



Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

A+ Frequently Asked Questions for Teachers



What are A+ courses?

A+ courses are professional learning courses that NYC DOE teachers may take for credit towards the salary differential.

Enrollment and Eligibility

How many A+ credits do I need to take to earn my salary differential? When does this go into effect?

If you are a **teacher hired or rehired on or after September 1, 2019** then you must obtain a minimum of 18 A+ credits in order to earn your salary differential, unless you have already attained an additional Doctorate, or an additional Master's in an approved related area as determined by the Joint Accreditation Committee (JAC).

If you are a **teacher hired on or after September 1, 2017 but before September 1, 2019**, then you must obtain a minimum of 6 A+ credits, unless you have already earned your salary differential before September 1, 2019. (There is a six month application window for teachers hired between September 1, 2017 and September 1, 2019 and who have completed their 30 credits above a masters by September 1, 2019, but who have not yet finalized the application process for their differential. This window will close February 1, 2020.)

If you are a **teacher hired before September 1, 2017**, then you are not required to use A+ credits to obtain your salary differential. If you choose to submit A+ credits towards your salary differential, you must obtain a minimum of 6 A+ credits.

These rules will go into effect on September 1, 2019.

Who is eligible to take A+ courses?

All teachers are eligible to take A+ courses for their own knowledge and development.

Where can I find information on all A+ offerings? How do I register for A+ courses?

For the 2019-2020 school year, courses taken during the year (through Summer 2020) through the After School Professional Development Program (ASDP) may be counted for A+ credit or P credit. You can find directions for completing course registrations on the ASPDP website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/teachers/aspdp>. To register for courses, you will need to register and pay course fees both on the ASPDP website and directly to the partner organization offering that course. ASPDP courses taken prior to September 2019 are not eligible for A+ credit.

Are there any college or university courses that count for A+ credit?

In addition to the ASPDP 2019-2020 courses, teachers may also qualify for A+ credit for coursework taken to achieve additional certification in one or more of the following designated areas:

- Bilingual Extension
- Additional Certificate to achieve dual certification as a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) and a teacher of a secondary content area: sciences, mathematics, English, and Social Studies
- Additional certificate to achieve dual certification as a Students with Disabilities (SWD) and secondary content teacher

These courses may have been taken at any time but must meet the additional requirements to qualify for the second differential (e.g. completed after the Bachelor's program and not part of the required courses for the Master's degree used to qualify for the first differential) and may only be counted if the certificate has been earned.

I am a guidance counselor, paraprofessional, secretary, or other non-teacher title. Have my options for salary differential changed?

No, as a guidance counselor or paraprofessional or secretary, your salary differential options have not changed. A+ courses may only be taken for credit towards the salary differential by teachers.

Course Policies and Benefits

Do all A+ courses also count toward CTLE? How many CTLE hours do I get for each class?

For the 2019-2020 school year, courses taken through ASPDP may be used towards the A+ requirements. All ASPDP courses can be used for CTLE credit. After this year, CTLE may be earned through an A+ course only if the A+ course provider is independently registered as a CTLE provider by New York State as well. You can check whether the course provider is independently approved on the [NYSSED website](#). The number of CTLE hours you may earn through an A+ class, if any, will be noted in the course details for the course before you register.

How do I get a record of my CTLE hours? How do I submit my CTLE documentation?

For the 2019-2020 school year, you can access your ASPDP transcripts and course certificates directly from your participant account on the ASPDP website; this will serve as your record of CTLE hours and earned A+ and P credit. Participants are expected to maintain these records. Please see the [NYSSED website](#) for more information about recordkeeping requirements for CTLE.

How long are A+ courses? How long will I have to finish the coursework? Are these courses self-paced?

This depends on the course. Some may be self-paced, while others may require that you attend sessions and/or complete coursework at set times. Please see details on individual courses on the ASPDP website.

What is the cost of A+ courses? Who and how do I pay?

The total cost depends on the course and course provider. For the 2019-2020 year, courses offered through ASPDP will be accepted for A+ credit; you can find details on the administrative and course provider fees as well as instructions on how to complete payment in the ASPDP course catalog.

Salary Differential and Credentials

What is the difference between A+ credits and P credits? Can I still use P credit toward my salary differential?

