National Scholarship

2027-2028 Application Guide

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THEDREAM.US

Make Your College Dreams Come True!

TheDream.US National Scholarship is for highly motivated Dreamer 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 a first-generation immigrant student 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 our full eligibility criteria below*!**

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 Dreamer students face each and every day.

Our Award will cover your tuition and mandatory fees ***up to*** $18,000 for an associate degree and ***up to*** $36,000 for a bachelor's degree, plus **up to** $6,000 in stipends for books and supplies, 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, 2026 - Application Opens
- **February 28, 2027 - Application Closes**
- Late - April 2027 – TheDream.US Awardees Notified

More Than a Scholarship – A College Committed to Your Success

We have close to 80 Partner Colleges across the United States that are committed to serving Dreamer 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 in your state that is right for you! Use the password ***collegedream*** (one word) when prompted to open the list.

> ***Note:*** We do not offer our scholarship to California and Washington Dreamer students because they have access to generous state and institutional aid.
> If you are a Tennessee Dreamer student, please apply with our partner Equal Chance for Education and their Scholarship for Dreamers.

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 a first-generation immigrant student who came to the United States before November 1, 2021, and has continuously lived in the United States since then, and must navigate immigration status barriers as a Dreamer (for example, you are undocumented, have or had DACA or TPS, or have a pending immigration application);

2. Are not an eligible category for federal student aid (FAFSA) as defined by the federal government and do not currently hold a student, visitor, work, or other temporary nonimmigrant visa (click through the above link to see the list of eligible categories);

3. Entered the United States before the age of 16;

4. Have earned or will earn by the start of the 2027-2028 academic year a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a U.S. public or private high school, or have obtained a general education development certificate (GED) recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States;

5. Have graduated or will graduate with a high school GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale and have a cumulative college GPA of 2.5 or better (if you have earned college credits after high school);

6. Intend to enroll full-time in an associate or bachelor's degree program at a Partner College in your state or online in the Fall of 2027 or Spring of 2028;

7. Are:

    a) eligible for in-state or domestic tuition at a public Partner College in your state (If you are not sure if you are eligible for in-state tuition, consult the Higher Ed

Immigration Portal Tuition & Financial Aid map. For additional support, submit an expert assistance request stating that you are interested in applying for TheDream.US National Scholarship) **OR**

b) attending a private Partner College in your state; **OR**

c) attending an online Partner College; **OR**

d) attending Austin Community College, San Antonio College, or South Texas College in Texas.

8. Have significant unmet financial need.

You will be asked to certify that the information you provide is accurate. TheDream.US may request limited verification from finalists and will keep any information you provide confidential.

Note: This scholarship supports Dreamers who grew up in the United States but, because of their immigration circumstances, are not eligible for federal aid and in some states, have limited access to state aid and in-state tuition. Students eligible for federal student aid are not eligible because they have access to federal student aid and other financial aid options. International students and students in temporary non-immigrant statuses are also not eligible.

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, 2027, 11:59 pm PT

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

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; just your city, state, and zip code.

You will also answer a few immigration related questions.

Financial Information

Our scholarship is available to low-income Dreamer 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 2027-2028.

You DO NOT have to upload any financial records.

Academic Information

You will select your 1st choice Partner College in this section. **You must also apply to your 1st choice college before the scholarship application deadline of February 28th, 2027.**

IMPORTANT: Restrictions on Eligibility for Certain States and Partner Colleges

State	Partner College Restrictions
Arizona	• **Grand Canyon University:** Our award can only be used at Grand Canyon University (on-campus). It cannot be used at GCU Online.
Florida	• **ASU Online:** The scholarship spots available at ASU Online are highly competitive. Only applicants pursuing an Engineering or certain Science majors (ex. Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Neuroscience, Physics) will be considered. All other majors should choose one of our other Partner Colleges.
Georgia	• **Oglethorpe University:** If commuting, you must live within a 25-mile radius of

	campus.
Illinois	• **Dominican University:** Our award ***can*** be used at both Dominican University campuses. • **Northern Illinois College:** Our award ***can only*** be used at NIU if you are a transfer student from another college.
Online	• **ASU Online:** Our award **can** only be used if you live in Florida or Texas. See Florida and Texas rows for additional restrictions. • **Capella University:** Our award **cannot** be used if you live in Massachusetts. • **Strayer University:** Our award **cannot** be used if you live in Massachusetts.
Texas	• **ASU Online:** The scholarship spots available at ASU Online are highly competitive. Only applicants pursuing an Engineering or certain Science majors (ex. Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Neuroscience, Physics) will be considered. All other majors should choose one of our other Partner Colleges.

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, 2027, by 11:59 pm PT**:

- 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 after graduating high school or earning a GED.
- 4-year College/University Transcript: For applicants who have earned college/university credits after graduating from high school and/or community college.

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 Dreamer 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 unique to 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, 2027, by 11:59 pm PT:**

Your application is not complete until all required transcript(s) are uploaded and accepted.

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://dream.applyISTS.net/Dream. Allow 5 to 7 business days after submitting or uploading transcript(s) for ISTS to review the transcript(s) and your online status to update.

- **Started:** If your application has a gray or orange STARTED button, click the button to view the status of each individual requirement to see what may be missing.
- **Completed:** If your application has a green COMPLETE button, all requirements have been met, and no further action is need. Your application will be reviewed and considered for the scholarship.

You may also monitor the status of your transcript(s) by clicking on the application status button (i.e. STARTED, COMPLETED):

- **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 re-upload the corrected transcript to your application form ASAP***. If you have questions, difficulties,

or the deadline has passed, and your uploaded transcript reads “Not Received” or “Rejected” reach out to ISTS at: **Email:** TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

Step 4: Award Notification

ISTS will notify you by email in late-April 2027 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. ***Sadly, 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 13,000 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 (reference TheDream.US National 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 review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.