

9A:9-10.2 General provisions

General provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship Programs which pertain to residency set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2, noncitizens and resident aliens set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.3, award adjustments, refunds and collections set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.12, check endorsements set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.14, appeals set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.15, and accounting and auditing standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.16 shall be in effect for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program.

9A:9-10.3 Eligible institutions

Scholarships are available to eligible students enrolled in a New Jersey county college serving the student's county of residence pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-1 et seq. except as otherwise indicated in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.10.

9A:9-10.4 Full-time enrollment

(a) The student must be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey county college and must maintain continuous full-time enrollment.

1. Full-time course of study means a course of study leading to a degree from the county college of enrollment that includes at least 12 credit hours per semester, not including any credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum.

9A:9-10.5 Approved fees

(a) The following shall be approved fees that may be paid with scholarship proceeds:

1. General fees;
2. Student service/activity fees;
3. Technology fees; and
4. Required course/equipment fees.

Amended by R.2004 d.379, effective October 4, 2004.
See: 36 N.J.R. 3589(a), 36 N.J.R. 4466(a).

9A:9-10.6 Eligibility requirements

(a) A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for up to five semesters. This period of eligibility also includes any semester for which a student qualifies for the scholarship but does not receive payment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.9. In order to qualify for this scholarship, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. A student must have graduated from high school in 2004 or later, and not earlier than the calendar year two years prior to the first calendar year in which a scholarship payment is to be made;
2. For the first year of enrollment, a student must have graduated in the top 20 percent of the student's high school graduating class;

3. After the first year of enrollment, the scholarship shall be payable to an eligible student if, based on the student's performance upon completion of the first year of enrollment, the student was ranked in the top 20 percent of all first-time students enrolled in a full-time course of study at the county college during the student's initial term of county college enrollment;

4. A student must annually complete and file a financial aid application, as approved by the Authority, within established deadline dates in order to apply for all other available forms of Federal and State need-based grants and merit scholarships. This includes the student satisfying all requirements to determine his or her eligibility to receive payments of these State and Federal grants and scholarships; and

5. A student must maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student, illness of a member of the student's immediate family, or emergency leave because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been approved by the county college.

(b) A student is eligible to receive an NJ STARS scholarship during the fall and spring semesters.

9A:9-10.7 Academic or disciplinary dismissal

A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for an NJ STARS scholarship.

9A:9-10.8 Collection of overpayments, ineligible payments, or refunds

If a student participating in the program is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full all amounts received under the program. The county college shall be responsible for collecting any required repayment, or the amount of any overpayment or other ineligible payment, of any State awards under this program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-10.

9A:9-10.9 Amount of the scholarship

A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover the full cost of tuition and approved fees, subject to the prior application of other State and Federal grants and scholarships against those costs, for up to 15 credit hours in any semester for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the student's county of residence. The full amount of need-based and merit grants and scholarships received by the student shall be applied to tuition and fee charges to reduce the amount of the NJ STARS award.

9A:9-10.10 Out-of-county students

An otherwise eligible student, who can demonstrate to the Authority with a letter from the New Jersey county college serving his or her county of residence, stating that it does

not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to study, ~~shall be eligible~~ for such scholarship at another New Jersey county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall be computed as though the student were a resident of the county served by that college.

9A:9-10.11 Student notification

Students shall be notified of their eligibility for an NJ STARS scholarship by the New Jersey county college they attend and such notification will include the amount of the scholarship.