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Executive Summary

TheDream.US is the nation’s largest college access and success program serving undocumented immigrants. Over the past seven years, TheDream.US has awarded over 6,000 scholarships for DREAMers - undocumented immigrant students – to pursue a college degree at one of 70+ Partner Colleges in 16 states and Washington D.C.

In May through mid-June, 2020, TheDream.US administered its second Annual Scholar Survey to better understand our Scholars’ college experiences and the contexts in which they are navigating their college and career journeys. Given the unprecedented pandemic, we included a section on the impact of COVID-19 on the Scholars’ academic journey and personal well-being.

In addition to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, this Scholar Survey was conducted amidst two other significant events – first, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to reject the Trump Administration’s attempt to terminate DACA; and second, the killing of George Floyd on May 25 and the heightened Black Lives Matter movement. Both of these events undoubtedly impacted Scholars’ survey responses that demonstrate higher levels of anxiety but also resilience as Scholars made their way through college in an increasingly tenuous immigration and social climate.

Of the ≈3,850 Scholars enrolled during the 2019-2020 academic year, 2,681 participated in the survey (70% response rate). 86% of respondents had DACA, 3% were TPS, 9% were undocumented and never had DACA or TPS, and 2% were of other undocumented status. 80% identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Overall, survey responses indicate that during the 2019-2020 academic year, anxiety around their legal status and COVID-19 weighed heavily on Scholars. When compared to last year’s survey findings:

- The financial burden brought on by the loss of their and their parents’ jobs as well as the exclusion from higher education funds in the CARES Act stimulus package, was significant.
- Their confidence in achieving their academic goals and their sense of community and belonging in the United States was lower.
- Scholars’ had heightened concerns around their short and long-term plans and their ability to pursue meaningful careers.

Remarkedly, despite these challenges, TheDream.US Scholars remained focused on completing college, giving back to their communities, and pursuing post-undergraduate goals.
Executive Summary – Findings

• COVID-19 Impact on Financial and Personal Well-being
  • % of Scholars working decreased from 70% prior to COVID-19 to 43% post COVID-19
  • 83% have an immediate family member whose job has been affected by COVID-19
  • 78% have less than 4 months before experiencing significant financial hardship
  • 30% said their access to physical or mental health care worsened since COVID-19
  • 43% of Scholars said their sense of community and belonging in the United States “decreased a lot” or “moderately” since COVID-19

• COVID-19 Impact on College Education
  • All Scholars moved to remote learning during the Spring 2020 term
  • Majority of Scholars were satisfied with the support received from their Partner College since the outbreak of COVID-19
  • 1 in 3 Scholars expressed “less” or “a lot less” confidence in graduating on-time

• Educational Experience and Engagement
  • 79% evaluated their entire educational experience thus far as “good” (51%) or “excellent” (28%)
  • 42% of respondents were involved in an undocumented club or community on-campus during the 2019-2020 academic year
  • Scholars’ assessment of the frequency and quality of interactions with different agents on-campus decreased

• Employment
  • 52% of currently working Scholars are in industries considered “essential” or “front-line”
  • 57% are pursuing careers requiring licensing, such as medical, legal, engineering careers
  • 30% of Scholars completed internships during the 2019-2020 academic year
  • 75% of senior Scholars are currently looking for a job that meets their career interests

• Legal Status
  • 70% are “more” (32%) or “much more” (38%) anxious about their legal status since COVID-19
  • 55% see their legal status as a “very” or “extremely” significant barrier in achieving their long-term goals

• Resilience and ambition
  • 89% of Scholars did not change their academic course load since COVID-19
  • 92% of Scholars intend to return to school in Fall 2020
  • 49% have a “very” or “extremely” clear idea of what they want to do with their career
  • 71% want to pursue graduate school
Recommendations
Recommendations

Response data pertaining to COVID-19 reflect national conversations on the disproportionate impact of the virus on racial and ethnic minority groups, and, particularly, the Black and Hispanic/Latino communities. The decline in access to healthcare and financial supports amplify long-standing inequities in the healthcare system and economy.¹ This in turn means more devastation in communities that are already at a disadvantage in recovering from an ongoing pandemic.

Regarding legal status, although the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision reinstated the DACA program, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), has refused to do so and, instead presented new roadblocks. USCIS currently rejects all initial DACA applications, limits renewals to one-year (down from two) and rejects advance parole requests.

The continued volatility of the DACA program and absence of permanent protections or pathways to citizenship for undocumented immigrants constricts social mobility and opportunities to contribute more to the country that is their home. It also creates high levels of anxiety for their own safety and livelihood as well as for their family members - who are often also undocumented.

