

Missouri First Student Assistance Program

Basic Eligibility Criteria (All programs)

- Complete FAFSA
- U. S. citizen or permanent resident
- Missouri resident
- Enroll or enrolled as an undergraduate student in an approved public, private, or virtual institution

Basic Category Descriptions

- **Early Awareness:** Awards are “last dollar” covering tuition and general fees and cannot be combined with other “Missouri First” awards. If other aid covers all tuition and fee costs, student can receive a set award above tuition and fee costs. For students above need threshold, the award is capped.
- **Access and Success:** Awards in the category are the sum of the Transfer, Need, Merit and Persistence components. These awards are “first dollar” awards, are fully stackable with other aid, and can cover any allowable cost within the standard cost of attendance amount. When combined with all other aid, the total cannot exceed cost of attendance.
- **Workforce Incentive:** Awards are “last dollar” covering tuition and general fees including the need component. If other aid covers all tuition and fee costs, student can receive a set award above tuition and fee costs. The award cannot be combined with other “Missouri First” awards (except need).

Notes

- Existing program attributes not specifically referenced in the detail below would generally remain unchanged.

New/Revised Attributes, by Category and Program

Early Awareness – Revised A+ Scholarship Program

- Middle School Requirements (Initial contact in 7th and/or 8th grade)
 - Initial informational meeting
 - Interest/aptitude exploration begins
- High School/Equivalent Graduation Requirements
 - Sign “contract” (including parents) agreeing to meet program requirements by end of freshman year
 - Develop Career Pathway Map (9th through postsecondary up to “grade 14”), which can include skill training option, by end of freshman year

- Document exploration of interest/aptitude (Mo Connections or ACT Profile?)
- Agree to regular outreach from MDHE
- Complete tutoring/mentoring/community service/postsecondary preparation requirement
- Annually review/revise Career Pathway Map
- Academic requirements
 - 2.5 CGPA or higher in high school (options for equivalent and home school)
 - 95% attendance (9-12)
 - Meet “college readiness” indicator
 - ACT – 17 (sliding GPA scale for lower scores)
 - ASVAB or other alternative
 - Workkeys Level Score – 5
- Postsecondary eligibility requirements
 - Meet basic eligibility criteria
 - Attend public community college, AVTS or designated private vocational college
 - Annually review/revise Career Pathway Map
 - Meet regularly with mentor
 - Enroll or enrolled full-time
 - Maintain 2.5 CGPA or higher in postsecondary program
- Awards
 - Students either meeting the need cutoff defined for need component or with a family AGI of \$150,000 or less – Actual tuition and general fee costs, after federal non-loan aid is applied. Minimum actual annual award even if federal aid covers entire tuition and general fee costs.
 - Students not meeting above need criteria - annual award cap or actual tuition and general fee costs, whichever is lower.

Access and Success – Integrated revised need (Access Missouri) and merit (Bright Flight) programs, with new transfer and persistence programs

Transfer

- Meet basic eligibility criteria
- Enroll or enrolled full-time
- Receive Early Awareness Scholarship for at least one full year (including zero awards due to other financial aid eligibility)
- Satisfy completion requirement (Core 42, AA degree, other?)
- Have a 2.5 CGPA at the time of transfer and maintain 2.5 CGPA after transfer
- Transfer within 1 year of meeting completion requirement to an approved four-year institution

- Award may be renewed for five semesters or until receipt of a bachelor’s degree, whichever comes first.

Need (Access Missouri)

- Component Eligibility
 - Meet basic eligibility criteria
 - EFC of \$12,000 or less or AGI of \$150,000 or less
 - Enroll or enrolled at least half-time
- Award structure
 - Annual award can be used to cover any enrollment term within a single academic year, including summer term
 - Full-time enrollment – Full award
 - Less than full-time but half-time or more – 50 percent award
 - Maximum award – Public four-year, private, virtual, STC
 - EFC \$0 to \$12,000: Awards same as for Access Missouri
 - Maximum award – Public two-year
 - EFC \$0 to \$12,000: Awards same as for Access Missouri

Merit (Academic Scholarship)

- Component Eligibility
 - Meet basic eligibility criteria
 - Enroll or enrolled at least half-time
 - Minimum High School GPA – 3.0 (options for equivalent and home school)
 - Minimum ACT Score – 27
 - Comparable SAT Score would be included
- Award Structure
 - GPA and ACT thresholds are combined to calculate total award

GPA	ACT	Award
3.0 to 3.49	27 o 31	\$
3.5 to 3.99	27 o 31	\$\$
4.00	27 o 31	\$\$\$
3.0 o 3.49	32 o 36	\$\$
3.50 o 3.99	32 o 36	\$\$\$
4.00	32 to 36	\$\$\$\$

Persistence

- Component Eligibility
 - Meet basic eligibility criteria
 - Maintain CGPA of 2.5 or higher

- Complete 30 hours or equivalent in prior academic year
- Award
 - Flat annual award

Workforce Incentive – “Fast Track”

- Component Eligibility
 - Meet basic eligibility criteria
 - Enroll or enrolled at least half-time
 - Received or eligible to receive need award component
 - Enrolled in a program designated by the CBHE as high demand and/or high need or pursuing an industry recognized credential
 - Must be 25 years of age or older. Individuals not meeting minimum age requirement are eligible if out of school at least two years
 - Expires upon the earliest of completion of 200% of the student’s current program of study or receipt of a bachelor’s degree
 - Stackable credentials in a related field, up to receipt of a bachelor’s degree
- Award
 - Actual tuition and general fee costs, after federal non-loan and state need-based aid are applied. Minimum award per term even if other aid covers entire tuition and general fee costs. Total award cannot exceed cost of attendance.