Louisiana while attending a Louisiana public or approved non-public high school for the period of his or her last two full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high school.
- 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.
- 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 score on a 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 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 1595 on the ACT registration form or code 9019 on the SAT registration form. The score for the writing section is NOT included.
- 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.
- 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 <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Exception-Request-Form2.pdf> for an application. The academic year includes the summer session.
- Non-public institutions that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU).
- Any school with a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education, 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.
- TOPS may not cover 100% of tuition. For a current list of TOPS Tech Award Amounts, please go to <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-21-TOPS-OPH-Tech-Award-Calculations-at-100-7-6-20.pdf>
- If the student previously attended a Louisiana high school, he must complete at least the 11th and 12th grades of a BESE approved home study program.
- 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.
- Unless the applicant for an award is ineligible for federal grant aid, a FAFSA must be filed annually to be received by the state deadline of July 1st.
- Provided that the period of ineligibility did not extend for more than one year.

## WHAT IS TOPS?

Louisiana's Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a comprehensive program of state scholarships and one of the most innovative and progressive student assistance programs in the nation. TOPS has four award components. One component, the TOPS Tech Award, is detailed herein. (See separate brochure for the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards.)

## WHAT IS THE TOPS TECH AWARD?

Unique among the TOPS scholarships, the TOPS Tech Award was created by the Louisiana Legislature with the sole intention of promoting a skilled workforce in Louisiana. Currently, the TOPS Tech Award is offered to qualified high school graduates and provides up to two years of skill or occupational training to be pursued at an accredited Louisiana postsecondary institution that offers a vocational or technical education certificate/diploma.

Students who are awarded TOPS-Tech may enroll in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a Vocational or Technical Education Certificate or Diploma Program or a non-academic undergraduate degree to pursue a skill, occupational training, or technical training (including approved cosmetology and proprietary schools) subsequent to high school graduation.

TOPS Tech awards may also be used for certain degrees/certifications and programs that are aligned with state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council. For a list of qualified programs, go to <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-21-TOPS-OPH-Tech-Award-Calculations-at-100-7-6-20.pdf>

## WHERE MAY I USE THE TOPS TECH AWARD?

The TOPS Tech Award may be used for up to two years of skill or occupational training at any campus of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, accredited two-or-four-year public colleges or universities, or private colleges or universities (members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, LAICU) to pursue a vocational or technical education certificate, diploma or non-academic degree program. Students who are eligible for the TOPS Tech Award may also use their awards at any school with a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education, and at 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.

TOPS Tech awardees may use their awards to enroll in an eligible college or university on a full time basis in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training or education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Workforce Investment Council.

If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Commission determine that a program is no longer aligned with those

priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

## HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY FOR TOPS?

To apply for TOPS, the student should complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or the TOPS On-line Application at <https://www.osfa.la.gov/AwardSystem/>. The FAFSA must be completed by students who qualify for federal grant aid and by students who are seeking other forms of financial aid. The TOPS On-line application may only be completed by students who can certify that they do not qualify for federal grant aid.

**Graduates of 2021** - The priority deadline is February 1, 2021. The TOPS application deadline is July 1 following the one year anniversary of high school graduation. You **MUST** file your FAFSA so that it is received by the federal processor by July 1, 2022 to receive full TOPS funding or the TOPS On-line Application so that it is received by LOSFA no later than July 1, 2022. Be sure to **PRINT** and **RETAIN** your dated FAFSA or TOPS On-line Application confirmation page that includes the confirmation number in case verification of timely filing is required. *No payment of a TOPS award will be made until the initial FAFSA or on-line application has been received and you have been determined eligible for a TOPS award.*

INITIAL APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE	RECEIVES TOPS FUNDING FOR:
Oct. 1, 2020 - July 1, 2022	2 years beginning with Academic Year 2021-2022 *
July 2 - Aug. 30, 2022	2 years, less 1 semester, beginning with Academic Year 2022-2023 **
Aug. 31 - Oct. 29, 2022	2 years, less 2 semesters, beginning with Academic Year 2022-2023 ***
Initial applications received after Oct. 29, 2022	Ineligible for TOPS Tech Award

\*If your initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1 immediately following your graduation from high school, the payment of your TOPS award will not be made until your application is received and you are determined eligible for a TOPS award. If you enroll for the first time as a full time student before your FAFSA or on-line application is received, you must meet the TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements to receive payments of your TOPS award after the first semester, quarter or term of your full time enrollment at an eligible college or university.

\*\* If you are a 2021 high school graduate and your application is received from July 2, 2022, through August 30, 2022, you will be eligible to receive two years, less 1 semester, of TOPS Tech funding beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year. You must also meet TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements if you attend college during the 2021-2022 academic year.

\*\*\* If you are a 2021 high school graduate and your application is received from August 31, 2022 through October 29, 2022, you will be eligible to receive 2 years, less 2 semesters, of TOPS Tech funding beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year. You must also meet TOPS Continuing Eligibility Requirements if you attend college during the 2021-2022 academic year.

## CONTACT LOSFA



E-mail LOSFA at:  
[custserv@la.gov](mailto:custserv@la.gov)



Access LOSFA on the Internet at:  
[mylosfa.la.gov](http://mylosfa.la.gov)



Write LOSFA at:  
P.O. Box 91202  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202



To speak to a representative,  
call LOSFA at (800) 259-5626 or  
(225) 219-1012



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



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



<http://instagram.com/LOSFA001>

### Consent to Receive Academic Data

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## Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Tech Award

December 2020 Edition

For students graduating from high school  
in the 2020-21 academic year and thereafter

Louisiana Office of Student  
Financial Assistance

A program of the Board of Regents  
This brochure incorporates changes  
in effect as of the edition date and  
applies to high school graduates  
of the class of 2021 applying for the  
TOPS Tech Award.



**DeQuincy High School  
207 N. Overton St.  
DeQuincy, LA 70633**

**DeQuincy High School**

Front Office 217-4530

**Counselor**

Barbara Justilien [barbara.justilien@cpsb.org](mailto:barbara.justilien@cpsb.org) 217-4530 ext. 5428

**Counselor's Secretary**

Lisa Marcantel [lisa.marcantel@cpsb.org](mailto:lisa.marcantel@cpsb.org) 217-4530 ext. 5439

**Curriculum**

Hollie Sanders [hollie.sanders@cpsb.org](mailto:hollie.sanders@cpsb.org) 217-4530 ext. 5441

*Mrs. Justilien is available during the summer at the following times:*

June 1- 7 from 8:30-2:00

August 1-the beginning of school

*Please contact Mrs. Marcantel to process any new registrations or transfers to other schools after August 1<sup>st</sup>.*