



NJ STARS

AT BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship





Reach for the STARS



A Message from Bergen Community College President Dr. Eric M. Friedman

Stars like you belong at Bergen Community College!



I am thrilled that you will consider enrolling at Bergen as part of the NJ STARS program, which offers students like you the opportunity to enroll tuition-free. I am grateful that the State of New Jersey continues to invest in students like you. You have achieved success in high school and now you have the opportunity to earn a college degree.

At Bergen, you will find a welcoming, inclusive and diverse community of students, faculty and staff who believe in the transformative power of education. Our students take advantage of our unique academic resources such as the region's only Health Professions Integrated Teaching Center, the STEM Student Research Center and the nation's No. 1 ranked tutoring center.

You will also find dozens of clubs, organizations and activities that promote belongingness and engagement. Among them, Bergen remains home to the Alpha Phi Epsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa - a past honoree as the world's top community college honor society chapter. Many students also participate in programs such as LatinxCEO, an entrepreneurship initiative that connects students with members of the local business community.

When it comes to your course of study, Bergen offers transfer programs with dedicated faculty that prepare students for entry into some of the nation's best universities. In fact, our graduates have attended every Ivy League institution! I encourage you to visit the Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands Innovation Center, which features experiential learning opportunities in areas such as business, gaming and cybersecurity. Be sure to check out the Bloomberg Lab that brings the "real-world" of financial markets right into the classroom.

We look forward to seeing you on campus!

Sincerely,
Dr. Eric M. Friedman
President, Bergen Community College

Free Tuition is in the Stars

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 at their home county community colleges.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The NJ STARS state scholarship program covers the cost of tuition, less any state and/or federal grants and scholarships for up to five semesters.

The NJ STARS program will cover tuition only. Fees, books, or summer courses are not included; however, financial aid grants and scholarships may cover these outstanding costs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the NJ STARS program, you must be a:

- NJ resident who ranks in the top 15% of their high school class at the end of their junior or senior year
- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and legal New Jersey resident for a minimum of 12 consecutive months before high school graduation
- Student who enrolls full-time in a degree program by the fifth semester after high school graduation at their home county community college

To maintain NJ STARS status, you must:

- Have continuous full-time enrollment of 12 college-level credits each semester excluding summer terms
- Renew your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually
- Maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA each fall and spring term
- Successfully graduate from the College with an associate's degree in five semesters
- NJ STARS students are eligible to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Scholarship which offers \$55,000 per year in transfer funds. 88% of last year's winners were Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members and 79% took honors classes.
- NJ STARS, PTK, and Judith K. Winn (JKW) Honors students have gone on to amazing colleges including Columbia University, Cornell University, NJIT, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Pennsylvania, Williams College, and many more!

Stars Spotlight

Hellen Hurtado



"I found Bergen to be the right choice for me primarily because of their exceptional aviation program. Pursuing a major in aviation allows me to achieve my lifelong dream of becoming a pilot while embarking on a career path that continues to fuel my love for flight."

Hellen Hurtado

Aviation Science, Class of 2025

Naana Owusu- Abboah



"I chose Bergen Community College because it was my best option financially for my major. I have made meaningful connections here that push me further and continue to support me through every new challenge."

Naana Owusu-Abboah

Nursing, Class of 2025

Stars Spotlight

Roman Stobnicki



"I chose the NJ STARS program at Bergen so I can give more time to focus on my studies rather than working to pay for them. Making friends and meeting people who share the same ambition as I do helps push me and helps push others to achieve greatness."

Roman Stobnicki

Business Administration, Class of 2026

Maria Frometa Lora



"Bergen is a stepping-stone for those seeking higher education. Without the encouragement and resources from my peers, advisors, and professors, I would not be as motivated to branch out and challenge myself."

Maria Frometa Lora

Health Science, Class of 2025

Become a STAR at Bergen

The NJ STARS program is your path forward to academic success.

