

# National Scholarship

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2021-22 Application Guidelines



NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

# Make Your College Dreams Come True!

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

TheDream.US National Scholarships are for highly motivated DREAMers<sup>1</sup> who want nothing more than to get a college education but are unable to afford the cost.

You may be eligible for our National Scholarship if you:

- Have graduated or will graduate with a high school or GED diploma or a community college associate degree by the end of the 2021 Spring term;
- Have a current DACA or TPS authorization or you meet TheDream.US immigration eligibility criteria; and
- You must qualify for in-state tuition\* at one of our public Partner Colleges (or are admitted to one of our private Partner Colleges).

\*Arizona State University – you must qualify for the non-resident tuition rate.

### ***Read more about our eligibility criteria below!***

#### **Our Scholars**

Our Scholars have what it takes to succeed in college and in life! While we consider your GPA and test scores, we place great emphasis on your commitment to community service and your demonstrated ability to overcome the barriers and challenges that DREAMers face each day.

#### **Our Award**

The National Scholarship Award will cover your tuition and fees **up to** a maximum of \$16,500 for an associate degree and \$33,000 for a bachelor's degree at one of our Partner Colleges. You can renew the Award each year so long as you meet the continuing eligibility criteria.

#### **Important Dates**

- November 1, 2020 - Application Opens
- February 25, 2021 - Application Closes
- Late-April 2021 – TheDream.US Awardees Notified

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<sup>1</sup> DREAMers are undocumented immigrant youth who came to the United States as minors, have graduated from U.S. high schools or earned a U.S. high school equivalency but lack a legal status. This prevents them from accessing any federal aid to help pay for their college education. To receive TheDream.US Scholarship, DREAMers must have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), TPS (Temporary Protected Status) or certify that they meet TheDream.US immigration eligibility criteria and will apply for lawful presence or status as soon as they are legally able to do so.

## More Than a Scholarship – A College Committed to Your Success

We have over 70+ Partner Colleges across the United States that are committed to serving DREAMers and will offer you the support services you need to help you successfully navigate your college life. Each of our Partner Colleges designates a Scholar Advisor to work with you and your fellow Scholars – individually and as a group. You will not be alone!

Click here to check the [Partner College Map](#) on our website to see if there is a Partner College that is right for you! Note: We do not offer our scholarship to California and Washington DREAMers because you have access to generous state and institutional aid.

You must be admitted to and eligible for in-state tuition at one of our public Partner Colleges or admitted to one of our private Partner Colleges to receive our National Scholarship.

**Note: If you have received TheDream.US Scholarship in the past, you may not reapply.**

### Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility

Before you apply for the National Scholarship, you need to confirm that you (1) meet our immigration eligibility criteria, and (2) meet the eligibility criteria for either our High School Graduate or Community College Graduate Scholarship.

### TheDream.US Immigration Eligibility Criteria

You are eligible to apply for our scholarship if you meet the following eligibility criteria (and the additional eligibility criteria set forth below):

You must have current DACA or TPS or certify that you meet the following immigration eligibility criteria and will apply for lawful presence or status as soon as you are legally able to do so:

- a. Came to the United States before the age of 16;
- b. Have continuously resided in the United States since **November 1, 2015** up to the present time and have had no lawful status;
- c. Are currently in high school or have graduated from a United States high school or obtained a general education development (GED) certificate from a United States Program; and
- d. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors in the categories which would have disqualified you for DACA, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

In addition to our immigration criteria, you will need to confirm that you meet the criteria below – depending on whether you are applying for our Scholarship for high school graduates or for community college graduates. Here are the criteria:

## High School and GED Program Graduates:

If you have graduated or will graduate from high school or a GED program by the end of the Spring 2021 term this scholarship may be for you!