Given these uncertainties, below is a set of recommendations needed to help undocumented students complete their college degrees and find gainful employment leading to a meaningful careers:

• **Tools and supports to adapt and thrive in a remote and hybrid-learning environment**
  - Consistent access to the internet and learning devices
  - Workshops on managing virtual learning
  - Regular one-on-one check-ins with an Advisor, faculty member, or mentor on-campus

• **Community and social supports addressing feelings of isolation and loneliness**
  - Platform and space to connect informally with peers

• **Healthcare supports**
  - Provide services and information to help undocumented students access physical and mental healthcare
  - Designate counselors and staff trained to serve immigrant populations to increase the utilization of mental health supports

• **Career and economic supports in response to loss of income and exclusion from the CARES Act stimulus package**
  - Extend institutional aid and raise private funds for emergency grants to undocumented students
  - Establish income earning opportunities open to all undocumented undergraduate students such as fellowships and teaching assistantships
  - Provide professional development and job placement opportunities for undocumented immigrants with and without work authorization
  - Provide information on alternative income opportunities for students without work authorization

• **Legal assistance for DACA renewals and immigrants’ rights**
  - Raise and extend private funds for DACA renewal fees
  - Provide services and information on:
    - Accessing pro bono legal assistance for completing DACA renewal forms and/or general immigration consultation
    - Immigrants’ rights beyond immigration status, e.g., employment and housing rights

• **Increased graduate school access**
  - Provide Undocu-friendly resources and application supports for undocumented students pursuing graduate school
  - Raise and extend private funds for graduate scholarships and fellowships accessible to undocumented students

• **Include undocumented college graduates in the equitable revitalization of our economy**
  - Provide internships and apprenticeships for seniors and graduates
  - Proactively recruit and hire graduates through website, social media, job fairs, and opportunity placement firms
  - Ensure HR and hiring managers are informed of rights of DACA/TPS applicants and employees
  - Advocate for Congress to pass legislation giving DREAMers ability to stay and work in U.S.

• **Recommendations for federal, state, and local policymakers:**
  - Fully reinstate DACA - allowing for new applications and renewals valid for two years
  - Enact federal legislation providing:
    - Permanent protections and pathways to citizenship for DREAMers and TPS recipients
    - Access to federal financial aid and inclusion in stimulus packages for undocumented students in higher education
    - Professional licenses for immigrants
  - Enact state legislation extending in-statue tuition, state and institutional financial aid, professional licenses, and driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants
COVID-19 Impact: *Educational Experience*
Summary

- The majority of participants were satisfied with the support received from their Partner College since the outbreak of COVID-19:
  - 77% were “moderately” or “very satisfied” with the support received from professors
  - 82% were “moderately” or “very satisfied” with the support received from college staff
- Scholars from all Partner Colleges reported transitioning to virtual learning in Spring 2020
- 94% of Scholars living on-campus moved out of on-campus housing
- Overall, about two-thirds of Scholars maintained the same level of confidence as before COVID-19 about graduating with TheDream.US Scholarship and maintaining a 2.5 cumulative GPA, however, Scholars expressed less confidence in completing the Spring 2020 term
- Scholars are focused on continuing their college career:
  - 89% of Scholars did not change their course load since COVID-19
  - 92% of Scholars intend to return to school in Fall 2020
- Educational resources Scholars have already utilized the most include:
  - Virtual check-ins with professors, classmates, and Academic Advisors
  - Access to internet and learning devices
- Educational resources Scholars need the most include:
  - Consistent access to the internet and learning devices
  - Workshops on managing and adapting to a virtual or hybrid learning environment
  - Regular one-on-one check-ins with their TheDream.US Scholar and Academic Advisors
For Scholars living on-campus, did they move-out because of COVID-19? (n=632)

- 94% Yes
- 6% No, remained on-campus

Did Scholars' Partner College move to virtual learning in Spring 2020? (n=2,575)

- 99% Yes
- 1% No

Did Scholars change their course-load since COVID-19? (n=2,555)

- 89% No
- 1% Yes, withdrawn from all courses
- 3% Yes, withdrawn from 2-3 courses
- 7% Yes, withdrawn from 1 course

Do Scholars intend to return to their Partner College in Fall 2020? (n=2,316)

- 92% Yes
- 2% No
- 6% Not sure

1Reflects respondents at Purdue University Global, who were already online prior to COVID-19.
How satisfied were Scholars with the support received so far from: (n=2,678)

