LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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EARLY GRADUATION AND EARLY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

EARLY GRADUATION

Q-1. If I graduate from high school in less than four years, when will I be eligible for TOPS?

A. If you graduate early (whether in September or at mid-year), you cannot be determined eligible for a TOPS award until your high school submits grades at the end of the school year. If you enroll in the spring semester immediately following graduation and are determined eligible for a TOPS award, you will receive a retroactive payment for that spring semester. Payment is contingent upon appropriations by the Louisiana Legislature.

If you graduate early in the spring (graduate in three years) and meet TOPS eligibility requirements, you may be awarded for the fall semester following graduation.

You must make sure you have completed the TOPS Core Curriculum prior to graduation. You will not be allowed to complete TOPS Core Curriculum courses after high school graduation to qualify for a TOPS award.

If you graduate early, you must comply with the application and ACT deadlines applicable to the class that graduates in the spring of that high school academic year. If you graduate early in December 2021 or graduate early in May 2022, you must follow the same application procedures and meet the same deadlines as students who graduate on time in May or June 2022.

If you complete the twelfth grade level of a home study program before the start of the next spring semester or early in the spring, you have the same options as a student who graduates early from high school.

EARLY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Q-1. If I enter college under the Department of Education's Early College Admissions Policy, when do I become eligible for TOPS?

A. If you enter college under the Early College Admissions Policy, you are not eligible for TOPS until the first semester following the date you graduate from high school. To be eligible for TOPS, you must follow the same application procedures as any other graduate of the same academic year. You must enroll as a full-time student in an eligible college no later than the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that you graduated from high school.

Q-2. Are there any special TOPS requirements for students who enter college under the Early College Admissions Policy?

A. You must enter college early under this Policy and meet the following requirements:

1. You must meet the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Education as set forth in the Early College Admissions Policy in the latest edition of Bulletin 741.

2. You must satisfy all core curriculum requirements not completed in high school by making passing scores on equivalent college courses.
3. The college courses taken to satisfy TOPS core curriculum requirements and the grades reported on those courses must be reflected in your official high school records as reported by the Louisiana Department of Education through the Student Transcript System.
4. You must complete the core curriculum requirements no later than the conclusion of the first two semesters or three quarters of college attendance following entrance into college under the Early College Admissions Policy.
5. The high school must award you a high school diploma and transmit your academic transcript to the Louisiana Department of Education in the same manner as that of other high school graduates.

Q-3. I am a home study student. Can I qualify for the early admissions program?

A. No. To be eligible for the early admissions program, Bulletin 741 requires you to have earned at least a "B" average during the previous three years of high school and to be recommended for the program by your high school principal. Since you have no high school principal to recommend your participation in the program, you are not eligible for participation.