

TOPS Related Early Start Questions

Source: http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPS_Q_and_A.pdf

Q-60. What GPA do I need to renew my TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award?

A. To renew your award:

- You must maintain Steady Academic Progress (cumulative 2.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale) at the end of every semester, quarter, term, session or intersession for which grades are reported. If you do not maintain a 2.00, your award will be suspended for failure to maintain Steady Academic Progress.
- In addition, your Cumulative Grade Point Average (Cum GPA) will be calculated on all coursework you have attempted, including grades earned for dual enrollment courses taken while in high school, summer session grades, remedial course grades and repeated course grades, at the end of each academic year (spring semester or quarter). Your Cum GPA is calculated by LOSFA based on academic reports received from all schools that you have attended, and it could differ from the Cum GPA calculated by the school you currently attend.

Q-97. I have taken college courses for credit. May these be considered as part of the TOPS core curriculum for TOPS purposes?

A. Yes. College level courses taken independently, during the summer or in a dual enrollment program such as Early Start, whether in the classroom, on-line, or by correspondence, may be used to qualify for TOPS if your high school determines the courses are TOPS core equivalent courses and the courses are credited on your official high school transcript, using the correct Department of Education course code and transmitted to LOSFA by the Student Transcript System.

College level courses taken in an early admissions program must be reported on the forms required by the Louisiana Department of Education. See the section on “Early College Admission Programs” for additional information.

Q-157. 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 (including courses taken while in high school and during summers) will be checked after the first semester of full-time enrollment for Steady Academic Progress (at least a 2.00 cumulative 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).

Q. Will a “W” grade affect my chances of receiving a TOPS awards? Will multiple “W” grades affect my TOPS eligibility/continued eligibility?

A. No to both questions. The TOPS Cum GPA must include all courses for which you receive a grade; as A, B, C, D or F. Courses in which you receive a “W” or “WP” are not included. (Source: John.Bell@la.gov)