

The A+ Scholarship Program provides scholarship funds to eligible graduates of A+ designated high schools who attend a participating public community college or vocational/technical school or certain private two-year vocational/technical school. The scholarship comes in the form of financial assistance! To be eligible for the A+ Scholarship students must meet minimal requirements that include: graduate high school with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher, attend school 95% of the time, perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring (of which 25% may include job shadowing prior to graduation), achieve a score at proficiency or above on the Algebra End-of-Course exam, and maintain a record of good citizenship while in grades 9-12.

The list of eligible community colleges or vocational technical schools is two-pages long and it includes the following local schools: Hillyard Technical Center (St. Joseph), Grand River Technical School (Chillicothe), Excelsior Springs Career Center, Metropolitan Community Colleges (KCMO), and North Central Missouri College (Trenton). Once funds are secured students must achieve at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of the fall semester and have completed a minimum of 12 semester credit hours. After the initial fall semester, the grade point average for renewal of the scholarship climbs to 2.5.

Steve Dotson, father of 2017 Cameron graduate Austin Dotson commented that the “A+ program is awesome! I believe that A+ is a great program. A+ has saved not only Austin money, but Jeannette and I too! The A+ program got Austin started out debt-free as it covers all of his tuition at North Central Community College in Trenton.” Austin has plans to apply to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy after he finishes his Associate’s degree in Criminal Justice.

Several Missouri four year colleges/universities offer a form of financial assistance to A+ high school graduates. Missouri Western State University offers a \$1,500 renewable scholarship to first time freshman who have an incoming grade point average of 3.0 and have met all graduation requirements from an A+ high school. To receive this scholarship in subsequent years the student must have a 3.25 grade point average with their college course work.

Northwest Missouri State University offers a \$1,500 scholarship to incoming freshman who have scored at least an 18 on their ACT, have a grade point average of 2.5, and have graduated meeting all A+ requirements. This award is renewable for one year as long as the student maintains a grade point average of at least 3.3.

Missouri Southern University offers \$1,000 per academic year for a maximum of four years to first-time freshman enrollees who have met the A+ graduation requirements.

Truman State University gives a one-time \$500 scholarship to students that have graduated from an A+ high school and met all requirements.

Avila University, Columbia College, Culver-Stockton College, Drury University, Evangel University, Fontbonne University, Hannibal Langrange University, Kansas City Art Institute, Lindenwood University, Missouri State University, Missouri Valley College, Park University,

Southeast Missouri State University, Stephens College, University of Missouri in Kansas City, Webster University, and William Woods University all offer some form of first time financial assistance to A+ high school graduates. Unfortunately, the University of Missouri in Columbia does not offer an A+ scholarship to high school graduates.

Even if your student has future plans outside of the State of Missouri I would still encourage them to consider enrollment in the program. In my 21 years of education I have seen even the best laid plans with the greatest of intentions turn south in a hurry. You never know where life may lead you! It is important to note that A+ scholarship money can be used during the summer too! Students must take a minimum of 6 hours during the summer for A+ to cover tuition and general fees.

Case in point, my son Caleb, another 2017 Cameron graduate, attends Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. Caleb is first studying to become a registered nurse in route to becoming a certified nurse practitioner. This summer Caleb will take Human Anatomy and Introduction to Fine Arts (7 total credit hours) from North Central Community College. Online tuition at North Central Community College is \$159 per credit hour; so this would have cost Rebecca and me over \$1,100. By using the A+ Scholarship our total cost this summer will be \$0.00! To put this in better perspective by doing some simple math, Caleb was "paid" \$22.25 per hour for his 50 hour A+ tutoring commitment!

Unfortunately, less than half of our current graduates elect to enroll in the program. Do not miss this opportunity. The program guarantees funds to your student that they can use to further their education and all they need to do is get good grades, come to school, stay out of trouble, and volunteer a little! To me it is a no brainer! Parents and guardians of students of the Cameron School District I want to encourage you to get your student involved in the A+ Program during high school! For more information on the A+ Program or for a complete list of all two-year and four-year schools in Missouri that reward A+ graduates please contact the high school counseling office or Mrs. Marlene Jackson, the A+ Coordinator for the Cameron School District.

Christopher E. Shanks, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Cameron R-1 Schools
816.882.1031

"No one rises to low expectations."