



Fact Sheet for NJ STARS Enrolled Full Time at a County College During or Prior to the Fall 2008 Semester

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 free tuition and approved fees at their home county college.

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. The award covers these costs for up to 15 credit hours per semester. Students must be enrolled full time for a minimum of 12 college-level credits and may take up to 3 credits of remedial/developmental coursework per semester. Funding for NJ STARS awards is dependent upon annual State appropriations.

The laws governing the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs were amended in December 2008. NJ STARS students enrolled at a county college during or prior to the fall 2008 semester are not affected by changes to the NJ STARS Program.

However, in order to qualify for the NJ STARS II Program, students in the first year (first or second semester) of county college enrollment as of December 2008 are required to attain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of **3.25** or higher upon graduation from a county college. NJ STARS students in the second year (third, fourth, or fifth semester) of county college enrollment as of December 2008 are required to attain a cumulative GPA of **3.0** or higher upon county college graduation to qualify for NJ STARS II. In addition, to establish NJ STARS II eligibility at a New Jersey four-year public college or university, a student's family income (taxable and untaxed income) must be less than \$250,000.

For more information on NJ STARS II eligibility requirements, please visit www.hesaa.org.

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

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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:

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 submission of additional information, 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

- ◆ County colleges notify students of NJ STARS eligibility.

Renewal Eligibility

- ◆ Students must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the start of the third semester of enrollment at the county college to remain an NJ STAR. 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 receive the scholarship for up to five semesters, excluding summer sessions.

Additional Information

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