



OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

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2019-2020 NJ STARS INFORMATION SHEET

Student Name (Last, First)	SSN	ECC ID #

OVERVIEW:

NJ STARS (Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship) may be awarded to students who graduated in the top 15% of their high school class, who completed a rigorous high school course of study **and** achieved the required score on a college placement test to determine college readiness. Students must be attending the community college in the county in which they reside. Additionally, students must be taking at least 12 college-level credits and be matriculated in a degree program. The NJ STARS scholarship covers the cost of tuition only for classes completed AFTER other Federal and State grants are applied, for up to 18 credits and may be received for up to 5 terms of continuous Full time enrollment. Students in their final NJ STARS term (preparing to graduate) may take less than 12 credits. **All students must enroll in a full-time course of study no later than the fifth semester following high school graduation**

Please read and sign the statement below.

1. I understand I must be in the top 15 % of my high school graduating class. Essex County College will verify that I am on the HESAA Potential NJ STARS Roster, as reported by my high school guidance office at the end of my junior year. **If I am not on the roster, because I reached the top 15% of my graduating class in my senior year, I must provide a copy of my FINAL high school transcript with my class rank OR a letter from my Guidance Counselor listing my class rank and date of graduation.**
2. I understand that if I do not achieve the required score on the placement test, I will be able to take appropriate classes while still in high school to improve my skills, or attend remedial courses at the College while enrolled in High School. **I have up to one year from the year I graduated from High School to gain the skills needed to be college ready and understand that the NJ STARS Program does not cover the cost of remedial courses.** If I do not demonstrate college readiness, I am no longer eligible for the NJ STARS program.
3. I understand that I am required to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) each year within the deadlines stated by federal and state agencies. **The FAFSA® must include our college code (007107) and must be the first school listed. If it is not listed I must add Essex to my FAFSA®. I understand that I must complete the state questions on the FAFSA® or on my NJ FAMS account. I understand that, if applicable, I must file the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application.**
4. I understand that I am also required to submit requested documentation to the Financial Aid Office and/or HESAA within the deadlines in order for my eligibility to be determined.
5. I understand that I must be matriculated in a degree program and be registered Full Time, taking at least 12 college-credits consecutively. I have the option of attending part time in my final NJ STARS term, if I am preparing to graduate. **Once Full Time, NJ STARS will pay tuition for a maximum of 18 college level credits per term for up to 5 consecutive terms provided I have met all of the application requirements for financial aid consideration and, except for my final term, I am enrolled in a minimum of 12 college-level credits. If I am not Full Time by my second term, or drop to less than Full Time in any consecutive term (not including summer terms), I will be disqualified from the NJ STARS Program.**
6. **I understand that NJ STARS does not cover the cost of classes I do not complete and drop from my schedule.**
7. **I understand that I must attain at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) by the start of my second year of enrollment in order to continue receiving the scholarship.**
8. **I understand that if I withdraw from any classes during any term that bring my credits below full time, I may be in danger of losing my scholarship and be disqualified from the NJ STARS program. I must maintain full time attendance (12 or more credits) and I will notify the Financial Aid Office should I have special circumstances which have caused me academic difficulties that require me to withdraw from all of my classes. I will work with my Student Development and Counseling Specialist (counselor) if I am having any difficulties.**
9. I understand that if Essex County College dismisses me for disciplinary actions, I will be responsible to repay my ENTIRE NJ STARS (all terms) award to the New Jersey Higher Education Assistance Authority.
10. **I understand that in order to be considered for NJ STARS II, I must be accepted for admission by a College or University in the State of New Jersey, graduate with an Associate Degree by the 5th term of continuous full time enrollment, have earned a 3.25 GPA and have family income (taxable and untaxed income) of less than \$250,000.**
11. I understand that once I earn my Associate Degree, I no longer qualify for the NJ STARS program at Essex County College, and I have one semester from the time I earn my Associate Degree to attend a NJ Institution to be considered for NJ STARS II.

I have read and understand the conditions of the NJ STARS Scholarship.

SIGNATURE (Full physical signature) _____ **DATE** _____