

2023-2024

Iowa High School

Senior Information Packet



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Jump Start TOPS Tech Pathway

ENGLISH = 4 Units

English I

English II

2 Units from: **English III, English IV,**
Business English, Technical Writing

MATH = 4 Units

Algebra I

3 Units from: **Geometry, Math Essentials,**
Financial Literacy, Algebra II,
Algebra III, Business Math

SCIENCE = 2 Units

Biology I

1 Unit from: **Environmental Science,**
Physical Science, Chemistry I,
Agriscience II (Ag I required)

SOCIAL STUDIES = 2 Units

Civics

U.S. History

Health/Physical Education = 2 Units

Physical Education I

Physical Education II (1/2)

Health Education (1/2)

Jump Start = 9 Units

9 Units from: Jump Start course series.

A student shall complete a regionally designed, district-implemented series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. Each student's Jump Start graduation pathway shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements, and other courses (including career electives) that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career pathway.

TOTAL = 23 Units

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

Students must attain approved statewide or regional credentials to graduate.

TOPS University Diploma

ENGLISH = 4 Units

English I

English II

English III

English IV

MATH = 4 Units

Algebra I

Geometry

Algebra II

Algebra III or Alg III DW

SCIENCE = 4 Units

Biology I

Chemistry I

2 Units from: **Environmental Science**
Physical Science
Agriscience II (Ag I required)
Biology II
Physics (Virtual Only)

SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 Units

Civics

U.S. History

World Geography

World History

FOREIGN LANGUAGE = 2 Units

(Both units in the same language: Iowa High School offers **Spanish I & II**)

ART = 1 Unit

Band, Fine Arts Survey

Visual Arts courses

Health/Physical Education = 2 Units

Physical Education I

Physical Education II (1/2)

Health Education (1/2)

ELECTIVES = 3 Units

Total Units = 24

Bold courses are taught at Iowa High School.
Others available at remote sites.

TOPS University Pathway

- Ensures that students going to four-year colleges or universities have taken a true college preparatory curriculum while in high school and have every chance possible to receive TOPS scholarships.
- Students are rewarded for completing more rigorous AP®, IB®, and dual enrollment coursework with increased weights in the calculation of the TOPS GPA.
- Your TOPS GPA & your ACT score determines eligibility for the TOPS award and additional financial support during college.
- There are ACT Requirements for college admissions, placement, & scholarships.

Jump Start TOPS Tech Pathway

- Students of all interests and capabilities can graduate high school by earning industry credentials that provide new opportunities for a successful adulthood.
- Students who complete a Jump Start TOPS Tech Pathway will have attained an industry credential and will also be prepared to begin their post-secondary education at a Technical or Community College, the Military or other 2-year institution.
- Students must complete a career pathway consisting of 9 dedicated JumpStart credits.
- TOPS Tech eligibility determined by GPA & ACT or Workkeys score.

Testing requirements

Students pursuing a high school diploma must receive a minimum score of Approaching Basic on at least three end of course (LEAP 2025) assessments for the purposes of graduation.

The ACT College Readiness exam must be taken to graduate in either Pathway. Administered at Iowa High during student's Junior year. Other test dates available.

WorkKeys is an additional Readiness exam given to benefit students pursuing TOPS Tech or JumpStart pathways.

Websites that are helpful for College/Career Planning:

www.laworks.net/mylife/

www.unlockmyfuture.org

www.mynextmove.org

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>

I made it to my Senior Year,
So, what's next?

Keep up with deadlines!
Ask Questions!

TOPS Award & Pathway Comparison

Pathway	TOPS Award	Min. ACT Score	Min. CORE GPA	Award Length	Award Amount
Jumpstart/University	TOPS Tech	17 or Silver Work Keys	2.5	2 years/4 semesters	Tuition only
University	TOPS Opportunity	20	2.5	4 years/8 semesters	Tuition only
University	TOPS Performance	23	3.25	4 years/8 semesters	Tuition + \$400/yr.
University	TOPS Honors	27	3.5	4 years/8 semesters	Tuition + \$800/yr.

