

Fact Sheet for NJ STARS II Students Beginning Enrollment at a New Jersey Four-Year Institution during the 2026-27 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 2026-27 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.

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.

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) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application annually within established State deadlines.
- After filing your application, log into [NJFAMS](#) to review and complete your State grant record.

2026-2027 HESAA Deadlines:

To Access the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), click [here](#).

For NJ Dreamers to complete the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application, click [here](#).

2025-2026 TAG recipients - Renewal applicants ----- **April 15, 2026**

All other applicants - Non-renewal applicants for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 ---- **September 15, 2026**

All other applicants - Non-renewal applicants for Spring 2027 semester only --- **February 15, 2027**

- Meet the NJ State deadlines below for completing State grant record in NJFAMS (State tasks, verification, corrections, reevaluations, adding a college, etc.):
<https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/StateDeadlinesNextAY.aspx>

Complete State Record in NJFAMS

All applicants - Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 ----- **October 1, 2026**

Spring 2027 only ----- **March 1, 2027**

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

Renewal Eligibility

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or New Jersey Alternative Application (if applicable), 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. Students can attend part-time due to illness or the death of a parent or spouse. 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.

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