

National Scholarship

Program Guide
2025-2026



NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

TheDream.US

is more than a scholarship; it is a community of people committed to supporting your college and career success.

You are a part of a community of over 12,000 Scholars and Alumni across the country. This handbook serves as a reference manual for National Award recipients. We expect you to review the contents, as the materials provide information you need to be a successful and full participant in our scholarship program.

This guide will help you understand how to receive and manage your award. Please note, this guide is subject to change. Check the Scholar Hub for the most recent version.

To quickly find answers to your questions:

- Use the Table of Contents on the next page to navigate the Guide to get the answer to your question – just click on the topic
- If the answer to your question is not found in the Guide - reach out and ask about TheDream.US National Scholarship Program:
[✉ askus@thedream.us](mailto:askus@thedream.us)
- If you do not see what you need in the Table of Contents – do a word search

Pay attention to marked



tips and



important information sprinkled throughout the guide.

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As a Scholar of TheDream.US, I pledge to:

- ✓ Believe in my future and myself.
- ✓ Commit to enroll and persevere in college.
- ✓ Commit to support other undocumented students who want to go to college.
- ✓ Commit to graduate, find a meaningful career, and contribute to the social and economic prosperity of this country.

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 thank you letter to:

TheDream.US
P.O. Box 6348
Wilmington, DE 19804



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 understand that if my cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0, my renewal will be denied and I will lose my scholarship. |
| ☐ I will renew or decline my Scholarship in June of each year before the deadline. | ☐ I will join the Scholar Facebook Community and ensure that I receive and read emails and text messages from TheDream.US. I will not unsubscribe or opt out of any communications from TheDream.US. |
| ☐ I will apply for state aid and other Scholarships, grants, and aid available to me. | |



Stay in college and prepare for my career.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ I will build and maintain a relationship with my Scholar Advisor by checking-in at least once per term to review my progress towards graduation. | ☐ If I am struggling, I will work with my Scholar Advisor to get the resources I need. |
| ☐ If my GPA falls below a 2.5 or I am not able to maintain full-time status, I will meet with my Scholar Advisor to help me develop a plan to stay on track to complete my degree. | ☐ I will participate in at least one career development opportunity each year. |
| | ☐ I will actively pursue ways to launch my career, regardless of work authorization. |



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

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ I will take advantage of career resources and stay connected through the Alumni Survey every year. | ☐ I will keep TheDream.US Scholarship Program informed as to how I have used my education to help others and myself. |
|---|---|



"Pay it forward" by supporting other undocumented students who want to go to college.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ I will pay it forward by supporting and mentoring fellow Undocumented students at my college or in my community. | ☐ I will support and help improve TheDream.US Program by providing feedback through surveys and helping promote the Scholarship program. |
|---|---|



Meet Your Support System

Introduction to Your Scholar Advisor

Your college has designated a Scholar Advisor to work with you and your fellow Scholars. You will not be alone!

We require that you meet with your Scholar Advisor at least once per term.

See our [Scholar PC Directory](#) to find your Advisor's contact information.

Introduction to Your Financial Aid Advisor

Your college has also designated a Financial Aid Advisor to assist you in applying to all aid available to you and answer questions related to paying for your education.

See our [Scholar PC Directory](#) to find your Financial Advisor's contact information.



Introduction to ISTS

We contract with International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS) to manage our scholarship award payment and renewal processes. The ISTS Program Support team is there to answer your questions about your ISTS Scholar Portal and the Renewal Form.

TheDream.US@applyISTS.com
1(855) 376-7076



I am extremely grateful for TheDream.US family and community.

Yesenia

Scholar, Metropolitan State University of Denver



Where To Go For What



Your ISTS Scholar Portal

- Update your email address and cell phone number
- Scholar status and application ID
- Maximum Award
- Total amount used so far and amount remaining
- Date and amount of last payment
- Approved breaks in enrollment
- Determine your renewal status
- Final term that your Scholarship will be available to you
- TheDream.US Request Form

[Login](#)

(dream.applyists.net)



Your Website Scholar Hub

- Your Scholarship Program Guide
- Your Partner College Directory
- Latest News/Emails
- Scholar Resources (academic success, Career Connections, immigration, etc.)
- Graduate Loan Scholarship

[Scholar Hub](#)

(thedream.us/current-scholars)



ISTS Program Support

- To manage your award
- Get help if you have trouble accessing or navigating your ISTS Scholar Portal
- Get help with your Renewal Form (returning Scholars)

✉ TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

1(855) 376-7076



Your Facebook Community

- Private, closed group
- Connect with Scholars and Alumni around the country
- Ask questions and get answers
- Share important events/announcements
- Get together on campus
- Help and support each other

Managing Your Award

How do I track my award?

