



Springfield Technical Community College

2023-2024 STEM Starter Academy Student Success Program

The STEM Starter Academy (SSA) Student Success Program is available to a select number of STEM students at STCC. The program, funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education provides students with **FREE resources and support services available to students selected to participate in this program.**

In addition to receiving support throughout their time as a student, opportunities to participate in the STEM Mentor Program, and attending STEM Forums, events, and workshops, **students in this program have a dedicated Academic Advisor and STEM SSA Director.**

SSA students who are accepted into the program and follow the contract for success listed below will receive a **\$150 stipend for each semester** completed successfully at STCC for up to 2 years. This will be in the form of a check, so you can spend it how you please. You will receive the stipend at the end of the semester, once final grades are released.

Stipend Agreements

- I understand that the Stipend of \$150 per semester is divided equally among the number of classes I am taking, as long as I received a C- or higher.
- I understand that I need to follow the contract for success in order to receive my full stipend amount.

Program participants are expected to complete an Associate's Degree or Certificate in a STEM major and/or to either transfer to a four-year college STEM program or secure employment in a STEM-related position. Listed below are the expectations we have for SSA students in order to ensure success in their STEM program at Springfield Technical Community College.

CONTRACT FOR SUCCESS

- I will meet with the SSA Director (Samar Ghrear) as needed to discuss any academic issues.
- I will meet with the STEM or Faculty Academic Advisor every semester and prior to course registration each semester, before dropping or adding a class, taking a leave of absence, or withdrawing from STCC.
- I will work with my Academic Advisor to engage in 4-year transfer exploration
- I will attend at least one STEM Event each semester (2 per year).
- I will frequently check my STCC email for important announcements.
- I give the SSA staff permission to discuss my academic performance with each other and faculty when necessary for the purposes of tracking measures of student success.

If you miss more than two 1-1 consecutive meetings, and/or do not follow the contract above, you may be taken out of the program. Please also note, this is a yearly program - after the first year if you would like to continue you will need to reapply.

HOW TO APPLY

Please remember that there are limited spots available, so if you are interested apply as soon as possible. Upon review of applications, acceptance emails will be sent out in the next few weeks. [Application](#)