



NJ STARS Program at Bergen Community College

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Important Reminders for NJ STARS II Students

Graduation/Commencement

- To be eligible for the NJ STARS II program, you must graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher within five semesters, or six semesters if you are in an engineering or nursing program.
- After confirming with an Academic Counselor that you have completed all the necessary credits for graduation, please remember to complete your graduation paperwork. Go to the **Graduation Overview** tab in Self-Service within your student portal to confirm your graduation. Instructions are available on the college website under [Registration > Confirm My Graduation Web page](https://bergen.edu/registration/confirm-my-graduation/). (<https://bergen.edu/registration/confirm-my-graduation/>).
- If you need one or two additional courses to graduate, you can take summer courses to complete your degree and still participate in Commencement. However, NJ STARS does not cover the cost of summer courses. You must be enrolled full-time until your final semester, which is the only semester you are allowed to be part-time.
- You may take one semester off after graduating from Bergen Community College. If you do not enroll in an NJ STARS II college after taking one semester off, you will lose your eligibility for NJ STARS II scholarships.
- If you take one semester off after graduation, you can still take college courses, but you will need to pay for them yourself. You must be enrolled in an NJ STARS II college the following semester to maintain eligibility.

Financial Aid

- When completing your next 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 submit your FAFSA before April 15, even when applying to NJ STARS II colleges. Visit [State Application Deadlines](#) to confirm the exact deadlines.

- Be sure to include your NJ STARS II college choices when completing your FAFSA so that your name will appear on their NJ STARS II roster. Select "bachelor's degree" and indicate that you are a third-year/junior student on your FAFSA.
- For the NJFAMS HESAA state financial aid application, go to the "To Do List" section. Make sure the correct academic year is selected in the dropdown box at the top of the page, your FAFSA is listed, and there is a green check mark next to it. Ensure there are no red boxes without a checkmark under the FAFSA section. If any red boxes appear, it means there is missing information, and you must complete it and upload it on the HESAA NJFAMS website.
- On the HESAA NJFAMS website ([HESAA NJFAMS](#)), click on the "View and Update Your School" tab to ensure the colleges you listed on your FAFSA are also listed in your HESAA student portal. If they are not listed, click the "Add a School" link at the bottom of the screen, select a school from the dropdown, and click the "Add" button. Repeat this process if you are adding more than one college.
- After completing all your financial aid paperwork, continue to check that your federal financial aid (FAFSA) review is completed by your NJ STARS II college and that HESAA has completed your NJFAMS state financial aid review. Visit your HESAA student portal for updates: [HESAA NJFAMS Portal](#).
- Contact your NJ STARS II representative at your NJ STARS II college to confirm they are aware you are enrolled as an NJ STARS II student and that you are listed on their HESAA NJ STARS II roster.