WSU STARS Application 2016

STARS Director: Katy Tetrick
Dana Hall 132
Box 642713 Pullman, WA 99164
Phone: 509-335-4823
Katherine.tetrick@wsu.edu
The Washington STARS Program

The Washington STate Academic RedShirt (STARS) program equips motivated incoming engineering students with the tools and math skills necessary to be successful in engineering. It also provides support to ensure the successful transition from high school study to the rigor of an engineering curriculum. The STARS program is for need-based students who have demonstrated talent and interest in the engineering or computer science disciplines, but have not been given the opportunity to properly prepare for the demands of such a field. All students interested and meeting the criteria and requirements outlined below are highly encouraged to apply!

The STARS Program Advantage

- Specialized Curriculum with Reserved Courses Creating a Personalized Experience
- Small Group Math & Chemistry Study Sessions Tailored to Individuals Needs
- First-Year Coaching on the Study Skills & Habits to Succeed in an Engineering Curriculum
- Comprehensive and Individualized Academic Advising
- A Supportive Community of Peers, Faculty, & Staff
- Access to Tutoring & Peer Mentoring
- Scholarship Support (Up to $2000)

STARS Program Eligibility

Some requirements listed below are not finalized until after a student has been admitted and advised at WSU. In particular, math placement by the ALEKS exam is critical to the eligibility of students to the STARS program at WSU. Students are invited to apply to the STARS program as early as possible to determine likelihood of eligibility to the STARS program and increase your chance of being accepted into the program. Final acceptance into the STARS program will be finalized by August 1st.

STARS Applicants:

- Must be an incoming WSU freshman
- Must be a US citizen or US permanent legal resident
- Must be a Washington State resident
- Must be eligible for the Pell Grant or the State Need Grant (as indicated by the students’ level of financial need)
- Must be highly motivated to complete an engineering degree
- Will have attended one of our target high schools
- Will be taking Math 106 College Algebra or Math 171 Calculus I in the first college semester
Acceptance into the Washington STARS program will be completed throughout the summer as candidates complete the application process and are found to be good a fit for the program. Candidates are evaluated primarily on their high school background, math placement, and how their essays and interview communicate their desire to obtain an engineering degree. Application to the STARS program is a three-step process as outlined below and candidates will be accepted until the program is full.

### Student Information & Grit Survey

Visit the WSU STARS website at [http://www.vcea.wsu.edu/STARS](http://www.vcea.wsu.edu/STARS). Then select and complete the online WSU STARS interest form. Alternatively, the interest form can be accessed directly at [http://goo.gl/forms/MmwyzPAaq3](http://goo.gl/forms/MmwyzPAaq3).

### Application Essays

Complete the following essays and submit as a pdf or word document by email to katherine.tetrick@wsu.edu.

**Essay 1:** Engineering study requires determination and hard work over the course of 4-5 years. Please share one or more experiences of a challenging goal that took a long time to achieve. How did you display determination and hard work? Was there a time when you wanted to give up and if so what did you do? Where did you get help? What did you learn? (500 words max)

**Essay 2:** Why are you inspired and motivated to study engineering? Please be sure to address in some depth the specific nature and extent of your interests in engineering. (300 words max)

**Essay 3:** The STARS program offers students academic, social, and financial resources that contribute to success in an engineering curriculum. How do you feel the STARS program will benefit you as a first-year student in engineering here at WSU? Please be sure to address specific challenges you anticipate facing that STARS will be able to help you with. (300 words max)

### Interview

Interviews will be conducted at Alive advising over the course of the summer. Alternatively, interviews can be conducted over the phone as needed. The interview will be an opportunity for the STARS staff to get to know prospective candidates as well as candidates to ask questions. As such, interviews will be informal and short.
**What is STARS?**
The Washington STate Academic RedShirt (STARS) in Engineering Program is modeled after the athletic redshirt used in NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics. Just as talented athletes use a redshirt year to prepare themselves for competing for four years at the high level required in Division I, so too does this program prepare talented students for the rigor of four years in an engineering program.

**Why should I join STARS?**
At WSU, 50% of freshmen declaring an engineering major end up graduating in engineering. Most of these successful students have been found to perform well in their first math class, regardless of starting level. The STARS program is structured to support talented students who are underprepared to start in Calculus I for the challenging environment of engineering while building the skills and support structure required to succeed.

**Will it take me longer to graduate as a STARS student?**
The average time to graduation for all engineering students is 4.5 years. Most students who begin in Math 106 will take 4.5-5 years to earn an engineering degree. It is expected that STARS program participants will graduate within 5 years, less if starting in Math 171.

**Are STARS students a part of the College of Engineering and Architecture?**
Yes, students are considered pre-certified students of the College of Engineering and Architecture. Please declare your major as Engineering or specific Engineering Discipline (Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, etc.)

**What scholarship support does STARS offer?**
This year, we anticipate offering $2000 per student in a tiered system. $500 will be given to every incoming STARS student and $500 will be given to active STARS students in good academic standing for successful completion of the first three math classes (Math 106, Math 108, & Math 171). This rewards students for continued success towards an engineering degree as well as spreads out the scholarship to the second year when less scholarship money is typically available.

**What will my first year at Washington State University be like?**
The first year in the STARS program will be primarily focused on preparing you for a successful certification and graduation in an engineering discipline within an additional 4 years. Focus will be on developing community within the cohort as well as learning strategies for successful study of engineering. Additionally, math skills will be developed and honed to successfully complete the calculus series, which is widely accepted as a predictor for future success in any engineering curriculum. Your first year curriculum will typically be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WSU STARS Fall Semester</th>
<th>WSU STARS Spring Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 106 College Algebra</td>
<td>ENGR 107 – Engineering Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 101 Intro to General Chemistry or Alternate</td>
<td>MATH 108 – Trigonometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 cr</td>
<td>2 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 101 – Success in Engineering Study</td>
<td>CHEM 105 – Intro to General Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cr</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 105 – Roots of Contemporary Issues</td>
<td>ENGR 120 – Innovation in Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCORE Credit</td>
<td>ENGL 101 – College Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15 cr</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 cr</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>