Opportunity Scholarship

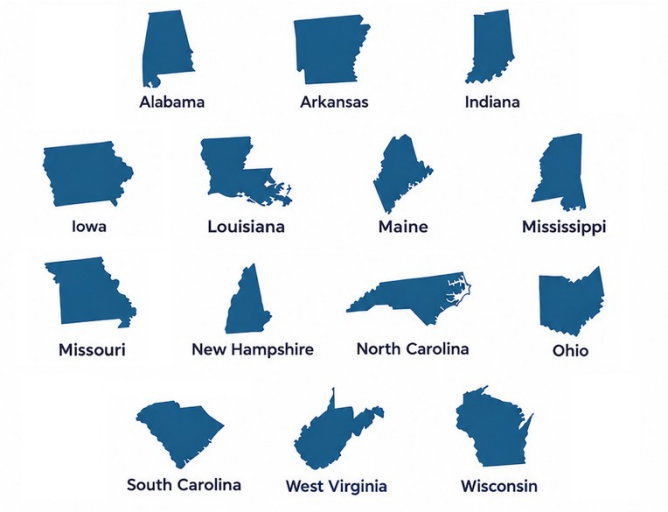
2027-2028 Application Guide

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THEDREAM.US

Make Your College Dreams Come True

TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship is for first-generation immigrant students known as Dreamers.



You may be eligible for our Opportunity Scholarship if you (1) live in one of the states shown here, (2) you have or will soon graduate from a high school in one of the states shown here, and (3) you are a Dreamer student who came to the U.S. before November 1, 2021, and before the age of 16.

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 help cover your tuition, mandatory fees, and on-campus housing and meals at one of our 5 Opportunity Partner Colleges up to a maximum of $100,000 for a bachelor's degree for up to 4 years. You can renew the award each year so long as you meet the continuing eligibility criteria.

Important Dates

- November 1, 2026 - Application Opens
- **January 31, 2027 - Application Closes**
- Mid-March 2027 – Awardees Notified

More Than a Scholarship – A College Committed to Your Success

If you receive the Opportunity Scholarship, you can use it to attend one of our 5 Opportunity Partner Colleges listed below. These colleges are committed to serving Dreamer students and are prepared to 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 our Scholars – individually and as a group. You will not be alone!

Make sure you research the school of your choice prior to making a selection on the application. Factors you should consider include; distance to campus, travel risks in going to campus, majors offered, and cultural fit. ***If awarded, you will forfeit the scholarship if you transfer to another school before completing your degree.***

- Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware
- Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois
- Eastern Connecticut State University, Windham, Connecticut
- Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee
- Trinity Washington University (women's college), Washington, D.C.

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 Opportunity Scholarship, you need to confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria.

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 graduated or will graduate from a public or private high school in one of the 14 Opportunity states shown above by the end of the 2026-2027 academic year;

5. Live in the state from which you graduated high school;
6. 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/university GPA of 2.5 or better (if you have earned college credits outside of high school;
7. Intend to relocate, live on-campus, and enroll full-time in a bachelor's degree program at an Opportunity Partner College in the Fall term of the 2027-2028 academic year; and
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 cases, 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 Opportunity Scholarship by going to our website: Opportunity Scholarship.

If prompted, the Program Key is: **DreamOpportunity**.

You must apply for admission to the Partner College of your choice before the application deadline of January 31, 2027. Applying to TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship does not guarantee admission to these Partner Colleges.

Application Deadline: January 31, 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 ISTS (our scholarship management provider):

Email: TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

Applicant Information

You will provide us the same demographic information that you will 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.

You indicate whether you are a dependent 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 let us know which Partner Colleges is your 1st choice in this section.

Make sure you research the school of your choice prior to making a selection on the application. Factors you should consider include; distance to campus, travel risks in going to campus, majors offered, and cultural fit. ***If awarded, you will forfeit the scholarship if you transfer to another school before completing your degree.***

You will also provide your high school academic information (and college information if you have attended college after graduating from high school).

Transcripts:

You will be required to upload the following documents **by January 31, 2027, by 11:59 pm PT**:

- A copy of your unofficial high school transcript showing grades and cumulative GPA.
- A transcript for any community college credits and/or 4-year college/university credits earned after graduating from high school.

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 documents **by January 31, 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/DreamOpportunity. 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 mid-March 2027 if you have been selected as a recipient of the scholarship or not. If you receive a 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 Opportunity 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.