Create a LOSFA Student Hub Account and Follow Your Progress Towards Earning a TOPS Award.

LOSFA has launched the new Student Hub to give you more options for tracking your award eligibility and status, and to provide you with easier account maintenance features and login recovery options.

- The "TOPS Tracker" within the LOSFA Student Hub allows you to follow your progress towards earning a TOPS award.
- View the ACT scores we have on file, if a score is missing, Email us at custserv@la.gov and we will let you know how to get it to us.
- After you have created your Student Hub account, you can grant permission within the Hub for your parents to create a Student Hub account with their own password and user name so that they may see the same information you see.
- After high school graduation, your TOPS eligibility notice, award letter and Rights and Responsibilities will be posted in your Student Hub account.
- Once in college, all information relating to your continuing eligibility for TOPS, your TOPS postsecondary GPA and all notices and announcements will be delivered via your Student Hub Account.
- To create your account, go to <https://mylosfa.la.gov/applications/student-hub/>, click "Student Hub" in the menu across the top of the LOSFA homepage and follow the instructions.
- To register, click the "Register" link then click the "Student" button on the next page, where you can start the registration process with either your Louisiana Secure ID (LASECID) if you are a public-school student, or your Louisiana State ID if you are a non-public student.
- When registering with your LASECID, you will also need your first and last name, your birthdate, and the high school you attended. If you do not know your Louisiana Secure ID, contact your school counselor.
- Ignore references to the LOSFA ID for now as this will be assigned to you after you have completed your FAFSA and we have matched it with your ACT records.

Federal Student Aid

A better FAFSA® process means a better future for everyone.

AWARD
YEAR
2024-2025

Full implementation is right around the corner.

40 years since the last major changes to FAFSA®

Congress passed the FUTURE Act and FAFSA® Simplification Act, making it easier to apply for federal student aid ensuring more people can qualify.



Connecting more people with more funds.

Streamlining application questions.

Developing a better user experience.

930,000

additional Pell Grant award recipients (estimated).



Connecting over 7 million students with more than \$114 billion in aid.



Knowledge Center



Training Center



Financial Aid Toolkit



FSA Partner Emails



Customer Service Center

The support you need and deserve.
Now and in the future.

**BETTER
FAFSA®**
BETTER FUTURE

financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/bfbf

FAFSA® Simplification Fact Sheet

Overview

FAFSA® Simplification Act

On Dec. 27, 2020, Congress passed the *Consolidated Appropriations Act*. The law includes provisions that amend the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by *Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act* and includes the *FAFSA Simplification Act*—a sweeping redesign of the processes and systems used to award federal student aid. Specifically, the law makes it easier for students and families to complete and submit the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form and expands access to federal student aid.

Benefits to Students, Families, and Borrowers

Expanding access to federal aid

The Student Aid Index (SAI) will replace the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on the FAFSA form. Students and families will see a different measure of their ability to pay for college and experience a change in the methodology used to determine aid.

In addition to the SAI, the *FAFSA Simplification Act* will expand the Federal Pell Grant to more students and link eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level. New eligibility formulas and funding are estimated to increase Pell Grant recipients by nearly 15%. Incarcerated students will regain the ability to receive a Pell Grant, and Pell Grant lifetime eligibility will be restored to students whose school closed while they were enrolled, or where subject to a false certification, identity theft, or a borrower defense loan discharge.

The law also repeals the lifetime limit on the period for which a borrower can receive subsidized loans of up to 150% of program length (often referred to as Subsidized Usage Limit Applies).

