



# Counselor Connect



**February 2025**

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## Student Opportunities

### **2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA)**

**Please share with your school administrators, counselors teachers and families.**

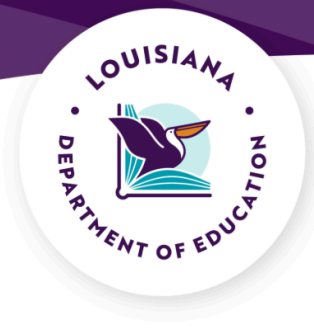
FBI New Orleans, The Tulane University Police Department, and the Louisiana Chapter of the FBI National Academy are proud to announce the introduction of the 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA) to Louisiana. Two of the nation's most notable and iconic institutions will conduct law enforcement and legal training for selected youth from the State of Louisiana.

The FLEYA training program will be a FREE weeklong overnight camp exposing students (15 to 17 years of age) to federal, state and local law enforcement practices. This joint effort promotes law enforcement career paths by giving the selected youths an inside look at the various practices and techniques as taught by subject matter experts and agency instructors. Tulane's Uptown campus will serve as the home base for an academic environment with the premier atmosphere to encourage students to pursue higher education and careers in law enforcement.

Link to information and [application](#) can be found on the [FBI New Orleans](#) website under COMMUNITY OUTREACH TAB

#### **FLEYA Eligibility Criteria**

1. Student is a United States Citizen residing in the state of Louisiana
2. Student is currently enrolled in a Louisiana High School



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3. Student must be 15 to 17 years old at the time of the Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA), which will be held June 1-6, 2025
4. This program is only for current high school students (students graduating high school in the spring 2025, are not eligible)
5. Student minimum GPA of 2.7
6. Student must complete the entire application
7. Student understands they must be present each day of the FLEYA program; no absences during FLEYA
8. Completed application and essay must be emailed in **PDF form** to [LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov](mailto:LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov) by February 28, 2025. (Note: No Google Docs or applications requiring a password to access will be accepted.)

Please contact [LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov](mailto:LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov) with questions.

## **LOSFA: The Charles and Rose Broussard Family Internship**

**Please share with your school administrators, counselors teachers and families.**

The Charles and Rose Broussard internship provides an opportunity for a paid internship at one of three research stations within the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center system.

The Internship program is open to both high school and college students and provides an opportunity for the student to gain practical experience with agriculture research being conducted at one of three research stations, the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station, the Iberia Research Station, or the Dean Lee Research Station.

Interested students should complete an [application form](#) and return it along with a resume to Dr. Kurt Guidry ([kmguidry@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:kmguidry@agcenter.lsu.edu)) by February 21, 2025.

Please contact [kmguidry@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:kmguidry@agcenter.lsu.edu) with questions.

## **SUNO Launches Louisiana's First Data Science Bachelor's Program**

**Please share with your school administrators, counselors teachers and families.**

[Southern University at New Orleans](#) (SUNO) is thrilled to introduce Louisiana's first bachelor's degree in data science, an innovative program designed to meet the growing need for skilled professionals who can analyze and transform complex data into actionable insights across various industries. This program is pivotal in preparing students for dynamic and high-demand careers.

The Data Science program emphasizes hands-on, project-based learning, allowing students to gain real-world experience as they prepare for impactful roles such as management analysts, market researchers, data analysts, and operations researchers. Designed to address the unique needs of adult learners, underrepresented minorities, and transfer students, the program features flexible online and hybrid options. These options eliminate traditional education barriers, offering students the convenience of learning from anywhere while reducing costs associated with commuting,



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housing, and transportation. Furthermore, the program will leverage open educational resources, replacing expensive textbooks and reducing student financial burdens.

