

2025 GRADUATE PARENT NIGHT

Virtual Academy of Lafourche



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Graduation Requirements (must be met by May 9)

- Must complete any E2020 courses to 100% with at least a 67% (lowest D) overall grade.
- Must pass LEAP requirements (1 English, 1 math, 1 science or social studies).
- Must complete the 24-25 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or sign an opt-out waiver. FAFSA is changing and will be released in Dec or later.
- Jumpstart students must earn required credentials and take the Work Keys Test.
- All students must attempt the ACT.

Students IGP's will be sent out in December and must be signed and returned. This is a graduation requirement.

Attendance Policy

- Attendance and progress completed works together
 - Seniors last day is May 9, 2025
- Please Refer VAL's Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook

Honor Grad and Valedictorian (determined once final grades are posted, after May 9)

A student must be enrolled at Virtual Academy of Lafourche as a student for the entire junior and senior years to be considered for Valedictorian. The student with the highest Grade Point Average.

Important dates:

Report Cards

- October 19, 2024 – October 26, 2024
- January 15, 2025 – January 19, 2025
- March 15, 2025 – March 22, 2025

May 23th – VAL graduation ceremony at 6pm, Thibodaux High Auditorium

Applying to college

- Students going to a 4-year college or university should apply in the Fall (before Christmas), and students going to a 2-year or technical college should apply by Early Spring (Jan/Feb).
- Students applying to 4-year colleges are encouraged to apply to more than one school, and at least one Louisiana school (if applying out-of-state). You want to have a back-up plan and don't want to miss college academic scholarship deadlines.
- If you attend a college event, please turn in proof of attendance to get this day excused.
- If your child still not sure what to do after high school? Visit the following websites to take an interest inventory or receive help in picking a career or college:
 - <http://www.unlockmyfuture.org/>
 - <https://www2.laworks.net/mylife/default.aspx>
 - <http://careercompassla.org>
 - <https://collegesearch.collegeboard.org/home>

ACT and WorkKeys testing

- Seniors who want to retake the ACT should register for a National test on act.org using their myACT account
- Louisiana colleges, scholarships, and TOPS will want the highest composite score at one test sitting. Do not report superscore unless it is specifically stated that superscore is acceptable.
- Colleges will look for math and English subscores to place students in the correct first math and English classes. See the college's website or recruit material for more information.
- To be competitive for scholarships and not miss a college scholarship deadline, students should retake ACT soon (October and/or December).
- Students who qualify can get up to 4 free ACT fee waivers over their 11th & 12th grade year. Please email me your name and contact number
- The National April ACT test is the deadline to score a qualifying score for TOPS (at least a 20 composite). Student who score a qualifying score for TOPS (or higher) in the summer after graduation will forfeit a semester of TOPS eligibility.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- FAFSA will open on December 1, 2024 for processing.
- Graduates will need to complete the 25-26 FAFSA.
- FAFSA is free – Parents/Students should never pay to file the FAFSA
- FAFSA is not a loan. Loans will be offered through the college's Financial Aid office and can be accepted or denied.
- Completing the FAFSA is the easiest way to apply for TOPS.

TOPS

- LOSFA (Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid) is in charge of TOPS. <https://mylosfa.la.gov/>. TOPS is a Louisiana only program for public schools.
- The deadline to have a qualifying ACT score for TOPS is the April ACT. Students who obtain a qualifying score in summer will forfeit a semester of eligibility.
- TOPS processes and received funding information in the summer after graduation.
- Students can use their 10-digit SASID (on printed transcripts) to create a Student Hub Account on the LOSFA website to track TOPS Core GPA, ACT scores, and TOPS processing in the summer.
- Students on the Jumpstart pathway can qualify for 2-years of Technical TOPS at a 2-year or technical school with a 17 on ACT or Silver on WorkKeys (and a 2.5 TOPS GPA).
- Students on the University pathway can qualify for 4-years of TOPS at any LA school with at least a 20 on ACT (and a 2.5 TOPS GPA).

ACT

ACT National Test Dates:

October 26, 2024 &

December 14, 2024

February 8, 2025

April 5, 2025

June 14, 2025

Louisiana Workforce Commission (laworks.net)

High Demand/High Wage Jobs

STAR JOBS in Louisiana

Applying for TOPS

You have two options to apply for TOPS: the TOPS Online Application or The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). The FAFSA® allows you to apply for TOPS/TOPS Tech, other state aid, and all federal aid.

Completing the TOPS Online Application fulfills the graduation requirement as an alternative to completing the FAFSA®; however, the TOPS Online Application allows you to apply ONLY for TOPS/TOPS Tech.

If you complete the FAFSA®, you do not have to fill out the TOPS Online Application to apply for TOPS.

TOPS & TOPS TECH

Scholarship Information:

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students
(mylosfa.la.gov)

- TOPS Core Curriculum (Core)
 - Opportunity 2.5 GPA and 20 to 22 ACT Composite
 - Performance 3.25 GPA and 23 to 26 ACT Composite
 - Honor 3.5 GPA and 27 Composite or Higher

- TOPS Tech Curriculum (Jumpstart Career)
 - TOPS Tech 2.5 GPA and 17 or Higher ACT
 - OR Work Keys Silver

LOSFA (<https://mylosfa.la.gov/>) Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

You can create a Student Hub to track your TOPS/TOPS Tech

Scholarships

- Applying for scholarships is the responsibility of the student. Scholarships are shared with you through the site managers and posted on our VAL's website.
- Colleges offer academic scholarships and post other scholarships on their websites.
- LOSFA posts scholarships monthly. Follow LOSFA on social media to get this information quickly.
- Free scholarship searches:
 - <https://www.payingforcollegeresource.com/scholarships-grants/>
 - <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/explore>
 - <https://studentscholarships.org/newsletters>
 - <https://mylosfa.la.gov/students-parents/scholarships-grants/scholarships/>
 - <https://fastweb.com>
- Scholarships are available for 4-year and 2-year colleges, and there are scholarships for current college students. This year's seniors will apply for first-time freshmen scholarships starting college in 2024-25.

Other things to know about:

- All Louisiana universities can access student transcripts. If your senior's school needs me to send transcripts, have your senior email me with the university's admission office address/email.
- Colleges will NOT accept CLEP scores and DE transcripts from VAL. CLEP scores need to be sent to the college from the student's College Board account, and DE transcripts need to be requested from the college where the DE credit was earned.

Graduation Cords

Students earn a graduation cord in the following areas:

State Credential – Business & Retail

Work Keys – Silver or High – Level 4's and up

CLEP Test – 50 or Higher

Dual Enrollment – TOPS Dual Enrollment Course

TOPS GPA of a 3.5 and higher

Medals

ACT Medal – Composite score of 18 or Higher

Thank you!

Contact Information

Denise Gibson

dgibson@valcharter.org

Keena Lewis

klewis@valcharter.org

(985) 446-2877