**You are not eligible to apply for or receive TheDream.US scholarship if you have been enrolled in a 4-year institution or a 4-year program.**

If you have taken community college classes as you could afford them, ***you may still apply for our High School Graduate Scholarship so long as you have not earned more than 21 college credits at a community college.***

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Have significant unmet financial need.
2. Have graduated or will graduate from high school (or have earned or will earn a high school equivalency diploma) by the end of the 2020-21 academic year;
3. Graduated or will graduate with a GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale;
4. Are not and have not previously been enrolled in a four-year institution or bachelor program and have not earned more than 21 credits in a community college (*not counting credits earned in a pre-college or dual enrollment program in high school*);
5. Intend to enroll full-time in an associate or bachelor's degree program at a Partner College no later than the Spring term of 2021-22 academic year;
6. Are eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College you want to attend (not applicable if it is a private Partner College); and
7. Meet the immigration eligibility criteria set forth above.

## Community College Graduates:

If you have or will graduate from a community college by the end of the Summer of 2021 and do not have the financial resources to complete your bachelor's degree at a 4-year university, this Scholarship may be for you!

**You are not eligible to apply for or receive TheDream.US Scholarship if you have attended or are currently attending a 4-year institution or a 4-year program.**

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Have significant unmet financial need;

2. Have graduated or will graduate from an accredited community college or 2-year degree program by the end of the 2020-21 academic year;
3. Graduated or will graduate with a community college GPA of 3.0 or better on a scale of 4.0;
4. Are not and have not previously enrolled in a four-year institution or a four-year bachelor's degree program;
5. Intend to enroll full time in a bachelor's degree program at a Partner College no later than the Spring term of 2021-22 academic year;
6. Are eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College you want to attend (not applicable if it is a private Partner College); and
7. Meet the immigration eligibility criteria set forth above.

## Step 2: Completing the Application

You can apply for the National Scholarship by going to our website: [National Scholarship](#). If prompted, the Program Key is: **Dream**.

**Application Deadline: February 25, 2021, 11:59 P.M. Pacific Standard Time**

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

Our application is simple and straight forward. Below is an overview.

If you have any difficulties in completing the application, reach out to our scholarship management provider, ISTS:

**Email:** TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

**Call:** 1(855) 376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program

## Applicant Information

You will provide us the same personal information that you include in most of your college applications.

We DO NOT ask for your home address and you DO NOT have to upload your DACA or TPS documents.

You will be required to certify that you:

1. ***Have current DACA or TPS authorization*** and that you will renew it if you are legally able to do so and provide your Employment Authorization Document Number (EAD) and the expiration date; or

2. **Meet each of TheDream.US immigration eligibility criteria** and you will apply for lawful presence or lawful status as soon as you are legally able to do and provide any requested data to confirm your eligibility.

## Academic Information

You will select your 1<sup>st</sup> choice Partner College in this section. **You must also apply to your 1<sup>st</sup> choice college before the scholarship application deadline of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

IMPORTANT: Restrictions on Eligibility for Certain States and Partner Colleges:

State	High School Graduate (HSG) Scholarship	Community College Graduate Scholarship
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arizona State University:</b> Must qualify for non-resident tuition rate.</li> <li>• <b>ASU Online:</b> Must be an Arizona resident to attend.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arizona State University:</b> Must qualify for non-resident tuition rate.</li> <li>• <b>ASU Online:</b> Must be an Arizona resident to attend.</li> </ul>
Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arkansas Tech University:</b> Must have DACA to qualify for in-state tuition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arkansas Tech University:</b> Must have DACA to qualify for in-state tuition.</li> </ul>
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oglethorpe University:</b> If commuting, you must live within a 25-mile radius of campus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oglethorpe University:</b> If commuting, you must live within a 25-mile radius of campus.</li> </ul>
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Illinois College:</b> To attend, you must receive the 1829 Scholarship and Rise Act funds.</li> <li>• <b>University of Illinois – Chicago:</b> HSG applicants cannot use the award at this college.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Illinois College:</b> To attend, you must receive the 1829 Scholarship and Rise Act funds.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Northern Virginia Community College:</b> Must have DACA to qualify for in-state tuition.</li> <li>• <b>George Mason University:</b> HSG applicants cannot use the award at this college.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>George Mason University:</b> Must have DACA to qualify for in-state tuition.</li> </ul>

You will also provide your high school academic information (and community college information if you attended a community college).

