



To apply for TOPS for SENIORS 2020:

DO NOT GOOGLE ANY OF THESE WEBSITES! There are websites that charge a fee, but the FAFSA is free.

- (1) To begin the process, apply for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Both you and a parent apply for the FSA ID [here](#). Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use a FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to access certain U.S. Department of Education websites. According to the U.S. Department of Education, your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents.
- (2) Beginning **October 1**, you can complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov and list a Louisiana college/university as a recipient. This is how the LOSFA Office connects your FAFSA for your student to be eligible for TOPS. Use Earlier Income Information: On the 2020-21 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their **2018** income information, rather than their 2019 income information. This form must be completed for TOPS and for all federal financial aid including grants or loans.
- (3) Send your ACT or SAT scores directly to TOPS from ACT or SAT offices by selecting TOPS (ACT code 1595, SAT code 9019) as a recipient of your scores when registering for the tests. If your student already took the test and did not select TOPS as a recipient, your student can log into their ACT account and send their scores.
- (4) The deadline for submission of the FAFSA to receive your award in the Fall 2020 is July 1, 2020, but it is highly recommended that you apply in **advance of the deadline**. Colleges have different dates that they require the FAFSA be completed for other aid. Go to their financial aid website.

*****The FAFSA is the preferred application for TOPS.**

- Your student can create an account with the LA Office of Student Financial Assistance. **Your student MUST [register](#) to be able to open their account and to access their award information.** Your **Louisiana Secure ID (LASECID)** is your social security number.
- [Click here](#) for important information on applying for TOPS!
- **Questions about TOPS?** Contact the LA Office of Student Financial Assistance at 1-800-259-5626 or [click here](#) to email.
- **Questions about the FAFSA or FSA ID? Please call their office with questions. They are the agency in charge of this process and will be able to answer your questions.**

1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)