

NJ STARS Scholarship Maintenance Requirements

The following are the requirements to maintain your NJ STARS eligibility:

Full-Time Enrollment: Students must maintain full-time enrollment with a minimum of 12 college-level credits in the fall and spring semesters. Students who drop below 12 credits before the NJ STARS Roster is certified each semester will permanently lose their NJ STARS eligibility. NJ STARS scholarships will pay for up to 18 credits per semester until enough credits are completed to obtain an Associate's Degree. For the **final semester**, if less than 12 credits are needed to complete their degree, students should obtain written approval from an Academic Counselor prior to the start of the semester.

Continuous Enrollment: Students must maintain continuous, full-time enrollment, unless on an approved leave of absence (medical, family emergency or military), or they will permanently lose their NJ STARS eligibility. Students have up to five consecutive semesters of eligibility.

3.0 Requirement: Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater prior to the start of the third semester of NJ STARS eligibility (or the beginning of the second year) to maintain their NJ STARS eligibility. Grades received for remedial courses are not included in cumulative GPA.

Apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA): Students must complete the FAFSA application each year by stated deadline and be sure that Bergen Community College (college code 004736) is one of the college choices. After completing the FAFSA, on the FAFSA Confirmation page, click on "Start your state application" to answer the New Jersey Additional Questions. Students should contact Charmaine McKinney in A-129 with financial aid questions.

Apply for State-Based Financial Aid (HESAA): Students who miss the link on the FAFSA Confirmation page can answer the questions on their HESAA student portal. Click on "To Do List" on the main menu, then click on the link next to "NJ Additional Application Questions" to answer the questions.

Payment of Fees: Students should make payment arrangements for fees and any other payments not covered by NJ STARS prior to the payment deadline for each semester. Students should contact Tabatha Tucker in L-127 with billing questions.

NJ STARS II: In order to participate in NJ STARS II, students must have completed all NJ STARS requirements, and graduate from Bergen Community College within 5 semesters with a minimum of a 3.25 cumulative GPA. Students in nursing or engineering programs are given an additional unfunded 6th semester to graduate. NJ STARS II is separate NJ State Legislation from NJ STARS I, and can change at any time. Visit www.njstars.net for more information about NJ STARS II.

When to Meet with the NJ STARS Representative, an Academic Counselor or a Transfer Counselor

Students should meet with an Academic Counselor in A-118 each semester to be sure they are on the right track for completing their degree requirements, or if they are having any academic issues to get help resolving them as soon as possible. If necessary, students may apply for a medical, family emergency or military full or part-time leave of absence.

Students should visit the NJ STARS Representative in A-128A to complete the **NJ STARS Change of Status Form** whenever making any changes such as dropping a course or courses, changing from full-time to part-time enrollment, requesting a leave, or when they are transferring or graduating or with any issues that may cause them to lose their NJ STARS eligibility.

The NJ STARS Representative will get approval from Financial Aid, if necessary, advise the student to meet with an Academic Counselor before making any changes, and give them a copy of the NJ STARS Change of Status form to bring with them.

It is never too early to talk to a Transfer Counselor! Students should make an appointment to see a Transfer Counselor after completing 48 college level credits. Visit the Transfer and Articulation Services webpages for more information.