



Frequently Asked Questions about TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship

What is the difference between TheDream.US National Scholarship and TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship?

TheDream.US *National* Scholarship Program is for DREAMers who live in states where they are eligible to pay in-state tuition. This scholarship is for up to \$25,000 for a bachelor's degree program.

TheDream.US *Opportunity* Scholarship Program is for DREAMers who live in states where they are either required to pay out-of-state tuition or prohibited from enrolling in the state's colleges and universities all together. This scholarship is for up to \$80,000 over a bachelor's degree program at one of our Partner Colleges in Connecticut or Delaware.

What are "locked out" states?

These are states where DREAMers are required to pay out-of-state tuition or prohibited from enrolling in the state's colleges and universities all together. DREAMers from the following locked out states are eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship:

Alaska	Mississippi
Arkansas	North Carolina
Georgia	North Dakota
Idaho	Pennsylvania
Indiana	South Carolina
Iowa	South Dakota
Louisiana	West Virginia
Missouri	Wisconsin

DACA Eligibility

Do I have to qualify for deferred action to apply?

Yes. In addition to providing scholarships for college access, TheDream.US and our Partner Colleges support our Scholars in finding paid professional work opportunities during and after college. Thus, we require all applicants to have applied for or already received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) approval. You must have received DACA or TPS status when you receive the award payment.

I don't know if I am "DACA eligible." Should I go ahead and apply for DACA so I can apply for the scholarship?

If you believe that you meet the DACA eligibility criteria and you want to apply for TheDream.US scholarship you will need to demonstrate that you have submitted a request for DACA or received DACA approval.

I am not DACA eligible. Should I go ahead and apply for DACA so I can apply for the scholarship?

No. If you are not DACA eligible you do not qualify for this scholarship and you should not apply for DACA approval.



What if I receive the scholarship and then I find out that my DACA approval has been denied or not renewed?

If your DACA approval is denied or not renewed, you are not eligible for this scholarship. You would be allowed to complete the term in which you are enrolled at the time of the denial and you will not be required to repay any scholarship funds.

Will the scholarship cover the fee for applying for DACA?

No. Depending on where you live, there are local organizations that have grants and loan programs. See our resource guide on our website.

I have been granted Temporary Status Protection. Am I eligible to apply for the Scholarship?

Yes, you must provide proof of your TPS approved status to be eligible.

Other Eligibility Requirements

Do I have to be a state resident of a locked-out state in order to attend apply for the Scholarship?

Yes. You must live in and have graduated from a high school in one of the locked-out states that are on the list below:

Alaska	Mississippi
Arkansas	North Carolina
Georgia	North Dakota
Idaho	Pennsylvania
Indiana	South Carolina
Iowa	South Dakota
Louisiana	West Virginia
Missouri	Wisconsin

Do I have to be a current high school student to apply?

No. You can be (1) a current high school senior who will graduate with a GPA of 2.8 or greater before the end of the 2015-2016 academic year; (2) a high school graduate with a GPA of 2.8 or greater.

If I am already attending a college, am I eligible?

If you are enrolled in a two-year college you may apply. If you are enrolled in a four-year college you are not eligible to apply.

I have taken college classes in the past. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. However, you cannot be currently enrolled and taking classes in a four-year college.

I have earned college credits as a high school student. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. Regardless of how many credits you have earned as a high school student in a dual enrollment or early college program, you are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Do I have to be accepted into a Partner College *before* I can apply?

No. TheDream.US and the Partner Colleges have a streamlined approach for this application process. You will use TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship application to apply for the Scholarship **and** to apply to our Partner



Colleges. Each Partner College will review your application and determine whether you meet its eligibility criteria for acceptance. If you do, you will be eligible to receive TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship to attend that college.

I am a community college graduate. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes – so long as you are not currently enrolled in a four-year university.

I have a High School Equivalent Diploma (i.e. GED). Am I eligible to apply?

No. Students who have earned or will earn a high school equivalent diploma are not eligible for the TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship.

How do I know if I have a GPA of unweighted 2.8 or better?

The 4.00 grading scale is standard at most high schools, colleges and universities. If your school assigns cumulative averages on a 100% scale, ISTS has a chart that can help you estimate your GPA. You may also ask an administrator or adviser at your school for assistance in converting your grades to a 4.00 grading scale.

I have not taken the SAT or ACT? Am I eligible to apply?

No. You will need to have taken one of these tests and submit your scores in order to apply.

Career-Ready Associate or Bachelor's Degree

How do I know whether or not my degree is a “career-ready degree”?

A career-ready degree is a degree that provides you with the knowledge and skills necessary for a career that provides a family-sustaining wage and pathways to advancement. We have not strictly defined this, but a general education degree is not sufficient. Your Partner College will work with you to ensure that you choose a degree that will help you be career-ready.

Continuing Eligibility

What do I have to do to continue to be eligible for my scholarship?

