

Opportunity Scholarship

Application Guidelines

November 2016



OPPORTUNITY
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

Make Your College Dreams Come True

TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship for DREAMers in Locked-Out States

TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarships are for DREAMers who live in states where they effectively have no access to college – either because they face paying out-of-state tuition or because their state will simply not admit them into its universities. We call these “locked-out states.”



You may be eligible for our Opportunity Scholarship if you live in and you have or will soon graduate from a high school in one of the locked-out states shown here.

If you do - check out our eligibility criteria below to see if you qualify for our Scholarship!

Our Scholars

Our Scholars have what it takes to succeed in college and in life. While we consider your GPA and test scores, we place greater emphasis on your demonstrated ability to overcome the barriers and challenges that DREAMers face each and every day.

About Our Award

The Opportunity Scholarship Award will cover your tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals at one of our Partner Colleges up to a maximum of \$80,000 for a bachelor’s degree.

The Award is renewable each year – you simply have to meet the continuing eligibility criteria – including continuous full-time enrollment (more than 12 credits per term) and a college GPA of 3.0. If you struggle, your Scholar Advisor will be there to help you get back on track.

Important Dates

- November 15, 2016 - Application Opens
- **February 1, 2017 - Application Closes**
- Late March – Awardees Notified

More Than a Scholarship – A College Committed to Your Success

We have 5 Partner Colleges in 4 states and Washington, D.C. that are committed to serving DREAMers and prepared to offer you the support services you need to help you successfully navigate your college life – both on and off the campus. Each of our Partner Colleges designates a Scholar Advisor to work with our Scholars – individually and as a group. You will not be alone!

Our Opportunity Partner Colleges are below. Check out their websites!

- Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware
- Eastern Connecticut State University, Windham, Connecticut
- Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon (Alaska, Idaho, No Dakota, and So Dakota applicants only)
- Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee
- Trinity Washington University (women’s college), Washington, D.C.

And good news! There’s only one application for both the Opportunity Scholarship and College Admission!

Your application for TheDream.US Scholarship Application will also serve as your application to our Opportunity Partner Colleges. You do not need to complete the Partner College application for admission.

Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility

The first step to determine whether or not to apply for the Scholarship is to confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you are graduating from high school or graduated some time ago and you do not have the financial resources to enroll full time in college, this scholarship may be for you! **You are not eligible if you are currently enrolled in a 4-year college.**

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Have graduated or will graduate from high school in a locked out-state by the end of the 2016-2017 academic year with a GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale;
2. Have taken the SAT or ACT;
3. Are Not currently enrolled in a four-year college;
4. Intend to relocate to and enroll full-time in a bachelor’s degree program at one of our Opportunity Partner Colleges in the Fall term of the 2017-2018 academic year;
5. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
6. Are DACA or TPS eligible and have applied for or received DACA or TPS approval; and
7. Have significant unmet financial need.

Step 2: Completing the Application

Application Deadline: February 1, 2017, 11:59 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

Once you have decided that you are eligible to apply, your next step is to complete and submit your online application and supporting documents by February 1, 2017, **by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.**

Seriously – don't miss the deadline! If you do, we cannot consider your application.

You can apply for the Scholarship by going to our website: <http://www.thedream.us/>

One Application for both the Scholarship and College Admission!

Your application for TheDream.US Scholarship Application will also serve as your application to our Opportunity Partner Colleges. **You do not need to complete the Partner College application for admission.**

Here is an overview of our application. We try to keep it simple and straight forward.

Demographic, Academic, and Financial Information

You will provide us with your demographic, academic, and financial information. This is the same information that you will include in most of your college applications.

While we will consider your GPA and extracurricular activities in selecting finalists, the most important part of your application are your two essays.

Essays

While we will consider your GPA and extracurricular activities in selecting finalists, the most important part of your application are your two essays.

The essay prompts are:

- 1. Your Educational and Career Goals** - 750 words max:
 - Describe your educational and career goals and explain what or who has inspired or helped shape these goals.
 - Excluding financial needs, what are the most significant challenges you expect to face in successfully completing college? How will you overcome these challenges?
- 2. Overcoming Adversity** - 750 words max:
 - Describe a challenging family or personal circumstance that has affected your achievement or participation in school, work, or community activities.

- How did you overcome this challenge and what did you learn from the experience above?

A Reference

We ask you to provide the contact information from someone who knows you well and has served in one of these roles for you: a teacher, counselor, mentor, coach, employer, community leader, or religious leader. Your reference must be at least 21 years of age and must not be related to you.

Supplemental Documents

As part of your application, you must upload the following documents **by February 1st, 2017, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time:**

1. **DACA or TPS application or approval:** A copy of your DACA or TPS approval letter or the receipt for your submission of your DACA or TPS application or your EAD card;
2. **Financial Documents (if available):**
 - A copy of the first two pages of your parents' most recently filed IRS Form 1040, if available; OR
 - If you are financially independent, provide a copy of the first two pages of your most recently filed IRS Form 1040, if available; OR
 - Other financial documents that will verify your income.
3. **Transcripts:**
 - For first time college students, a copy of your official high school transcript or high school equivalency diploma and test scores and information detailing your previously earned college credits (if applicable).
 - For community college graduates, a copy of your official community college transcript.

Note: Your application is not complete until all required documents are uploaded.

WE CANNOT CONSIDER INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.

Step 3: Notification

ISTS (the company that administers our scholarship program) will notify you by the end of March 2017 whether or not you have received a scholarship. If you do not receive a scholarship, you may reapply in future scholarship rounds if you meet the eligibility requirements for that round. If you do receive a scholarship, the next step is to accept the award.

Step 4: Accepting The Award

ISTS will send you a link to accept the award. PLEASE accept it by the deadline given so you do not miss out on this incredible opportunity to realize your college dreams. If you decide not to accept – just indicate this on the form and let us know why!

Step 5: Taking the Pledge

Being selected as a DREAMer Scholar is an honor and a privilege. In order to make the most of the Scholarship award, we will ask you commit to your own academic achievement and success as well as to supporting the academic achievement and success of other DREAMer Scholars. As a DREAMer Scholar, you pledge to:

- Thanking the donors who have made your scholarship possible
- Promptly responding to emails, text messages, and other communications from ISTS and TheDream.US
- Promptly notifying ISTS of any change in your telephone number, email or home address or change in your immigration status
- Enrolling within one year of the date of the scholarship and maintaining fulltime status and regular attendance
- Building and maintaining a close relationship with your student advisor
- Developing and using an education plan for completion of your degree
- Maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
- Taking advantage of your college’s academic support programs
- Participating in the Scholars’ Community by supporting and mentoring fellow and new scholars and identifying opportunities to the “pay it forward” through service in your college or community
- Supporting and improving TheDream.US Scholarship Program by providing feedback through surveys online discussions and by helping us promote the program to friends and family.

Questions? We’re Here to Help!

Email: TheDream.US@applyISTS.com and reference TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program in the subject line.

Telephone: 1-(855) 670-ISTS (4787) and ask for the TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program

The Fine Print

TheDream.US is a project of New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3). International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS) administers the program. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability or national origin. TheDream.US reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.