

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY



## STATE & FEDERAL AID for UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS



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## HESAA | Our Mission

HESAA, the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, is the only New Jersey state agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with financial and informational resources for students to pursue their education beyond high school.

This brochure highlights the major State and federal student aid programs. However, student financial assistance is also available through institutions and private sources. You should work closely with your campus financial aid office regarding the availability of student aid funds. You may also contact HESAA's Customer Care Line at **609-584-4480** or visit our website at: [www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org).



## How to Apply for Financial Aid

### What is the FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed every year to be considered for financial aid. By completing the FAFSA, you are applying for State and federal grants, scholarships, institutional funding, and federal student loans. Completing and submitting a FAFSA is free. In fact, charging a fee for completing or submitting the FAFSA is prohibited by law.

### There are three ways to complete the FAFSA:

- 1 ➤ Online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (recommended)
- 2 ➤ PDF FAFSA (download file) at <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/2024-25-fafsa.pdf>
- 3 ➤ Paper FAFSA - request a copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

### What is the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application?

The New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application is for students who do not meet federal eligibility requirements but may otherwise be eligible for State financial aid if they qualify as an NJ Dreamer. The Alternative Application must be completed each year to be considered for State aid. It is located at [www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJAlternativeApplication.aspx](http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJAlternativeApplication.aspx).

### Deadlines

There is a federal deadline for the FAFSA every year that can differ from state and college deadlines. Submit the FAFSA as early as possible to meet all deadlines. Some institutions require an additional application to determine eligibility for institutional funds. Some grant and work-study program awards are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The timely submission of your FAFSA can increase your chances of receiving assistance.

	New Jersey State Deadlines	
	2024-2025 FAFSA	2025-2026 FAFSA
Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) Renewal Students	June 1, 2024	April 15, 2024
All Other Applicants Not Currently Receiving TAG	Fall/Spring Applicants – September 15, 2024 Spring Only – February 15, 2025	Fall/Spring Applicants – September 15, 2025 Spring Only – February 15, 2026

## The Application Process

Applying online is generally the fastest and easiest way to apply. If you do not have internet access at home, you can usually find internet access at your local library, high school, or financial aid office at a nearby campus. Over 98 percent of applications are submitted electronically.

You can also complete the FAFSA by downloading the PDF form. Type your responses on the form and print the form. Another option is to print the form and write in the responses. If you choose to fill out the PDF or paper version of the FAFSA, the completed form must be signed, dated, and mailed to the address provided.

## Tax Return Transcript

**Verification:** A process in which students and/or parents must provide proof that the information submitted on the FAFSA is accurate. Federal regulations require a federal Tax Return Transcript, obtained from the IRS, as the only acceptable documentation. The State Tuition Aid Grant program follows these regulations to simplify the application process. ***Personal copies of your tax return are no longer acceptable documentation!***

## How to Request a Tax Return Transcript

Before you begin, the following information will be required: Social Security number, date of birth, street address-**exactly as it appears**-on your tax return and zip code.

- Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)
- Select “Get Your Tax Record”
- You can then select “Get Transcript Online”

**To request an IRS Tax Return Transcript by phone call the IRS at 1-800-908-9946**

## Create an FSA ID ACCOUNT

You and your parents are encouraged to apply for an FSA ID Account (Federal Student Aid) to sign your online application. For a student who provides parental information on the FAFSA, at least one parent whose information is provided on the FAFSA must sign. The FSA ID Account serves as an identifier and electronic signature. Once created, you or your parent can use the FSA ID

Account immediately to sign the FAFSA. If you do not sign the FAFSA using the FSA ID Account, you will need to print out, sign, and mail a signature page with the proper signatures within 14 days. Submitting the signature page by mail will increase the time it takes to process your application and transmit your application to the colleges listed on your application.

## Starting the FAFSA Application

Gather all the documents you will need to complete the FAFSA (W-2 forms, tax returns, bank statements, etc.). If you complete the FAFSA online, you will be guided step-by-step through the preliminary application process which will provide time-saving suggestions:

- Complete the *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* (optional).
- Apply for a FSA ID Account if you do not have one.
- Parents of dependent students should apply for an FSA ID Account if they do not have one.
- Plan how to sign the FAFSA (using an FSA ID Account or signature page).

