

National Scholarship

Scholarship Program

April 2019



NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

Make Your College Dreams Come True!

TheDream.US National Scholarship Program Guide

Introduction to Your Guide

Congratulations on receiving TheDream.US¹ Scholarship Award. This guide will help you understand how to receive and manage your award. This guide will change from time to time. Check TheDream.US Scholar Hub for the most recent version of the Guide.

<https://www.thedream.us/for-scholars/national/thedream-us-scholarship-tools/>

TIPS are sprinkled through the guide and marked with this  icon:

- Use the Table of Contents on the next page to navigate through the Guide to get the answer to your question – just click on the topic!
- If you do not see what you need in the Table of Contents – do a word search!
- If the answer to your question is not found in the Guide – reach out to ISTS Customer Care

Email: TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

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

PAY ATTENTION TO IMPORTANT INFORMATION marked with this  icon:

Introduction to Your Scholar Advisor

Each of our Partner Colleges is committed to providing you with the support services you need to successfully navigate your college life. Your college has designated a Scholar Advisor to work with you and your fellow Scholars – individually and as a group. You will not be alone! If you have any questions, contact your [Scholar Advisor or your Financial Aid Advisor](#).

Introduction to International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS)



We contract with ISTS to manage our scholarship award payment and renewal processes. The ISTS Customer Care team is there to answer your questions about our scholarship that are not answered here.

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

Your Navigation Guide

Your Scholar Commitments	4
Managing Your Award	5
When will I receive my award?	5
How much is my award?	6
Will my award be reduced by other grants or scholarships?	6
What if my other financial aid covers my full costs to attend college?	6
What will my award cover?	6
What is not covered by my award?	7
Can I use my award for classes required for a double major or a second degree?	7
Will I get a stipend for books, supplies, and transportation?	7
When and how will I receive my stipend?	7
Can I use my award for summer classes?	7
What happens if I do not use the maximum award?	8
What happens if I get permanent residency?	8
Can I use my award to study abroad?	8
Time to Complete Your Degree with Your Scholarship	9
Renewing Your Scholarship Award	9
What to Do if I Struggle	10
Can I enroll less than full time?	10
Can I take a term off (break in enrollment)?	10
What do I do if my cumulative GPA falls below a 2.5?	11
What happens if I fail or drop a class?	11
Transferring My Scholarship to Another Partner College:	11
Modification or Termination of the Scholarship	12
Questions: Where to go for What	13
Appendix A	14

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, Floor 17 – TheDream.US, Arlington, VA 22209

Enroll in college.

- I will enroll in my Partner College and strive to maintain full time-status, regular attendance, and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.
- I will join the Scholar Facebook Community and sign up to receive text messages from TheDream.US and I will respond to emails from TheDream.US National Scholarship Program within two days of receipt.

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.

“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 in 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.

Graduate, find meaningful employment, and contribute to the social and economic prosperity of this country.

- I will join TheDream.US Alumni Network to connect with fellow graduates and take advantage of career resources.
- I will keep TheDream.US Scholarship Program informed as to how I have used my education to help others and myself.

Managing Your Award

How do I track my award?

Participation Summary
Your Application ID: 2846307
Scholarship Type: First Time College Student
Scholar Status: Eligible (as of most recently completed form)
Current Partner College: Lehman College
Breaks in Enrollment:
Maximum Award Amount: \$33,000.00
Total Amount Used: \$29,467.60
Last payment made on 9/22/2018 for \$4,104.60
Award Amount Remaining: \$3,532.40

You can track your award in your ISTS Scholar Portal: <https://Dream.applyISTS.net/>

Your Scholar Portal will give you the important information you need about your scholarship including the **maximum award** (the total amount you can receive), the amount you have used, your most recent payment, and the amount you have remaining. It will also track any breaks in enrollment.



Log in to your ISTS Scholar Portal at the beginning and end of each term to get up to date information on your award.



Bookmark this link: <https://Dream.applyISTS.net/>

When will I receive my award?

We calculate and pay your award each term. You will receive your award no later than the middle of each term you are enrolled.