### Transcripts:

You will be required to upload the following **by February 25, 2021 by 11:59 p.m. PST:**

- **For High School or GED Graduate applicants:**
  - A copy of your official or unofficial high school transcript showing grades and cumulative GPA through Fall 2020 or high school equivalency diploma,
  - SAT or ACT test scores (if you have taken and received your score(s)), and
  - A transcript for any community college credits earned after high school.

- **For Community College Graduate applicants:** a copy of your official or unofficial community college transcript showing grades and cumulative GPA through Fall 2020.

## Financial Information

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

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

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

- Annual household Income;
- Number in the household supported by this income; and
- Number of dependents supported by this income who will attend college in 2021-22.

**You DO NOT have to upload any financial records.**

## Responsibilities

While we consider your academic achievements and potential, we also focus on your volunteer, community service, and home responsibilities as these are indicators of your motivation and determination to succeed. We know that many DREAMers have significant home responsibilities so please do not overlook this section.

## Essays

While we will consider your academic record and volunteer and community service activities in selecting finalists, the most important part of your application is your two essays. This is your opportunity to let the Selection Committee know that you have the motivation and persistence to exceed in college and in life.

The essay prompts are:

1. **Your Educational and Career Goals** - 750 words max:
  - Describe your educational and career goals and explain what or who has inspired or helped shape these goals.

- Excluding financial needs, what are the most significant challenges you expect to face in successfully completing college? How will you overcome these challenges?

2. **Overcoming Adversity** - 750 words max:

- Describe a challenging family or personal circumstance that has affected your achievement or participation in school, work, or community activities.
- How did you overcome this challenge and what did you learn from the experience above?

### Step 3: Submitting and Monitoring the Status of Your Application

**Don't forget!** You must submit your application and upload the required transcripts **by February 25, 2021 by 11:59 p.m. PST:**

**Your application is not complete until all required transcripts are uploaded.**

WE CANNOT CONSIDER INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.

It is your responsibility to monitor the status of your application and attachments and make sure your application is complete.

You may monitor the status of your application on your home page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net>. Allow 5 to 7 business days after submitting or uploading attachments for your online status to update.

- **Started:** Items are needed or are being processed. To see the items, click the 'Started' tile. This will open a box listing all required items and the current status of each.
- **Complete:** All required forms and documents have been received and verified and your application will be considered for the scholarship.

You may also monitor the status of your documents:

- Not Received:** the attachment has either not been received or has been rejected.
- Processing:** the attachment has been received and is being reviewed.
- Rejected:** the attachment has been rejected – you can see the reason.
- Accepted:** the attachment has been verified and accepted by ISTS.

If a document has been rejected, you will receive an email letting you know why. You should submit the correct document ASAP. If you have questions or difficulties, reach out to ISTS at:

**Email:** TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

**Call:** 1-(855) 376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program

### Step 4: Award Notification



ISTS will notify you by email in late-April 2021 as to whether or not you have received the scholarship. If you receive the scholarship, your next step is to accept the award!

Make sure that you have added ISTS to your contact list as a safe sender. ***We have had awardees who missed their award because the ISTS email went to spam!***

## Step 5: Accepting the Award

ISTS will send you an email with a link to the acceptance form. ***You must accept the award by the deadline***, or you will lose the Scholarship.

If you decide not to accept our award, please indicate this on the form and let us know why.

## Step 6: Taking the Pledge

Being selected as a DREAMer Scholar is an honor and a privilege. You will become a member of a community of over 4,000 DREAMer Scholars. With them, you will commit to your own academic success and to supporting the academic success of other DREAMer Scholars. And we will be with you every step of the way.

## Questions? We're Here to Help!

Email: [TheDream.US@applyISTS.com](mailto:TheDream.US@applyISTS.com) (reference TheDream.US National Scholarship Program)

Telephone: 1(855) 376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program

## The Fine Print

TheDream.US is a project of New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3). International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS) administers the program. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability or national origin. TheDream.US reserves the right to make changes to the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program at any time, including termination of the program.