



Missouri Student Financial Aid

2015-2016 Academic Year

Missouri offers a number of state grant and scholarship programs, administered by the Department of Higher Education, to help students fund their college education. Missouri's three largest state financial aid programs are the Access Missouri Grant, the Bright Flight Scholarship and the A+ Scholarship.

Access Missouri Grant

The Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program is a needs-based grant program designed to assist Missouri residents with costs at participating colleges and universities located in Missouri. Eligibility is determined by a student's expected family contribution, or EFC, as calculated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must submit a FAFSA by April 1 each year to be eligible for the grant for the following academic year.

For the [2015-2016 academic year](#), maximum Access Missouri grant awards will be \$850 for students attending a public two-year college and \$1,850 for students attending a public four-year or independent college or university or the State Technical College of Missouri. The minimum amount an eligible student will receive is \$300 at a two-year college or \$1,500 at a four-year public or independent college or university. The actual award amount will vary based on a student's EFC and may be affected by other financial aid the student receives.

The Access Missouri Program will be funded at approximately \$67.5 million for the 2015-2016 academic year, an increase of more than \$8 million from the previous year. Last year, about 51,200 students received an Access Missouri Grant.

For more information, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/accessmo.php.

Bright Flight Scholarship

The Bright Flight Scholarship Program is a merit-based program that encourages top-ranked high school seniors to attend a Missouri college or university. This program is also available to individuals that receive a high school equivalency credential (HiSET) or complete a home school program of study.

For the 2015-2016 academic year, students who scored in the top 3 percent on the ACT or SAT test and attend a participating Missouri school can qualify for a \$3,000 scholarship.

The Bright Flight Program will be funded at \$17.4 million for the 2015-2016 academic year, the same funding level as the previous year. Last year, approximately 6,300 students received a Bright Flight Scholarship.

For more information, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/brightflight.php.

A+ Scholarship

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 schools.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must:

- Attend an A+ designated high school for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation (an exception is provided to this requirement under certain circumstances for children of veterans)
- Graduate with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Have at least a 95 percent attendance record for grades 9-12
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring
- Maintain a record of good citizenship
- Achieve a proficient or advanced score on the Algebra I end-of-course exam in high school or a qualifying score on an alternate exam.

A+ Scholarship awards may be up to the actual cost of tuition and general fees at the participating institution. However, awards are reduced by the amount of federal grant aid and, for the 2015-2016 academic year, the tuition rate is generally capped at \$159.75 per credit hour. The average scholarship award for the 2014-2015 academic year was \$2,500.

The A+ program will be funded at \$35.1 million for the 2015-2016 academic year, an increase of \$2 million from the previous year. Last year, approximately 13,300 students received an A+ Scholarship.

For more information, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php.

Additional state grant and scholarship programs

For information about all of Missouri's state student financial aid programs, including all eligibility requirements, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/.



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