You do not need to take any action! At the beginning of each term your Partner College and ISTS will take these steps:

- ✓ Your Partner College will confirm your enrollment and put a hold on your account so your classes are not dropped;
- ✓ ISTS will calculate your award amount and send the funds to your Partner College; and
- ✓ Your Partner College will deposit the money in your account.



Check your Scholar Portal to see if you have received your award:

<https://Dream.applyISTS.net> If your Portal shows that the award has been sent but it is not yet applied to your account, reach out to your Scholar Advisor.

How much is my award?

The amount of your award for the term is for the **actual cost of your tuition and fees up to the maximum term award**. To determine your maximum term award, see the table in Appendix A.

 **TAXES: Consult with your college's financial aid office or with an accountant to determine whether any portion of your award is taxable income that needs to be reported to the IRS.**

 **Your award will never be more than your actual tuition and fees for the term.**

Will my award be reduced by other grants or scholarships?

We will not reduce your award by the amount of other financial aid that you receive unless your total financial aid package is more than the estimated cost of attendance at your Partner College. (Note: In New Jersey, we reduce our Scholars award by the amount of state aid the Scholar is eligible to receive).

 **The "cost of attendance" includes tuition, fees, books and supplies, housing and meals, and personal expenses such as transportation.**

 **We expect you to apply for all available state and institutional financial aid and actively seek other scholarships and grants.**

What if my other financial aid covers my full costs to attend college?

If your costs of attendance are fully paid for by other financial aid for the term, you will not receive funds from TheDream.US. But . . . no worries! So long as you continue to renew your award, you may use the award for future terms if needed and you will still be a Scholar of TheDream.US, have access to your Scholar Advisor, and be able to participate in our Scholar Community.

What will my award cover?

You can use your award for:

- ✓ Your tuition for the term;
- ✓ Mandatory fees for the term (not including lab fees).

If your tuition and fees are covered by other financial aid, we will allow you to use your award to pay for other costs of attendance – including housing and meals.

What is not covered by my award?

You cannot use your award for:

- ✓ Costs incurred before you received your award;
- ✓ Courses that do not count toward your degree (including remedial or developmental courses).

Can I use my award for classes required for a double major or a second degree?

No. Our scholarship is intended to cover one major and one degree. You may seek a minor if it does not require additional credits beyond those required for your degree.²

Will I get a stipend for books, supplies, and transportation?

Most of our scholars receive a \$1,000/year award for books, supplies, and transportation (called a “stipend”). You are eligible for the stipend unless you live in California or Washington State or you are a Purdue Global University Scholar.

 **You should keep receipts for all expenses in case this is required by the IRS.**

When and how will I receive my stipend?

We pay the stipend on a term by term basis. Each Partner College manages disbursement of the stipend differently. Check with your Scholar or Financial Aid advisor to find out how and when your Partner College will disburse your stipend.

Can I use my award for summer classes?

You can use your award for summer classes if you are attending one of the Partner Colleges below. If your Partner College is not listed below, you cannot use your award for summer classes.

State	University
CA	All 4-year public Partner Colleges
CO	All CO Partner Colleges
FL	All FL Partner Colleges

² At some colleges, to obtain a bachelor’s degree, you are required to enroll in a joint bachelor’s/master’s 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.

IL	National Louis University
NJ	Rutgers University – Newark; Essex County College
NV	Nevada State College
NY	All NY Partner Colleges
TX	All TX Partner Colleges
VA	NOVA, George Mason University

As soon as you enroll in summer classes, take these steps:

- ✓ Notify your Scholar and Financial Aid Advisors that you are enrolled in summer classes;
- ✓ They will confirm your enrollment and summer tuition and fees with ISTS;
- ✓ ISTS will calculate and send the funds to your Partner College.

These funds will be deducted from your overall scholarship total. You will not receive a stipend for summer classes.

What happens if I do not use the maximum award?

We use these funds to help other undocumented students achieve their dream of a college education. Once you graduate or are no longer enrolled in a Partner College, you are no longer able to receive the scholarship – even if you have not used the maximum award.

What happens if I get permanent residency?

