

## Important Reminders For NJ STARS II Students

### Graduation/Commencement

- You must graduate with a cumulative 3.25 GPA or greater within five semesters, or six semesters if you are in an engineering or nursing program, to be eligible for the NJ STARS II program.
- After checking with an Academic Counselor to be sure you have completed all credits you need to graduate, please remember to complete your graduation paperwork. Click on the Graduation Overview tab in Self-Service in your student portal to Confirm Your Graduation. Instructions are on the website at <https://bergen.edu/current-students/student-support-services/registration/confirm-my-graduation/>.
- If you need a course or two to graduate, you can take summer courses to complete your degree to graduate in August and still participate at Commencement, however, NJ STARS does not pay for summer courses. You must be full-time until your final semester which is the only time you are allowed to be part-time.
- You may take one semester after graduating from Bergen Community College. If you are not enrolled in an NJ STARS II college after taking one semester off, you will no longer be eligible for NJ STARS II scholarships.
- If you take one semester off after graduation, you can still take college courses, but you must pay for them yourself, and then you must be enrolled in an NJ STARS II college the next semester.

### Financial Aid

- When completing your next 2024-2025 FAFSA, please remember that if you were a recipient of State aid such as the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (NJ TAG) or the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) you must always complete your FAFSA **before April 15<sup>th</sup>**, including at NJ STARS II colleges. Otherwise, the FAFSA is due by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Please visit <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/StateApplicationDeadlines.aspx> to confirm.
- When completing your FAFSA, be sure to include your NJ STARS II colleges choices so that your name will appear on their NJ STARS II Roster. Be sure that you choose Bachelor's Degree, and third year/junior on your FAFSA.
- Regarding NJFAMS HESAA state financial aid application, select "To Do List," be sure that the correct academic year is selected on the dropdown box at the top of the page, that your FAFSA is listed, and there is a black box with a green check mark preceding it. In addition, ensure that there aren't any red boxes without a checkmark under the FAFSA. If there are, there is missing information and you must complete it and upload it on the HESAA NJFAMS website to complete your state financial aid view.
- On the HESAA NJFAMS website at <https://njfams.hesaa.org/NJFAMS/>, check the "View and Update Your School" tab to be sure that the college choices you listed on your FAFSA are also listed on your HESAA student portal. If not, click the Add a School link at the bottom of the screen, then choose a school from the dropdown box and click the Add button. Repeat if you are adding more than one college.
- After completing all of your financial aid paperwork, continue to check to be sure that your federal financial aid review (FAFSA) is completed by your NJ STARS II college, **and** that HESAA has completed your NJFAMS state financial aid review. See your HESAA student portal at <https://njfams.hesaa.org/NJFAMS/>.
- Contact your NJ STARS II representative at your NJ STARS II college to be sure they are aware you are enrolled as an NJ STARS II student and that you appear on their HESAA NJ STARS II roster.