LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Accessibility Notice

Archived Document — Alternative Format Available Upon Request

Filename: First-time-full-time-enrollment-requirement.pdf

About This Document

This document is part of an archived public record library. We are committed to making all information accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. Some archived documents may not fully conform to current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1 Level AA) or applicable ADA Title II requirements.

We are actively reviewing and remediating our document library. If you encounter any barriers accessing this content, please contact us using the information below and we will provide the information in an alternative accessible format as promptly as possible.

Request an Accessible Format

Contact:	Louisiana Board of Regents Communications
Email:	communications@laregents.edu
Phone:	(225) 342-4253
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Online Request:	https://www.laregents.edu/web-accessibility-statement/
TTY / TDD:	Please use your preferred relay service

This accessibility notice was added automatically. The original archived document begins on the following page.

FIRST TIME, FULL TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

Q-1. Is there a deadline to enroll in college?

A. Yes. You must enroll for the first time as a full-time student in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than the first college semester following the first anniversary of the date you graduated from high school. If you graduate in May 2022, you have until the fall semester of 2023 to enroll as a first-time, full-time student.

Once you enroll as a full-time student, you must continue to enroll full time in each semester (fall and spring); quarter (fall, winter and spring); term (in proprietary and cosmetology schools); or summer session or term, if applicable, thereafter, unless granted an exception for cause. See the Q&A entitled Exceptions for more information.)

Q-2. I had an accident or have an illness that started after I graduated from high school, and I am unable to enroll as a full-time student by the deadline due to my injuries/illness. Is there any way I can retain my TOPS Award?

A. Yes. There are certain circumstances for which an exception may be granted for failure to initially enroll full-time within the allotted time period (the first semester following the first anniversary of the date of high school graduation). These include such temporary disabilities as those caused by accidents/illnesses. See the Q&A entitled Exceptions for more information.

Q-3. I entered on active duty within a year after high school graduation and before I enrolled full time in college. Is there an exception to the initial enrollment deadline in these circumstances?

A. Yes. You can delay your full-time enrollment to the semester (not including summer sessions) following the one year anniversary of separation from active duty. In order for LOSFA to determine whether you are eligible for a TOPS award, you must provide LOSFA with a DD-214 which shows your dates of active duty and that you were discharged honorably or without characterization (i.e., not dishonorably discharged). See the Q&A entitled Exceptions for more information.

Q-4. If I enroll in an out-of-state college the first year as a full-time student, can I return to Louisiana and be awarded TOPS?

A. Yes. See the Q&A entitled Returning from an Out of State School for more information.

Q-5. Do I lose eligibility for a TOPS Award by attending college during high school or during summer sessions before enrolling as a full-time college student?

A. No. You are allowed to enroll in college full or part-time while still attending high school and between graduation and first-time, full-time enrollment; **however, your college grades earned while you were in high school and in the summer right after high school will be used to calculate your TOPS college cumulative grade point average for renewal of your TOPS award beginning at the end of your first semester of full time enrollment in college. (See the Q&As entitled Renewal-Hours and Renewal-Grades.)**

Q-6. If I attend college during high school, including through a dual enrollment program, or during summer sessions before enrolling as a full-time college student, will my grades or hours disqualify me from a TOPS award?

A. No. If you earn college hours under these circumstances, and you otherwise qualify for a TOPS Award, you will receive the award for the first semester of full-time enrollment. **However, your cumulative grade point average will be checked after the first semester of full-time enrollment for Steady Academic Progress (at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA). Any grades you've earned for college courses prior to your first semester as a full time student will be included in this calculation. High grades in these dual enrollment or summer courses will help to increase your GPA, while lower grades will decrease your GPA. If you have not maintained Steady Academic Progress, your award will be suspended (the award will not be paid the next semester) until Steady Academic Progress has been achieved. (See the Q&A entitled Renewal-Grades.)**