

National Scholarship

Program Guide

June 2017



NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

Make Your College Dreams Come True!

TheDream.US National Scholarship Program Guide

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Introduction to the Guide

Congratulations on receiving TheDream.US¹ 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.

¹ 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 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 National Scholarship Program, 1300 N. 17th Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209

To enroll in college.

- I will enroll in my Partner College 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 National Scholarship Program within two days of receipt.

To persevere while I am in college.

- I will build and maintain a relationship with my Scholar Advisor by checking-in at least once per term to review my progress.
- I will work with my Scholar 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 Scholar Advisor at the end of each term.
- If I am struggling to meet my commitments, I will work with my Scholar Advisor to develop a plan to get on track to complete college.
- I will work with my Scholar 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 pay it forward 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.

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

National Scholars (Non-California)

Annual Award Amount:

The amount of your annual award will be based on the cost of tuition and fees based on your enrollment status (i.e., number of credits). We will not reduce the amount of your award by other aid, scholarships, or grants, unless your total financial aid package exceeds the estimated cost of attendance based on your living arrangement (e.g., on campus or off campus). In addition, you may receive an additional amount per year for books, supplies, and transportation.²

You are expected to apply for all available state and institutional financial aid and actively seek other scholarships and grants. If your total financial aid (including state and institutional aid and other scholarship award or grants) exceeds your cost of attendance, the Partner College will refund any overage to TheDream.US.

Maximum Award Amount:

1. **First Time College Scholar Seeking an Associate Degree:** You are eligible to receive **up to** \$12,500 for tuition and fees and **up to** \$2,000 for books, supplies and transportation which can be used over a three-year period for an associate's degree.

NOTE: If you are enrolled in a community college or you are pursuing an associate degree at a 4-YR Partner College, you may use the TheDream.US Scholarship to complete your bachelor's degree at a 4-year Partner College so long as you remain eligible **and you have scholarship funds available.**

2. **First Time College Scholar Seeking a Bachelor's Degree:** You are eligible to receive **up to** \$25,000 for tuition and fees and **up to** \$4,000 for books, supplies, and transportation which can be used over a five period for a bachelor's degree.

TIP: You can maximize your scholarship award by starting at a community college and then transferring to a 4-year college to finish your bachelor's degree. If you decide to do this, reach out to your Scholar r/Financial Aid Advisors at both Partner Colleges to develop a financial plan to manage your award.

² **IRS Policy on Taxability of Scholarships:** You are encouraged to consult with your college's financial aid office or with your personal or family advisor to determine whether any portion of your award is taxable income that needs to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

- 3. Community College Graduate Scholar Seeking a Bachelor's Degree:** If you are a Community College Graduate Scholar, you are eligible to receive **up to** \$25,000 for tuition and fees and **up to** \$2,000 for books, supplies and transportation which can be used over a three-year period for a bachelor's degree.

Note: If you are attending a National Online College you are not eligible for the books, supplies and transportation additional award.

California Scholars (Attending UCS, CSU or CCC)

Annual Award Amount: TheDream.US will consider the estimated costs of attendance and the availability of state and institutional aid for AB540 students. Based on this we will set a fixed amount for the scholarship award for each of our California Partner Colleges. The annual award will not exceed \$6,250 per year for UC's and CSU's and \$2,000 per year for CCC's.

You are expected to apply for all available state and institutional aid and to actively seek other scholarships and grants. If your total financial aid (including state and institutional aid and other scholarship award or grants) exceeds the cost of attendance, the Partner College is required to refund any overage to TheDream.US.

Maximum Award for:

- 1. First Time College Scholar Seeking an Associate Degree:** You are eligible to receive **up to** \$4,000 for the total cost of attendance which can be used over a three-year period for an associate's degree.

NOTE: If you are enrolled in a community college or you are pursuing an associate degree at a 4-YR Partner College, you may use the TheDream.US Scholarship to complete your bachelor's degree at a 4-year Partner College so long as you remain eligible **and you have scholarship funds available.**

- 2. First Time College Scholar Seeking a Bachelor's Degree:** If you are a 1st Time College Student Scholar, you are eligible to receive **up to** \$25,000 for the total cost of attendance which can be used over a five-year period for a bachelor's degree.
- 3. Community College Graduate Scholar Seeking a Bachelor's Degree:** If you are a Community College Graduate Scholar, you are eligible to receive **up to** \$12,500 for the total cost of attendance which can be used over a three-year period for a bachelor's degree.