Getting Started

Students must first apply to Bergen Community College through the general enrollment process.



STEP 1
Apply to Bergen



STEP 2
Complete the
Enrollment Steps

There are **three eligibility requirements** that must be met to become an NJ STARS student:

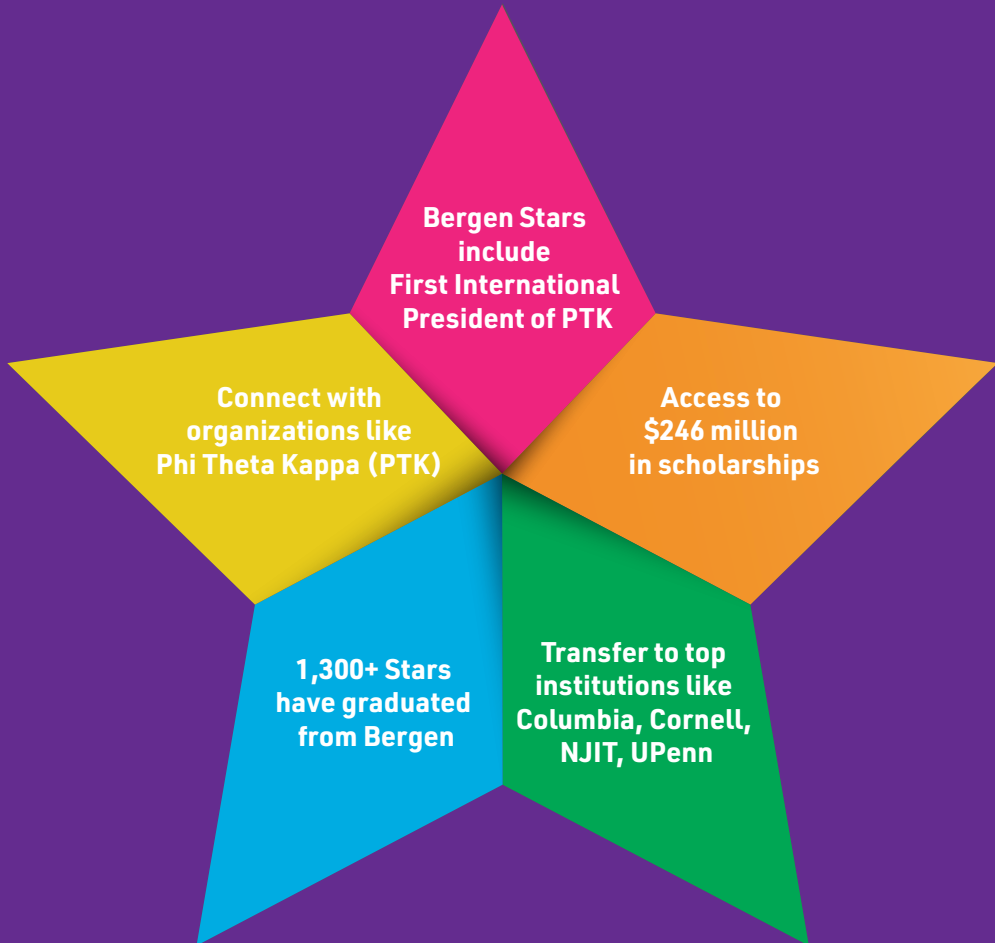
- ★ **Academic:** Submit your official high school transcript
- ★ **Residency:** U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen living in Bergen County
- ★ **Financial Aid:** Apply and complete the FAFSA and Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) applications

After registering full-time, you will need to **sign the NJ STARS application/contract and scholarships maintenance agreement** and submit to the NJ STARS Coordinator.

Questions? Contact Julia Gibson, NJ STARS Coordinator, at (201) 879-7892 or njstars@bergen.edu.

The information in this pamphlet is subject to change. For the latest information please visit the HESAA website at hesaa.org.

NJ STARS Facts



Learn more about the NJ STARS program at bergen.edu/nj-stars.



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