



AA-12: CHAPTER 33 VA BENEFIT CALCULATION FOR TOPS-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

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Revised:

Reviewed:

Monitoring Unit: Registrar's Office

I. PURPOSE: This policy provides guidelines and procedures for the calculation of Chapter 33 VA benefits for students also receiving TOPS.

II. DEFINITIONS:

TOPS – Taylor Opportunity Program for Students. State merit-based scholarships for Louisiana residents who attend a Louisiana public college or university, a school in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, an approved proprietary cosmetology school, or an institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges & Universities.

Chapter 33 – Otherwise known as the “Post-9/11 GI Bill,” this legislation helps veterans or their dependents pay for school or cover expenses while training for a job.

III. GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES

LSUHSC-NO will not reduce Chapter 33 benefit calculations by the value of a student's TOPS scholarship, as TOPS does not meet the federal definition of a “tuition-based” scholarship (can be used for tuition only).

IV. PROCEDURES

1. Eligible students apply for Chapter 33 VA Benefits with the Registrar's Office.
2. The Registrar's Office calculates the student's Chapter 33 benefit without removing any TOPS scholarships from the benefit calculation.
3. Students must re-apply for VA benefits annually.

V. REFERENCES

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance](#)