

Top 5 Things to Know About Your **A+** Scholarship

1. How Federal Funds (Pell) Works

- a. It's important to note that federal funds must be applied toward tuition first. For example, students often ask if their Pell can be applied toward room/board costs first and use their A+ for tuition. Unfortunately, that is not allowed.
- b. If you qualify for federal funds and they do not cover the entire tuition balance, A+ will cover any remaining tuition and general fees.

2. What happens when I drop a class?

- a. You are not billed for any classes that are dropped during the add/drop period (occurring during the first week of a regular semester). Remember - To remain eligible for A+, you must be enrolled full-time (12 hours - Fall/Spring, 6 hours - summer). Dropping a class and not adding one with the same credit hours could make you ineligible for A+.

3. What happens if I withdraw from a course?

- a. A+ will not pay for any class from which you withdraw. When you withdraw, the amount A+ paid for that class will be added to your account as a balance due.

4. GPA Information & Recovery

- a. A cumulative 2.5 GPA must be maintained on all coursework completed at NCMC (i.e. Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment). Any courses with "pass/fail" grades will not count toward a student's GPA for A+ purposes. Any remaining letter-grade classes must result in a 2.5 GPA to remain eligible. The A+ Eligibility Worksheet, which can be found on the NCMC A+ webpage, provides additional information that students will find helpful.
- b. For initial students (first-time students at NCMC). Your GPA will be calculated at the end of the Spring semester in the academic year that you enrolled. After that point, your GPA will be calculated every semester.
- c. Transfer courses are not used to calculate your NCMC GPA.
- d. If you fall below a 2.5, you will become ineligible for A+; however, after raising your GPA to a 2.5 you will become eligible again.
- e. Consider repeating failed courses and/or enrolling in intersession courses to improve your GPA. The GPA calculator, located on the NCMC website, can assist you in determining what letter grade you will need to increase your cumulative GPA to 2.5. For specific advice, please contact the A+ Coordinator in the Alexander Student Center.

5. How can I maximize my A+?

- Only take courses required for your degree.
- Avoid repeating and withdrawing from classes.
- Pay attention to degree requirements, as your A+ will end at the time you are eligible to receive a two-year degree or certificate from NCMC.
- If you fall below a 2.5 cumulative GPA, talk with the A+ Coordinator and develop a game-plan to regain A+ funding.



Silly questions that really aren't so silly.

OMG! A+ is not showing on my account! Do I need to make a payment?

Check your SAIL account by clicking on the Finances tab. First, make sure you are in the correct period when viewing the Financial Aid information. If your A+ has been applied to your student account, you should be able to see it in SAIL with a status marked 'accepted'. Second, compare the amount of accepted A+ with your charges for the term. If your A+ covers your charges, no, you do not need to make a payment. If your A+ does not cover your charges you will need to make a payment on the difference.

Access Missouri was showing on my account, but now it's not. Where did it go?

If you are eligible for A+ tuition reimbursement, your Access Missouri award will be reduced by the amount of the reimbursement. Example: Student qualifies for Access Missouri Grant of \$150 for the fall semester. Student receives \$100 for A+ tuition reimbursement for fall semester. Access Missouri Grant is reduced to \$50.

Since I'm receiving A+ I don't really need to look at my bill, right?

FALSE! Students are always advised to check their SAIL account and Pirate email account on a regular basis. Financial aid could be adjusted due to revised federal or state awarding tables, federal verification, program eligibility, additional aid from outside sources, or a change in enrollment status. Potential changes in financial aid could affect your bill.

Since I'm receiving A+ I don't need to submit a FAFSA, right?

FALSE! Every year, students must make a good faith effort to secure all available federal financial aid, which can be accomplished by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA must be received by the NCMC Financial Aid Office, as well as any verification documents that the institution requests. If verification documents are requested, A+ cannot be applied until the verification process is complete, which includes a response back from the Department of Education approving the student's eligibility for financial aid.