



## Fact Sheet for NJ STARS Students Who Began Full-Time County College Enrollment in [Spring 2009](#)

The New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program is an initiative created by the State of New Jersey that provides New Jersey's highest achieving students with awards that cover tuition and approved fees at their home county college. The following are highlights of the NJ STARS Program. Please contact your home county college for a complete description of program eligibility requirements.

### NJ STARS Benefits

The NJ STARS award covers the cost of tuition and approved fees, less any State and/or Federal grants and scholarships, for up to five semesters. Effective the fall 2009 semester, an NJ STARS award no longer pays for remedial/developmental coursework, but does cover tuition and approved fees for up to 18 college-level credits per semester. NJ STARS awards are dependent upon annual State appropriations.

### Fees

The following list includes examples of approved and excluded fees:

#### Approved Fees:

General Fees  
Student Service/Activity Fees  
Technology Fees  
Required Course Fees and Equipment

#### Excluded Fees:

Application and Insurance Fees  
Late Fees and Library Fees  
Testing and Licensing Fees  
Criminal Background Checks

### Application Process

- ◆ 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:

Students who did not receive a Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) award during the 2008-09 academic year:

October 1, 2009 - fall & spring terms  
March 1, 2010 - spring term only

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

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in Spring 2009 (continued)**

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

- Applicant Information Requests (AIR's)
- Verification documents
- College choice changes
- Corrections to ineligible conditions

**State Deadlines for Submitting Additional Information:**

Fall 2009 - November 15, 2009

Spring 2010 - March 15, 2010

◆ County colleges notify students of NJ STARS eligibility.

**Renewal Eligibility**

- ◆ Students must attain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher at the start of the third semester of enrollment at the county college to retain NJ STARS eligibility. Summer courses are included in determining the GPA.
- ◆ Students must maintain continuous full-time enrollment unless on a medical leave, approved by the county college, 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 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 take less than 12 credits in their final semester if the county college determines that the student needs less than 12 credits in that semester to complete the degree program.
- ◆ Students enrolled in a nursing or engineering program that regularly requires six semesters to complete may retain NJ STARS II eligibility. However, NJ STARS will not cover the cost of the sixth semester.
- ◆ Students may receive the scholarship for up to five semesters, including summer sessions. However, NJ STARS resources **are not** available to cover any summer 2011 payments.

**NJ STARS II Program**

- ◆ NJ STARS recipients who earn an associate degree from a county college with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher, have a family income (taxable and untaxed income) less than \$250,000, **and** meet all other program eligibility requirements may be eligible to receive an NJ STARS II award to transfer to a New Jersey four-year public college or university to earn a baccalaureate degree.

**Additional Information**

Contact the financial aid office at your home county college for additional information.