



TOP TEN TIPS – FACT OR FICTION?

How much do you *really* know about the benefits and requirements of the A+ Program? Read these statements and decide whether they're **fact** or **fiction**.

1. All A+ grads attend OTC.	Fact	Fiction
2. All A+ grads have to have perfect 4.0 GPAs or higher.	Fact	Fiction
3. If students miss a day of school, they can't graduate as A+ Seniors.	Fact	Fiction
4. A+ grads who plan to finish 4 years of college can't use A+ money/financial incentives.	Fact	Fiction
5. If students have an alcohol and/or drug violation—either on or off campus—at any time during high school, they can no longer participate in the program.	Fact	Fiction
6. Students with ISS or OSS can no longer participate in the program.	Fact	Fiction
7. If students want to participate in athletics in college, they shouldn't sign up for the program.	Fact	Fiction
8. Only students who need money for college sign up for A+.	Fact	Fiction
9. The average A+ award is over \$6,500 if students use all or most of their A+ Scholarship.	Fact	Fiction
10. With the right choices, decisions, effort, and commitment during high school, ALL students could be eligible to participate and join the growing group of Glendale A+ grads!	Fact	Fiction

ANSWERS: Check and see how well you did . . .

- FICTION!** There are at least 16 community colleges and 40 vocational/technical schools throughout Missouri that students can choose to attend and use A+ Scholarships. Remember that A+ pays for tuition and common student fees, but if students move away and attend a community outside Springfield, they'll need to pay for room and board (a place to stay and food to eat).
- FICTION!** The state requirement is that students graduate with a cumulative, 4-year 2.5/4.0 non-weighted GPA. "A+" describes the benefits of the program, not the required GPA of the students. A 2.5 GPA is roughly equivalent to a C+ average—with the right amount of effort and with good choices, this is do-able!
- FICTION!** A+ grads must maintain a cumulative, 4-year attendance average of 95%. Use the "Rule of 4" as a guide. Try not to miss more than 4 days each year—which is a lot when you look at the big picture. That would be 16 days overall! If students miss no more than 4 days each year, it will put them above the 95% average and allow them to "bank" some days for unexpected illnesses, accidents, or emergencies. What if students have already missed more than 4 days this year? Are they out of the program? Not necessarily—they can miss fewer days in Grades 10, 11, and 12 to make up for the extra days used this year.
- FICTION!** If a four-year degree is the student's educational goal from the start, they can attend a community college the first 2 years, use A+ Scholarships, and earn an Associate of Arts (transfer) degree. The AA Degree lets them complete general education classes at a community college and then transfer to a 4-year college as a junior—possibly debt free!
- FACT!** As mandated by *State Regulation 5 CSR 50-350.040*, students must maintain a record of the avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol. Students will forfeit the opportunity to earn A+ Eligibility for any drug and/or alcohol violation committed at any time throughout the four years the student attends high school. Good citizenship, as established by the Program, is a measure of the quality of conduct both in school and away from school.
- FICTION!** Disciplinary referrals, in-school suspensions, and/or out-of-school suspensions can place students in "*out of compliance*" status. This means that the disciplinary *pattern* students establish make a difference in whether they meet the citizenship requirement or not. If students learn from their mistakes and aren't repeat offenders, they may regain "compliant" status. It is the expectation of the Program that seniors have zero disciplinary infractions.
- FICTION!** OTC is just about the only community college in MO that DOESN'T offer an athletic program. If students are interested in baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, track, etc., call the A+ Office for a list of 2-year colleges that offer these programs. It's important to contact the college and ask if they allow the acceptance of scholarship money for both athletics and A+.
- FICTION!** A+ eligibility is a good thing to list on a resume or college application. It indicates student motivation to make good grades, maintain good attendance, and keep a record of good citizenship. A+ has been around long enough that employers and colleges recognize what A+ eligibility means. They want A+ students as their employees and students, because of the habits they gained and practiced in high school. Students are never obligated to attend a community college or use the A+ incentive funds as a result of participation in the program.
- FACT!** What a deal—that's a substantial chunk of money for a college education. A+ funds are paid directly to the community college in which students enroll, and may be available for a period of up to 48 months after high school graduation, receipt of an Associate's degree, or completion of 105% of the required hours for a student's Program of study, whichever comes first.
- FACT!**