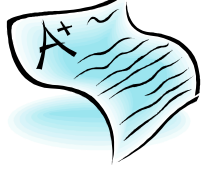


# A+ Program Changes and Updates – MO Dept of Higher Education (MDHE)

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 tuition (in-district or out-of-district)</li> <li>• Common student fees (\$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 tuition and common fees 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>

➔ **2012-13—The following A+ Requirements will be in place:**

15	<p><b>Job Shadowing</b> - A job shadowing component can be allowed which contributes (up to 25%) to the completion of 50 hours of unpaid tutoring. The state is allowing each district the flexibility of making the choice to accept the job shadowing or not. At this time, it appears that SPS will not accept job shadowing hours but this stance may change prior to next year.</p>
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➔ **2014-15—The following A+ Requirements will be in place:**

16	<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</p>
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enough on the Alg I EOC. Costs incurred in the first semester will not be retroactively reimbursed.