

TOPS Tech and Opportunity Information Sheet

TOPS pays for full time tuition but does not cover fees.

Here are just a few reminders to help you stay eligible for your TOPS award.

- ❑ You are allowed up to 6 **consecutive** semesters of TOPS Tech and for TOPS Opportunity, 8 **consecutive** semesters.
- ❑ General Studies and the Louisiana Transfer Degrees are not eligible programs for the TOPS Tech award. CNA, Electrical Construction, and Plumbing Construction programs are not eligible for TOPS.
- ❑ Registered Nursing(Pre-Nursing and RN) is an eligible program for TOPS Tech award for students that graduated high school after **2016**.
- ❑ Each semester you must enroll full time (12 or more credits) as of the 15th instructional class day (6 or more credits for Summer term) as of the 7th instructional class day.
- ❑ At no time (by the end of each semester) can your cumulative GPA drop below a 2.0. If this happens you will be suspended from TOPS immediately and remain so until you reestablish eligibility by earning a cumulative 2.5 GPA. You will have one year after your TOPS awards is suspended to reestablish your eligibility, beyond this time frame, your TOPS award will be cancelled. During any period of TOPS suspension, you must continue enrolling full time even though you are self-paying.
- ❑ Each year by the end of the Spring semester you must have a cumulative GPA of a 2.5 or higher and have passed 24 credit hours.
- ❑ If you have a 2.50 cumulative GPA at the end of the Spring semester but don't have the 24 credit hours passed, then TOPS will pay for you to enroll for the Summer semester and take a full time course load (at least 6 credit hours) to assist with earning the annually required 24 credit hours.
- ❑ If you do not have a 2.50 cumulative GPA or the required 24 passed credit hours, you may enroll in the Summer semester and self-pay in order to meet this requirement.
- ❑ An incomplete (I) grade, makes you ineligible for TOPS until that grade is completed. An assessment will then be done to determine eligibility. This means if you do not complete the (I) grade at the beginning of the next semester you will have to pay your tuition and be reimbursed when you regain eligibility.
- ❑ If you are graduating at the end of the semester and require fewer than 12 credits to graduate, you may be eligible for TOPS with fewer than 12 credits. **NOTIFY THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE.**
- ❑ Questions? Call TOPS at 1-800-259-5626, ext. 1012 or visit the SOWELA Financial Aid Office.