

Money MATTERS

Financial Aid & TOPS



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
L A F A Y E T T E ®



How to Apply

Submit the FAFSA at studentaid.gov Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The FAFSA must be completed each school year.

It typically becomes available the October before the upcoming school year. Submit early!

Submit the 2025-2026 FAFSA for this year.

Used for Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026 financial aid.



Important Deadlines

May 1: Financial Aid (suggested)
July 1: TOPS

Student Aid Index (SAI)

Your SAI will be generated based on your FAFSA responses. It will be used to determine your financial aid eligibility.

How to Apply

Additional documentation may be requested.



Monitor University Email Closely

- If additional documentation or paperwork is required to complete your file, you will be notified via University email.
- Please complete all requests promptly so your financial aid award package can be finalized.



Verification Process

- Some applicants will be selected for verification.
- Verification is the process we use to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA is accurate.
- If selected, you will be notified via email with requests for additional documentation.

If your family experiences a loss or change of income, please contact us for options.

TYPES OF *Financial Aid*



GRANTS

- Money **GIVEN** to students based on family financial need
- Does not have to be paid back; “free money”



LOANS

- Money **BORROWED** by the student or parent
- Must be repaid, usually with interest



WORK STUDY

- Money **EARNED** from an on-campus federal work study job
- Hourly pay at minimum wage

Grants

MONEY GIVEN

Eligibility is determined based on family financial need.

Federal Pell Grant

\$384-\$3,698 per semester

Louisiana GO Grant

\$1,500 per semester

- Must be receiving Pell Grant
- Must be a Louisiana resident

UL Educate OR Federal SEOG

\$1,500 per semester

- Must be receiving maximum Pell Grant



Loans

MONEY BORROWED

Federal Direct Student Loans

- Student borrows from the U.S. Department of Education
- No credit check or co-signer required
- No payments required while enrolled
 - Repayment begins 6 months after graduating or dropping below half-time enrollment (6 hours)
- Must complete Loan Entrance Counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN)



Loans

MONEY BORROWED

Type and amount of Federal Direct Loan awarded depend on need and grade level.

SUBSIDIZED Direct Loan

- Based on financial need
- No interest accrues while in school
- Current interest rate: 6.53%

UNSUBSIDIZED Direct Loan

- Not based on financial need
- Student is responsible for interest while in school
- Interest accrues and is capitalized
- Current interest rate: 6.53%



TIP: Always accept subsidized loans first, if offered. They cost less over time!



Loans

MONEY BORROWED

Direct Loan Yearly Limits

	Dependent Total	Independent Total	Subsidized Max
Freshmen (0-29 credit hours)	\$5,500	\$9,500	\$3,500
Sophomores (30-59 credit hours)	\$6,500	\$10,500	\$4,500
Juniors/Seniors (60+ credit hours)	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$5,500
Graduate	N/A	\$20,500	\$0



TIP: Only take what you truly need. You don't have to take the full loan offered to you.

Loans

MONEY BORROWED

Direct Loan Aggregate Limits

(Maximum total amount a student can borrow throughout their entire education)

	Dependent Total	Independent Total	Subsidized Max
Undergraduate	\$31,000	\$57,500	\$23,000
Graduate	N/A	\$138,500	

Repayment Example:

- Borrowed \$31,000 at an interest rate of 6.8%
- Monthly payment would be \$356.75 for 120 months
- Total loan payment = \$42,810

Work Study

MONEY EARNED

Federal Work-Study

- Qualifying students can work an average of 12 hours per week
- Paid federal minimum wage (\$7.25/hour)
- Student should contact the Financial Aid Office for eligibility and availability

Other On-Campus Job Opportunities

- There are other job opportunities for students who do not qualify for Federal Work Study
- Many University offices hire student workers: Housing, Post Office, Recreational Sports, Student Union, etc.



TIP: Visit louisiana.edu/career to explore jobs on Handshake!