While you are applying to change your immigration status, you are still eligible to receive our Scholarship.

Once you obtain permanent residency status, you will no longer be eligible for the scholarship because you will be able to apply for federal financial aid that includes the Pell Grant, federal loans, and federal work study.

You should submit a FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid – as soon as you receive legal status to ensure a smooth transition from our Scholarship to federal financial aid. Upon receiving your legal status, send an email to ISTS Customer Care and your Scholar Advisor and Financial Aid Advisor to notify them of your change in status. ISTS will confirm with your Partner College the term in which you become eligible for federal aid.

Can I use my award to study abroad?

No. Our scholarship cannot be used for study abroad programs because advance parole to travel abroad is no longer available.

Time to Complete Your Degree with Your Scholarship

You have a set amount of time to complete your degree before your scholarship ends. Check the table below to determine how much time you have.

 **Work with your Scholar Advisor to develop a plan to complete your degree on time and to ensure that you do not run out of funds before you do!**

Where you started with our Award	Maximum # of Years
Started at a Partner Community College	Three years to earn an associate degree
Transferred to a 4 YR Partner College with an associate degree	Three years to earn bachelor's degree
Started at a 4 YR Partner College	Five years to earn bachelor's degree

Renewing Your Scholarship Award

You must renew your Scholarship in June of each year. ISTS will send you an email in early-June with instructions on how to open and complete your renewal form in your ISTS Scholar Portal. **You must complete the form by the due date.**

You will need to:

- Confirm your Partner College for the next academic year;
- Upload a copy of your most recent unofficial transcript that includes your name, your Partner College name, your cumulative grade point average, and your cumulative credits;
- Confirm that your DACA or TPS authorization is current or certify that you meet the DACA eligibility criteria.

You will not be able to renew your scholarship if:

- Your GPA has been below a 2.0 for two or more terms;
- You exhausted your maximum award amount; or
- You have been enrolled beyond the maximum allowed time.



If you do not renew your scholarship by the deadline, you will lose your scholarship.

What to Do if I Struggle

"Believe in yourself
and all that you are.
Know that there is
something inside of
you that is greater
than any obstacle."

CHRISTIAN D. LARSON

We ask you strive to maintain full-time, continuous enrollment (12 or more credits) in order to complete your degree on time and to maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better.

We recognize, however, that there are life circumstances beyond your control that may impact your ability to meet these criteria.

 ***If this happens, your Scholar Advisor and TheDream.US are here to help.***

Click here to get the [Scholar Partner College Directory](#)

Can I enroll less than full time?

Yes. If special circumstances require that you enroll in less than 12 credits, **reach out to your Scholar Advisor** to discuss the circumstances and develop a plan for completing your degree on time.

Can I take a term off (break in enrollment)?

Yes. If special circumstances require you to take a term off or to drop all your classes mid-term, **you should:**

- ✓ **Notify both ISTS and your Scholar Advisor** by email and explain the reason for your break in enrollment and the date you will return;
- ✓ Upon your return, **meet with your Scholar Advisor** to develop a plan for completing your degree on time (3 years if an associate degree; 5 years is a bachelor's degree).



You cannot take off more than two terms (or three if you are on the quarter system). Your time off will be included in the maximum time you have to use your award.



If you fail to notify ISTS of your break in enrollment, you will risk losing your scholarship!

Appeal: You may be able to appeal the loss of your award. To do so, you must:

- ✓ First, meet with your Scholar Advisor to develop a plan for completing your degree; and
- ✓ Second, submit an email to ISTS and your Scholar Advisor:

- Explaining the extenuating circumstance; and
- Stating (or attaching) the plan you have developed with your Scholar Advisor.

Not all appeals will be granted and our decision is final.

What do I do if my cumulative GPA falls below a 2.5?

If your cumulative GPA falls below a 2.5, ***you will not lose your scholarship.*** We do require that you 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. *You do not need to notify or reach out to TheDream.US or ISTS.*

If your cumulative GPA is below a 2.5 at the time you renew your scholarship, you will be asked to explain what actions you are taking to raise your GPA.

