

LOUISIANA EARLY START PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

I. General criteria

1. Student must be at least 15 years of age and currently enrolled in 11th or 12th grade at a public Louisiana high school.
2. Student must have either PLAN or ACT (or SAT) scores on file at the high school.
3. Student must be in good standing as defined by the high school and meet the college/university enrollment criteria.
4. Student must have permission from the high school and his/her parent/guardian to participate.
5. Student must be enrolled in a college course for which dual credit (both college and high school credit) is attempted and recorded on both the student's secondary and postsecondary academic record.
6. Student may enroll in a maximum of 3 credit hours per semester/term, up to 6 credit hours per academic year, with Early Start funding. (The student is responsible for additional enrollment costs if exceeding the 3 credit hours/semester limit, even if the student enrolls in more than one college or university.) A dual-enrolled student is expected to follow the same withdrawal deadlines as any other undergraduate student in the college or university.
7. To continue enrollment in subsequent semesters/terms through this funding opportunity, student must have successfully completed (earned a college grade of A, B, C or P) current dual credit courses. Students who earn less than C or who withdraw/resign from a course may not enroll in the following semester or term with Early Start funding. *Limited, documented* exceptions for continuation after withdrawal may be granted by the college/university.
8. Continued state funding is not guaranteed. These criteria are subject to change.

II. Eligibility criteria to enroll in a College Level, Degree Credit Course

1. College Level, Degree Credit Course: A course in an academic subject that generates postsecondary institutional credit and appears (a) as a General Education course on the current Board of Regents' Master Course Articulation Matrix (public institutions) or (b) on a list of general education courses approved by the Board of Regents (for LAICU institutions).
2. Student must be on track for completing (a) the Regents/TOPS high school core (if graduating in 2011) or (b) the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum (if graduating in 2012 and beyond).
3. Student must have a PLAN or an ACT Composite score of at least 18 (or SAT equivalent).
4. To enroll in an entry level, college level English course, a student must (a) have a PLAN or ACT English sub-score of at least 18 (or SAT equivalent) or (b) meet the postsecondary institution's pre-requisite requirements.
5. To enroll in an entry level, college level mathematics course, a student must (a) have a PLAN or ACT mathematics sub-score of at least 19 (or SAT equivalent) or (b) meet the postsecondary institution's pre-requisite requirements.

III. Eligibility criteria to enroll in an Enrichment/Developmental Course

1. Enrichment/Developmental Course: An English or mathematics course that generates postsecondary institutional credit, but not degree credit, and is designed to prepare the student for college-level instruction.
2. Student must be a 12th grader/senior on track for completing (a) the Regents/TOPS high school core (if graduating in 2011) or (b) the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum (if graduating in 2012 and beyond).
3. Student must have a PLAN Composite score of at least 14 or an ACT Composite score of at least 15 (or SAT equivalent).

IV. Eligibility criteria to enroll in a Work Skills Course

1. Work Skills Course: A course in a skill or occupational training area that contributes to a declared Career Area of Concentration and leads to a recognized industry based certification.
2. Student must be on track (a) for completing the Regents/TOPS high school core (if graduating in 2011) or (b) for completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum (if graduating in 2012 and beyond) or (c) to graduate from high school (having earned at least 11 Carnegie hours if a junior, or 16 if a senior) and have declared a Career Area of Concentration.
3. Student must have a PLAN Composite score of at least 14 or an ACT Composite score of at least 15 (or SAT equivalent) or a WorkKeys Bronze Certificate.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (For High Schools and Colleges/Universities)

1. For the purpose of the Early Start program, a college course is defined as: (1) a college course taught at the postsecondary institution or (2) a specially scheduled college course taught at the high school.
2. The Program payment shall cover all costs to the student enrolling in a college course, for up to 3 credit hours (only) per student per semester or term, excluding the costs for textbooks, parking, laboratory fees, etc.
3. Students must successfully complete a current Early Start course to be eligible for Early Start funding in the following semester or term.
4. Participating colleges and universities enrolling eligible students in eligible dual credit courses through the Early Start Program will be paid at a rate of \$100 per college credit hour, not to exceed \$300 per course. Non-public students may enroll in dual credit courses with the same eligibility requirements and limits, paying no more than the rate paid by the state for public school students. Institutions will not be paid for non-public school student enrollments under this program.
5. Postsecondary institutions shall report grades to and bill LOSFA by the following deadlines.