You can track your award in your [ISTS Scholar Portal](#). 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
- The amount you have remaining
- Any breaks in enrollment

Participation Summary					Hide Information 
Your Application ID 6410256	Breaks in Enrollment	Maximum Award Amount \$39,000.00	Total Amount Used \$29,250.00	Last payment made on 3/3/2025 for \$4,875.00	
Scholarship Type First Time College Student					
Scholar Status Eligible - Enrolled - Current (as of the most recent payment or renewal form)					
Current Partner College Dominican University					
The Institutes	First term attended: Fall 2022	Final term eligible at community college Spring 2025	Final term eligible at four year college Spring 2028		
Award Amount Remaining \$9,750.00	2024-25 - Renewal Approved Renewal Status				
Other questions? Check your Scholarship Program Guide					
Email: TheDream.US@applyITS.com Call: 1-(855)-376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program					

When will I receive my award?

We calculate and pay your award each term. We will send your award to your college no later than the middle of each term you are enrolled.



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: Dream.applyISTS.net/

How much is my award?

- Your award is **up to a maximum of \$4,125** per semester or **up to a maximum of \$2,750** per quarter. You can receive the maximum term award for **up to 8 semesters** or **up to 12 quarters**.
- We will pay your Scholarship Award directly to your Partner College on a term-by-term basis. Your Scholarship Award will vary based on the cost of tuition and fees for the number of credits you are taking that term.
- To receive your Scholarship funds, you must attend one of our Partner Colleges located in your state and you must be eligible for in-state tuition if attending a public college or university.



The Maximum Award for National Scholarship Recipients is up to \$33,000 in total for tuition and mandatory fees.

Do I have to apply for state aid?

If you live in CO, DC, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NV, NY, OR, or VA you are **required** to apply for state aid to maximize opportunities for funding your college education. Please speak to your [Financial Aid Advisor](#) to find out if you are eligible and steps you need to take to apply as soon as possible. Keep in mind:

- State aid is a grant. Like our scholarship, you do not have to repay state aid. **State aid is also NOT federal aid**, which as you know you are not eligible for.
- Applying for state aid increases your chances of securing funds to cover tuition and fees.



If you are eligible and receiving Federal Financial Aid (i.e. Pell Grant) you are not eligible for our Scholarship.

Managing Your Award (continued)

What do I need to do to receive my award each term?

Financial Aid offices will send you notices that your tuition is due by a certain date. Do Not Panic - you don't have to worry about the due date! Your Advisors are aware that TheDream.US award comes in later in the term. At the beginning of each term your Partner College and ISTS will take these steps:

- ☐ Your Partner College will confirm your enrollment and will put a note 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 student account.

You may check in with your Advisors to confirm that they have taken the first step above, and then check your [ISTS Scholar Portal](#) to see if you have received your award. If your Portal shows that the award has been sent but it is not yet applied to your account, reach out to your Scholar or Financial Aid Advisor.

What types of expenses will my award cover?

You can use your award for:

- Your tuition for the term; and
- Mandatory fees for the term (such as Athletic Fee, Technology Fee, Student Activity Fee, etc. This does not include lab fees or fees for health insurance plans).

What is not covered?

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).
- Other fees (examples: lab fees, course fees, material fees, etc.)
- Housing

Can the scholarship be used for a minor or double major?

You may seek a minor if it does not require additional credits beyond those required for your degree. The scholarship cannot be used for a double major or second degree. If you choose to earn a double major or second degree, you will be responsible for covering the costs required for those classes. The scholarship cannot be used for graduate school courses, including joint bachelor's/master's degree programs that require a fifth year.

Will my award be reduced by other financial aid, like state aid and other scholarships?

