



Fact Sheet for NJ STARS II Students Beginning Enrollment at a New Jersey Four-Year Public Institution During the 2009-10 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 public college or university to earn a bachelor's degree. **The following information applies to NJ STARS II students beginning enrollment at a New Jersey four-year public college or university during the 2009-10 academic year.**

NJ STARS II Benefits

The amount of the NJ STARS II award for the first two semesters of study at a New Jersey four-year public college or university is based on a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) upon graduation from a county college. NJ STARS who graduated from a county college with a GPA equal to or greater than 3.25* and less than 3.50 may receive an NJ STARS II award of up to \$3,000 per semester. Those graduating with GPAs of 3.50 or higher may receive up to \$3,500 per semester. The amount of the award for the third and fourth semesters of study is based on the cumulative GPA attained at the four-year public institution at the start of the third semester of study.

The NJ STARS II award is based on tuition only, except for Tuition Aid Grant recipients who receive NJ STARS II awards based on tuition **and** approved fees. The amount of the NJ STARS II award is determined after all other State and Federal grants and scholarships are applied to these charges. The State funds 50% of the NJ STARS II award, while 50% is provided by the four-year public institution. Students are 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 public 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 public institution. Note: NJ STARS eligibility does not guarantee admission to a New Jersey four-year public 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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(continued)

Application Process

- ◆ Must meet all admission or application requirements established by the New Jersey four-year public institution.
- ◆ Must meet all institutional deadlines for admission and financial aid.
- ◆ Once admitted, students must submit to the New Jersey four-year public 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.

2009-10 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Filing Deadlines:

June 1, 2009 for students who received a TAG award during the 2008-09 academic year

All other applicants:

October 1, 2009 - fall & spring terms

March 1, 2010 - 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
 - Corrections to ineligible conditions

2009-2010 State Deadlines for Submitting Additional Information:

November 15, 2009- Fall 2009

March 15, 2010 - Spring 2010

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

Renewal Eligibility

- ◆ 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 public institution to maintain eligibility for the third and fourth semesters. Summer courses are included in determining the GPA. The amount of the NJ STARS II award for the third and fourth semesters of study may increase or decrease depending on the student's GPA at the start of the third semester of study at the New Jersey four-year public college or university.
- ◆ 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 public institution for additional information.

***NJ STARS** who were in the second year of enrollment at a county college as of December 2008 must have attained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.