A+ credits and P credits are both types of professional development credits that may be used towards teachers' salary differentials. A+ credits are approved by a committee of UFT and DOE representatives, and are aligned with [DOE educational priorities](#) to promote teachers' development of skills, knowledge, and methods aligned to the needs of the school system and students. P credit courses are offered through the New York City Department of Education's After School Professional Development Program (ASPDP), aligned with the [Danielson Framework for Teaching](#), and may also be used by teachers to complete CTLE hours in addition to earning salary differential credits. 2ASPDP courses completed during the 2019-2020 school year may be counted as A+ or P credits.

What are my other options for earning credit toward my salary differential besides A+?

You may continue to use university courses, CLEP tests, and ASPDP P credit courses towards the salary differential, in addition to minimum of required A+ courses. In other words, other than the minimum number of A+ credits needed for your salary differential, you are free to complete the remaining credits needed for the differential through any other approved means.

I have already completed courses that are now approved for A+. Can they be approved retroactively?

Courses can only be retroactively approved for A+ credits if they were taken as part of a program that resulted in state certification in the designated areas:

- Bilingual Extension
- Additional Certificate to achieve dual certification as a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) and a teacher of a secondary content area: sciences, mathematics, English, and Social Studies
- Additional certificate to achieve dual certification as a Students with Disabilities (SWD) and secondary content teacher

No other courses may be retroactively counted toward A+.

How do I apply for salary differential with my A+ and other credits? When and where do I submit my application?

You must file your salary differential via the [salary application portal](#). Please consult the chart below for deadlines for filing the salary differential application.

Semester of 30+ Completion	File By	Differential Retroactive From
Fall	July 30	February 1
Summer	February 28	September 1
Spring	December 30	July 1

If you have additional questions about the salary differential process, you may contact the Office of Salary Services through HR Connect at 718-935-4000.

May I use the same course I took for my first differential as credit toward my second differential?

You may use a course just once toward your salary differential. It does not matter if it is applied toward the first, intermediate or second differential.

The contract says that I can decide whether or not to opt in to the A+ differential program. If I decide not to opt in, does that mean I can still use previous methods to obtain my differential and don't need to take any A+ courses? Do I need to indicate whether or not I have opted in?

If you are a teacher hired before September 1, 2017, you are not required to take any A+ credits and you may use any other approved credits to obtain your salary differential. You do not need to formally indicate whether or not you choose to opt in; at the time of your application for the salary differential you will indicate if you are using A+ credits. Please note that if you are using A+ credits toward your second differential, you will need to have completed at least six A+ credits.

My salary differential application wasn't approved. How can I appeal the decision?

For salary differential application questions, contact the Office of Salary Services through HR Connect at 718-935-4000

Course Catalog

How frequently will you update the course catalog, and how far in advance can I see the full catalog? Will the same courses be offered each semester? How can I find out when new classes are added?

For the 2019-2020 year, all courses offered through ASPDP will be accepted for A+ credit. ASPDP offers courses over three semesters: Fall, Spring, and Summer. The course catalog for each semester is published shortly before the semester begins. [Sign up to receive the ASPDP newsletter](#) for updates on when the catalog is published.

In order to ensure that we are providing the highest quality and most relevant courses aligned with current Chancellor's priorities, course offerings will change from semester to semester and we cannot guarantee that a course approved for A+ will be approved every semester in the future.

Can I take any A+ course I want or do they have to be in my subject area/grade level?

All A+ courses are aligned with the Chancellor's priorities and meet high quality standards. Teachers may take any approved A+ course.

I have an issue with the provider/instructor of an A+ course I took. How can I submit a complaint?

Please submit your complaint directly to the provider or instructor of the course. If you are not satisfied with the resolution, please contact APlus@schools.nyc.gov.

Grading and Transcripts

How are A+ courses graded? What grade do I need to receive in order to get the credit?

Approved A+ courses are graded according to the grading policy of the provider. Courses must be passed in order to count towards the second differential.

Where and when will I get my grades for my A+ classes? Will I receive a transcript?

For the 2019-2020 year, you may view a transcript of your courses and course grades through the ASPDP website. Grades will be available 4-6 weeks after the course ends; the course provider is responsible for entering the grades on the website. You will be able to download a copy of your transcript from the ASPDP registration website. You can submit this transcript directly to the Office of Salary Services along with your salary differential application.

2019 -2020 ASPDP Partnership

For the 2019-2020 year, ASPDP courses will be accepted for A+ credits and P credits. Please visit the ASPDP website to view [policies](#) and [FAQs](#), or [sign up for the ASPDP newsletter](#) to receive updates on the catalog. Topics covered on the ASPDP website include:

- Course extensions
- Late registrations
- Withdrawals
- Refunds
- Semester credits limits
- ASPDP account registration