

## **NJ STARS Fact Sheet**

**The New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program** is an initiative created by the State of New Jersey that provides New Jersey's highest achieving students with free tuition and approved fees at their home county college.

### **NJ STARS Benefits**

The NJ STARS award covers the cost of tuition and approved fees less any State and/or Federal grants and scholarships for up to five semesters. The award covers these costs for up to 15 credit hours per semester. Students must be enrolled **full-time** for a minimum of 12 college-level credits.

### **Fees**

The following list includes examples of approved and excluded fees:

#### **Approved Fees:**

General Fees  
Student Service/Activity Fees  
Technology Fees  
Required Course Fees and Equipment

#### **Excluded Fees:**

Application and Insurance Fees  
Late Fees and Library Fees  
Testing and Licensing Fees

### **Student Eligibility**

- New Jersey residents who graduate in the top 20 percent of their high school class.
- Students must have graduated from high school in 2005 or later.
- Students who postpone college attendance must be enrolled full-time at their home county college by the fifth semester after high school graduation to retain eligibility.  
**Note:** 2005 high school graduates had to enroll full-time at a New Jersey county college by fall 2007.
- Students who have attended one semester at another college may be eligible for an NJ STARS award provided they enroll full-time at their home county college the following semester.
- Students must enroll in a full-time course of study (minimum 12 college-level credits) in a degree program at their home county college, unless the student demonstrates that the home county college does not offer the desired program of study or the program is oversubscribed for at least one year.
- 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 must apply for all forms of State and Federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, (file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA) and submit any requested documentation to complete and verify application data within established State deadlines.