To continue to be eligible, you must:

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of “B” (3.0/4.0) or better in the program;
- Remain continuously enrolled;
- Remain current on all your college accounts and charges; and
- Remain DACA or TPS eligible and timely renew your DACA or TPS status.

Do I have to reapply each year?

No, but you must renew your Scholarship each academic year. You will be asked to confirm your continuing eligibility and provide a copy of your official transcript, as well as to identify any other financial aid or scholarships that you are receiving.

Do I automatically lose my scholarship if my cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0?

If your cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0, you may be able to continue to receive the scholarship if there were extenuating factors impacting your academic performance and you have a plan in place to get back on track. You will need to submit to ISTS and your college a request for continuation along with a written explanation of the extenuating circumstances. ISTS will confer with your college advisor to determine whether or not to continue the Scholarship.



Do I automatically lose my scholarship if I have to take a term off?

If there are extenuating circumstances that require you to take a term off, you will need to submit to ISTS and your college a request for continuation along with a written explanation of the extenuating circumstances. ISTS will confer with your college advisor to determine whether or not to continue the Scholarship.

Application Process

How do I apply?

To apply, go to <http://www.thedream.us/opportunityscholarship>

When is the last day to apply?

You must submit a complete application, including all required supporting documents by June 9, 2016 by 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time.

How will I know that ISTS has received my application?

ISTS will send you an email receipt of your application. If you do not receive this email receipt within one week after submitted your application, contact ISTS.

Is there a fee to apply?

No.

Selection Process

How will finalists be selected?

We have a rigorous application review process that includes analysis and scoring of your grades, standardized test scores, participation in advanced courses, extracurricular activities including volunteer work and community service, and essays. Both TheDream.US and the Partner College you are interested in attending will review your scholarship application.

Will I have to apply to the Partner Colleges for admissions?

You will use TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship application to apply for the Scholarship *and* to apply to our Partner Colleges. Each Partner College will review your application and determine whether you meet its eligibility criteria for acceptance. If you do, you will be eligible to receive TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship to attend that college.

Scholarships are allocated across our Partner Colleges and are awarded to the highest scoring applicants to that college. All applicants agree to accept the decision as final.

When will I find out?

ISTS will notify all applicants by the end of June as to whether or not they received the scholarship. You will have one week to accept or decline the scholarship.



Scholarship Awards

What is the amount of the Scholarship Award?

The Scholarship Award is up to \$20,000 per year for four years for tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals. While this is a generous scholarship, due to the high cost of college education, it is likely you will have to fund some of your education out of pocket.

What are the costs NOT covered by the scholarship?

The estimated costs per year NOT covered by the Opportunity Scholarship (tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals):

Eastern Connecticut State University:

Books: \$1,000

Personal/Supplies: \$1,462

Transportation: Varies by state

Delaware State University:

Books: \$1,700

Personal/Supplies: \$1,600

Travel: Varies by state

Will the scholarship cover all of my college expenses, including room and board, books and supplies, and transportation?

No. The scholarship award covers tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals. Books, transportation, personal items, and some fees are not covered by this scholarship.

Can I use the scholarship award to cover any of my relocation expenses?

No. Relocation expenses will be an out pocket cost to you.

Do I have to attend one of the Partner Colleges or can I use the scholarship at any college to which I am accepted?

You must be accepted to and attend one of the Partner Colleges in The Opportunity Scholarship Program in order to receive the scholarship.

Can the scholarship be applied toward graduate school?

No. You may only use the scholarship funds for a bachelor's degree.

If I transfer to a non-Partner College, will I lose my scholarship?

Yes. You can only use the scholarship at a Partner College approved for the TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Will I lose my scholarship if the locked out state I am from adopts in-state tuition?



No. You will be allowed to continue to renew your Scholarship to complete your degree at the Partner College you are attending. If TheDream.US adds Partner Colleges in your “home” state, you would be allowed to transfer to that Partner College, but the amount of your award would change.

If I receive the scholarship, do I have to start right away?

Yes. You must relocate to and enroll full-time in an associate’s or bachelor’s degree program at one of our Partner Colleges that are part of the Opportunity Scholarship program for the Fall 2016-2017 academic year.

Dreamer, Donor, or Teacher?

How can I donate?

Donating to our cause is easy! Simply click the “Donate” link on the right side of our donate page and follow the instructions.

I am a teacher. How can I help?

Reach out as early as possible to all students and encourage them to envision themselves as college material, and if the opportunity arises, let undocumented students know that their citizenship status does not prohibit them from attending college. For a printable version of TheDream.US flyer, please go to our website.

I am a parent. How can I help?

Let your child know that their citizenship status does not prohibit them from going to college. Encourage them to search for scholarships and, if you can, help them complete their scholarship applications. Most important, do what you already do: believe in them so that they can believe in themselves.



¹TheDream.US is a project of New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3), executes a range of public interest projects focused on conservation, education and global health.