 **If your cumulative GPA remains below a 2.0 for more than one academic year, you will lose your scholarship.**

What happens if I fail or drop a class?

If you fail or drop a class and need to retake it, ***you will not lose your scholarship*** and you do not have to reimburse us for the costs of those classes. The amount paid for those classes will be deducted from your maximum award amount which means you will have less funds available to complete your degree.

 **If you drop a course before the add/drop deadline, your college may refund some or all of your tuition and fees for the class.**

Transferring My Scholarship to Another Partner College:

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

As soon as you know you are going to transfer, you must:

- ✓ Contact your Scholar and Financial Advisors at your current and new Partner Colleges to let them know that you are transferring; and
- ✓ Notify ISTS Customer Care that you are going to transfer to a different Partner College.

If you do not notify ISTS that you are transferring, ***you will not receive your award payment!***



You may not transfer to the following Partner Colleges without prior approval from TheDream.US:

- **Illinois:** Dominican University, Lewis University, Northeastern University, and University of Illinois – Chicago;
- **New Jersey:** Rutgers University - Newark and Rutgers University - New Brunswick; and
- **Virginia:** George Mason University.

Modification or Termination of the Scholarship

TheDream.US may terminate your scholarship if, in its sole discretion, you do not fulfill eligibility requirements or your Scholar Commitments or upon the request of the Partner College.

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

Questions: Where to go for What

Where to go for What?

1. Your ISTS Scholar Portal

- Scholar Status
- Maximum Award
- Total amount used so far & amount remaining
- Date & amount of last payments
- Approved Breaks in Enrollment
- Update your contact information

Log in:
dream.applyists.net

2. Your Scholar Hub

- Your Scholar Program Guide ◦
- Your Partner College Directory ◦
- Latest News/Emails ◦
- Scholar Videos ◦
- Resources ◦

Visit:
www.thedream.us/for-scholars

Where to go for What?

3. ISTS Customer Care

- To change your Partner College
- Notify of a Break in Enrollment
- Request an exception
- Get help with the acceptance or renewal form
- Determine Renewal status

Contact:
TheDream.US@applyISTS.com
1 (855) 670-ISTS (4787)

4. Your Facebook Community

- A private & closed group ◦
- Connect with Scholars nationwide ◦
- Ask questions & get answers ◦
- Share events & resources ◦
- Organize meet-ups at your college ◦
- Bond & support each other ◦

Appendix A

What is my maximum scholarship award to pay for my tuition and fees?

(Does not apply to CA, NJ, WA, or Purdue Scholars – see below)

If I received TheDream.US Scholarship as a ...	And I am Attending a ...	My max. annual award is up to...	My max. total award is up to...	Max. award may be used over...
High School Graduate	Community College	\$7,250	\$14,500	3 years
High School Graduate	4-year institution	\$7,250	\$29,000	5 years
Community College Graduate	4-year institution	\$14,500*	\$29,000	3 years

***\$7,250 at Grand Canyon and Benedictine Mesa Universities**

California, Washington, or Purdue University Global Scholars: What is my maximum scholarship award to pay for my tuition and fees?

If I received TheDream.US Scholarship as a ...	And I am Attending a ...	My max. annual award is up to...	My max. total award is up to...	Max. award may be used over...
California – High School Graduate	Community College	\$2,000	\$4,000	3 years
California or Purdue – High School Graduate	4 – year institution	\$7,250	\$29,000	5 years
California , Purdue, or Washington Community College Graduate	4 – year institution	\$7,250	\$14,500	3 years

New Jersey Scholars: What is my maximum scholarship award to pay for tuition and fees?

If I received TheDream.US Scholarship as a ...	And I am Attending a ...	My max. annual award is up to...	My max. total award is up to...	Max. award may be used over...
High School Graduate	Community College	Cost of tuition and fees minus state aid up to \$7,250	\$14,500	3 years
High School Graduate	4-year institution	Cost of tuition and fees minus state aid up to \$7,250	\$29,000	5 years
Community College Graduate	4-year institution	Cost of tuition and fees minus state aid up to \$14,500	\$14,500	3 years