

# Opportunity Scholarship

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## Program Guide

**May 18, 2017**



OPPORTUNITY  
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

# TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program Guide

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## Introduction to the Guide

Congratulations on receiving TheDream.US<sup>1</sup> Opportunity Scholarship Award. This guide will help you understand how to receive and manage your award. This guide and the processes set forth herein (including the deadlines) will change from time to time. You should always check TheDream.US website for the most recent version of the Guide.

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<sup>1</sup> TheDream.US Scholarship Program is a project of the New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3).

## Your Scholar Commitments

As a Scholar of TheDream.US, I commit to:

### **To believe in my future and myself.**

- I will thank the donors who have made it possible for me to go to college by sending a note of appreciation to: TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program, 1300 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209

### **To enroll in college.**

- I will enroll in my Partner College in the Fall term after the receipt of my award and maintain a full time-status, regular attendance, and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- I will sign up to receive text messages from TheDream.US and I will respond to emails, text messages, and other communications from TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program within two days of receipt.

### **To persevere while I am in college.**

- I will build and maintain a relationship with my college advisor by checking-in at least once per term to review my progress.
- I will work with my college advisor to develop and use an educational plan with goals for the completion of my degree. I will review and update this plan with my college advisor at the end of each term.
- If I am struggling to meet my commitments, I will work with my college advisor to develop a plan to get on track to complete college.
- I will work with my College advisor to identify and participate in available academic support programs (e.g., tutoring, study workshops, etc.) as I need them.

### **To “pay it forward” by supporting other DREAMers who want to go to college.**

- I will complete 10 hours of community service per term by either supporting and mentoring fellow and new DREAMer scholars or through other service at my college or the community.
- I will support and help improve TheDream.US Program by providing feedback through surveys and online discussions and by helping promote the program to friends and family.

### **I commit to graduate and join the workforce to contribute to the economic prosperity and social richness of this country and the world.**

- I will keep TheDream.US Scholarship Fund informed as to how I have used my education to help others and myself.

## The Amount of Your Award

### **1. Amount of Your Annual Award:**

The amount of your annual award will be up to \$20,000 per year for tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals at your Partner College. You are expected to apply for and

actively seek other scholarships and grants to help cover the other costs of attendance (e.g., books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses).

2. **Maximum Award for Opportunity Scholarship Recipients:** You are eligible to receive up to \$80,000 for tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals which can be used over a four-year period for a bachelor's degree.

## Receiving and Using Your Award

### 1. Receiving Your First Payment:

After your Partner College confirms your enrollment, ISTS will notify you of the amount of your Scholarship Award and will send funds to your Partner College generally no later than the end of October.

**NOTE:** It may take the Partner College two or more weeks to process your payment. If you have any questions, contact your Partner College's financial aid/scholarship office and ask to speak to the person who administers TheDream.US Scholarships.

3. **Using Your Award:** Your Partner College will divide your award evenly between academic terms and apply the award for any tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals for the term.
4. **The funds cannot be used for:**
  - ✓ Books, transportation, supplies, or personal costs;
  - ✓ Costs incurred before you received your award;
  - ✓ Any additional costs like "lab fees" for majors like aviation, etc.;
  - ✓ Courses that do not count toward your degree, including remedial and development courses;
  - ✓ Summer courses; or
  - ✓ Additional costs beyond those covered by your scholarship award for courses that you are required to retake due to failure or withdrawal or additional courses required for a minor or a double major.
5. **Unused Funds:** If you have graduated or are no longer attending a Partner College, The Partner College will refund any unused funds to TheDream.US and the funds will no longer be available to you.
6. **Study Abroad:** DACA students can study abroad and return to the United States if they request and are granted advance parole by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), using "educational" purposes as the reason for travel. There is a cost to apply for advance parole (about \$400) which is not covered by the Scholarship. Some

students have had no issues applying for advance parole, going abroad and coming back. Others have had a very difficult time getting back into the US with advance parole. The Scholarship may be applied toward tuition and fees associated with study abroad if:

- ✓ You are in good academic standing, i.e., you have a 3.0 GPA or greater and are enrolled full-time (12 or more credits);
- ✓ The tuition and fees for the study abroad courses are the same as your on-campus tuition and fees;
- ✓ The study abroad courses are part of your education plan you created with your TheDream.US Scholar Advisor; and
- ✓ The study abroad program is offered by your college not a third party.

