

Nerinx Hall High School

A+ Scholarship Program

August 2020

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The A+ Scholarship Program

The A+ Scholarship Program was originally implemented as a school-improvement initiative established by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. This program was only available to students in A+ Designated Public High Schools. Legislation passed in 2016 expanding the A+ Scholarship Program to non-public schools. Nerinx Hall High School applied for and received designation as an A+ School, thereby allowing our students to take advantage of the financial incentives available through the A+ Program.

Qualifying graduates will be eligible for paid tuition to attend any Missouri public community college or public vocational or technical school. For the 2020-2021 academic year, the maximum rate is \$181.00 per credit hour. A+ eligible students may be eligible for up to six (6) credits at a Missouri Community College the summer between high school graduation and the start of the same calendar year Fall semester, even if continuing at a non-participating four-year college.

Tuition Incentives will be made available after the student has made a good-faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance (FAFSA) funds that do not require repayment. Qualifying students will receive this incentive for four semesters. A student must be considered a FULL-TIME student (12 or more credit hours) by the post-secondary institution maintaining a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Students must complete the two years of FULL-TIME enrollment at the institution within 48 months after graduation from Nerinx Hall High School. ***Tuition reimbursement is contingent upon the availability of state funds.***

NOTE: Students providing service to any branch of the U.S. armed forces can defer their eligibility beyond the 48 months if they return to full-time student status within 12 months of the end of their military service. The benefits are paid by the State of Missouri after any federal or state grant for which you are eligible is applied.

Student Eligibility In order to be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Scholarship Program, Nerinx Hall High School must certify a student as having met all A+ requirements. To be certified for the scholarship, an A+ student must:

- Sign an A+ Student Agreement
- Attend an A+ designated high school for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation. Students must be enrolled in an A+ school at least 142 days of a school year to be considered an A+ qualifying year.
- Graduate from Nerinx Hall High School with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 grading scale. (Unweighted)
- Graduate from Nerinx Hall High School with a cumulative attendance record of 95% or better.
- Achieve a qualifying score of 17 on the math section of the ACT. Students may also achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra I end of course exam or a higher level EOC approved end-of-course exam in the field of mathematics:
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentorship.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of unlawful use of alcohol and drugs.
- Good Faith Effort to Secure Funding

COVID-19 In response to the COVID-19 virus, the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development has issued changes in the requirements that need to be met. The A+ Scholarship eligibility requirements will be closely monitored by the A+ Coordinator. To view changes and updates, please review Temporary Guidance Regarding Covid-19 section of the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development website:

<https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>

Eligibility Requirements: The following information details more specifically the requirements needed to qualify and be certified as an A+ student. Each of these requirements must be met in order for a student to be certified as an A+ student and receive the monetary benefits.

Enrollment: School enrollment guidelines for the A+ Scholarship Program include:

- The student and parent(s) must sign the A+ Student Agreement
- The student must graduate from an A+ designated high school
- The student must have attended an A+ designated high school for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation.

Exception: Transfer to Nerinx Hall from another A+ designated school MAY be honored. It is the student's responsibility to check the A+ designation status of his previous school and complete the appropriate forms to meet enrollment requirements at Nerinx Hall High School.

- The student must enroll at Nerinx Hall High School no later than October 30th of the student's senior year.
- Student and parent signatures on the A+ Scholarship Participation Agreement allows the A+ Coordinator to check enrollment records to verify compliance with this requirement.

Attendance: To meet eligibility for the attendance requirement, the following guidelines include:

- Graduate with a cumulative 95% attendance rate.
- Cumulative attendance information is obtained through the Nerinx Hall information system.
- If the absence counts against the school's Average Daily Attendance (ADA), it counts against A+ attendance. The following are among the reasons that will not be excused absences for A+ attendance: suspensions, vacations, college visits, doctor appointments, transportation problems.
- Student and parent signatures on the A+ Scholarship Participation Agreement allows the A+ Coordinator to check attendance records to verify compliance with this requirement.

NOTE: We realize that extenuating circumstances develop due to an accident or medical related issues. Please provide medical documentation. Nerinx Hall High School will evaluate on a case by case basis.

Grade Point Average: To meet eligibility for the G.P.A. requirement, the student must:

- Graduate with a cumulative grade point average of unweighted 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.

