

# DON'T BLOW YOUR TOPS

## GRADUATING IN 2015? TO QUALIFY FOR TOPS, YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS!

COMPLETE ALL COURSES IN THE TOPS CORE CURRICULUM (19 UNITS). EXCEPTIONS WILL NOT BE GRANTED EVEN IF A COURSE IS NOT OFFERED AT YOUR SCHOOL.

UPON GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL, YOU MUST HAVE ATTAINED AT LEAST A 2.50 CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) ON THE COURSES USED TO COMPLETE THE TOPS CORE CURRICULUM, COMPUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROGRAM RULES.

GRADES EARNED FOR COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES TAKEN WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL THROUGH DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATION OF YOUR CUMULATIVE COLLEGE GPA AND WILL AFFECT YOUR TOPS CONTINUATION ELIGIBILITY.

### ACT AND SAT TEST

FOR 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, THE MINIMUM ACT SCORE TO QUALIFY FOR THE TOPS OPPORTUNITY AWARD IS A 20 (OR 940 SAT). THE MINIMUM ACT SCORE TO QUALIFY FOR THE TOPS TECH AWARD IS A 17 (OR 810 SAT). THE HIGHEST COMPOSITE SCORE ACHIEVED ON A SINGLE EXAM OF EITHER THE ACT OR SAT WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY. **TOPS DOES NOT CONSIDER THE ESSAY PORTION OF THE ACT OR SAT IN CALCULATING THE COMPOSITE SCORE NEEDED TO QUALIFY.**

FOR 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, A QUALIFYING ACT OR SAT SCORE MUST BE ACHIEVED BY THE ACT NATIONAL TEST DATE: APRIL 18, 2015. A FIRST-TIME QUALIFYING SCORE EARNED ON THE JUNE 13, 2015 ACT NATIONAL TEST DATE OR A FIRST-TIME QUALIFYING SAT SCORE EARNED ON THE MAY 2 OR JUNE 8, 2015 EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED, BUT YOU WILL BE PENALIZED ONE SEMESTER (OR TWO QUARTERS) OF ELIGIBILITY. INITIAL QUALIFYING SCORES ON SPECIAL TESTS TAKEN BEFORE JULY 1, 2015 FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. A FIRST TIME QUALIFYING SCORE EARNED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, MAY BE ACCEPTED IF THE LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FINDS THAT THE STUDENT WAS PREVENTED FROM TAKING THE TEST PRIOR TO JULY 1 OF THE YEAR OF GRADUATION DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE CONTROL OF THE STUDENT AND ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEST.

WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE ACT OR SAT, VERIFY THAT YOUR CORRECT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS ENTERED. **IF YOU USE AN ACT ID NUMBER INSTEAD OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, TOPS PROCESSING WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY DELAYED.** FOR AN ACT OR SAT SCORE TO BE CONSIDERED, THE STUDENT MUST ENTER CODE 1595 ON THE ACT REGISTRATION FORM OR CODE 9019 ON THE SAT REGISTRATION FORM.

### TO APPLY

GRADUATES OF 2015 - THE **TOPS** APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JULY 1 FOLLOWING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION. YOU **MUST** FILE YOUR FAFSA SO THAT IT IS RECEIVED BY THE FEDERAL PROCESSOR BY JULY 1, 2016 TO RECEIVE FULL TOPS FUNDING. *No payment of a TOPS award will be made until the initial FAFSA or on-line application has been received and you have been determined eligible for a TOPS award.*

INITIAL APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE	RECEIVES TOPS FUNDING FOR:
JAN. 1, 2015 - JULY 1, 2016	8 SEMESTERS (12 QUARTERS) BEGINNING WITH <b>ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016</b>
JULY 2 - AUG. 30, 2016	7 SEMESTERS (10 QUARTERS) BEGINNING WITH <b>ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016</b>
AUG. 31 - OCT. 29, 2016	6 SEMESTERS (9 QUARTERS) BEGINNING WITH <b>ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016</b>
INITIAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER OCT. 29, 2016	INELIGIBLE FOR TOPS AWARD

**STUDENTS WHO ENROLL FULL-TIME BEFORE THEIR INITIAL APPLICATION IS RECEIVED MUST ALSO HAVE MET THE TOPS CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR TOPS FUNDING FOR SEMESTERS, QUARTERS OR TERMS AFTER THE SEMESTER OF FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT.**

#### FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID, TOPS, GO GRANT, AND OTHER STATE AID PROGRAMS:

**2015-2016 FAFSA: [WWW.FAFSA.GOV](http://www.fafsa.gov)**

FEDERAL STUDENT AID PROGRAMS INCLUDE PELL GRANTS, FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG), STUDENT LOANS (SUBSIDIZED AND UNSUBSIDIZED), PARENT LOANS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (PLUS), THE FEDERAL WORK STUDY PROGRAM AND PERKINS LOANS.

TO APPLY FOR TOPS AND ALL THE PROGRAMS LISTED ABOVE, YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS ON THE FAFSA FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016. **BE SURE TO PRINT AND RETAIN YOUR DATED FAFSA CONFIRMATION PAGE (WITH CONFIRMATION NUMBER) IN CASE VERIFICATION OF TIMELY FILING IS REQUIRED.**

#### FOR TOPS ONLY:

**TOPS ON-LINE APPLICATION: [WWW.OSFA.LA.GOV](http://www.osfa.la.gov)**

IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR TOPS ONLY USING THE LOSFA ON-LINE TOPS APPLICATION, FAMILIES MUST BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE STUDENT DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL GRANT AID. TO MAKE THAT DETERMINATION, USE FINAID'S FINANCIAL AID CALCULATOR AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT [WWW.FINAID.ORG/CALCULATORS](http://WWW.FINAID.ORG/CALCULATORS).

STUDENTS WHO USE THE LOSFA ON-LINE TOPS APPLICATION INSTEAD OF THE FAFSA WILL BE THE **FIRST** DENIED A TOPS AWARD IN THE EVENT OF A BUDGET SHORTFALL.



LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (LOSFA)

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[WWW.OSFA.LA.GOV](http://WWW.OSFA.LA.GOV) OR E-MAIL [CUSTSERV@LA.GOV](mailto:CUSTSERV@LA.GOV)