Key features of the program include:

- Strategic partnerships with organizations will provide students with valuable internships and clear pathways to employment in high-stakes, data-driven environments.
- Alignment with Louisiana's workforce strategies to meet demands in critical industries such as healthcare, energy, finance, government, and information technology, ensuring graduates are equipped to address real-world challenges.
- A curriculum carefully developed in collaboration with alumni, community leaders, and industry representatives to foster equity, accessibility, and practical expertise in data-driven decision-making.

SUNO's Data Science program underscores the university's commitment to fostering innovation and creating opportunities for students to excel in a rapidly evolving technological landscape. This program establishes a new standard for higher education in Louisiana by addressing the workforce demands of today and tomorrow.

Please contact [admissions@suno.edu](mailto:admissions@suno.edu) with questions.

## **LOSFA: TOP'S Guide**

**Please share with your school administrators, counselors teachers and families.**

The [TOPS Guide](#) places all the essentials about the TOPS Scholarship into one publication to better assist counselors, students, and parents with understanding the requirements to earn and maintain TOPS, award levels, how to apply, access the Student Hub, avoid processing errors, and more.

Please contact [losfa.counselors@la.gov](mailto:losfa.counselors@la.gov) with questions.

## **LOSFA: 2025-2026 FAFSA**

**Please share with your school administrators, counselors teachers and families.**

In support of critical student and family outreach, the Federal Student Aid (FSA) office is publishing a set of FAFSA guides for non-English speakers in the 10 most spoken languages in the U.S. outside of English and Spanish, as well as making interpretive services available in these languages. Users may access the guides from the [FAFSA Support in Other Languages page](#). Some guides (in Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, French, Korean, and Russian) are available now, and remaining guides (in German, Arabic, and French Creole) will be published in the coming months.

To assist counselors, mentors, and others supporting students and families with the FAFSA®, FSA released the [2025-2026 Counselor Resource for Completing the FAFSA® Form](#). This guide highlights challenging sections of the FAFSA®, like inviting a parent contributor or completing the



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finances section, with clear, step-by-step instructions. Counselors can use it when working with students or share it with others seeking FAFSA® guidance.

Please contact [custserv@la.gov](mailto:custserv@la.gov) with questions.

## **USDA 1890 National Scholars Program**

**Please share with school counselors, students and families.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program, which aims to encourage students at 1890 land-grant universities to pursue career paths in food, agriculture, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines. **The application deadline is March 1, 2025.**

Young people around the country are invited to complete and [submit their applications online](#) through an e-application. Administered through USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE), the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program is available to eligible high school seniors entering their freshman year of college as well as rising college sophomores and juniors.

“The USDA 1890 National Scholars Program enhances career opportunities for students at 1890 land-grant universities,” said USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement Director Lisa Ramirez. “The program has also been an effective tool to help USDA recruit and retain highly qualified students into careers in food, agricultural science, natural resources and related fields.”

The USDA 1890 National Scholars Program is a partnership between USDA and the 19 land-grant universities that were established in the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1890. USDA partners with these 1890 universities to provide scholarship recipients with full tuition, fees, books and room and board. Scholarship recipients attend one of the 1890 land-grant universities and pursue degrees in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines. The scholarship also provides work experience at USDA through summer internships. Scholars accepted into the program are eligible for noncompetitive conversion to a permanent appointment with USDA upon successful completion of their degree requirements and program requirements by the end of the agreement period. The program awarded 94 scholarships in the 2024 cohort of 1890 Scholars.

The USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) will host three webinars to present information and answer questions about the [1890 National Scholars Program](#). USDA liaisons will present information about the program, eligibility, fields of study and the selection process. The second portion of the webinar will be Q&A.

- **WEBINAR DATE:** February 19
- **WEBINAR TIME:** 5 p.m. Central Standard Time
- **WEBINAR LINK:**  
[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_NgaUMHZ4RdOHAVouCValKQ#/registration](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_NgaUMHZ4RdOHAVouCValKQ#/registration)

Please contact [partnerships@usda.gov](mailto:partnerships@usda.gov) with questions.



