



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A+ Summer 2020 Payment Processing

Institutions will be able to request summer 2020 payments for the A+ Scholarship from **Monday, Aug. 10, 2020**, through **Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020**. Please be sure to read this message in its entirety as it contains important information about the summer 2020 payment process. Information about the fall 2020 payment process will be provided in a separate message.

Summer 2020 Eligibility

COVID-19 Accommodations

As announced earlier this spring, the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development put in place several accommodations to help students affected by the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring 2020 term. Several of the accommodations related to students' ability to renew awards for the 2020-2021 academic year. They include:

- **2.5 Cumulative Grade Point Average Requirement.** Typically, students must have a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in addition to otherwise meeting the institution's definition of satisfactory academic progress to renew the award. However, to renew the award for the summer 2020 term under the accommodation, students who were eligible for an award in the 2019-2020 academic year must only have met the institution's definition of satisfactory academic progress, including the grade point average required in that definition, even if the required grade point average is less than 2.5. This accommodation is in place for the entire 2020-2021 academic year, so students who qualify for the accommodation and meet the institution's definition of satisfactory academic progress at the end of the summer 2020 term will be eligible for the fall 2020 term, and students meeting that definition at the end of the fall 2020 term will be eligible for the spring 2021 term. *Students who were not eligible for an award in the 2019-2020 academic year must have a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in addition to otherwise meeting the institution's definition of satisfactory academic progress to renew the award for the entire 2020-2021 academic year.*

New to the A+ Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year, institutions are required to check a student's satisfactory academic progress at the end of each term. This requirement became effective May 30, 2020, as a result of statutory changes made in the 2019 legislative session. Previously institutions could check satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the schedule outlined in their policy.

- **Completion Requirement.** Typically, students must complete at least 12 credit hours each term (6 hours in summer) to renew the award. Students who fail to meet this requirement are ineligible until they complete the difference between the number of hours completed and 12 hours. Under the accommodation, students who were enrolled in at least 12 hours at the time the institution closed or moved to an alternative delivery method in the spring 2020 term will be able to renew the award for summer 2020, even if their spring enrollment later dropped to below 12 hours. Students must have completed 6 credit hours at the end of the summer term to be eligible for the fall 2020 term.
- **Verification of A+ Eligibility.** The A+ stamped transcript remains the preferred method for high schools to communicate a student's A+ eligibility to postsecondary institutions. However, since access to the stamp has been limited for some high schools, a letter attached to the transcript verifying the student has met the A+ high school requirements is acceptable as long as it:
 - Clearly identifies the student meeting the requirements. High schools may use a blanket letter as long as it is clear to the postsecondary institution to which student(s) the letter applies.
 - Clearly indicates the student has met all of the A+ high school criteria by the applicable deadlines, as well as the "from" and "to" dates of the student's eligibility.
 - Is on high school letterhead and signed by the principal or A+ coordinator, with the typed name and title of the signatory in the signature block.

The A+ stamp or accompanying letter verifies the student has met the A+ requirements, as accommodated for the 2020 seniors. The guidance related to the high school accommodations is available on the A+ page of MDHEWD's website.

2020-2021 Tuition Reimbursement Cap

The 2020-2021 tuition reimbursement cap was announced July 10, 2020. As a reminder, the 2020-2021 A+ reimbursement cap increased to \$181.00 per credit hour and \$4.80 per clock hour. The cap is based on the 2020-2021 standard per credit hour rate at State Technical College of Missouri. The clock hour conversion is based on the federal credit to clock hour conversion rate of 37.5 clock hours per credit hour, rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

Additional information about A+ awards, including how to calculate the cap and a calculator to assist with the calculation, is available in the [A+ Certification Manual](#) section of the [A+ Information for Participating Postsecondary Schools](#) page of MDHEWD's website.

Certification Reminders

Institutions have the ability to certify a zero award amount for students who are otherwise eligible but whose federal funds cover the full amount of tuition and fees. FAMOUS can accommodate A+ zero awards through both the upload and manual certification processes.

Also, institutions that use the manual certification process are required to complete and save the student information located at the top of the A+ Eligibility Criteria panel on the Student page. Institutions are only required to populate these fields once, before requesting the first term award for the year. The fields can be updated at any time after initial entry. They include:

- High School Graduation Date
- Program of Study
- Total Hours for Program of Study
- Total Accumulated Hours
- Associate Degree Obtained
- EFC Amount for Student

These fields will be populated automatically for students certified through the upload process.

A+ Budget Forms

Prior to the beginning of each term, institutions are required to submit a budget form that estimates program expenditures for the term. MDHEWD uses these estimates to monitor and project program funding needs. The summer 2020 form was due July 1, 2020. Please submit the summer form as soon as possible if you have not already done so. The [budget form](#) is available on the [A+ Information for Participating Postsecondary Schools](#) page of our website. The fall 2020 budget form will be due Oct. 1, 2020.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this message, please contact:

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