- Professors in transitioning to virtual learning?
  - Not at all satisfied: 5%
  - Slightly satisfied: 18%
  - Moderately satisfied: 40%
  - Very satisfied: 37%

- Partner College staff (i.e. TheDream.US Scholar Advisor, Academic Advisor) in response to COVID-19?
  - Not at all satisfied: 5%
  - Slightly satisfied: 13%
  - Moderately satisfied: 28%
  - Very satisfied: 54%

Relative to before COVID-19, how confident do Scholars feel about the following (n=2,678)

- Graduating on-time with TheDream.US scholarship
  - More confident than before COVID-19: 15%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 56%
  - Less confident than before COVID-19: 23%
  - A lot less confident than before COVID-19: 6%

- Maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
  - More confident than before COVID-19: 17%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 53%
  - Less confident than before COVID-19: 24%
  - A lot less confident than before COVID-19: 6%

- Finishing the Spring 2020 term
  - More confident than before COVID-19: 4%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 49%
  - Less confident than before COVID-19: 28%
  - A lot less confident than before COVID-19: 9%
Learning resources Scholars have already utilized versus need

[Select all that apply] (n=2,347)

- **Access to learning devices (i.e. laptop, tablet)**
  - Already utilized: 814 (35%)
  - Needed: 254 (11%)

- **Workshops on how to manage virtual learning**
  - Already utilized: 1,028 (44%)
  - Needed: 354 (15%)

- **Internet access**
  - Already utilized: 2,012 (86%)
  - Needed: 273 (12%)

- **Virtual check-ins with your TheDream.US Scholar Advisor**
  - Already utilized: 538 (23%)
  - Needed: 452 (19%)

- **Virtual check-ins with an Academic Advisor**
  - Already utilized: 1,001 (43%)
  - Needed: 388 (17%)

- **Virtual check-ins with a professor(s)**
  - Already utilized: 1,500 (64%)
  - Needed: 200 (9%)

- **Virtual check-ins with other classmates**
  - Already utilized: 1,204 (51%)
  - Needed: 151 (6%)

- **Other**
  - Already utilized: 100 (4%)
  - Needed: 47 (2%)

- **Resources already utilized**
- **Resources needed**
COVID-19 Impact: Personal Well-being
Summary

• % of Scholars working decreased from 70% prior to COVID-19 to 43% post COVID-19:
  • 21% were temporarily laid off and 6% were permanently laid off
    • Of those temporarily laid off, the majority are receiving no pay (68%) or reduced pay (13%)
    • 13% are working reduced hours
• 52% of currently working Scholars are in industries considered “essential” or “front-line”
• Financial resources are the biggest challenge and concerns for Scholars since COVID-19:
  • 61% said their access to money for rent/utilities is “worse” or “much worse” since COVID-19
  • 78% think they can go up to 4 months (42%), 1 month (32%), or 1 week (4%) before experiencing significant financial hardship
• Approximately 30% said their access to physical or mental health care worsened since COVID-19
• 43% of Scholars said their sense of community and belonging in the US “decreased a lot” or “moderately” since COVID-19
• 37% said they “frequently” or “always” feel they have the ability to make meaningful contributions to their community, compared to 55% last year
• Family adds another layer of responsibility and anxiety for Scholars:
  • 27% are living with other family members enrolled in college
  • 83% have an immediate family member whose job has been affected by COVID-19
  • Scholars have heightened anxiety around the safety of their family as well as financially supporting family
• Scholars expressed heightened anxiety around their legal status since COVID-19
• Personal well-being resources Scholars need the most:
  • Increased utilization of mental health resources
  • Career and economic supports in response to loss of income
  • Legal assistance to complete DACA renewals
  • Know your rights beyond immigration status, for example employment and housing rights
Employment status prior to COVID-19
(n=2,670)

30% Not working prior to COVID-19

70% Working prior to COVID-19

Current employment status
(n=2,670)

23% Not working prior to COVID-19, but looking for work

17% Working part-time prior to and after COVID-19

13% Working full-time (at least 35 hours/week)

6% Permanently laid off due to COVID-19

21% Temporarily laid off due to COVID-19 (expected to return later)

7% Not working prior to COVID-19 and not looking for work

13% Working reduced hours due to COVID-19

1% As of May-June 2020
Are Scholars working in "essential" or "front-line" industries? (n=1,120)

- Healthcare: 13%
- Education: 7%
- Childcare: 2%
- Food & goods provisions: 27%
- Public safety: <1%
- Transportation: 2%
- Local government: 1%
- Not "essential"/"frontline": 48%

Pay status for Scholars temporarily laid off due to COVID-19 (n=576)

