



NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71497

Louisiana Early Start Program Student Application
(Formerly the Dual Enrollment Program)

Application Fee Paid

Make check or money order payable to N.S.U. Applications submitted without fees will not be processed.

(Application fee is non-refundable)

Ck # _____ Cash _____

M.O.# _____

Receipt # _____

\$20 U.S. Students

Semester Entering:

- theta Fall
theta Spring
theta Summer

ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED ON THIS APPLICATION
AN APPLICATION FEE IS REQUIRED WITH THE APPLICATION

Return to: Carl D. Perkins Program
Northwestern State University
110 Dodd Hall
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71497
(318) 357-5721

Please type or print in dark ink.

I. TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT:

INTENT TO APPLY TO NSU AS AN UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANT

Would you like this application to also serve as your official application for undergraduate studies at NSU after you graduate from high school?
theta No theta Yes If yes, what semester/year would you like to begin? Intended Major:

- A. College Semester/Term of Application: theta Fall theta Winter theta Spring Year: 20__
B. Is this your first semester participating in the Early Start Program? theta Yes theta No
C. Last Name: First Name: Middle Name:
D. Other names you might have used:
E. Gender: theta Female theta Male
F. Social Security Number (Required): - -
G. Date of Birth: Month: Day: Year:
H. Mailing Address: Street or P. O. Box City State Zip Code
I. Home Phone: () Cell Phone: () E-mail:
J. In case of emergency, notify: Last Name First Name Relationship () Phone Number
K. Are you a United States Citizen? theta Yes theta No If no, country of citizenship:
L. Are you Hispanic/Latino? theta Yes theta No
What is your race? Mark one or more.
theta American Indian or Alaskan Native theta Asian theta Black or African American
theta Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander theta White theta Foreign/Non-Resident Alien

M. CERTIFICATION:

- I certify that all information I have provided in this application is correct.
I have received a copy of the Early Start Program Student Eligibility Criteria Framework (see page 4).
I understand that the Early Start Program will fund (only) up to 3 credit hours per semester/term, and that I will be responsible for any additional enrollment costs if I enroll in more than 3 credit hours this semester/term through Early Start, even if I enroll in more than one college/university.
If I am approved for participation in the Early Start Program, I will comply with all the requirements.
I understand that I am enrolling as a Visiting/Guest Student at the college/university. Upon graduation from high school, if I desire to enroll at a college or university, I will apply for admission as a regular student and meet the college/university admission requirements.
I understand that the college courses and high school and college grades earned in those courses in which I enroll through the Early Start Program will be on my permanent high school and college academic records.
I understand that the grades I earn on college courses in which I enroll through the Early Start Program will be used by other programs, including TOPS, to determine my 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 high school and college academic records.
I acknowledge that I am enrolling in the course listed on the back of this form and also understand that it is my responsibility to OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW or DROP a class I decide not to complete by the college/ university published deadline. If I withdraw I may not be eligible for Early Start funding next semester.

- Upon completion of the course(s), I will receive three semester hours of college credit per course with a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F. As an enrolled student at Northwestern State University, I will follow the university's policy for full refunds, partial refunds, dropping courses with a grade of "W", and resigning from the university with a grade of "W". Further, I acknowledge that dropping a course with a grade of "W" or resigning from the university with a grade of "W" can affect any future financial aid as a result of unsatisfactory academic progress.
- I certify, if applicable, that I have registered or will register with the Selective Service. I understand that failure to provide complete and accurate information is the basis for the rejection of this application or suspension from the university with loss of any credits earned or fees paid. I do hereby authorize Louisiana public postsecondary education access to my academic records.

Student Signature

Date

II. 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 4).
- 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. Grades earned can affect any future financial aid as a result of unsatisfactory academic progress.
- **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

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 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.

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. LOSFA will provide a report identifying students who are ineligible for Early Start based upon prior billings and grade reports. **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.**
- 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. **Reservations:**
1. If the payment request is submitted by individual student web entry, on or after the following dates, enter a reservation by logging on to the Early Start Program Menu on the LOSFA Web Portal at www.osfa.la.gov, using the College logon ID and password assigned your school.

Fall Semester/Quarter	–	July 1	Winter Quarter	–	November 1
Spring Semester/Quarter	–	January 4			

Each semester/quarter, enter the information from this application to the Early Start Program entry screen as instructed.

The portal will provide a verification number acknowledging receipt of the application for each course. If funds for the Early Start Program are available, the LOSFA Web Portal will confirm that the student will be funded. If funds are not available, the LOSFA Web Portal will reflect that the student is on a waiting list, pending availability of funds.

Print this screen, record the applicable course number and name on it, and file it with the application.

2. If the payment request is submitted in a batch file, no reservation is required.
- E. **Payment Requests/Billing**
1. If the payment request is submitted by individual student web entry, the college must reenter the Early Start Program Menu through the LOSFA Web Portal during the period the portal is open for each semester/quarter 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 quarter and 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/Quarter	–	September 1 through October 13
Winter Quarter	–	December 12 through December 29
Spring Semester/Quarter	–	January 30 through April 6
 4. Payment requests received outside of these timeframes will not be paid unless approved by the Louisiana Board of Regents.
 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.

LOUISIANA EARLY START PROGRAM FRAMEWORK, 2009-10

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 (e.g., spring) through this funding opportunity, student must have successfully completed (earned a college grade of A, B, C or P) current (fall) 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 may be changed for the spring semester.

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 2010 or 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, 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, and 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 2010 or 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 2010 or 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 bill LOSFA for Program payment within 20 days of the census date of the semester term for which the student is enrolled. The absolute billing deadline for the Fall semester is 13 Oct.