

National

2017-18 Application

Guidelines
November 2017



NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US



Make Your College Dreams Come True!

TheDream.US National Scholarships for High School and Community College Graduates

TheDream.US National Scholarships are for highly motivated DREAMers¹ who want nothing more than to get a college education but are unable to afford the cost.

You may be eligible for our National Scholarship if you:

- Are or soon will be a high school graduate (or have an HSE certificate) or a community college graduate;
- Have DACA or TPS status or meet our immigration eligibility criteria; and
- You qualify for in-state tuition at one of our Partner Colleges.
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Read more about our eligibility criteria below!

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 day.

Our Award

The National Scholarship Award will cover your tuition and fees **up to** a maximum of \$14,500 for an associate's degree and \$29,000 for a bachelor's degree, at one of our Partner Colleges.

The Award is renewable each year so long as you 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 1, 2017 - Application Opens

¹ DREAMers are undocumented immigrant youth who came to the United States as minors, have graduated from U.S. high schools or earned a U.S. high school equivalency but lack a legal status. This prevents them from accessing any federal aid to help pay for their college education. To receive TheDream.US Scholarship, DREAMers must have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), TPS (Temporary Protected Status) or meet our immigration eligibility criteria.



- March 1, 2018 - Application Closes
- Late April – TheDream.US Awardees Notified

More Than a Scholarship – A College Committed to Your Success

We have over 75 Partner Colleges in 14 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!

You must be admitted to and eligible for in-state tuition (if a public institution) at one of our Partner Colleges to receive our National Scholarship.

Click here to check the [Partner College Map](#) on our website to see if there is a Partner College that is right for you!

Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility

The first step to determine whether to apply is to confirm that you are eligible for one of our two Scholarships.

High School and HSE Program Graduates:

If you are graduating from high school (or an HSE program) 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!

Please Note: You are not eligible to apply for or receive TheDream.US scholarship if you are enrolled in college at any time during the 2017-18 academic year. Unless you were enrolled in a high school pre-college or dual enrollment program.

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Have graduated or will graduate from high school (or have earned or will earn a high school equivalency diploma) by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year with a GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale;
2. Are not enrolled in college at any time in the 2017-18 academic year (excluding enrollment in a high school pre-college or dual enrollment program);
3. Intend to enroll full-time in an associate's or bachelor's degree program at one of TheDream.US Partner Colleges no later than the Spring of 2019;
4. Are eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College you want to attend;
5. Have DACA or TPS or certify that you meet the immigration eligibility criteria set forth below;
6. You came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday; and



7. Have significant unmet financial need.

High School Graduates - Notes on Eligibility for Certain Partner Colleges:

- **Arizona and Virginia:** If you live in Arizona or Virginia, you must have DACA to qualify for in-state tuition.
- **George Mason University, University of Illinois - Chicago, Northeastern Illinois University and Rutgers University - Newark:** You cannot receive our award to attend these colleges unless you are a Community College Graduate.
- **Arizona State University, Arrupe College, and Dominican University:** You must apply to the college before our scholarship round closes. We will ask the college to confirm that you have applied and meet the college's admissibility criteria as a part of our selection process.
- **College Track, College Match-Los Angeles, and Equal Change for Education-TN:** You must be a participant in these programs to be able to apply for the TheDream.US award.
- **Bay Area Partner Colleges:** You must be a resident of these counties to use our Scholarship Award at these Colleges: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.

Community College Graduates:

If you have or are about to graduate from community college and do not have the financial resources to complete your Bachelor's degree at a 4-year university, this Scholarship may be for you!

Please Note: You are not eligible to apply for TheDream.US scholarship if you have enrolled in a four-year institution or a four-year bachelor's degree program prior to the Spring of 2018.

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Have graduated from or are a current student at an accredited U.S. community college or two-year degree program and will graduate in the 2017-18 academic year;
2. Graduated with or have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or better on a scale of 4.0 (or the equivalent).
3. Have not previously enrolled in a four-year institution or a four-year bachelor's degree program prior to the Spring of 2018;
4. Intend to enroll full time in a baccalaureate program at a Partner College in fall 2018;
5. Are eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College you want to attend;
6. Have DACA or TPS or certify that you meet the immigration eligibility criteria set forth below;
7. You came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday; and
8. Demonstrate significant unmet financial need.

Community College Graduates – Notes on Eligibility for Certain Partner Colleges:



- **Arizona and Virginia:** If you live in Arizona or Virginia, you must have DACA to qualify for in-state tuition.
- **University of Chicago Illinois and Dominican University:** You must apply to the college before our scholarship round closes. We will ask the college to confirm that you have applied and meet the college's admissibility criteria as a part of our selection process.
- **Rutgers University – Newark:** You must apply to the college before our Scholarship round closes and you must meet the RUN to the Top program criteria:
<https://admissions.newark.rutgers.edu/paying-for-college/ru-n-top>
We will ask the college to confirm that you have applied and meet the college's admissibility and RUN to the Top criteria as a part of our selection process.
- **Bay Area Partner Colleges:** You must be a resident of these counties to use our Scholarship Award at these Colleges: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.

TheDream.US Immigration Eligibility Criteria

As part of the application you will be required to attest, under the penalty of perjury, that you have DACA, TPS, **or** that, to the best of your knowledge, you meet the following immigration eligibility criteria:

- You were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- You came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
- You have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
- You were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012 and had no lawful status;
- You are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States;
- You have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors in the categories which would have disqualified you for DACA, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety; and
- You will apply for lawful presence or legal status as soon as the laws allow you to do so.

Step 2: Completing the Application

Application Deadline: March 1, 2018, 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 the deadline.

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



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

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. **We DO NOT ask for your home address and you do not have to upload financial documentation.**

You will certify that you either have DACA or TPS and provide the expiration date or you will certify that you meet each of the immigration eligibility criteria required to apply for the scholarship award and you will apply for lawful presence or lawful status as soon as you are legally able to do. These criteria mirror the previous DACA eligibility criteria (see the eligibility section above). **You DO NOT have to upload your DACA or TPS documents.**

Our scholarship is available to low-income students who cannot otherwise afford to go to college. To assess this, we need to understand your financial situation.

- If you're a dependent student, we need your parents' and your financial information to get a full picture of the family's financial strength.
- If you're an independent student, we only need your financial information (and, if you're married, your spouse's) to assess your financial strength.

We will have you indicate whether you are a dependent student or an independent student and then, based on your status, provide:

- Annual household Income;
- Number in the household supported by this income; and
- Number of dependents supported by this income who will attend college in 2017.

You DO NOT have to upload any financial records.

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 March 1, 2018 by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time:**

Transcripts:

- For high school students or HSE graduates: a copy of your official or unofficial high school transcript or high school equivalency diploma, SAT or ACT test scores and earned college credits (if applicable).
- For community college graduates: a copy of your official or unofficial community college transcript.

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 April 2018 whether 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 do not accept by the deadline you will lose our scholarship. 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. 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 your immigration status;
- Enrolling no later than the Spring term following the receipt 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; and
- 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 National Scholarship Program in the subject line.

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