- No pay: 68%
- Reduced pay: 13%
- Same pay: 19%
Change in access to the following resources since COVID-19 (n=2,645)

- Health care (physical)
  - Better than before COVID-19: 2%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 58%
  - Worse than before COVID-19: 21%
  - Much worse than before COVID-19: 6%
  - Not applicable: 14%

- Mental health care
  - Better than before COVID-19: 3%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 49%
  - Worse than before COVID-19: 24%
  - Much worse than before COVID-19: 8%
  - Not applicable: 16%

- Money for rent/utilities
  - Better than before COVID-19: 3%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 31%
  - Worse than before COVID-19: 46%
  - Much worse than before COVID-19: 15%
  - Not applicable: 5%

- Internet and/or computer access
  - Better than before COVID-19: 3%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 74%
  - Worse than before COVID-19: 17%
  - Much worse than before COVID-19: 5%
  - Not applicable: 1%

- Food/meals
  - Better than before COVID-19: 4%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 71%
  - Worse than before COVID-19: 21%
  - Much worse than before COVID-19: 3%
  - Not applicable: 1%

- Childcare
  - Better than before COVID-19: 17%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 3%
  - Worse than before COVID-19: 79%
  - Much worse than before COVID-19: Not applicable

Colors:
- Blue: Better than before COVID-19
- Orange: Worse than before COVID-19
- Yellow: Same as before COVID-19
- Red: Much worse than before COVID-19
### Change in personal livelihood since COVID-19 (n=2,643)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Decreased a lot from before COVID-19</th>
<th>Decreased moderately from before COVID-19</th>
<th>Same as before COVID-19</th>
<th>Increased moderately from before COVID-19</th>
<th>Increased a lot from before COVID-19</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sense of community - however Scholars define community</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of belonging in the United States</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money spent</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal debt</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How often have Scholars felt the following in the past academic year:
[comparing 2018-2019 survey (n=1,821) and 2019-2020 Survey (n=2,568)]

1. The importance of giving back to community
   - Never: 1%
   - Rarely: 18%
   - Sometimes: 38%
   - Frequently: 41%
   - Always: 3%

2. They have the ability to make meaningful contributions to their community
   - Never: 2%
   - Rarely: 10%
   - Sometimes: 33%
   - Frequently: 36%
   - Always: 19%

[THE DREAM.US]
Feelings of loneliness

- Decreased a lot from before COVID-19: 11%
- Decreased moderately from before COVID-19: 14%
- Same as before COVID-19: 32%
- Increased moderately from before COVID-19: 30%
- Increased a lot from before COVID-19: 30%
- Not applicable: 1%

Change in personal livelihood since COVID-19 (n=2,643)

- Decreased a lot from before COVID-19
- Decreased moderately from before COVID-19
- Same as before COVID-19
- Increased moderately from before COVID-19
- Increased a lot from before COVID-19
- Not applicable

COVID-9 Impact on immediate family members' jobs (n=2,615)

- Reduced hours: 42%
- No change: 13%
- Temporarily laid off (expect to return later): 34%
- Permanently laid off: 7%
- Not applicable: 4%
Are Scholars living with other family members enrolled in college?  
(n=2,611)

- Yes: 27%
- No: 73%

Relative to before COVID-19, how anxious do Scholars feel about the following? (n=2,613)

- Health and safety of family members:
  - Not applicable: 1%
  - Much more anxious than before COVID-19: 38%
  - More anxious than before COVID-19: 46%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 12%
  - Less anxious than before COVID-19: 2%

- Supporting family members financially:
  - Not applicable: 2%
  - Much more anxious than before COVID-19: 36%
  - More anxious than before COVID-19: 40%
  - Same as before COVID-19: 17%
  - Less anxious than before COVID-19: 2%
### How anxious Scholars feel about the following since COVID-19 (n=2,641)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less anxious than before COVID-19</th>
<th>Same as before COVID-19</th>
<th>More anxious than before COVID-19</th>
<th>Much more anxious than before COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The next month</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your longer term plans</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your legal status</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How long Scholars think they can go before experiencing significant financial hardship (n=2,636)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less anxious than before COVID-19</th>
<th>Same as before COVID-19</th>
<th>More anxious than before COVID-19</th>
<th>Much more anxious than before COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1 week</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1 month</td>
<td></td>
<td>32%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 4 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Personal well-being resources Scholars have already **utilized** versus **need**

[Select all that apply] (n=2,229)

- **Guided mental health practices you can do on your own (i.e. meditation)**
  - Already utilized: 500 (22%)
  - Needed: 627 (28%)