The Scholarship does not cover funding for traveling abroad.

## Renewing Your Scholarship Award

1. **Renewal Form:** You must renew your Scholarship each academic year. ISTS will send you a link to a renewal form in mid-June of each year. You must complete the form by the due date. The form will ask you to provide:
  - Confirmation of your intent to return to the Partner College of record;
  - Any financial aid, scholarships, or grants you will receive and a copy your Financial Aid Award Notification Letter from your current Partner College, including the Cost of Attendance and any expected financial aid, grants, or scholarships, including the name, total amount, years available, and any restrictions;
  - A copy of your most recent unofficial transcript that includes your name, the name of your Partner College, and your cumulative GPA;
  - Confirmation of your DACA or TPS status, including renewal documents, if applicable; and
  - Confirmation of your fulfillment of your Scholar Commitments.
2. **Receiving Your Payment:** ISTS will send funds for the approved amount to the Partner College you are attending generally no later than the end of October for the Fall term and mid-march for the Winter/Spring term.
3. **Eligibility Requirements:** You must meet the following criteria to renew your Scholarship:
  - Continue to be enrolled full-time for each consecutive academic term (except the summer term), unless ISTS has pre-approved a part-time schedule or one-time leave of absence;
  - Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better throughout your attendance;
  - Remain current on all your college accounts and charges;

- Maintain your DACA or TPS status and, upon application for renewal, provide ISTS with a copy of the receipt for your DACA or TPS renewal application or approval letter; and
- Meet all other program commitments.

4. **Scholarship Expiration:** You are eligible to renew your scholarship until:

- You graduate with a bachelor's degree;
- You exhaust the total limit of \$80,000; or
- You reach the sixth anniversary of the date of your first enrollment, whichever comes first.

**NOTE: Renewal of your Scholarship is contingent on TheDream.US' continuation of the scholarship program.**

## Meeting Continuing Eligibility Criteria

If your Cumulative GPA is below a 3.0, you must work with your Scholar Advisor to develop a plan with strategies and resources that will help you improve your GPA. This plan might include an increase in the frequency of meetings and communications with your Scholar Advisor; tutoring; study groups; or other support services.

If your cumulative GPA is below a 3.0 at the time you renew your scholarship in June/July, you will be required to explain what actions you are taking to raise your GPA to a 3.0 or greater. You do not need to otherwise notify or reach out to TheDream.US or ISTS.

We will review your situation with your Scholar Advisor on an annual basis and determine whether you are making adequate progress. Note: If your GPA remains below a 2.0 for more than one academic year, we will terminate your scholarship.

## Transferring

We do not allow transfers to another Partner College unless there are extenuating circumstances. Please reach out to TheDream.US for more information.

## Questions: Who to Go to for What

**Questions about your Scholarship Award:** Contact ISTS at the email or phone number below; indicate that you are calling about TheDream.US Scholarship Program and share your name and the Partner College you are attending.

**Email:** [TheDream.US@applyISTS.com](mailto:TheDream.US@applyISTS.com)

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

**Questions about the TheDream.US Opportunity Scholar Community:** Contact David Velazquez, TheDream.US Program Officer, and share your name and the Partner College you are attending.

**Email:** [david.velazquez@thedream.us](mailto:david.velazquez@thedream.us)

**Telephone:** 202-740-3315

**Questions about your Partner College's disbursement of your funds or questions related to academic or support services, on-campus activities for DREAMers, or your academic plan:** Contact your College Student Advisor or your on-campus Scholarship Administrator for TheDream.US.

## **Termination of the Scholarship**

Scholarship aid may be cancelled at TheDream.US' sole discretion if you do not fulfill the outlined responsibilities or because of academic failure, lack of academic progress, or withdrawal for other than approved reasons or upon the request of the Partner College.

## **Revisions to the Scholarship Program**

TheDream.US may modify the terms and conditions for this scholarship program at any time, including termination of the program.