

# National Scholarship

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## 2025-26 Application Guide



NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

# Make Your College Dreams Come True!

**TheDream.US National Scholarship is for highly motivated undocumented students 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:

Are undocumented with or without DACA or TPS and . . .

- ✓ You are or about to be a high school graduate; OR
- ✓ You have or are about to earn a GED; OR
- ✓ You are or have been enrolled in a community college or university . . .

***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, we place great emphasis on your commitment to community service and your demonstrated ability to overcome the barriers and challenges that undocumented students 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, 2024 - Application Opens
- February 28, 2025 - Application Closes
- Late-April 2025 – TheDream.US Awardees Notified

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

We have over 75+ Partner Colleges across the United States that are committed to serving undocumented students 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 List](#) 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 undocumented students because you have access to generous state and institutional aid. If you are a Tennessee student, please apply with our partner [Equal Chance for Education](#) and their Scholarship for Dreamers.

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 in your state 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

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Are an undocumented immigrant with or without DACA or TPS who came to the United States before November 1, 2019, and have continuously lived in the United States since then;
2. Came to the United States before the age of 16 (if you were born in the U.S. – you are not eligible for our scholarship);
3. Have significant unmet financial need;
4. Have graduated or will graduate from a United States high school (or have earned or will earn a high school equivalency diploma) before Fall of 2025;
5. Graduated or will graduate with a high school GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale or have a cumulative college GPA of 2.5 or better;
6. Intend to enroll full-time in an associate or bachelor's degree program at a Partner College in your state in the Fall of 2025 or Spring of 2026; and
7. Are eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College you want to attend (not applicable if it is a private Partner College in your state).

## 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 28, 2025, 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](mailto: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 if you have DACA or TPS you DO NOT have to upload your documents.

You will be required to certify that you:

1. **Meet the Immigration Eligibility criteria** 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

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

State	Partner College Restrictions
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grand Canyon University:</b> Our award can only be used at Grand Canyon University (on-campus). It cannot be used at GCU Online.</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>
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dominican University:</b> Our award can be used at both Dominican University campuses.</li> <li>• <b>Northern Illinois College:</b> Our award can only be used at NIU if you are a transfer student from another college.</li> </ul>

You will also provide your high school academic information or community college/university information if you have attended or are a current college student).

## Transcripts:

You will be required to upload the following **by February 28, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST:**

- High School Transcript/GED Certificate: For applicants applying as High School Senior, College Freshman, College Sophomore or GED recipients only.
- Community College Transcript: For applicants who have earned community college credits since graduating high school or earning a GED.
- 4-year College/University Transcript: For applicants who have earned college/university credits since graduating from high school and/or community college.

## 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 2025-26.

**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 undocumented students have significant home responsibilities so please do not overlook this section.

## Essay

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 essay. This is your

opportunity to let the Selection Committee know that you have the motivation and persistence to exceed in college and in life.

Your essay should be no more than 750 words max.

The essay prompt is:

TheDream.US recognizes the challenges and aspirations of undocumented immigrant youth, also known as Dreamers. How has your journey and experiences as a Dreamer shaped your identity and perspective? In what ways do you envision leveraging who you are and your experiences to contribute to your community and college campus if awarded TheDream.US Scholarship?

### 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 28, 2025, 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 transcript(s) 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 transcript(s) for your online status to update.

- **Incomplete:** Questions still need to be answered and the submit button at the end of the application needs to be clicked.
- **Started:** Transcript(s) are needed or are being processed. To see the items, click the 'Paperclip' icon located below your application. This will open a box listing all required transcript(s) and the status of each.
- **Complete:** All required forms and transcript(s) have been received and verified and your application will be considered for the scholarship.

You may also monitor the status of your transcript(s):

- ☐ **Not Received:** the transcript(s) have either not been received or have been rejected.
- ☐ **Processing:** the transcript(s) have been received and are being reviewed.
- ☐ **Rejected:** the transcript(s) have been rejected – you can see the reason.

- ☐ **Accepted:** the transcript(s) have been verified and accepted by ISTS.

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

**Email:** [TheDream.US@applyISTS.com](mailto: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 2025 if you have been selected as a recipient of the scholarship or not. 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 TheDream.US Scholar is an honor and a privilege. You will become a member of a community of over 11,000 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)

**Call:** 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.