- **One-on-one counseling**
  - Already utilized: 246 (11%)
  - Needed: 451 (20%)

- **Group counseling**
  - Already utilized: 65 (3%)
  - Needed: 146 (7%)

- **Peer support group**
  - Already utilized: 227 (10%)
  - Needed: 207 (9%)

- **Food pantry**
  - Already utilized: 371 (17%)
  - Needed: 268 (12%)

- **TheDream.US Emergency Grant**
  - Already utilized: N/A
  - Needed: 1,688 (76%)

- **External emergency funds**
  - Already utilized: 325 (15%)
  - Needed: 779 (35%)

- **Legal support (i.e. DACA renewal clinic, immigration counseling)**
  - Already utilized: 259 (12%)
  - Needed: 492 (22%)

- **Unemployment benefits**
  - Already utilized: 199 (9%)
  - Needed: 360 (16%)

- **Know your rights workshops (i.e. housing rights, employment rights)**
  - Already utilized: 132 (6%)
  - Needed: 418 (19%)

- **Other**
  - Already utilized: 10 (<1%)
  - Needed: 19 (<1%)

- **Resources already utilized**
- **Resources needed**
Overall Educational Experience
Summary

• Overall, Scholars’ evaluation of their entire Partner College experience and sense of belonging at their college was positive and similar to results from last year’s 2018-2019 Scholar Survey
  • 79% evaluated their entire educational experience thus far as “good” (51%) or “excellent” (28%)
  • 83% said they would “definitely” (48%) or “probably” (35%) attend the same Partner College if they could start over

• While 92% of Scholars continue to see themselves as a part of their Partner College community, their assessment of the frequency and quality of interactions with different agents on-campus decreased from last year – likely as a reflection of the uncertainty and disruptive experience of COVID-19

• Approximately 40% of respondents were involved in an undocumented club or community on-campus during the 2019-2020 academic year.
Scholars' evaluation of their entire educational experience at their Partner College so far:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>2018-2019 Survey (n=1,890)</th>
<th>2019-2020 Survey (n=2,597)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If Scholars could start over again, would they attend the same Partner College?
(n=2,598)

- **Definitely yes**: 48%
- **Definitely no**: 3%
- **Probably yes**: 35%
- **Probably no**: 14%
Scholar reflections on belonging at their Partner College
Comparing 2018-2019 Survey (n=1,922) and 2019-2020 Survey (n=2,599)

Do Scholars see themselves as a part of their Partner College community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018-2019</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are Scholars involved with an undocumented club or community on-campus?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018-2019</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are Scholars a member of other student-run organizations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018-2019</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quality of Interactions on-campus with the following:

[Average on a scale of 1-7, where 1 is "Poor" and 7 is "Excellent"]


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018-2019 Survey (n=1,923)</th>
<th>2019-2020 Survey (n=2,601)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other students</td>
<td>5.73</td>
<td>5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other TheDream.US Scholars</td>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>4.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TheDream.US Scholar Advisor</td>
<td>5.69</td>
<td>5.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>5.73</td>
<td>5.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other administrative staff</td>
<td>5.48</td>
<td>5.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Professional Experience & Life After College
Summary

• Just over 70% of Scholars want to complete a graduate degree

• Of those who want to attend graduate school, 77% want to attend immediately after obtaining their bachelor’s degree (39%) or 1-2 years after obtaining their bachelor’s degree (38%)

• Compared to last year’s survey, there was decreased certainty in what Scholars want to do for their career, coupled with heightened anxiety around legal status:
  • 49% said they were “extremely” or “very” sure of what they want to do with their career, compared to 64% last year
  • 55% consider their legal status to be a significant barrier to achieving their long-term goals, compared to 44% last year

• Of the career resources available to Scholars during the 2019-2020 academic year (i.e. from TheDream.US and their Partner College), Scholars assessed resources from TheDream.US to be most helpful

• 36% said they did not use (30%) or know about (6%) the Career Services Center at their Partner College, however the majority of those who did use their Career Services Center found it “very helpful”

• 57% are pursuing careers requiring licensing – consistent with last year’s survey

• 30% of Scholars completed internships during the 2019-2020 academic year
  • 51% were paid, 49% were unpaid
  • Similar to last year, access is the key challenge – finding paid opportunities that work with their schedules

• Two-thirds of respondents are currently looking for a job that meets their career interests
  • 78% for graduated Scholars and 75% for senior Scholars

• A common theme in open-ended responses regarding other professional resources that would be helpful, was information and job opportunities in health and medicine and the non-profit/public sector
### Highest level of education Scholars want to complete

