



## **Fact Sheet for NJ STARS II Students Beginning Enrollment at a New Jersey Four-Year Institution During the 2015-16 Academic Year**

The NJ STARS II Program is a continuation of the NJ STARS Program that provides successful NJ STARS students at New Jersey county colleges with funding to transfer to a New Jersey four-year college/university to earn a bachelor's degree. **The following information applies to NJ STARS II students beginning enrollment at a New Jersey four-year college or university during the 2015-16 academic year.**

### **NJ STARS II Benefits**

The NJ STARS II award will be based on tuition only, except for Tuition Aid Grant recipients who will receive NJ STARS II awards based on tuition **and** approved fees. The amount of the NJ STARS II award will be determined after all other State and Federal grants and scholarships are applied to these charges, not to exceed \$1,250 per semester.

The State funds 100% of the NJ STARS II award, while students will be responsible for any remaining balance. NJ STARS II awards are dependent upon annual State appropriations.

### **Approved Fees - Applies to NJ STARS II Students Receiving Tuition Aid Grants**

All fees charged by a New Jersey four-year institution that are mandatory for attendance as well as any fees required for a specific program of study are approved.

### **Student Eligibility**

- ◆ Students must be NJ STARS recipients or non-funded (tuition and approved fees fully covered by other State and/or Federal aid) during the semester of county college graduation.
- ◆ NJ STARS students must have graduated from a NJ county college with an associate degree and a GPA of 3.25 or higher.
- ◆ Family income (including taxable and untaxed income) must be less than \$250,000.
- ◆ Students must be admitted to a New Jersey four-year institution that participates in the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) Program. **Note:** NJ STARS eligibility does not guarantee admission to a New Jersey four-year college or university.
- ◆ Students must begin NJ STARS II program participation no later than the second semester immediately following county college graduation.
- ◆ Students must be enrolled in a full-time course of study (minimum 12 college-level credits) each semester.
- ◆ Students must apply for all forms of State and Federal need-based grants and merit scholarships and submit any requested documentation to complete or verify application data within established State deadlines.

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### Application Process

- ◆ Must meet all admission or application requirements established by the New Jersey four-year institution.
- ◆ Must meet all institutional deadlines for admission and financial aid.
- ◆ Once admitted, students must submit to the New Jersey four-year institution a final county college transcript that reflects a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.
- ◆ Must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually within established State deadlines.
- ◆ After filing the FAFSA, logon to [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org) to review your State grant record.

#### 2015-16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Filing Deadlines:

June 1, 2015 for students who received a TAG award during the 2014-15 academic year

All other applicants:

October 1, 2015 - fall & spring terms

March 1, 2016 - spring term only

Meet New Jersey State deadlines for the submission of additional information requests, such as:

- Applicant Information Requests (AIR's)
- Verification documents
- College choice changes (Logon to [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org) to change college choice)
- Corrections to ineligible conditions

#### 2015-2016 State Deadlines for Submitting Additional Information:

November 15, 2015 - Fall 2015

March 15, 2016 - Spring 2016

- ◆ New Jersey four-year institutions notify students of NJ STARS II eligibility.

### Renewal Eligibility

- ◆ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually within established state deadlines.
- ◆ Students must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 at the start of the third semester of study at the New Jersey four-year institution to maintain eligibility for the third and fourth semesters. Summer courses are included in determining the GPA.
- ◆ Students must maintain continuous full-time enrollment as NJ STARS II recipients unless on a medical leave, approved by the four-year college or university, due to the illness of the student, a member of the student's immediate family, or a family emergency. The only other exception to continuous full-time enrollment applies to NJ STARS II students called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- ◆ Students may receive an NJ STARS II award for up to four semesters, excluding summer sessions.

### Additional Information

Contact the financial aid office at the New Jersey four-year institution for additional information.