REPORTING AND PAYMENT REQUEST DEADLINE DATES

Fall Semester/Term:

Jul 1-	Deadline for submission of grades from prior spring term/semester: Institutions that fail to meet the grade reporting deadline must receive permission from the Board of Regents to be approved for continued program funding. Fall funding is not guaranteed for those institutions.
Sept 1-	Portal Opens: Begin Billing after your school's census date
Oct 15	Portal Closes: Billings after this date require Board of Regents approval (payment is not guaranteed)
Oct 16-Nov 14-	ALL billing corrections must be completed and processed
Nov 15-	Payments Processed

Winter Term:

Dec 1-	Deadline for submission of grades from prior fall term/semester: Institutions that fail to meet the grade reporting deadline must receive permission from the Board of Regents to be approved for continued program funding. Winter funding is not guaranteed.
Dec 15-	Portal Opens: Begin Billing after your school's census date
Dec 30-	Portal Closes: Billings after this date require Board of Regents approval (payment is not guaranteed)
Dec 31-Jan 14 -	ALL billing corrections must be completed and processed
Jan 15-	Payments Processed

Spring Semester/ Term:

Jan 15-	Deadline for submission of grades from prior fall term/semester (March 1 for institutions reporting grades from prior winter term): Institutions that fail to meet the grade reporting deadline must receive permission from the Board of Regents to be approved for continued program funding. Spring funding is not guaranteed.
Feb 15-	Portal Opens: Begin Billing after your school's census date
April 1-	Portal Closes: (April 15 for term billings only) Billings after this date require Board of Regents approval (payment is not guaranteed)
April 2-April 30-	ALL billing corrections must be completed and processed
May 1-	Payments Processed

In cases where the dates above fall on a weekend or declared holiday, the deadline will be the next working day.

Questions regarding payment submission and processing should be referred to LOSFA's Special Program Staff at:

SGSP@osfa.la.gov

CERTIFICATION - TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/CUSTODIAN (GUARDIAN):

- I certify that all information provided on this application is correct.
- I have received a copy of the Early Start Program Student Eligibility Criteria Framework (see page 2).
- If my child is approved for participation in the Early Start Program, he/she will comply with all the requirements.
- I understand that the Early Start Program will pay for up to 3 credit hours per semester/term, even if my child enrolls in more than one college/university. I accept responsibility for any additional enrollment costs if my child enrolls in more than 3 credit hours this semester/term through the Early Start Program.
- I understand that the college courses and high school and college grades earned in those courses in which my child enrolls through the Early Start Program will be on my child's permanent high school and college academic record.
- **I understand that the grades my child earns on college courses in which he/she enrolls through the Early Start Program will be used by other programs, including TOPS, to determine his/her continuing eligibility for those programs.** See TOPS Q&A Q.150-151 located in TOPS section of www.osfa.la.gov.
- I do hereby authorize the Board of Regents and the Office of Student Financial Assistance access to my child's high school and college academic records.

Parent/Custodian (Guardian) Signature

Date

III. TO BE COMPLETED BY HIGH SCHOOL:

A. COURSE ENROLLMENT REQUEST: The High School Principal (or designee) must indicate the college course in which the student has permission to enroll and the respective high school course in which the student will receive high school credit.

College Course Dept/Number	College Course Title	College Credits. Max of 3	High School (LDE) Course Number	High School Course Title	High School Units	Early Start Funded Y/N*

Funding designation MUST be completed by high school: *limited to 3 credit hours per semester/term

B. Name of High School _____

C. ACT HS Code _____ Public High School Non-public High School Home School

D. Current School Year: 20__ - 20__ 1st Semester 2nd Semester

E. Student's current grade level: 11th Grade 12th Grade Number of Carnegie Units completed: _____

F. Student is on track for completing (by graduation from high school) the required high school core curriculum: Yes No

G. A copy of this student's PLAN, ACT or SAT Scores is attached. *Work Keys Certificate is required for students to enroll in a college work skills course if they do not have the required PLAN/ACT/SAT score.*

H. Student has has not previously participated in the Early Start Program.

I. Student earned a grade of ___ in the last college course in which s/he was enrolled for participation in the Early Start Program. S/he was enrolled in this course in the _____ semester/term of _____.

J. CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the student completing this application has permission to participate in the Early Start Program and that the information provided for this student by the high school is correct.

Signature of Principal or Designee

Date

IV. CERTIFICATION - TO BE COMPLETED BY COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:

I certify that I have reviewed this application and the student's scores on the PLAN, ACT, SAT, or the Work Keys certificate; that student meets all Early Start Program and college/university requirements to be enrolled in the course listed in Section III.A. of this application, and that if the student is qualified based on Work Keys, a copy of that Work Keys Certificate is on file at this college.

Signature of College/University Official

Date

INSTRUCTIONS

I. STUDENT

- A.-K. You must provide **ALL** the information requested.
- L. You are not required to complete this section. Any information provided will be used only for federal and state reporting purposes and has no impact on whether you are eligible to participate in the program.
- M. You must sign and date. Once you and your parent have signed the application, submit it to your high school counselor. Your school will complete Section III (High School Certification) and return the application to you. When your high school returns the application, you must submit this completed application to the college/university you will attend. You may be required to complete additional college/university enrollment forms and you should obtain those forms in advance and submit them with this application.

II. PARENT/CUSTODIAN (GUARDIAN)

You **MUST** sign the application in order for your child to be considered for participation in the Early Start Program.

III. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL (OR DESIGNEE)

- A.-J. You must complete all of Section III, Parts A-J, of the application. The information provided will be used to determine whether the applicant has met all eligibility criteria for the courses in which he intends to enroll. By signing the application, you are certifying that the information you have provided is true and correct. Once you have completed and signed Section III of the application, return it to the student for submission to the postsecondary institution in which the student plans to enroll.

IV. COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

- A. Determine whether the applicant meets all eligibility criteria of the course in which he intends to enroll, including verification of the WorkKeys Certificate level, if applicable. If the student meets the criteria for that course, sign the College/University Certification (Page 2, Section IV).
- B. Adhere to reporting deadlines. **Timely grade reporting for Early Start courses is crucial because payment for the subsequent semester is dependent upon successful course completion in the prior semester. Payment requests will not be processed until LOSFA has received all grades from the institution for all courses funded by Early Start.**
- C. After enrolling eligible students, the college/university may bill by submitting a request for payment to LOSFA either by (1) individual web entry or (2) in a batch file.
- D. **Payment Requests/Billing**
1. If the payment request is submitted by individual student web entry, the college must enter the Early Start Program Menu through the LOSFA Web Portal during the period the portal is open for each semester/term to bill for those students who were enrolled through the census day (14th day of classes for semester schools, or the 9th class day for term schools).
 2. If the payment request is submitted in a batch file, the batch file must be formatted in accordance with the Early Start Payment Request File Layout at the Early Start Program menu on the LOSFA Web Portal.
 3. The LOSFA Web Portal will be open during the following periods for requests both by individual student web entry and in batch files:

Fall Semester/Term	–	September 1 through October 15
Winter Term	–	December 15 through December 30
Spring Semester/Term	–	February 15 through April 1 (April 15 for Term Only)
 4. Payment requests received outside of these timeframes will not be paid unless approved by the Louisiana Board of Regents and payment is not guaranteed.
 5. By submitting a payment request to LOSFA, the college is certifying:
 - a. The student meets the eligibility criteria for the college course in which the student is enrolled in the Early Start Program;
 - b. The student was enrolled through the census day;
 - c. The student's high school has granted permission for the student to continue participation in the program;
 - d. The student meets the Early Start continuation requirements;
 - e. The student's school has provided notice of the course approved for enrollment; and
 - f. The student is in good standing at the institution.