(n=2,607)

- **Associate degree**: 2% (38)
- **Bachelor's degree**: 26% (675)
- **Doctor of Medicine (MD)**: 9% (243)
- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**: 10% (260)
- **Juris Doctor (JD)**: 4% (103)
- **Master of Arts (MA)**: 12% (323)
- **Master of Business Administration (MBA)**: 10% (270)
- **Master of Science (MS)**: 16% (420)
- **Master of Social Work (MSW)**: 4% (110)
- **Other**: 6% (165)

### For Scholars who want to go to graduate school, when do they want to go?

(n=1,890)

- **Immediately after getting bachelor's**: 39%
- **1-2 years after getting bachelor's**: 38%
- **3+ years after bachelor's**: 7%
- **Not sure yet**: 16%
Do Scholars currently:

[Comparing 2018-2019 Survey (n=1,837) and 2019-2020 Survey (n=2,573)]

- Have an idea of what they want to do with their career?
  - 2018-2019: 27% Not at all, 37% Slightly, 30% Somewhat, 4% Very, 1% Extremely
  - 2019-2020: 19% Not at all, 30% Slightly, 36% Somewhat, 11% Very, 4% Extremely

- Think their college studies are relevant to their desired career?
  - 2018-2019: 36% Not at all, 43% Slightly, 36% Somewhat, 18% Very, 3% Extremely
  - 2019-2020: 27% Not at all, 42% Slightly, 24% Somewhat, 24% Very, 6% Extremely
Do Scholars think being undocumented poses a barrier to achieving their long-term goals?

[Comparing 2018-2019 Survey (n=1,835) and 2019-2020 Survey (n=2,564)]
How helpful were the following resources on a scale of 1-5
[Average scores, where 1 is "Not at all helpful" and 5 is "Extremely helpful"]

- Job resources from TheDream.US: 4.14
- Career Services Center at Partner College: 4.03, 3.89
- Partner College in providing undocumented-friendly resources for finding a job: 3.52, 3.44
- Partner College in providing undocumented-friendly resources for graduate school: 3.29, 3.27

1 Question was not asked in the 2018-2019 Survey

2018-2019 Survey (average n=1,066) 2019-2020 Survey (average n=1,596)
Scholars who did *not know* about or *use* the following resources:

Comparing **2018-2019** Survey (n=1,835) and **2019-2020** Survey (n=2,575)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Description</th>
<th>2018-2019</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job resources from TheDream.US</td>
<td>26% (674)</td>
<td>20% (501)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not know about this resource</td>
<td>6% (161)</td>
<td>6% (147)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use this resource</td>
<td>9% (162)</td>
<td>24% (447)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Services Center at Partner College</td>
<td>30% (762)</td>
<td>20% (510)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar did not know about or use this resource</td>
<td>6% (147)</td>
<td>25% (466)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not know about this resource</td>
<td></td>
<td>20% (369)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use this resource</td>
<td></td>
<td>20% (510)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner College in providing undocumented-friendly resources for finding a job</td>
<td>25% (466)</td>
<td>20% (501)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar did not know about or use this resource</td>
<td>20% (369)</td>
<td>20% (510)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not know about this resource</td>
<td>9% (162)</td>
<td>24% (447)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use this resource</td>
<td>6% (161)</td>
<td>26% (674)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner College in providing undocumented-friendly resources for graduate school</td>
<td>29% (522)</td>
<td>25% (639)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar did not know about or use this resource</td>
<td>18% (330)</td>
<td>19% (496)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not know about this resource</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not use this resource</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Question was not asked in the 2018-2019 Survey
Percent of Scholars pursuing a career requiring licensing remained consistent from last year

Are Scholars pursuing a career requiring licensing?

- **2017-2018 Survey** (n=1,284)
  - Yes: 66%
  - No: 34%

- **2018-2019 Survey** (n=1,836)
  - Yes: 57%
  - No: 43%

- **2019-2020 Survey** (n=2,571)
  - Yes: 57%
  - No: 43%
Did Scholars complete internships in the past academic year?

For Scholars who did complete internships, were they paid?

