HOME STUDY PROGRAMS

Q-1. I am a home-study student. Can I receive TOPS and, if so, are there any special requirements?

A. Yes. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) must certify to LOSFA that you are a student who successfully completed the eleventh, if applicable, and twelfth grade levels of a home-study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

If you ever enrolled in a Louisiana public high school or nonpublic high school or an approved non-Louisiana high school that was or has been approved by BESE, you must have successfully completed both the eleventh and twelfth grades of a home-study program approved by BESE and the previously attended high school must provide LOSFA with certification that you were in good standing at the time you last attended that school.

In addition, you must have an ACT score of at least 17 for TOPS Tech, 20 for Opportunity, 23 for Performance, 27 for Honors, or 31 for Excellence, or an SAT score of at least 990 for TOPS Tech, 1100 for Opportunity, 1160 for Performance, 1300 for Honors, or 1400 for Excellence.

Beginning with home study completers of 2025, a student may also qualify for TOPS using a CLT score. You must earn a 54 for TOPS Tech, a 66 for Opportunity, an 80 for Performance, a 91 for Honors, or a 101 for Excellence.

Q.-2. I am a home-study student. How does LOSFA know that I am interested in applying for TOPS?

A. Home-study students are identified by the high school code they entered on their ACT, SAT, or CLT Registration. You should use the high school code 969999 on the ACT and 970000 on the SAT. For the CLT, you must select LOSFA or TOPS as an entity to whom to send your score. These codes will cause your name to be placed on a list of students to be verified by the (LDOE) as having been registered in an approved home-study program.

If you complete the FAFSA, you will be asked, "When you begin college in the 2026-2027 school year, what will be your high school completion status?" If you mark "home schooled" after this question, LOSFA will include your name on the list sent to LDOE if you have an ACT or SAT score of at least 17.

If you complete the TOPS On-Line Application, you will be asked to name the high school you attended or that you were in a home-study program. If you answer "home study", LOSFA will include your name on the list sent to LDOE if you have an ACT score of at least 17, an SAT score of at least 990, or a CLT score of at least 54.

Be sure that the name that you use on the ACT/SAT/CLT and the FAFSA exactly matches your name on file with LDOE. For example, if LDOE records your name as John Q. Smith, your ACT and your FAFSA should use the name John Q. Smith, not John Smith, not John Quincy Smith, and not Quincy Smith. If your name differs in the slightest way in any of these documents, the determination of your eligibility for TOPS will be delayed. Your date of birth, home address, and email address must also be the same on all documents.

Q-3. Is a home-study student eligible for TOPS in an early admissions program?

A. No. Only students enrolled in public or BESE-approved non-public high schools are eligible for early college admissions under the Department of Education's Early College Admissions Policy. For additional information, see the Q&A entitled "Early Graduation and Early College Admissions."

B.

Q-4. I attended a traditional school until the end of my 11th grade year in high school. Can the rule that I must have completed both 11th and 12th grade in home study be waived?

A. In limited circumstances, you may be granted an exception to the rule that he must complete both 11th and 12th grade in a home-study program. You must complete a Request for Exception form and return it to LOSFA with documentation indicating that the reason you did not complete both 11th and 12th grade in a home study program was beyond your control.

Q-5. I'm a home study student but I participate in a Homeschool/Home-Study Partnership Program with a local high school. What ACT score do I need to qualify for TOPS?

A. You will be considered a home-study completer. You must have an ACT score of at least 17 for TOPS Tech, 20 for Opportunity, 23 for Performance, 27 for Honors, or 31 for Excellence, or an SAT score of at least 990 for TOPS Tech, 1100 for Opportunity, 1160 for Performance, 1300 for Honors, or 1400 for Excellence. Beginning with home study completers of 2025, a student may also qualify for TOPS using a CLT score. You must earn a 54 for TOPS Tech, a 66 for Opportunity, an 80 for Performance, a 91 for Honors, or a 101 for Excellence.

Q-6. I'm a home-study student, but also take courses with a local high school. Am I required to have a higher ACT score to qualify for TOPS?

A. The school at which you are taking the courses should have a policy as to how your grades will be reported. It is LOSFA's understanding that the local high school will provide the grades to the home study association that you belong to or to your parent. In these circumstances, you will be considered a home-study completer, and as such, you must meet the higher ACT requirement.

Q-7. Why can't I see the courses that I take through a Homeschool/Home Study Partnership Program with my local high school in my TOPS Tracker?

A. The TOPS Tracker is populated with courses and grades that are reported by high schools to the Louisiana Department of Education's Student Transcript System (STS). It is our understanding that high schools do not report grades for students who are attending classes through a Homeschool/Home-Study Partnership Program to STS. As a result, LOSFA will not have those grades to populate your TOPS Tracker.

Q-8. Do I need to have home study approval if I'm participating in a Homeschool/Home Study Partnership Program with a local high school?

A. Yes. You will still be considered a home-study student, as a result, you will have to obtain approval from the Louisiana Department of Education for your home study program.