LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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GED (GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA)/HISET/NONGRADUATE

Q-1. If I have not graduated from an eligible high school and have not completed a BESE approved home study program, can I obtain a Louisiana High School Equivalency Diploma (GED) to qualify for TOPS?

A. No. There are currently no provisions in law to permit students who earn a GED to qualify for TOPS.

Q-2. If I enroll in college without graduating from high school, can I qualify for a TOPS Award?

A. Yes, if you meet certain conditions.
You must:

- Meet the TOPS citizenship and ACT requirements prior to college enrollment.
- Actually reside in Louisiana for a period of 24 months prior to full-time enrollment in an eligible college.
- Be certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in Louisiana to have a score in the superior range on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (Third Edition).
- Be certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in Louisiana to have a composite score that is in the ninetieth percentile at the twelfth grade level in reading, mathematics and written language portions of the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (Second Edition).
- Successfully complete 12 credit hours at an eligible college or university.
- After completion of 12 college credit hours and no later than your 19th birthday, begin full-time college enrollment.
- Submit a FAFSA or TOPS On-Line Application by the deadline. See the Q&A entitled TOPS Application Process.
- For qualifying non-graduates awarded TOPS, the award provides up to eight semesters of eligibility.

Q.-3. Is there a deadline for taking the Wechsler Tests to be considered for TOPS eligibility?

A. Yes. You must have taken the tests prior to enrolling for the first time in an eligible college or university.