TIP: You can maximize your scholarship award by starting at a community college and transferring to a 4-year college to finish your bachelor's degree. If you decide to do this, reach out to

your Scholar/Financial Aid Advisors at both Partner Colleges to develop a financial plan to manage your award.

Receiving and Using Your Award

Receiving Your Award:

After the first day of classes your Partner College will confirm your enrollment (each term). ISTS will then calculate your award amount for the term and wire the funds to your Partner College. It will take around 30 days for your Partner College to receive the funds after the day they submit the form. In the meantime, your Partner College will put a hold on your account so your classes are not dropped. If you have any questions, contact your [Scholar Advisor or your Financial Aid Advisor](#)

Using Your Award:

Your Partner College will apply your Award (including any stipend for books, supplies and transportation) in this order:

- ✓ For any unpaid tuition and fees for the term³,
- ✓ For books, supplies, and transportation either purchased by you through the college or, at your election, purchased with funds disbursed to you (you are required to keep receipts for all academic expenses and submit upon request from ISTS or the Internal Revenue Service); and
- ✓ For any unpaid housing and meals.

Funds cannot be used for:

- ✓ Health Insurance or additional non-mandatory fees (e.g. lab, aviation fees etc.)
 - ✓ Costs incurred before you received your award;
 - ✓ Courses that do not count toward your degree;
 - ✓ Remedial or developmental courses unless you earn credits toward your degree;
- or

³ At some colleges, to obtain a bachelor's degree, you are required to enroll in a joint bachelor's/master degree program that requires a fifth year. You may only use your funds for tuition and fees for this dual degree program with the permission of TheDream.US.

- ✓ Additional required courses due to a change in your degree.⁴

Unused Funds:

If there are unused funds at the end of your academic year and you are not going to enroll in the summer term, the Partner College will refund the unused funds to ISTS. These funds will remain available to you upon renewal of your Scholarship (see below). If you have graduated or are no longer attending a Partner College, the Partner College will refund any unused funds to TheDream.US. These funds will no longer be available to you. If you graduate and there are unused funds in your account, these funds will go back to the general scholarship fund to help another Scholar achieve their dream of a college education.

If you receive a “zero” Award:

If your costs of attendance for the academic year are fully paid for by other financial aid, ISTS will not issue a scholarship payment for that year. You will remain a Scholar of TheDream.US, have access to your Scholar Advisor, and have full participation in the Scholar Community. So long as you continue to renew the Scholarship Award, you will be able to use any unused funds in a future academic year in accordance with our Scholarship Program Guide.

Study Abroad:

DACA students may 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. However, given the current political climate, the Immigration Legal Resources Center recommends that DACA holders do not pursue advance parole at this time. Click here for more information: [DACA: CURRENT STATUS AND OPTIONS](#).

Should you decide to pursue a study abroad, there is a cost to apply for advance parole (about \$400) which is not covered by the Scholarship. 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);

⁴ If you fail or drop a class and need to retake it, you may do so, and you will not be required to reimburse the scholarship program for the funds paid for these classes; however, the amount paid will count against your maximum award - which means you will have less funds available to complete your degree.

- ✓ 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.

Note: The Scholarship does not cover travel expenses for traveling abroad programs.

Renewing Your Scholarship Award

You must renew your Scholarship each academic year until you graduate with either your associate's or bachelor's degree or exhaust your [maximum award amount](#). To renew, you must meet the continuing eligibility requirements (see below)

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. If you do not renew your scholarship by the deadline, you will no longer be eligible and we will terminate your scholarship. The form will ask you to provide:

- Confirmation of your intent to return or transfer to a Partner College;
- A copy of your unofficial transcript that includes your name, your cumulative grade point average, and the name of your Partner College;
- Confirmation of your DACA or TPS status, including renewal documents, if applicable.

