

PREPARATION CHECKLIST FOR NEW & TRANSFER STUDENTS

Admission to OCC with
acceptance in NJ STARS

2026-2027



Checklist of Events	Steps/Instructions	Due Date	Check/Notes
★ Apply to a degree program at Ocean County College.	To apply, visit www.ocean.edu . If you have questions, contact the HUB at 732-255-0482.	Open enrollment Complete an OCC application for admission at www.ocean.edu .	<input type="checkbox"/>
② Complete the Federal financial aid application. (If not eligible to file a FAFSA, you may still qualify for STARS if eligible to file the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application at hesaa.org .)	To apply for federal student aid, visit FAFSA.gov . OCC's school code is 002624 . For assistance, register for one of our FAFSA workshops at go.ocean.edu/OPEN . Create a FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch .	FALL students9/15/26 SPRING students2/15/27	<input type="checkbox"/>
③ Complete your State financial aid application.	Complete your state financial aid by visiting hesaa.org to create your user name and password. Complete any requested tasks on your "to-do list." Read carefully any mail/ email correspondence from HESAA you may receive. If selected for verification, submit all the requested paperwork (usually this includes worksheet, tax returns, etc.) to HESAA.	FALL students10/1/26 SPRING students3/1/27	<input type="checkbox"/>
④ Submit your transcripts.	All NJ STARS students must submit a copy of their official final high school and any post-secondary school transcripts to our Registration & Records Office. For assistance call 732-255-0304. If your high school does not place your ranking on your transcripts or you qualified only at the end of junior year, you may be asked to obtain a Certification of Class Ranking form from your high school. The form is available on our website.	Request that your transcript be sent once you graduate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
⑤ Submit your OFFICIAL AP scores, and any completed college credit to the Office of Registration and Records.	Beginning with the Fall 2021 semester, potential STARS students are no longer required to present standardized test scores to prove college readiness. However, students interested in the nursing program who earned an 1100 or higher on their SATs should still submit their scores as those scores can factor into date of eligibility for the nursing program.	Request official SAT and AP scores through the College Board. Request official transcripts showing college credits through the college/university at which the credits were earned.	<input type="checkbox"/>
⑥ Register for classes.	After applying to OCC, students will receive information regarding the registration process.	Open enrollment registration begins early April for the fall semester and late October for the spring semester.	<input type="checkbox"/>
⑦ Complete required OCC forms for new students.	These forms, including a NJ STARS contract for new STARS students, are available online in your Financial Aid Self-Service Portal or at the HUB desk.	Complete forms as soon as possible following registration as STARS awards cannot be posted until these forms are submitted.	<input type="checkbox"/>
⑧ Pay the fees portion of your semester bill.	Once registered, visit Ocean Connect to access Student Finance and receive your current bill. If you have questions or concerns regarding your bill, contact the Student Billing Office at 732-255-0324. NJ STARS covers tuition only. (As OCC's tuition charges now include books and most fees, which are not covered by the STARS scholarship, the STARS scholarship is being awarded at \$161.59 per credit for the 2025-2026 year. At the time of publication of this form, the 2026-2027 rate has not yet been set.)	Once the NJ STARS award is posted on your account, you will be responsible for paying the remainder of the bill in accordance with OCC's payment deadlines.	<input type="checkbox"/>

If a student is determined to be ineligible for the STARS program at any time during the certification process, the bill will become the responsibility of the student.

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ADVISING & TRANSFER SERVICES

732-255-0482 • advisingoffice@ocean.edu • go.ocean.edu/njstars