Streamlining the FAFSA® form

Where possible, the *FAFSA Simplification Act* mandates that the U.S. Department of Education office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) use federal tax information (FTI) received directly from the IRS to calculate Pell Grant eligibility and SAI. This data exchange was made possible by the *FUTURE Act*, which FSA will implement alongside FAFSA.

simplification. The law also removes questions about Selective Service registration and drug convictions and adds questions about applicants' sex and race/ethnicity. Additionally, students who are homeless, orphans, former foster youth, or who have other unusual circumstances that prevent them from providing parental information on their FAFSA form, will benefit from simplified questions and processes that more efficiently determine their independent status.

By the 2024–25 award year, resources for completing the FAFSA form will be expanded to the 11 most common languages spoken in the United States. Additional language-specific support will be available from the Federal Student Aid Information Center.

New Requirements for Higher Education Institutions

New definitions of cost of attendance (COA)

The *FAFSA Simplification Act* makes COA the starting point for calculating the Student Aid Index (SAI). The formula is: $COA - SAI = \text{financial need}$. Schools will need to make more information about COA publicly available to students and their families, including loan fees and other costs that students may directly or indirectly pay to complete their program of study.

Professional judgment: Expanded rules for financial aid professionals

Financial aid professionals at institutions will have additional flexibility in adjusting a student's eligibility for federal student aid—known as professional judgment—due to special or unusual circumstances. This expansion will help certain students that have unique family situations, such as a loss of income or a change in housing status. The law also provides additional flexibility for financial aid professionals to assist students who cannot provide parental information on their FAFSA form (e.g., homeless youth, orphans, foster youth).

Schools will have the ability to address a student's special or unusual circumstances by adjusting their COA, the student's dependency status on their FAFSA form, the components that determine Pell Grants, or all the above. As is the case with COA, schools will need to make their policies and procedures for reviewing professional judgments publicly available.



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Dear Senior Parents/Guardians,

Since the 2017-2018 school year the state has a FAFSA graduation requirement. Since FAFSA is a federal program, it often takes a long time to process and be sent to our data department so that the requirement can be marked as met in our system.

To ensure that a student will not be denied the ability to graduate, we ask all our Senior parents to complete the attached FAFSA waiver form. Despite what the statement says: **YOU ARE NOT REFUSING THE FAFSA!!!!** You are merely requesting a waiver from the graduation requirement.

This waiver serves as a placeholder for the graduation requirement, until a completed FAFSA submission is received by our data department. Once a completed FAFSA is on file, the waiver code disappears and the completed FAFSA code takes its place.

This waiver must be in parent/guardian handwriting and be signed by both the parent/guardian and the student. Please write the following in the “parent statement” portion of the waiver and return it to the counselor:

Dear Calcasieu Parish School Board,

Please accept this letter as record of my decision to satisfy the requirements of Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, by certifying, in writing, my refusal to allow my child to complete the FAFSA online application.

Sincerely,

Feel free to call me with any questions you may have regarding this waiver.

Sincerely,

Hope B Berry
Iowa High Counselor



Parents/Guardians:

Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, requires each graduating high school senior in a Louisiana public high school, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year and as part of his individual graduation plan, to complete and submit one of the following:

- 1) *The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or*
- 2) *The parent or legal custodian certify a waiver in writing to the student's school district if he refuses to complete such an application or if the student is unable to fulfill these requirements due to extenuating circumstances.*

If you and your child choose option 2, please write and sign your statement below to meet this requirement. Turn in the signed form to the school counselor's office.

Date:	Student's Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):
Print Guardian/Parent Name:	Guardian/Parent Signature:
Print Student Name:	Student Signature:

Parent Statement:

FOR ADULT STUDENTS ONLY (Must be 18 at the time of signing.)

****Student must sign the letter above and initial the following required statements:**

	I, being 18 years of age or older, am aware of the FAFSA graduation requirement and it is my decision not to complete a FAFSA application.
	I further attest that my parents have been notified of my decision and the consequences.

Counselor Signature:	Principal Signature:
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Calcasieu Parish Honor Graduate Policy 2024 Graduates and Beyond (proposed)

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
HSET plus Jump Start credential	40
HSET	25
Non-graduate without HSET	0