For a step by step process, download our 8 Steps to Apply for Federal Aid at: [www.hesaa.org/Documents/8\\_steps\\_howToApply.pdf](http://www.hesaa.org/Documents/8_steps_howToApply.pdf)

## Completing and Submitting the FAFSA

It is recommended that you complete the *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* to assist you in completing the online FAFSA. Do not leave any questions blank on the application unless told to do so.

If you are applying electronically, follow the online instructions to print a copy of your FAFSA for your records. Be sure to submit your FAFSA and receive your confirmation page. If you are applying using the PDF or paper FAFSA, make copies of your completed application for your files before you mail it. Do not enclose letters, tax forms, or any extra materials in the envelope provided as they will be destroyed.

## The New Jersey Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS)

NJFAMS is a user-friendly, real-time system that is available for all New Jersey students who apply for NJ State aid for each academic year. Students will need to log in and set up an NJFAMS account.

### What Happens Next

- Within 3 - 5 days the FAFSA data is sent to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA and your state grant agency. In NJ, that means HESAA.
- Within 7 – 10 days you and the financial aid offices listed on your *FAFSA* will receive a copy of your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) that specifies your federal Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI is used by schools to determine eligibility for federal financial aid and institutional award packaging.
- HESAA will send you a notification to view your state grant award account for eligibility status and/or if documents are needed in the NJ Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS).
- If your record is selected for State verification, you will be asked by email to provide documents such as a tax return transcript, income tax schedules, verification worksheets, etc.
- You will typically receive a financial aid award notice only from colleges to which you have been offered admission. The notice will include specific information on how to accept and/or apply for any financial aid offered.
- Read and become familiar with institutional financial aid policies, procedures and practices for your college.
- If a college requires additional forms and/or applications, it is the student's responsibility to complete and submit all documents to the college/university. This process is the same for NJ Dreamers completing the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application.

For federal program eligibility go to: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility>  
**See the federal aid award chart on page 10.**



## Federal Pell Grant <sup>U</sup>

A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. Pell Grants are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree or a professional degree. In some cases, a student enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teacher certification program might receive a Pell Grant. Pell Grants are considered the foundation of federal financial aid, to which aid from other federal and non-federal sources might be added.

## Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) <sup>U</sup>

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program is for undergraduates with exceptional financial need. Pell Grant recipients with the lowest expected family contributions (SAIs) will be considered first for a FSEOG. Just like Pell Grants, the FSEOG does not have to be repaid.

## Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant <sup>U, G</sup>

The TEACH Grant provides grants for undergraduate - or graduate - level study. Up to \$4,000 per year is available to eligible students, depending on the student's individual circumstances and the year in which the grant is awarded. For example, TEACH grants awarded between October 1, 2020 and October 1, 2024 can be no greater than \$3,772.

### Students must:



**Attend a participating school. Schools may choose to participate in the TEACH program.**



**Plan to begin a career as a teacher**



**Currently be completing coursework necessary to begin a career in teaching**



**Sign an Agreement to Teach Form**



**Teach full-time for four years at a designated school in a specified subject**

If a student is unable to fulfill the teaching obligation, TEACH Grants convert to Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans that the student must then repay.

## Federal Work Study (FWS) <sup>U, G</sup>

The FWS program offers employment for students demonstrating financial need on or off campus and is coordinated by the colleges. The hourly rate of pay is set by the college and the employer. Some schools have employment agreements with private, non-profit organizations.

## Federal Direct Student Loan

The Direct Loan program makes highly affordable loans available to students. Students do not have to pass a credit check and interest on federal loans is fixed. Repayment begins six months after leaving school and there are never any prepayment penalties. These loans can either be subsidized or unsubsidized. For any loan disbursement on or after July 1, 2024 and before June 30, 2025 the interest rate is 6.53% for undergraduates and 8.08% for graduate/professional students. A 1.057% origination fee is deducted from each disbursement. To apply, check your college's financial aid website or go to <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>.