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## Fast Forward

### **2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit**

**Please share with school system leaders, high school administrators, school counselors and child welfare and attendance stakeholders.**

[Registration](#) is still open for the 2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit. This one-day event (formerly known as the Jump Start Convention) will be held on Tuesday, February 25 at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette, LA. This year's convention will provide professional development opportunities focused on the creation and expansion of high-quality work-based learning programs, fostering industry partnerships to strengthen Career and Technical Education initiatives, enhancing alignment with workforce demands, and improving child welfare and attendance support systems.

Interested attendees can check the [Jump Start Meeting and Training Opportunities](#) page for [hotel information](#) and the [schedule at-a-glance](#).

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) with questions.

## Professional Opportunities

### **2025 Teacher Leader Summit**

**Please share with school system leaders, and secondary principals, assistant principals, and school counselors.**

The 2025 Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional learning conference that brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. This year's [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will focus on our ability to lead the next level every single day. **School Counselors** are encouraged to attend. Please watch our [2024 Teacher Leader Summit Recap Video](#)

- TL Summit will be held from **June 10 to June 12** at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans
- Early Bird registration window is open from 2/10 – 3/14. The regular registration window will be open from 3/15 – 4/18
- It is **strongly encouraged** to register early
- Early Bird registration cost is \$249. The regular registration cost is \$299

Please contact [ldoevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoevents@la.gov) with questions.



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## **DE Coordinator Training**

**Please share with high school administrators, school counselors, and teachers.**

The Board of Regents will host a Dual Enrollment Coordinator Training in March. Participants will examine strategies for developing a dual enrollment infrastructure. [Register online](#) for the training sessions:

- Southern University  
March 11, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Louisiana State University Alexandria  
March 12, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please contact [michelle.demeulenaere@laregents.edu](mailto:michelle.demeulenaere@laregents.edu) with questions.

## **AP Coordinator Online Training**

**Please share with AP Coordinators, Advanced Academic Leadership.**

[Learning Opportunities for AP Coordinators – AP Central | College Board](#) - The topics of AP coordinator online training include exam registration, student enrollment, exam ordering, and AP Exam administration.

[Coordinated](#) - AP coordinators, this is our podcast! Smile with hosts Derek and Karli as we converse with superstars and unsung heroes in education. Hear from fellow AP coordinators and colleagues in AP: essential updates, best practices, and stories from schools worldwide.

Please contact [caronda.bean@la.gov](mailto:caronda.bean@la.gov) with questions.

## **LOSFA: Louisiana Virtual Drive-in Workshop**

**Please share with high school administrators, school counselors, and advisory.**

The Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC) will host a virtual workshop on Wednesday, February 12, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. All high school counselors in Louisiana are welcome to attend. SACAC's Drive-in Workshops, one-day seminars for high school counselors and advisors, are a way to include many people in effective professional development experiences. Drive-in Workshops consist of several seminars moderated by seasoned professionals who have had many years of on-the-job training in college counseling. LOSFA's Hailey Pellegrin will be conducting a TOPS & FAFSA Seminar. View the [full schedule](#).

Please contact Drive-in Workshop Coordinators Marshall Gray [mgray@esacadiana.com](mailto:mgray@esacadiana.com) or Danielle Staggers [danielle\\_staggers@mpcads.com](mailto:danielle_staggers@mpcads.com) with questions.



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## **Fast Track ESL Add-On**

**Please share with teachers, instructional coaches, EL departments, and principals.**

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL Add-On credential. Please complete the 2024 - 2026 Early Interest Survey to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities

Please contact [alexandra.chenevert@la.gov](mailto:alexandra.chenevert@la.gov) with questions.

## Resources

### **Board of Regents Interactive Course Articulation Matrix**

**Please share with high school administrators, school counselors, and teachers.**

The [Louisiana Board of Regents](#)' General Education [Articulation Matrix](#) is a guide for determining which courses are equivalent between public colleges and universities in Louisiana. The matrix helps students transfer credits between institutions.

#### **How does the matrix work?**

- The matrix identifies courses with a four-character rubric and a four-digit number.
- The rubric begins with the letter "C" to indicate that it's a state "Common" number.
- The first digit of the course number indicates the academic level.
- The fourth digit indicates the course's credit value in semester hours.

#### **What can I use the matrix for?**

- Students can use the matrix to determine which courses will transfer for credit.
- Students can use the matrix to plan their course selection.
- Institutions can use the matrix to evaluate and transfer Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credits.

#### **What are the limitations of the matrix?**

- Courses may not apply to a specific degree program.
- The matrix is limited to general education courses.

Please contact [highschoolacademics@la.gov](mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov) with questions



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## **2024-2025 ACT Counselor's Guide**

**Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.**

ACT is offering a **free** [Counselor's Guide for the 2024-2025 school year](#). The guide will provide information regarding national offerings of the ACT test, tools and resources to help support students, season-based timelines for juniors and seniors, test preparation, and so much more.

Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.

## Reminders

### **College Board deadlines for AP Exams**

**Please share with AP Coordinators, Advanced Academic Leadership, and counselors.**

The College Board would like to remind school systems of upcoming deadlines.

- **March 14:** Deadline for AP coordinators to submit final updates for [AP Exam Orders](#).
- **April 30:** Deadline to finalize student fee reduction status in [AP Registration & Ordering](#),
- **April 30:** [AP Digital Portfolio](#) deadline for performance tasks in AP Seminar, AP Research, and AP Computer Science Principles.

Contact [caronda.bean@la.gov](mailto:caronda.bean@la.gov) with questions.





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## Ask CoCo

### Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

**Q:** I have a student working towards an associate's degree. The student has already met her graduation requirements for Social Studies, having taken World History, American Government, US History, and DE Psychology (CPSY 2013). However, the student has just completed Psyc 2076 (CPSY 2313) at LSUE. Am I transcribing this course as a DE-weighted course? Or just a DE elective course?

- The "yz" Counselor

**A:** The course should be transcribed as a DE elective. As a reminder, consulting the [TOPS University](#) and [TOPS Tech](#) Course Requirement documents can help identify whether a course is on the 4 or 5-point scale.



## Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[Uniball's Skilled Trades Scholarship](#) Deadline: March 13

[Meritus Credit Union Scholarship](#) Deadline: March 28

[Dairy MAX Scholarship](#) Deadline: March 31

[Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships](#) Applications open in March; Deadline varies

[National Restaurant Association Educational Scholarships](#) Deadline: March 15

[SkillsUSA Member Scholarships](#) Deadline: varies

[Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Program](#) Deadline: April 22



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## Connect With Our Office

### Office of Career and College Readiness Contact Information

<a href="mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov">highschoolacademics@la.gov</a>	General questions about the office and graduation requirements
<a href="mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov">ldefinancialaid@la.gov</a>	Questions related to the financial aid policy or for assistance with FAFSA completion
<a href="mailto:sca@la.gov">sca@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Supplemental Course Allocation/Course Choice
<a href="mailto:jumpstart@la.gov">jumpstart@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Jump Start
<a href="mailto:healthyschools@la.gov">healthyschools@la.gov</a>	Questions related to healthy schools, healthy communities, and whole child
<a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a>	Questions related to pupil progression
<a href="mailto:transcripts@la.gov">transcripts@la.gov</a>	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates

## Monthly Calls

Child Welfare and Attendance	<a href="#">February 13 at 8 a.m.</a>
Alternative Education	<a href="#">February 13 at 10 a.m.</a>
Office of Career and College Readiness	<a href="#">February 20 at 3 p.m.</a>
Safe and Healthy Schools	<a href="#">February 27 at 2 p.m.</a>

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