Important Note: If you do not renew your scholarship by the deadline, you will lose your scholarship!

Continuing Eligibility Criteria

You must meet the following criteria to continue to be eligible for your Scholarship:

- Continue to be eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College (if applicable);
- Continue to be enrolled full-time (at least 12 credits) for each consecutive academic term (except the summer term);
- 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.

If you don't meet the Eligibility Requirements:

We recognize that there are sometimes life circumstances beyond your control that may impact your ability to meet these criteria. If this happens, you must work with your Scholar Advisor as described below. We will review your situation with your Scholar Advisor on an annual basis and determine whether you are making adequate progress toward your degree.

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, 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.

Important Note: If your GPA remains below a 2.0 for more than one academic year, we will terminate your scholarship.

If you are not enrolled Full-Time (12 credits or more):

If circumstances require that you enroll in less than 12 credits or to drop below 12 credits before a term ends, you must meet with your Scholar Advisor to discuss the circumstances and develop a plan for completing your degree on time (3 years if AA; 5 years if BA). We will do annual check-ins with our Scholar Advisors to ensure you are on track.

NOTE: You are not required to take 12 or more credits if you:

- Have less than 12 credits to complete your degree; or
- Are unable to get courses you need and, thus, have less than 12 credits; or

- Are taking courses at another college and those credits, in addition to those you are taking at your Partner College, add up to 12 or more credits.

If you need to take a term off (break in enrollment):

Once you have entered college, we expect that you will attend each academic term/semester (not including summers) until you complete your degree. If special circumstances make it necessary or advisable for you to leave college for a period, **you must immediately notify both ISTS and your Scholar Advisor by email and explain the reason for your leave of absence and the date you will return. You cannot have a break in enrollment for more than two terms.**

Your scholarship payments will resume when you return to your studies at the agreed-upon date. Upon your registration, contact ISTS and your Scholar Advisor immediately so that they can process your award and ensure a smooth back-to-school transition. If you do not return at the end of the approved break in enrollment, your Scholarship will be terminated.

Transferring your Scholarship to Another Partner College:

You may be able to transfer your scholarship to another Partner college if you have applied and been accepted to that Partner College; and you continue to meet all the eligibility requirements, including eligibility for in-state tuition (if applicable).

Important Note: You may not transfer to the following Partner Colleges without prior approval from TheDream.US: GMU, Dominican, NEIU, UIC, Rutgers. Please contact Melissa Barrera, Program Manager, at melissa.barrera@thedream.us before transferring.

Transferring Steps:

- If transferring at the beginning of the next academic year, select the Partner College you are transferring to on the renewal form.
- If you decide to transfer to another Partner College after you have renewed your scholarship or you are transferring at the end of a term, contact ISTS Customer Care via email or phone ASAP to notify them that you are transferring, and give them the names of your current and new Partner Colleges.
- Contact your Financial Aid and Scholar Advisors at your current and new Partner Colleges to let them know that you are transferring. Your current Partner College will need to return any

unused funds to ISTS, and your new Partner College will need to confirm your enrollment with ISTS, and put a hold on your account so your classes are not dropped.

Questions: Who to Go to for What

Questions about your Scholarship Award: Contact ISTS Customer Care 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

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

Questions about the TheDream.US National Scholar Community: Contact Gaby Pacheco, TheDream.US Program Director; share your name and partner college you are attending.

Email: Gaby.Pacheco@thedream.us

Telephone: 202-445-7376 (Cell)

Questions about your Partner College's disbursement of your funds, your academic plan, or transferring from one Partner College to another: Contact your Partner College Financial Aid Advisor or Scholar Advisor for TheDream.US.

Please see [Scholar Directory](#) for the complete list of Scholar Advisors and Scholarship Administrators.

Termination of the Scholarship

Your scholarship will expire when you have:

- Graduated with your last degree (either an associate or bachelor's degree);
- Exhausted your maximum award; or
- Completed your:
 - Third year of enrollment if you are pursuing an associate's degree or received the award as a Community College Graduate pursuing a bachelor's degree; or
 - Fifth year of enrollment if you are pursuing a bachelor's degree.

TheDream.US may terminate your scholarship if, in its sole discretion, 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.