## Subsidized Loan <sup>U</sup>

Students who demonstrate financial need may have their interest paid by the federal government while the student is enrolled at least half time in college and during periods of authorized deferment. *The law limits the benefits of the Direct Loan subsidy to an aggregated period of no more than 150% of program length for new borrowers. Once that limit has been reached, the borrower will begin to incur interest charges on outstanding subsidized loans if the borrower is enrolled at least half time in a program (including preparatory coursework) that would otherwise qualify the borrower for a Direct Subsidized Loan. The initial interest rate changes annually, however, it is fixed for the term of the loan.*

## Unsubsidized Loan <sup>U, G</sup>

Unsubsidized loan borrowers may agree to repay interest immediately or the lender will capitalize the interest that accrues during the in-school and grace periods. *The initial interest rate changes annually, however, it is fixed for the term of the loan.*

**Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) <sup>U</sup>**

Parents of students may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus all other financial aid available from the Direct PLUS Loan Program. Interest accrues from date of disbursement. For loans disbursed on or after 7/1/2024 and before 7/1/2025 the interest rate is 9.08%. The initial interest rate changes annually, however it is fixed for the term of the loan. The origination fee is 4.228%. Repayment begins within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. A borrower can request a payment postponement until the student is enrolled less than half time or no longer enrolled in school. Limited deferments are available.

*Always visit [www.njclass.org](http://www.njclass.org) to see if NJCLASS has better rates than federal loans.*

**Federal Graduate PLUS <sup>G</sup>**

Graduate/Professional students may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus all other financial aid from the Direct PLUS Loan Program. There is no interest subsidy. For loans disbursed on or after 7/1/2024 and before 7/1/2025 the interest rate is 9.08%. The initial interest rate changes annually, however it is fixed for the term of the loan. The origination fee is 4.228% and the fee is deducted from each disbursement. Repayment begins within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed or a borrower can request a payment postponement until the student is enrolled less than half time or is no longer enrolled in school.

Acronym	Program Name	Award
FPELL	Federal PELL Grant	Up to \$7,395 annually
FSEOG*	Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Up to \$4,000
TEACH	Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education	Up to \$4,000, depending on the year
FWS*	Federal Work Study Program	Variable College determined
Federal Direct Student Loans	Federal Direct Loan	Fixed Up to \$5,500 1st year
PLUS	Federal PLUS Loan	Cost of Attendance minus other aid

\* Appropriated funds distributed by colleges on a first-come, first-served basis with a need component.

## State Aid General Eligibility Requirements

To receive aid from the State of New Jersey, you must meet general federal aid eligibility requirements\* and:

- Have a high school diploma or recognized equivalent
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be a legal resident of New Jersey for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to enrollment (*NOTE: Eligible non-citizens must reside in New Jersey for 12 consecutive months after receiving permanent resident status from USCIS to meet the State residency requirement.*)
- Demonstrate financial need
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Be a full-time undergraduate student enrolled in an approved degree or certificate program
- Not already have a baccalaureate degree, or an associate degree if enrolling at a two-year college
- Not have received the maximum allowable number of grant payments
- Not be in default on a Federal or State student loan
- Not owe a refund on a Federal or State grant
- Not be enrolled in a program leading to a degree in theology or divinity

\* *NJ Dreamers who are not U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens may still be eligible for State aid if they meet the criteria listed on page 20 and meet bullet points 4-11 above.*

*Eligibility requirements are listed below the program descriptions.*

**How to Apply - Students must file the FAFSA annually within established deadlines and meet all other program requirements.**

***For all State Aid Programs see page 11 for general State aid eligibility requirements***



## Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) <sup>U</sup>

One of the nation's largest and most generous financial aid grant programs, TAG may cover up to the cost of tuition. The amount of an individual grant varies based upon the student's need, the cost of attendance and available funding. Eligible students must complete their financial aid application annually within established State deadlines and meet all program requirements to receive TAG.

***See Page 20 for annual award ranges and maximums.***

## Part-Time TAG for County College Students <sup>U</sup>

The Part-Time TAG for County College Students provides grants to eligible students while enrolled in 6-11 credits at a county/community college. The amount of an individual award varies based upon the student's need, the cost of attendance, and available funding.

