

Chapter 8 - Division of Basic and Career Studies

Administration

Jan B. Albritton, Director

The Division of Admissions, Orientation, Basic, and Career Studies serves as a total academic support unit for entering freshmen. While entering freshmen may choose to go directly into one of the five academic colleges on campus, students who are undecided about a major enter Basic and Career Studies. Academic advising, personal counseling, interest testing, and decision-making workshops are available to assist students in making academic decisions. Students may also enter Basic and Career Studies when considering a change in majors.

At any given time, should a student fail to meet the specific requirements of a college, the student may be placed into Basic and Career Studies until grade point and course requirements are met.

Summer Orientation

An orientation and registration program for all new freshmen is held each Summer preceding Fall registration. The Summer sessions, conducted by the Division of Admissions, Basic, and Career Studies, are open to all beginning freshmen who have graduated in May of that calendar year and who have received official notice of acceptance to Louisiana Tech University.

The purpose of the orientation and registration program is to enable the entering student to become familiar with the University, its academic programs, and major courses of study, and to explore educational and vocational interests and goals. Each student will select courses for the Fall Quarter and complete registration, except for payment of fees.

The objectives of the program are 1) to introduce the student to Louisiana Tech University and make the transition from high school a smooth and orderly process; (2) to provide the student with academic direction and more personal attention through faculty advising and counseling; (3) to acquaint the student with opportunities, responsibilities, and regulations of the University; (4) to register the student for classes with the exception of payment of fees (fees will be paid at the beginning of the Fall Quarter); and (5) to acquaint parents with University standards for students and provide an overview of Louisiana Tech University.

Special orientation sessions for transfer students are also conducted.

Developmental Education Program

This program is intended to assist academically underprepared students in developing their abilities to meet the requirements of college-level courses. The components of this program are courses numbered 099 in English and mathematics.

A student who places in any of the developmental (099) courses must register in those courses if there are openings available in them before he/she registers for any college-level courses. All courses in the Developmental Education Program should be completed in the first four quarters of attendance for full-time students. A maximum of three attempts at a given developmental course will be allowed. The student will be dismissed from the University if this time limit is not met.

Class attendance in the Developmental Education Program is mandatory. After four (4) unexcused absences, the student will automatically be given a grade of "F" in the course. Withdrawal from the developmental education classes will not be permitted unless there are extenuating circumstances. If

he/she needs to reduce his/her course load, the student will be required to drop any regular courses before any courses in the Developmental Education Program are dropped.

No credit is allowed in any curriculum for any courses with a catalog number beginning with zero (0) (e.g., English 099).

Scholarships

Louisiana Tech offers scholarship awards through the Admissions Office, as well as through the academic colleges and departments. For freshmen, apply for admission. January 5 is the priority deadline to apply for admission in order to be considered for first-round scholarships. Get an application at www.latech.edu/admissions/future-freshman.shtml. For transfer students, May 15 is the deadline for submitting Louisiana Tech's scholarship application. Get an application at www.latech.edu/admissions/scholarships.shtml or contact the Admissions office at (318) 257-3036.

Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)

The TOPS program is sponsored by the State of Louisiana and administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA). The program provides qualified students with tuition at colleges and universities in Louisiana. There are three levels of award: Opportunity, Performance and Honors. Performance and Honors awards include an additional stipend. Determination of eligibility is based on Louisiana residency, completion of the TOPS core curriculum, cumulative high school GPA on those courses, and the ACT composite score. Information is available from high school counselors and the LOSFA web site, www.osfa.state.la.us, or call 1-800-259-5626. Application for TOPS is made by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that it is received by the federal processor by July 1. The FAFSA may be submitted on the web through the Louisiana Tech web site at www.latech.edu/finaid or directly to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Paper FAFSA forms may be obtained from high school guidance counselors or by contacting the University Admissions Office at 1-800-LATECH1 or the Financial Aid Office at 318-257-2641 or e-mail techaid@ltfa.latech.edu.

TOPS has requirements for retention. The required cumulative GPA varies by level of award. All require the completion of 24 semester credit hours in the three regular quarters: Fall, Winter and Spring. Details on retention are provided at the time of award to the student by LOSFA. Obtain further information on the web at www.latech.edu/finaid or visit the Financial Aid Office, Room 240, Keeny Hall.