If you are going to a Partner College in CO, DC, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NV, NY, OR, or VA, we will reduce your award by the amount of state aid. But we will not reduce your award by other financial aid –with the exception that your award cannot exceed your unmet need. If, for example, your total cost of attendance (e.g., tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing and meals) is \$28,000/year and you have other financial aid that totals \$25,000/year, our award will not exceed the remaining \$3,000/year which is your “unmet need”.

Will I lose my scholarship if my financial aid covers my full costs to attend college?

No! You will get what we refer to as a “zero” award for that year. So long as you continue to renew your scholarship, you can use your award in future terms and you will continue to be one of our Scholars, have access to your Scholar Advisor, and be able to participate in our Scholar Community.



We expect you to apply for all available state and institutional financial aid and actively seek other scholarships and grants to cover your entire cost of attendance. [See here.](#)



Managing Your Award (continued)

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

Most of our Scholars can receive **up to** \$6,000 in stipends for books, supplies, and transportation. Stipends are paid out \$750 per semester or \$500 per quarter. (Purdue Global University Scholars do not receive a stipend). If you can use your award for Summer classes (see p. 12 for Partner Colleges eligible for Summer classes), you will receive a stipend for Summer.

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

TheDream.US has given me purpose, drive, and pride.

Nahely

Purdue University Global

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 take a term off (break in enrollment)?

Yes. We understand that special circumstances may require you to take a term off. You cannot take off more than two terms (or three if you are on the quarter system) system.



Your time off will be included in the maximum time you have to use your award (pg. 14).

Follow these steps to request a break in enrollment:

- ☐ Complete TheDream.US Request Form in your [ISTS Scholar Portal](#) (white button located on the left-hand side of the page and below the "Welcome" banner when you log in - see page 13);
- ☐ Notify 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 develop a plan for completing your degree on time (3 years if an associate degree; 6 years if a bachelor's degree).



You must notify ISTS of your break in enrollment via TheDream.US Request Form or you risk losing your Scholarship.

Can I enroll less than full time?

Yes. If special circumstances require that you enroll in less than 12 credits, **contact your Scholar Advisor** to discuss the circumstances and develop a plan for completing your degree on time. **You do not need to notify ISTS or TheDream.US staff.**

Managing Your Award (continued)

What happens if I fail or drop a class?

If you fail or drop a class and need to retake it, 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. **You do not need to notify ISTS or TheDream.US staff.**

 **If your cumulative GPA is below a 2.0 when you renew your scholarship, you will lose your scholarship.**

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 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 TheDream.US or ISTS.**

However, 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 is below a 2.0 when you renew your scholarship, you will lose your scholarship.**

Can I transfer my scholarship to another Partner College?

You may be able to transfer your Scholarship to another Partner College in your state.

You must complete TheDream.US Request Form in your [ISTS Scholar Portal](#) first and get approved to transfer.

You will also need to complete each of these steps:

1. Apply and be accepted to the Partner College you want to transfer to;

2. Be eligible for in-state tuition if it is a public college;

3. Contact your Scholar and Financial Advisors at your current and new Partner Colleges to let them know that you are transferring.

Important: If you do not complete TheDream.US Request Form to notify ISTS that you are transferring, you will not receive your award payment!

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. When you receive your legal status, send an email to askus@thedream.us and your Scholar Advisor and Financial Aid Advisor to notify them of your change in status.

Managing Your Award (continued)

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. You will also receive a \$750 stipend for books, supplies, and transportation costs (Purdue Global University Scholars do not receive a stipend).

State	University
AZ	All AZ Partner Colleges, except Grand Canyon University
CO	All CO Partner Colleges, except CSU-Pueblo
IL	National Louis University, Roosevelt University
MA	Salem State University
NJ	Rutgers University – Newark
NV	All NV Partner Colleges
NY	All CUNY Partner Colleges, Farmingdale State College
OR	Portland State University
TX	San Antonio College, South Texas College, University of St. Thomas
UT	All UT Partner Colleges
VA	NOVA, George Mason University
Online	All Online Partner Colleges, except Lynn Online

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.

If your Partner College is approved for summer classes, you can also use your award for winter classes, if your Partner College offers them. There is no stipend for winter classes.