## TAG Participating Institutions

Students must attend an approved New Jersey college, university or degree-granting proprietary school, including:

### **New Jersey County Colleges**

- Atlantic Cape Community College
- Bergen Community College
- Brookdale Community College
- Camden County College
- County College of Morris
- Essex County College
- Hudson County Community College
- Mercer County Community College
- Middlesex College
- Ocean County College
- Passaic County Community College
- Raritan Valley Community College
- Rowan College at Burlington County
- Rowan College of South Jersey
- Salem Community College
- Sussex County Community College
- Union College of Union County, NJ
- Warren County Community College

### **New Jersey Four-Year Public Colleges and Universities**

- Kean University
- Montclair State University
- New Jersey City University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology

- Ramapo College of New Jersey
- Rowan University
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Stockton University
- The College of New Jersey
- Thomas Edison State University
- William Paterson University

**New Jersey Private Colleges and Universities**

- Bais Medrash Toras Chesed
- Beth Medrash Govoha
- Caldwell University
- Centenary University
- Drew University
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Felician University
- Georgian Court University
- Monmouth University
- Pillar College
- Princeton University
- Rabbi Jacob Joseph School
- Rabbinical College of America
- Rider University
- Saint Elizabeth University
- Saint Peter's University
- Seton Hall University
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Talmudical Academy
- Yeshiva Toras Chaim
- Yeshivas Be'er Yitzchok

**New Jersey Proprietary Degree-Granting Schools**

- Berkeley College
- DeVry University
- Eastern International College
- Eastwick College



## New Jersey College Promise <sup>U, G</sup>

The New Jersey College Promise offers an affordable pathway to a college degree. Together, the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) and the Garden State Guarantee (GSG) programs promise transparent, predictable pricing for up to four years of college here in New Jersey. Based on your income, your degree may be free!

### To be eligible for the New Jersey College Promise, students must:

- Be a New Jersey resident with a total household adjusted gross income between \$0 - \$100,000
- Complete the FAFSA or NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application by applicable state deadlines
- Enroll in at least six (6) credits per semester at any of New Jersey's community colleges (CCOG) or at least 12 credits per semester at a New Jersey public four-year college or university (GSG) during the current Academic Year
- Have not yet earned a college degree (CCOG) or Bachelor's degree (GSG)
- Make satisfactory academic progress

## Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Grant <sup>U, G</sup>

EOF grants are available to students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds who meet eligibility requirements. Award amounts vary depending on enrollment status, college costs, and financial need. EOF grants are renewable annually based upon continued eligibility. Students must file a FAFSA annually within established State deadlines. Applicants must also contact the campus EOF Director to apply for admission into the program. The institution will determine the value of the grant. New Jersey students enrolled in any one of the State's TAG eligible degree-granting colleges may be eligible for the EOF program.

There is no separate application. If you already completed the FAFSA® or the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application for NJ Dreamers, you are automatically being considered for this state aid.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Enrolled in at least six (6) credits per semester at any community college during Academic Year
- Does not have a prior college degree
- Completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application according to agency deadlines at [www.hesaa.org/Pages/stateapplicationdeadlines.aspx](http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/stateapplicationdeadlines.aspx)
- Make satisfactory academic progress

### Governor's Urban Scholarship <sup>U</sup>

The Governor's Urban Scholarship is a merit award available to students who rank in the top 5.0 percent of their class and attain a grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the junior year in high school, file a FAFSA within established State deadlines, and have a New Jersey Eligibility Index below 10,500. To qualify, applicants also must graduate from a traditional public, public charter, county vo-tech, or nonpublic school and reside in *Asbury Park City, Burlington City, Bridgeton, Camden City, East Orange City, Elizabeth, Garfield, Gloucester City, Harrison, Hoboken, Irvington Township, Jersey City, Keansburg, Lakewood, Long Branch, Millville City, Neptune Township, Newark City, New Brunswick City, Orange, Passaic City, Paterson City, Pemberton Township, Perth Amboy, Phillipsburg, Plainfield City, Pleasantville, Roselle Borough, Salem City, Trenton City, Union City, Vineland City, West New York*

### New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) <sup>U</sup>

New Jersey residents who rank in the top 15.0% of their class at the end of either the junior or senior year of high school may be eligible for the NJ STARS program. NJ STARS awards cover tuition only for up to eighteen college-level credits per semester, for up to five semesters. Students must attend their county college of residence unless they can demonstrate that the home county college does not offer the desired program of study or the program is oversubscribed for at least one year.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges has determined that students who are in the top 15.0% of their high school class are ready for college-level coursework. NJ STARS does not cover costs for remedial coursework.