2018-2019 Survey (n=1,838)
- 26% Completed internships
- 74% Did not complete internships
- 56% Paid
- 44% Unpaid

2019-2020 Survey (n=2,580)
- 30% Completed internships
- 70% Did not complete internships
- 51% Paid
- 49% Unpaid
Reasons why Scholars have **not** done internships

Comparing **2018-2019** Survey and **2019-2020** Survey

- **Haven't had a chance to (freshmen/sophomore)**
  - 48% (643) in 2018-2019
  - 41% (736) in 2019-2020

- **Difficulty finding paid internships**
  - 24% (327) in 2018-2019
  - 26% (476) in 2019-2020

- **Too busy to look for internships**
  - 26% (346) in 2018-2019
  - 23% (420) in 2019-2020

- **Didn't fit with work/class schedule**
  - 41% (556) in 2018-2019
  - 44% (797) in 2019-2020

- **Not interested**
  - 2% (27) in 2018-2019
  - 3% (47) in 2019-2020

- **Other (please specify)**
  - 16% (219) in 2018-2019
  - 18% (315) in 2019-2020

**2018-2019 Survey** (n=1,350) **vs.** **2019-2020 Survey** (n=1,798)
Are Scholars currently looking for a job that meets their career goals? (n=2,558)

- Yes: 66%
- No: 34%

Industries of employment interest [Select all that apply] (n=2,554)

- Arts & Humanities: 20%
- Business: 28%
- Communications & Journalism: 11%
- Education: 23%
- Health & Medicine: 34%
- Public & Social Services: 31%
- Science, Engineering, Technology: 28%
- Trades & Personal Services: 6%
- Starting a Business: 22%
- Other: 10%
Professional resources that Scholars would find *most useful*
(n=2,541)

- Resume building: 30%
- Personal branding: 10%
- How to expand professional network: 15%
- Finding job openings: 27%
- Mock interviews: 7%
- How to start a business: 14%

Popular answers from open-ended responses on other resources that would be useful:
- Finding paid internship opportunities
- Coaching
- Mentoring from industry professionals
- Job fairs
- Workshops on types of job Scholars can get with their undergraduate degree
Percentage of *graduated and senior* Scholars currently looking for a job that meets their career goals (n=751)

- **Graduated**
  - Yes: 78%
  - No: 22%

- **Senior**
  - Yes: 75%
  - No: 25%

Industries of employment interest for *graduated and senior* Scholars (n=751)

- Arts & Humanities: 9%
- Business: 14%
- Communications & Journalism: 6%
- Education: 13%
- Health & Medicine: 15%
- Public & Social Services: 17%
- Science, Engineering, Technology: 14%
- Trades & Personal Services: 2%
- Starting a Business: 10%
Professional resources that graduated and senior Scholars would find most useful (n=733)

- Resume building: 26%
- Personal branding: 9%
- Expand personal network: 11%
- Find job openings: 31%
- Mock interviews: 8%
- Starting a business: 12%

Popular answers from open-ended responses on other resources that would be useful for graduated and senior Scholars:

- Finding paid internship opportunities
- Job opportunities in health and medicine, non-profit/public sector
- Coaching
- Mentoring from industry professionals
- Job fairs
- Workshops on earning a living without work authorization
Implementation & Participants
Implementation

• The 2019-2020 Scholar Survey was administered online between May 4 – June 10, 2020

• The survey was sent to approximately 3,850 Scholars who were eligible to receive the scholarship in the 2019-2020 academic year

• There were 2,681 participants (70% response rate)

• This reflects an 11% increase in response rate from 2018-2019 Scholar Survey

• Participants spent an average of 19 minutes on the survey

Survey Response Rates over the years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018 Survey</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019 Survey</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020 Survey</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1The 2017-2018 Survey was an online survey in response to the rescission of DACA and identifying immediate supports needed. The 2018-2019 Survey was the first annual Scholar Survey and provides comparison data when relevant for the 2019-2020 survey in this report.
Participants

Participants by year in college (n=2,569)

- 28% Junior
- 22% Senior
- 7% Graduated
- 25% Sophomore
- 18% Freshman

Respondents by Partner College State:

- Arizona: 6%
- California: 11%
- Colorado: 7%
- Connecticut: 4%
- Delaware: 3%
- Florida: 13%
- Georgia: 1%
- Illinois: 5%
- New Jersey: 1%
- Nevada: 2%
- New York: 17%
- Oregon: 1%
- Pennsylvania: <1%
- Tennessee: 4%
- Texas: 16%
- Virginia: 3%
- Washington: 1%
- Washington D.C.: 3%
- Online and other: 1%

1 Respondents were from 86 Partner Colleges with currently enrolled Scholars and includes Partner Colleges in states that no longer accept new Scholars such as Pennsylvania. 2 Includes respondents attending Purdue University Global (online) and one Scholar at York University in Canada.
Participants by Immigration Status (n=2,569)

- 86% DACA
- 3% TPS
- 1% Expired DACA/TPS
- 9% Immigration Eligibility Criteria
- 1% Other