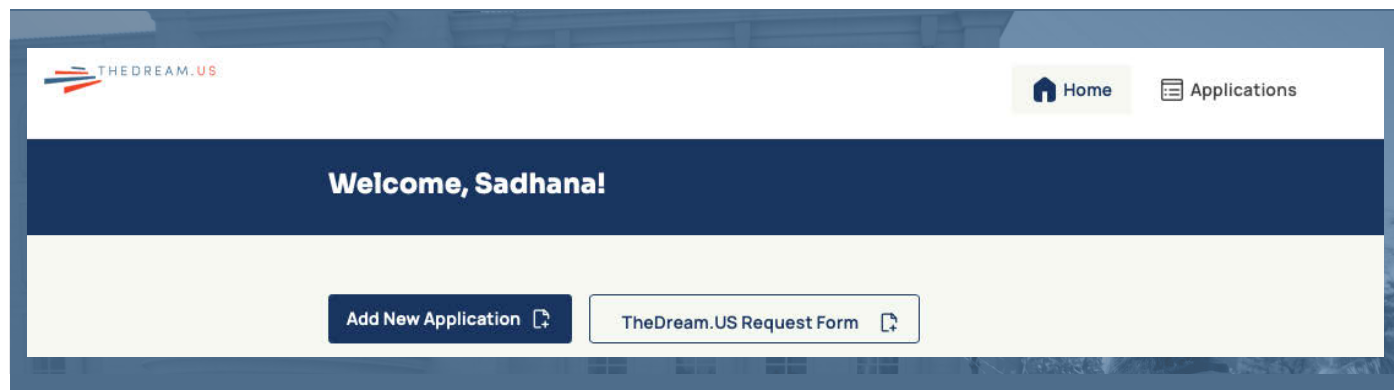


These funds, including the summer stipend, will be deducted from your overall Scholarship award total.



How Do I Use TheDream.US Request Form?

You may face special circumstances that require you to request a break in enrollment or an exception to our Guidelines, or to appeal the loss of your award. If so, use **TheDream.US Request Form** in your [ISTS Scholar Portal](#) (white button located on the left-hand side of the page when you log in - see below) to make your request.



You can only have one open Request at a time. Contact ISTS Program Support if you have trouble with the form.

You can use **TheDream.US Request Form** if:

- You need a break in enrollment (if you took or need to take a term off, or you need more than two terms off);
- You want to transfer to another PC in your state;
- You have scholarship funds remaining and need additional time to complete your degree (this is only granted in exceptional circumstances)*;
- You have one term and 15 or fewer credits remaining and need Bridge Funding to complete your degree (this is only granted in exceptional circumstances)*
- Your Scholarship renewal was denied because
 - Your GPA was below a 2.0*
 - You have maxed out on allowed time to complete your degree (this is only granted if you have additional funds remaining)*
 - You have maxed out on your scholarship funds (this is granted only if you have one term and 15 credits or fewer credits remaining)*
 - You did not complete the annual Renewal form by the deadline;
- Your Scholarship was withdrawn.

*For these exceptions, you will be required to provide a copy of your most recent transcript and a degree audit showing the number of classes completed and classes/terms still needed to complete your degree.



We will notify you of our decision by email within 2-3 weeks.
Not all requests will be granted, and our decision is final.

How Do I Renew My 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 your immigration status.

You will not be able to renew if:



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.

Time to Complete Your Degree

If you do not complete your degree within the maximum number of years, you will no longer be eligible for the scholarship. Check the table below to determine how much time you have.

Where you started with our Award

Maximum # of Years

Started at a Partner Community College

Up to three (3) years to earn an associate degree or transfer to a 4 YR Partner College; plus up to an additional three (3) years to complete your bachelor's degree

Started at a 4 YR Partner College

Up to six (6) years to earn a bachelor's degree



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!

Tips For Success

We encourage you to maintain full time, continuous enrollment (15 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, meet with your Scholar Advisor to develop a plan to get back on track.

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

“

Finding a close group of friends who were willing to support me this year aided me tremendously in my ability to continue moving forward, despite the challenges I had to face. Additionally, my TheDream.US Scholar Advisor provided a wealth of services and support for me throughout the year.

Darril

Scholar, Grand Canyon University

”

- Use the [Cornell Method](#) to take notes
- Review your course notes every day
- Form a study group with your classmates
- Prepare for tests by studying small chunks over several days
- Take care of yourself: Exercise, get enough sleep, take breaks
- Use [Modern States](#) to earn college credits faster and at a low-cost



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.