#### To be eligible, students must:

- **File a FAFSA within established State deadlines;**
- **Have completed a rigorous high school course of study;**
- **Enroll full time no later than the 5th semester following high school graduation;**
- **Except in limited situations defined by statute, take a minimum of 12 college-level credits per semester. NJ STARS covers up to 18 college-level credits per semester; and**
- **Attain a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher prior to the third semester of enrollment.**

### New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) <sup>G</sup>

NJ STARS II is a continuation of the NJ STARS program that provides funding to attend a New Jersey four-year public or private college or university. The NJ STARS II award will be based on tuition only for up to eighteen credits, except for Tuition Aid Grant recipients who will receive NJ STARS II awards based on tuition and approved fees. The amount of the NJ STARS II award will be determined after all other available State and federal grants and scholarships are applied to these charges, not to exceed \$1,250 per semester.

#### Students must:

- **Have earned an associate degree as an NJ STARS scholar (funded or non-funded) with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher and be admitted to a New Jersey four-year public or private college or university. NOTE: NJ STARS eligibility does not guarantee admission to a New Jersey four-year institution.**
- **Maintain continuous full-time enrollment**
- **Attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 at the start of the third semester of study to maintain eligibility for the third and fourth semesters**
- **Have a family income (including taxable and untaxed income) of less than \$250,000**
- **File a FAFSA within established State deadlines**

### New Jersey World Trade Center Scholarship <sup>U</sup>

Eligible dependent children and surviving spouses of New Jersey residents who were killed in the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001; died as a result of injuries received in the attack; died as a result of illness caused by exposure to the attack sites; or were declared missing and officially presumed dead as a result of the attack, may be eligible. Recipients may attend any eligible college in-state or out-of-state. Scholarship amounts may change based on program funding and the student's other available financial assistance.

#### Students must:

- **Be a dependent child or surviving spouse of an individual who was an NJ resident on September 11, 2001 and who was killed in the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, or who died as a result of illness caused by exposure to the attack sites**
- **Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate at an eligible postsecondary institution**

- **Eligibility to apply is limited to eight years from the date of high school graduation for the child and eight years from the date of death for the spouse.**

Applications may be obtained online at [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org).

### **Survivor Tuition Benefits (STB) <sup>U</sup>**

Eligible children and surviving spouses of New Jersey firefighters, emergency service workers or law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty may enroll free of tuition charges at any public institution of higher education in New Jersey. Recipients may also attend any approved independent institution in the State. The award amount cannot exceed the highest tuition charged at a New Jersey public institution. Awards are renewable.

#### **Students must:**

- **Be a child or surviving spouse of a New Jersey firefighter, emergency service worker, or law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty**
- **Be enrolled at least half time in an undergraduate program at an eligible New Jersey postsecondary institution**

Eligibility to apply is limited to eight years from the date of high school graduation for the child and eight years from the date of death for the spouse. Applications may be obtained online at [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org).

### **Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Scholarship (LEOMS) <sup>U</sup>**

Eligible dependent children of New Jersey law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty may receive scholarships up to the cost of attendance at an approved institution of higher education in New Jersey. The award amount cannot exceed an amount equal to the recipient's annual cost of attendance that is not otherwise covered by any other scholarship, grant, benefit or other assistance administered by HESAA. Awards are renewable for up to four years.

#### **Students must:**

- **Be a dependent child of a New Jersey law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty**
- **Be enrolled full time in an undergraduate degree program at an eligible NJ postsecondary institution**

Applications may be obtained online at [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org).

## New Jersey Governor's Industry Vocations Scholarship (NJ-GIVS) for Women and Minorities <sup>U</sup>

The Governor's Industry Vocations Scholarship (NJ-GIVS) pays up to \$2,000 per year or up to the cost of tuition in an eligible certificate or degree program, less any federal, state or institutional financial aid available. The scholarship is funded by the Schools Development Authority (SDA) and administered by HESAA. Funding is limited and awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis. To receive an award all eligibility requirements must be met.

