


## A+ Program Changes and Updates – MO Dept of Higher Education (MDHE)

Effective October 30, 2011

➔ **2011-12—The following A+ Requirements will be in place:**

1	<p><b>Items covered by the A+ Program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student <i>tuition</i> (in-district or out-of-district)</li> <li>• <i>Common student fees</i> (\$12/credit hr student fee and \$5/credit hr technology fee)</li> </ul> <p><b>Items NOT covered by the A+ Program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab fees and all other miscellaneous fees such as late fees or re-enrollment fees</li> <li>• Online course fees-A+ will pay <i>tuition</i> and <i>common fees</i> related to online coursework, but will not cover the \$65 online course fee charged per course</li> <li>• Graduation fees, infrastructure and parking fees, drop fees</li> <li>• Books and Supplies</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>The length of the eligibility period for the A+ Scholarship will be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48 months immediately following high school graduation</li> <li>• Receipt of an Associate’s degree</li> <li>• Completion of 105% of the required hours for the student’s program of study</li> </ul> <p><b>The items above replace the previous limits of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four years from high school graduation</li> <li>• Six semester payment limit</li> </ul> <p>*Students qualifying for a military deferment may have their eligibility extended beyond 48 months. The extension corresponds to the length of active military duty; application for deferment is available through MDHE.</p>	
3	<p><b>A+ and Pell Grants</b> – Federal Pell Grant funds will be applied to student account balances first; if any A+ eligible costs remain, they will be billed to A+. <i>A student can’t receive A+ in addition to a Pell Grant if the Pell Grant pays for all tuition and fees.</i> However, the student may have access to their A+ Scholarship for use in later semesters during which they might become Pell Grant ineligible. The recognition of being an A+ graduate remains intact, and students can list A+ on resumes and applications as an achievement they earned for a job well done in high school.</p>	
4	<p><b>Maintaining A+ Eligibility</b> - OTC students must be enrolled full-time, maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, and maintain a cumulative 67% completion ratio (<i>Completion Ratio = # of Completed Hours / # of Attempted Hours</i>). If students lose their A+ eligibility, they can get it back with the 48-month period immediately following graduation by re-establishing their GPA and/or completion ratio. A+ will not pay for coursework while students are working to re-establish their eligibility.</p>	
5	<p><b>Withdrawal From All Classes</b> – Students who withdraw from all classes at OTC during their <i>first semester</i>, will no longer be eligible for A+ because the withdrawal from all classes or failure to complete at least 3 credit hours will result in a cumulative GPA of 0 and a completion ratio of 0%.</p> <p>If a student withdraws from all classes <i>after their first semester</i>, the failure to successfully complete at least 67% of all credit hours attempted at OTC will cause them to be placed on financial aid warning. Students on warning may continue to receive A+ benefits for 1 semester, but must re-establish a cumulative completion ratio of 67% and 2.5 GPA requirement by the end of the semester to continue to receive A+ benefits.</p>	
6	<p><b>Exception To The 3-Year Rule</b> - Students must attend an A+ designated school the three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation unless they are dependents of <i>active</i> military families or <i>retired</i> military who relocate to MO within one year of retirement are also exempt from this requirement.</p>	
7	<p><b>Computation of Attendance Average</b> - Students transferring between public or private MO high schools will have all 4 years computed in their final attendance average. Students transferring from an out-of-state high school, attended during Grade 9, will have only 3 years computed in their final attendance average.</p>	

8	<p><b>Eligibility Expiration</b> - Eligibility will expire upon completion of 105% of credits earned toward an Associate degree. For example, if a degree program requires 62 credit hours for completion, A+ could pay for one 3 credit hour remedial course (if needed) and still remain within the 105% cap.</p> <p>Students who complete a certificate program and bridge over to a related 2-year degree program will have the 105% limit reset, but transfer hours will be included in the new limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The 105% limit excludes:</b> college credit hours earned before high school graduation ( e.g. dual credit, dual enrollment, technical education articulation, advanced placement, international baccalaureate)</li> <li>• <b>The 105% limit includes:</b> 1) all hours (including developmental/remedial hours) taken at the student’s current post-secondary institution; 2) all known hours (including developmental/ remedial hours) taken at any other A+ eligible institution; 3) hours taken at any non-eligible A+ institution, including out-of-state institutions, that the current institution accepts in transfer</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Incomplete or Dropped Classes</b> - A+ awards will be reduced by the amount paid for any incomplete or withdrawn coursework from a previous term. Students enrolled full-time (min 12 hours@ OTC) during the 11FA semester, who drop a class, will have their scholarship reduced the following semester for the cost of the dropped class.</p>
10	<p><b>Repeated Coursework</b> – A+ will not pay for repeated coursework. If a student took a class and a final grade was assigned, A+ will not cover the student’s cost to retake the class. The hours related to the repeated course, however, can be included in the full-time enrollment criteria.</p>
11	<p><b>Summer Use of A+ Scholarship</b> - ALL A+ qualifiers may attend the <i>summer semester (min 6 hour enrollment at OTC) immediately following high school graduation</i> and use their A+ scholarship. This change applies even if the student plans to attend a different institution in the fall.</p> <p>After the student transfers to a different institution, they are considered <i>visiting students</i> at OTC and cannot use their A+ Scholarship during subsequent summers to accelerate their degree completion from another institution.</p>
12	<p><b>Exceptions to Full Time Enrollment</b> - Use of the A+ Scholarship requires full-time enrollment (min 6 hrs at OTC in the summer; 12 hrs at OTC in fall and spring), with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student has a documented disability and an ADA letter on file (but must be enrolled in at least 6 hrs)</li> <li>• Student plans to graduate at the end of the semester, has applied for graduation with the Registrar’s Office, and needs less than full-time enrollment to complete degree coursework</li> <li>• Student is enrolled in all hours available for the program during a given term</li> <li>• Student is participating in a required internship</li> <li>• Student is enrolled in pre-requisite coursework requiring less than full-time enrollment</li> </ul>
13	<p><b>Theology or Divinity Degrees</b> - A+ Scholarships cannot be used for students enrolled or intending to enroll in a course of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.</p>
14	<p><b>Criminal Record</b> - A+ Scholarships cannot be used if students have a criminal record preventing the receipt of federal Title IV student financial aid.</p>

**➔ 2014-15—The following A+ Requirements will be in place:**

15	<p><b>Algebra I EOC</b> - Beginning with the <b>Class of 2015</b>, qualifiers must achieve a score of <i>Proficient</i> or <i>Advanced</i> on the Algebra I End of Course exam. EOC retakes will be allowed, if necessary, by the state for those seeking A+ qualification. <i>MO DESE</i> will be working with districts to secure this plan - <b>OR-</b> Students may <i>complete</i> the first semester at a postsecondary institution with a <i>minimum of 12 hours</i> and the equivalent of a <i>2.5 GPA</i> prior to accessing A+ funds. The student will have only one semester/ opportunity to meet this alternate requirement if they have not scored high enough on the Alg I EOC. Costs incurred in the first semester will not be retroactively reimbursed.</p>
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