Other Resources

Federal Direct PLUS Loan (“Parent PLUS”)

- Parent applies online at studentaid.gov
- Parent must pass a credit check
- If the credit check is denied:
 - It can be appealed by the parent borrower
 - Parent can get an endorser
 - Student can borrow an additional unsubsidized loan up to \$4,000 per year
- Parent can borrow up to the cost of the education
- Current interest rate is 9.08%
- Repayment begins 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed

Private Loans

- Student or parent loans that are different from federal loans
- May require a co-signer and passed credit check
- Know what you’re getting into (read the fine print)



ACCEPTING YOUR *Financial Aid Award*

Students will be notified via email once their award package is available for review. All paperwork must be submitted, and any necessary FAFSA corrections must be made before a student can receive their award package.

- 1** Log into ULink
- 2** Access the “Financial Aid & Scholarships” card
- 3** Click “My financial aid and scholarship awards”
- 4** Select “2025–2026 Award Year”
- 5** Click on the “Award Offer” tab to accept and/or decline offers

Financial Aid & Scholarships



Get Financial Aid & Scholarship Info

Find scholarships available for current students

Find types of financial aid available for current students



Manage Financial Aid & Scholarships

My financial aid and scholarship awards

Financial Aid Appeal Information

Academic Requirements for Federal Aid

Must Attend & Complete Classes to Earn Your Aid

Student is required to repay unearned portion if they stop attending or resign.

Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

- Will be checked at the end of **each semester**
- Student must:
 - Earn 2.0 semester and cumulative GPA
 - Earn 67% of attempted hours
 - **NOT** exceed 180 total undergraduate hours
- SAP Evaluation:

Good Standing	Eligible for aid
Warning	Eligible for aid, but must complete requirements
Suspension	Not eligible for aid, but may appeal
Probation	Eligible status if appeal is approved; must be stipulations provided by Appeal Committee



TIP: Requirements differ for
TOPS & scholarships!



Academic Requirements for Federal Aid

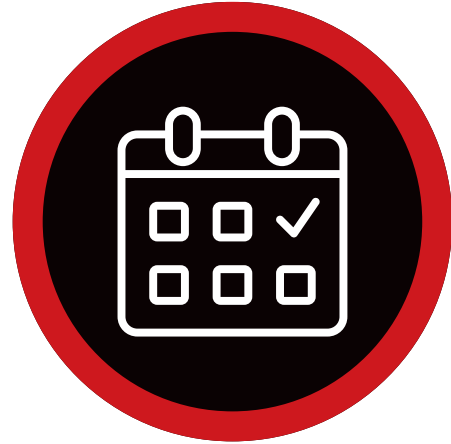
Course Program of Study (CPoS) - NEW!

- Federal student aid can only be paid for courses within a student's program of study (formally declared major, concentration, and/or minor).
- For undergraduates, 12 credit hours of degree-applicable courses are required for federal financial aid to be disbursed at the full-time rate. Credit hours 13 and above do not necessarily have to be degree-applicable.
- If a student enrolls in a class that is not counted in their program of study and their financial aid eligibility is impacted, they will be notified via University email.
- If notified, the student should work with their academic advisor to identify an alternate course.



Disbursement

When Funds are Released and/or Paid Out



Timeline

Financial Aid funds will be ready to disburse after all required steps have been completed, but will not be disbursed before August 15 for Fall 2025.

- Awards must be accepted online through ULink (if required).
- Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note must be completed.



Refunds

- If financial aid funds exceed charges for the semester, the student will be issued a refund.
- **Direct Deposit** is highly recommended. Set up through the Student Cashier Center (see form in your Orientation packet). Otherwise, a check will be mailed to the student's home address.
- Earliest refund is first day of class.



Short-Term Loans

- Short-term loans may be available if funds will be late (such as TOPS).
- Small cash advance on the student's anticipated refund.
- If eligible, students will receive an email.

Louisiana TOPS

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students
Merit-Based State Scholarship for Louisiana Residents

**Louisiana Office of Student
Financial Assistance**

mylosfa.la.gov



LOSFA

TOPS

Eligibility

	TOPS Opportunity \$2,703/semester	TOPS Performance \$2,903/semester	TOPS Honors \$3,103/semester
Louisiana High School	2.5 Core GPA	3.25 Core GPA	3.50 Core GPA
	20 ACT	23 ACT	27 ACT
BESE Approved Home Study Program	22 ACT	24 ACT	28 ACT

- Awards determined by LOSFA
- Core = high school courses required by TOPS
- ACT score must be achieved by graduation
- If ACT composite is <20 at graduation, the student can take an ACT test prior to August 1 to become eligible.