*According to N.J.S.A. 52:18A-240, the Schools Development Authority must set aside a portion of the revenues from its construction contracts for training programs for women and minority group members. To receive NJ-GIVS you must be a female or a minority group member.*

- Minority groups include the following as defined at N.J.A.C. 17:46-1.2: “‘Minority’ means a person who is: 1) Black, which is a person having origins in any of the black racial groups in Africa; or 2) Hispanic, which is a person of Spanish or Portuguese culture, with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race; or 3) Asian American, which is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Hawaii or the Pacific Islands; or 4) American Indian or Alaskan native, which is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America.”
- Must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have an annual household income below \$60,000.
- Award may be used at any of New Jersey's 18 county colleges, county vocational technical schools or a proprietary trade school affiliated with an institution eligible to participate in the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program. To apply, please fill out an application online by visiting [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org).
- New Jersey grants and scholarships are limited to U.S. citizens, eligible non-citizens, and undocumented students who meet specific requirements to qualify as an NJ Dreamer who can complete the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application. Students in the U.S. on a temporary basis - who do not have approved permanent resident status from USCIS - are not eligible to receive an award.

## HESAA | State Aid Programs

- New Jersey grants and scholarships are limited to New Jersey residents. A New Jersey resident must have resided in the State for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to receiving the award.  
NOTE: Eligible non-citizens must reside in New Jersey for 12 consecutive months after receiving permanent resident status from USCIS to meet the State residency requirement.
- Students must have a high school diploma or GED equivalent to be eligible. NJ Dreamers must have graduated from an NJ High School or received a NJ GED.

Applications, a full list of eligible programs and participating New Jersey institutions may be obtained online at [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org).



Program Name	Annual Award
Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)	\$1,280-\$14,404
Part-Time TAG for County College Students	\$610-\$2,088
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)	Up to \$3,050
NJ Governor’s Urban Scholarship	\$1,000
NJ Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)	Tuition Only
NJ Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II)	Up to \$2,500
NJ World Trade Center Scholarship (WTC)	Up to \$5,000
Survivor Tuition Benefits (STB)	Tuition only-Up to \$14,174
Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Scholarship (LEOMS)	Cost of Attendance minus other aid
NJ Governor’s Industry Vocations Scholarship (NJ-GIVS)	\$2,000
Community College Opportunity Grant	Cost of Attendance minus other aid

**New Jersey Dreamers**

The New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application allows students enrolled in eligible New Jersey colleges and universities to apply for state financial aid if they qualify as an NJ Dreamer.



**Who should complete this application?**

Complete this application if you are not a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen and meet all of the following criteria;

- Attended a New Jersey high school for at least three (3) years
- Graduated from a New Jersey high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in New Jersey
- Are able to file an affidavit stating that you will file an application to legalize your immigration status or will file an application as soon you are eligible to do so

Applications may be obtained online at [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org).

Once HESAA receives your completed application, you will receive information and next steps through the email address you supplied on the application.

HESAA will determine your eligibility for NJ State grants or request additional documentation. All the colleges or universities you listed on your application will have access to view your award eligibility.

## State Grant & Scholarship Application and Deadlines

All applicants, including students who have received a Tuition Aid Grant in the current academic year and want to renew their aid for the next academic year, all high school seniors, first time college students, and students that did not receive a Tuition Aid Grant in the current academic year, are to meet the applicable State filing deadline listed on **page 4**.

Visit [www.njgrants.org](http://www.njgrants.org) and click on state deadlines for a complete list of deadlines. For other important deadline dates, please visit: [www.hesaa.org/Pages/StateApplicationDeadlines.aspx](http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/StateApplicationDeadlines.aspx)

You can also visit the financial aid office at the school you plan on attending, or you can contact HESAA Customer Care at 609-584-4480.