If DACA/TPS, how soon will status expire? (n=2,279)

- 44% 1+ years
- 30% 7 months - 1 year
- 17% 4-6 months
- 9% 1-3 months

If DACA/TPS, have Scholars applied for renewal? (n=2,279)

- 36% Yes
- 64% No
Scholar Background
Has TheDream.US scholarship allowed Scholars to work fewer hours:

- **2018-2019 Survey**
  - Yes: 68%
  - No: 32%
- **2019-2020 Survey**
  - Yes: 68%
  - No: 32%

Are Scholars self-employed:

- **2018-2019 Survey**
  - Yes: 7%
  - No: 93%
- **2019-2020 Survey**
  - Yes: 9%
  - No: 91%
Marital Status
(n=2,562)

94%
Never been married

<1%
Divorced or widowed

<1%
Separated

5%
Married or remarried

Do Scholars have children or expecting children
(n=2,562)

95% No
5% Yes
### Highest level of education completed by either parents (or those who raised Scholars)

(n=2,559)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some high school</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate's degree</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral or professional degree (e.g. PhD, MD, JD)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Family structure Scholars grew up in

(n=2,557)

- **75%** Two-parent household
- **21%** Single-parent household
- **2%** Raised by relatives
- **2%** Other
Current living situation (n=2,549)

- 82% Living with immediate family
- 4% With a romantic partner
- 5% With relatives
- 5% With roommates on-campus
- 1% With roommates off-campus
- 1% Living alone
- <1% Currently do not have housing
- 2% Other

How Scholars identify racially (Select all that apply) (n=2,565)

- Asian or Asian American: 4% (96)
- Black or African American: 6% (152)
- Hispanic or Latino - non-White: 58% (1,495)
- Hispanic or Latino - White: 34% (868)
- Pacific Islander: <1% (8)
- White - non-Hispanic: 1% (26)
- I prefer not to respond: 1% (22)
- Other: 2% (45)
Scholar Voices: biggest concerns at the moment (open-ended responses)

• "The future of DACA"
• "Graduating on time"
• "I know I should be doing some internships by now to gain experience but I don't have a SSN or ITIN to be able to even apply"
• "Being able to find a job in my career field during this pandemic"
• "Finishing the quarter strong. There is a lot going on in the world and in the country currently and I find everything very emotionally overwhelming which is impacting my studies.”
• "Finding a job"
• "How to afford graduate school"
• "My children’s health"
• "...figuring out what I'm going to do after graduating…"
• "Rent payment"
• "I am struggling with keeping up with school and being able to pay the bills that are piling up. The stress is also taking a toll on me physically and mentally"

Key themes: the uncertainty of DACA, completing and financing undergraduate degree, family health and finances during COVID-19, finding a job or internship, financing graduate school
Scholar Voices: key supports in college (open-ended responses)

- “Support of my advisors and being able to speak with them about concerns I had for the future”
- “My TheDream.US scholar advisor was very helpful with giving advice about staying on track and motivated [me] to finish each semester strong.”
- “The counseling center at my school! I was able to find a therapist who helped learn a lot about myself and skills that I've been able to use to cope with everything that's happening.”
- “My friends and family”
- “TheDream.US recipients at my school all became friends”
- “Professors serving as mentors, my manager at work, and TheDream.US have been important to my college experience.”
- “Support from my family, professors, and program advisor”
- “YES! Honestly seeing people graduate on the Facebook page definitely motivated me!”
- “Yes, the emergency fund helped out greatly. Very thankful for that.”
- “Immigrant Student Success Center”
- “the dreamers club at my partner school and my advisors”

Key themes: Having someone they trust and believes in them on-campus (especially Scholar or Academic Advisors and professors); having community (on-campus, family, and online); mental health supports
Scholar Voices: additional suggestions (open-ended responses)

Suggestions and Feedback
- “I think a seminar or a circle group for TheDream.US would be very useful. Maybe even a club room, where undocumented students can make friends with fellow undocumented students would be helpful.”
- “More tips on how to stay positive during this time [and] how to manage college overall”
- “I think more community college students need to be acknowledged. I once felt that a community college education was insufficient compared to a University education. However, I was wrong. I’m proud to say I’m a first-generation college student that started at community college”
- “I would like a way to meet other dreamers”
- “I feel like the advisors did nothing and made everything very confusing, they never explained anything and their actions were always very secretive and shady especially when it came to funds and disbursement, they provided no support”
- “Having more job options for other majors not just business majors”
- “I would like if TheDream.US would send us [an] email on when they actually send the payments to the colleges.”
Contact Us

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