

New Jersey Stars II Program

Students will be eligible for the New Jersey Stars II Program at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution of higher education.

NJ STARS II ELIGIBILITY:

- ★ Student must be an NJ STARS recipient or non-funded (tuition and approved fees fully covered by other State and/or Federal aid) during the semester of graduation
- ★ NJ STARS student must graduate from a NJ county college with an associate degree
- ★ Student must graduate with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher
- ★ Student must be admitted to a NJ four-year public institution
- ★ Student must be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program no later than the second semester immediately following county college graduation
- ★ Student must be enrolled in a full-time course of study (minimum 12 college-level credits) each semester

For full details on the NJ Stars II Program, contact the four-year public or independent institution of higher education you plan to attend.

QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT:

NJ STARS MARKETING & RECRUITMENT

MS. MARVA MACK
(973) 877-1941

FINANCIAL AID

MS. MILDRED COFER
(973) 877-3200

ACADEMIC TUTORING & COUNSELING

MS. LEIGH M. BELLO-DE CASTRO
(973) 877-3484

MS. KATHLYN BATTLE
(973) 877-3284

FEDERAL STUDENT AID INFORMATION CENTER

(FSAIC)
1-800-4-FED-AID
(1-800-433-3243)

FAFSA HEARING-IMPAIRED TTY LINE

1 (800)730-8913



**NEW JERSEY
S ★ T ★ A ★ R ★ S
STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE
REWARD SCHOLARSHIP**



303 University Avenue
Third Floor, Room 3220 in the Green Area
Newark, New Jersey 07102
<http://www.essex.edu/finaid/>

*These policies supersede those published previously
and are subject to change at any time.*

What is NJ STARS?

NJ STARS is a scholarship program exclusively for New Jersey residents that covers the cost of tuition and approved fees at New Jersey's 19 community colleges.

The NJ STARS award covers the cost of tuition and approved fees. Students have five (5) semesters of eligibility for NJ STARS. Students must take at least 12 college credits per semester and will be allowed to take up to 18 credits each semester if they are able to handle the course load and wish to accelerate their graduation. Summer sessions may be used as part of their five semesters of eligibility. Winter inter-sessions are not included.

All students must enroll in a full-time course of study no later than the fifth semester following high school graduation.

To avoid delays in processing your FAFSA, the Financial Aid Office **strongly recommends** that you contact the Financial Aid Office before you submit any corrections or changes to your FAFSA to the Central Processor. We will review your changes and determine if the correction(s) are required.

Who is Eligible?

New Jersey residents who graduate in the top 15 percent of their 2009 high school class, complete a rigorous high school course of study and achieve the required score on a college placement test to determine college readiness may be eligible. (Note: Rigorous high school course of study waived for June 2009 high school graduates.) Students and parent(s) must be permanent New Jersey residents pursuant to regulations established by HESAA. Students must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens and legal New Jersey residents for a minimum of twelve consecutive months prior to high school graduation.

Students will have to take a college placement test selected by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges when they receive their conditional

eligibility letter from the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority.

Students who graduate from high school and do not demonstrate college readiness will be given up to one year to gain the skills they need to be college ready. Students who do not demonstrate college readiness by September 1, 2010 are no longer NJ STARS eligible. NJ STARS does not cover costs for remedial coursework.

Students will be permitted to take fewer than 12 credits in their final semester if they need fewer than 12 credits to graduate. Students majoring in areas that require an additional 6th semester (for example: nursing and engineering) will be responsible for paying for the additional semester, but be able to retain their eligibility for NJ STARS II status.

You must first apply for admission to Essex County College, and you must meet all admission and application requirements as established by ECC. You must apply for financial aid, by completing the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. You must meet all NJ State deadlines for filing and completing the FAFSA. The Financial Aid Office must determine your eligibility for federal and state grants. If you do not qualify for any federal or state grants, NJ STARS will cover your tuition and fees. The NJ STARS **does not** cover certain fees, i.e. parking, insurance, late fees and tuition charges that exceed 15 credits. NJ STARS will cover the remaining balance of tuition and eligible fees after aid is applied. Students may be eligible to receive an NJ STARS award for up to 5 semesters of continuous full-time enrollment. **NOTE: Students who receive NJ Stars funding only are not eligible for a book voucher.**

Additional Requirements:

- ★ You must first apply for admission to Essex County College and be accepted into a degree program at ECC.

- ★ You must take at least 12 college level **billable credits** each semester. The program will pay for a maximum of 18 credits. Be sure to remind your Academic Advisor that you need a minimum of 12 college level credits to receive NJ STARS funds.
- ★ You must complete all requirements for state and federal aid i.e. matriculation, residency, citizenship, selective service (if applicable) and have a valid social security number.
- ★ State Aid Filing Deadlines:
 - ♦ Renewal TAG recipients - June 1
 - ♦ New TAG recipients (Fall semester or full academic year) - October 1
 - ♦ New TAG recipients (Spring semester only) - March 1
- ★ Students must submit all requested documentation to the Financial Aid Office.
- ★ You must achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher prior to the third semester of enrollment in order to continue receiving NJ STARS funding.

If you **have not** already filed a FAFSA, you may complete the FAFSA on the Internet at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. New students needing assistance with completing the FAFSA may contact the Financial Aid Office at (973) 877-3170. Assistance with completing the FAFSA is available by appointment only.

If you have already filed the FAFSA, but did not list ECC as one of your college choices, you may call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 1-319-337-5665. If you are hearing-impaired and have questions, please contact the TTY line at 1-800-730-8913. Instruct the person on the phone that you wish to add ECC to your Student Aid Report (SAR) with **ECC's Federal School Code: 007107**. Please have your SAR with you when you call.