*The New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application is a confidential application that is used solely by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to qualify students for state financial aid. It is not used for federal financial aid purposes. Information that is shared with HESAA via this application is used only by HESAA and partner colleges, universities, and other state agencies in order to administer grants and scholarships. HESAA will do everything within its authority and jurisdiction to protect the ongoing confidentiality of this information.*



**Standard NJCLASS Loan** <sup>U, G</sup>

NJCLASS is a supplemental student loan program administered by HESAA for NJ students to provide students with an additional affordable source of funds for meeting college expenses not already covered by other forms of student aid. NJCLASS provides fixed-rate loans for undergraduate and graduate students. There are several repayment options, subject to availability. The maximum repayment period is 20 years for undergraduate loans.



Options	Percentage Rate	Payment Requirement
10-Year Fixed	5.99% APR <sup>1</sup>	Payments of principal and interest while in school
15-Year Fixed	6.99% APR <sup>1</sup>	Payments of interest while in school
20-Year Fixed	7.99% APR <sup>1</sup>	Full deferral until out of school

Loan Administration Fee:

<sup>1</sup> The APR assumes a single loan disbursement and a 4 year in school deferment.

\* Additional .25% interest rate reduction with an automatic recurring monthly repayment plan of principal and interest. Subject to the availability of funds.

Loan Features:

- Choice of repayment options and no prepayment penalties
- Student can be a party to the loan
- Borrow only the amount you need for college – after all your other eligible grants and federal loans are considered
- Most NJCLASS repayment plans offer lower fees and interest rates than Federal Parent PLUS Loan\*
- Loans are available for New Jersey students attending college anywhere, in-state or out-of-state

\* For further information or to apply online, visit: [www.njclass.org](http://www.njclass.org).

*Student beneficiaries first applying for an NJCLASS loan on or after May 15, 2023 the total NJCLASS loans borrowed for each student may not exceed \$187,663. This is an aggregate per student loan limit, which will be increased annually for each academic year over the prior year by the regression-based index value of the Higher Education Price Index. The loan limit does not apply to students who have previously received NJCLASS loans or who applied for their current loans prior to August 8, 2017.*

**Affordable Repayment Options**

Repayment Assistance Program (RAP) and Household Income Affordable Repayment Plan (HIARP). These two programs work in tandem to assist families facing financial hardships by providing reduced monthly payment amounts, and with respect to HIARP, extended time to repay loans. Details, eligibility, and application information are listed online at [www.hesaa.org/Pages/RAPandHIARPInfo.aspx](http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/RAPandHIARPInfo.aspx)



Repayment Assistance Program



Household Income Affordable Repayment Plan

**NJCLASS ReFi+**

NJCLASS ReFi+ program can move you closer to being debt-free by refinancing your debt into a single, more manageable monthly payment. Fixed rates starting at 5.99% APR 10-year loan or a 15-year starting at 6.75% APR. Borrowers can now save thousands of dollars by lowering their interest rates and avoiding origination fees.



**NJCLASS Consolidation Loan - NJCLASS or Federal Parent Plus or Private Bank Loans**

The NJCLASS Consolidation Loan is designed to assist those borrowers with higher NJCLASS debt balances by providing a longer repayment term and lower monthly payments. A consolidation loan may help make payments more manageable for some borrowers by combining several NJCLASS loans into one loan with one monthly payment.

	ReFi+ Loan	Consolidation Loan
Loans Included	NJCLASS, Federal Parent PLUS, Private Educational Loans	NJCLASS
Repayment Term	10 or 15 Year	25 years for balances between \$30,000 and \$60,000 30 years for balances of \$60,000 or more
Interest Rate	10-Year: 5.99% 15-Year: 6.75%	Weighted average of underlying loans minus 0.50%



## Helpful Websites

### **U.S. Department of Education**

Federal Student Aid Programs

1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

**TTY 1-800-730-8913**

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

### **Complete the FAFSA Online**

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

### **Private Career School Association of NJ**

[www.pcsanj.com](http://www.pcsanj.com)

### **College Planning and Money Management**

[www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org)

### **Payback**

[www.timeforpayback.com](http://www.timeforpayback.com)

### **Next Gen Personal Finance**

[www.ngpf.org](http://www.ngpf.org)

### **Free Scholarship Searches**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

### **Online Guide to Financial Aid**

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

### **NJ College Credit Transfer Information**

[www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org)

### **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

[www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov)