

TOPS TECH CORE CURRICULUM

TOPS Tech Award For High School Graduates of 2018 through 2026¹

The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Core Curriculum is one component of the requirements to qualify for the TOPS scholarship. The curriculum outlined on this flyer is used to qualify for the TOPS Tech Award and consists of 21 units.^{2,3} Students qualifying for TOPS Tech Award may also use the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards Core Curriculum which is outlined in a separate flyer.

ENGLISH = 4 UNITS

| Units | Courses |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 Unit | English I |
| 1 Unit | English II |
| 2 Units from the following: | English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. |

MATH = 4 UNITS

| Units | Courses |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 Unit | Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course |
| 3 Units from the following: | Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits. |

SCIENCE = 2 UNITS

| Units | Courses |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Unit | Biology I |
| 1 Unit from the following: | Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, Physics, or AP or IB science courses |

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Schedule **Virtual Office Hours**
(Available 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on
Monday – Friday)

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SOCIAL STUDIES = 2 UNITS

| Units | Courses |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Unit from the following: | U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History |
| 1 Unit from the following: | Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States |

JUMP START COURSES = 9 UNITS

| Units | Courses |
|---------|---|
| 9 Units | In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major. |

¹ 2027 Graduates and thereafter have a different TOPS Tech Core Curriculum than previous graduates. Please see the TOPS Tech Core Curriculum Flyer for 2027 Graduates and thereafter.

² **GIFTED COURSES:** Any core curriculum course that is taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Plan shall be considered a "Gifted Course" and shall fulfill the core curriculum. **Some, but not all, Gifted Courses will be graded on a 5-point scale for determining the TOPS Core Curriculum GPA.** Courses to be graded on a 5-point scale are approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in consultation with the Louisiana Board of Regents. See footnote 3 for a link to the core curriculum courses and which of those courses will be graded on 5.0-point scale.

³ The calculation of the TOPS Core Curriculum grade point average (GPA) will use a 5-point scale for grades earned for **certain designated courses** in: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Gifted, Dual Enrollment, Honors, and Articulated offered for college credit by the Louisiana School for the Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA). For those designated courses, five quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "A," four quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "B," three quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "C," two quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "D," and zero quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "F." Only designated courses will be graded on 5-point scale. The courses currently designated to be calculated on the 5-point scale can be viewed at <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/tops-university-course-requirements.pdf>.

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