TOPS Rules

1

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

Students must continuously enroll as a full-time student (12 credit hours) each Fall and Spring Semester.

2

24 CREDIT HOURS

Students must pass/earn 24 credit hours each school year.

- School year is August-July and includes regular Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters and intersessions.
- Hours earned in Advanced Placement or high school dual enrollment are not applied to the 24 hours.



TIP: Always remember the 24 hour rule.

Failure to earn 24 hours will **permanently** cancel TOPS!



TOPS Rules

3

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Student must earn a 2.0 **cumulative** GPA at the end of the Fall semester to receive TOPS in the Spring.

The cumulative GPA required at the end of the Spring semester depends on the student's TOPS award.

- **Opportunity:** 2.3 first year; 2.5 each year after
- **Performance & Honors:** 3.0 each year

Failure to earn the required GPA will temporarily suspend TOPS until the required GPA is achieved.

- Student has 2 years to do so, and must meet other requirements.



Estimated SEMESTER COSTS **FALL 2025**

Tuition & Fees In-state Tier 2 Program at 12 hrs	\$5,736
Housing & Food Suite style shared room with Cajun Select meal plan	\$5,960
Books & Supplies Price varies and is paid separately	\$650
Total Semester	\$12,346
Total School Year	\$24,692

Actual final statement depends on:

- Number of credit hours registered
- Program of study (Tier 1 vs. Tier 2)
- Housing room type (if living on campus)
- Selected meal plan (required for residents)
- Lab fees and other course fees (these vary)



TIP: Use the *Estimated Costs Worksheet* in your Orientation packet to get a better idea of your actual anticipated costs!

*Out-of-State add \$6,864 per semester

Out-of-State Fee Waiver

Out-of-state students are charged higher tuition than in-state students (an additional \$6,864 per semester).

If the parent earned a 2- or 4-year degree from any accredited Louisiana college or University, the student may be eligible for in-state tuition.

**Contact the Registrar's Office
for more information**

registrar@louisiana.edu

337-482-6291

louisiana.edu/registrar



Military Financial Aid

- VA Education Benefits
 - GI Bill (Post 9/11, Active Duty, Selected Reserve)
 - Veteran Readiness & Employment
 - Dependents' Educational Assistance
- Louisiana Dependent Fee Exemption (Title 29)
- Louisiana National Guard Tuition & Patriot Scholarship
- Military Tuition Assistance (TA)
- Out-of-state fee waivers for eligible veterans & dependents

**Contact the Office of
Veteran & Military Student Services
for more information**

veterans@louisiana.edu

337-482-5206

louisiana.edu/veterans



Scholarships

Incoming students are automatically considered for academic scholarships when they apply for admission to the University.

Additional scholarship opportunities with varying qualifications are also offered, and even more become available as students progress through their degree.

**Contact the Scholarship Office
for more information**

scholars@louisiana.edu

337-482-6515

louisiana.edu/scholarship



When should you contact the Financial Aid Office?

Before you stop attending a class, drop a class, or resign from the University.

If one of your grades change after final grades are posted.

If you have an exception approved by LOSFA or TOPS

If you have any questions about financial aid processes or requirements.



TIP: Students must check their University email **daily**.
This is the University's main line of communication with students.



HOW TO MEET WITH A *Financial Aid Counselor*

During Orientation

See your Schedule of Events for designated Financial Aid Appointment times.

Appointments will be held in **Agnes Edwards Hall** (Career Services, room 104) during Orientation only.

After Orientation

Virtual appointments are highly recommended and can be scheduled online at **louisiana.edu/financialaid**.

Student must log in with their ULID and password to schedule an appointment.

Contact Information

UL Lafayette Financial Aid Office

-  337-482-6506, Option '4'
-  finaid@louisiana.edu
-  louisiana.edu/financialaid
Virtual appointments available online!
-  601 West St. Mary Blvd, 5th floor
Temporary location due to renovations.

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA - TOPS)

-  1-800-259-5626, Ext. 1012
-  custserv@osfa.la.gov
-  mylosfa.la.gov/applications/student-hub/
Register to view TOPS award status.