- The cumulative grade point average is for all four years.
- Weighted grades are given in certain advanced and honors classes; these grades will be adjusted to a 4.0 scale, and only this unweighted average will be used to determine whether the student has met the 2.5 requirement.
- **NOTE:** Averaging or rounding up to the next highest-grade point average is not allowed (ex. GPA of 2.49 does not qualify.)
- Student and parent signatures on the A+ Scholarship Participation Agreement allows the A+ Coordinator to check GPA records to verify compliance with this requirement.
- The student's official transcript will serve as evidence of grade point average for admission into post-secondary institutions.

ACT Math Score: All students seeking eligibility into the A+ Scholarship Program must earn a score of at least 17 in the Mathematics section of the ACT. There are two alternatives to this requirement:

- The student may take the Algebra 1 End of Course exam (EOC) at her home district and earn a score of advanced or proficient on this exam. If the student chooses to take the Algebra 1 EOC exam she may take it up to 3 times. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the time and location of the exam and to have the school district send the results to the A+ Coordinator at Nerinx Hall High School.
- If you meet all of the eligibility requirements except the End of Course exam requirement, you may establish eligibility by achieving a combined ACT math sub score and high school GPA in accordance with the following scale.

ACT Math Score 17 or higher	High School unweighted cumulative GPA 2.5 or higher
ACT Math Score 16	High School unweighted cumulative GPA 2.8 or higher
ACT Math Score 15	High School unweighted cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher

Students and parents should also be aware of the following conditions regarding the math requirement:

- If a student transfers to Nerinx Hall High School after having taken the Algebra 1 EOC, the student's score will be obtained from the transferring school.
- Students with an IEP or equivalent are required to fulfill the established performance requirement in order to be eligible for A+ tuition reimbursement.
- For additional information concerning this requirement, visit the Missouri Department of Higher Education website: <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>
- Student and parent signatures on the A+ Scholarship Participation Agreement allows the A+ Coordinator to check GPA records to verify compliance with this requirement.

Tutoring/Mentorship: To meet eligibility for the tutoring/mentoring requirement, the student must:

- Perform 50 hours of unpaid one-on-one academic tutoring or mentoring.
- Tutoring hours are documented through the Service-Learning Department on X2VOL.com

TUTORING/MENTORING GUIDELINES

- Tutoring is defined as academic support of a younger student.. Mentoring is defined as guiding, advising, or supporting with consistency a mentee who is younger than the mentor.
- When at all possible, Nerinx Hall encourages students to complete the fifty (50) hours of tutoring/mentoring required by the A+ Program concurrently with service hours completed as part of the Service Program required for graduation. Twenty five percent (25%) of the tutoring/mentoring requirements may include job shadowing.
- The ideal structure for tutoring or mentoring is based on the Service-Learning Program. The guidelines are as follows: 15 hours during their freshman year, 20 hours their sophomore year, 25 hours during their junior year, and 30 hours their senior year with a total of ninety (90) hours being completed before graduation.
- No tutoring/mentorship hours will be accepted after April 6th of the student's graduating year.
- Tutoring/mentoring must be approved by the Director of Service Learning before beginning any service hours.
- Tutoring/Mentoring hours must be documented using the <https://mobileserve.com>
- Students must have updated <https://mobileserve.com> with all completed hours by April 6th of their senior year in order to be considered for A+ Eligibility.
- Because of COVID-19 special arrangements have been made to help students meet their requirements. Please review the student handbook under 'Service-Learning Program' for more specific information.
- Student and parent signatures on the A+ Scholarship Participation Agreement allows the A+ Coordinator to check the Service Learning records to verify compliance with this requirement.

Good Citizenship: Our Loretto values guide us: Faith, Community, Justice, Respect. Nerinx Hall High School dedicates itself to educating young women to think critically and to act deliberately. The following requirements are in effect for all students participating:

- An A+ student will not sell, possess or use any controlled substances and/or related paraphernalia as defined by law. This applies at all times, whether on or away from school premises.
- The student will consistently demonstrate behaviors consistent with the Loretto Values.
- Students are required at all times to follow all guidelines presented in the Nerinx Hall High School Student/Parent Handbook. Any violations are grounds for termination. All students are held to the standards listed in the handbook and signed by both student and parent. If a violation occurs Nerinx Hall High School may terminate the student's eligibility for the A+ Program.

Any student who does not meet the citizenship requirement will not be eligible for the A+ financial incentive.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS

Requirements: Good Faith Effort to Secure Funding

To meet the eligibility requirement for good faith effort to secure funding, the student and her parents must: Complete and send in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.) The FAFSA information must be sent to the post-secondary institution that the student is planning to attend.

Additionally, students and parents are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Please visit <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> or contact our counseling department for deadlines and details.