

Opportunity Scholarship

Application Guidelines

November 2017



OPPORTUNITY
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

Make Your College Dreams Come True

TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship for DREAMers in Locked-Out States

TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarships are for DREAMers¹ who live in states where they effectively have no access to college – either because they face paying out-of-state tuition or because their state will simply not admit them into its universities. We call these “locked-out states.”



You may be eligible for our Opportunity Scholarship if you live in and you have or will soon graduate from a high school in one of the locked-out states shown here and you are DACA or TPS eligible or meet our immigration eligibility criteria.

If you do - check out our eligibility criteria below to see if you qualify for our Scholarship!

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 greater emphasis on your demonstrated ability to overcome the barriers and challenges that DREAMers face each and every day.

About Our Award

The Opportunity Scholarship Award will cover your tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals at one of our Partner Colleges up to a maximum of \$80,000 for a bachelor's degree.

¹ 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 meet our immigration eligibility criteria.

The Award is renewable each year – you simply must meet the continuing eligibility criteria – including continuous full-time enrollment (more than 12 credits per term) and a college GPA of 3.0. If you struggle, your Scholar Advisor will be there to help you get back on track.

Important Dates

- November 1, 2017 - Application Opens
- **January 23, 2018 - Application Closes**
- March – Awardees Notified

More Than a Scholarship – A College Committed to Your Success

We have 5 Partner Colleges in 4 states and Washington, D.C. that are committed to serving DREAMers and prepared to offer you the support services you need to help you successfully navigate your college life – both on and off the campus. Each of our Partner Colleges designates a Scholar Advisor to work with our Scholars – individually and as a group. You will not be alone!

Our Opportunity Partner Colleges are below. **Please make sure that you research the school of your choice (majors offered, proximity to home, cultural fit, etc.) prior to making a selection on the application. You will not be allowed to switch schools unless there are extenuating circumstances.**

- Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware
- Eastern Connecticut State University, Windham, Connecticut
- Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon (Alaska, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota applicants only)
- Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee
- Trinity Washington University (women's college), Washington, D.C.

And good news! There's only one application for both the Opportunity Scholarship and College Admission!

Your application for TheDream.US Scholarship Application will also serve as your application to our Opportunity Partner Colleges. You do not need to complete the Partner College application for admission.

Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility

The first step to determine whether to apply for the Scholarship is to confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you are graduating from high school or graduated some time ago and you do not have the financial resources to enroll full time in college, this scholarship may be for you! **You are not eligible if you are currently enrolled in a 4-year college.**

You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Have graduated or will graduate from high school in a locked out-state by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year with a GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale;
2. Have taken the SAT or ACT;
3. Are not currently enrolled in a four-year college;
4. Intend to relocate to and enroll full-time in a bachelor's degree program at one of our Opportunity Partner Colleges in the Fall term of the 2018-2019 academic year;
5. Have significant unmet financial need;
6. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday; and
7. Have DACA or TPS or certify that you meet the immigration eligibility criteria set forth below.

TheDream.US Immigration Eligibility Criteria

As part of the application you will be required to attest, under the penalty of perjury, that you have DACA, TPS, **or** that, to the best of your knowledge, you meet the following immigration eligibility criteria:

- You were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- You came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
- You have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
- You were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012 and had no lawful status;
- You are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States;
- You 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; and
- You will apply for lawful presence or legal status as soon as the laws allow you to do so.

Step 2: Completing the Application

Application Deadline: January 23, 2018, 11:59 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

Once you have decided that you are eligible to apply, your next step is to complete and submit your online application and supporting documents by January 23, 2018, **by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.**

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

You can apply for the Scholarship by going to our website: <http://www.thedream.us/>

One Application for both the Scholarship and College Admission!

Your application for TheDream.US Scholarship Application will also serve as your application to our Opportunity Partner Colleges. **You do not need to complete the Partner College application for admission.**

Here is an overview of our application. We try to keep it simple and straight forward.

Demographic, Academic, and Financial Information

You will provide us with your demographic, academic, and financial information. This is the same information that you will include in most of your college applications. However, you do not need to upload any financial records.

While we will consider your GPA and extracurricular activities in selecting finalists, the most important part of your application are your two essays.

Essays

While we will consider your GPA and extracurricular activities in selecting finalists, the most important part of your application are your two essays.

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?

A Reference

We ask you to provide the contact information from someone who knows you well and has served in one of these roles for you: a teacher, counselor, mentor, coach, employer, community leader, or religious leader. Your reference must be at least 21 years of age and must not be related to you.

Supplemental Documents

As part of your application, you must upload the following documents **by January 23, 2018 by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time:**

Transcripts:

- For first time college students, a copy of your official high school transcript or high school equivalency diploma and test scores and information detailing your previously earned college credits (if applicable).
- For community college graduates, a copy of your official community college transcript.

Note: Your application is not complete until all required documents are uploaded.

WE CANNOT CONSIDER INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.

Step 3: Notification

ISTS (the company that administers our scholarship program) will notify you by the end of March 2018 whether you have received a scholarship. If you do not receive a scholarship, you may reapply in future scholarship rounds if you meet the eligibility requirements for that round. If you do receive a scholarship, the next step is to accept the award.

Step 4: Accepting the Award

ISTS will send you a link to accept the award. PLEASE accept it by the deadline given so you do not miss out on this incredible opportunity to realize your college dreams. If you decide not to accept – just indicate this on the form and let us know why!

Step 5: Taking the Pledge

Being selected as a DREAMer Scholar is an honor and a privilege. To make the most of the Scholarship award, we will ask you commit to your own academic achievement and success as well as to supporting the academic achievement and success of other DREAMer Scholars. As a DREAMer Scholar, you pledge to:

- Thanking the donors who have made your scholarship possible;
- Promptly responding to emails, text messages, and other communications from ISTS and TheDream.US;
- Promptly notifying ISTS of any change in your telephone number, email or home address or change in your immigration status;
- Enrolling in the Fall Term after receiving the scholarship and maintaining fulltime status and regular attendance;
- Building and maintaining a close relationship with your student advisor;
- Developing and using an education plan for completion of your degree;
- Maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better;
- Taking advantage of your college’s academic support programs;
- Participating in the Scholars’ Community by supporting and mentoring fellow and new scholars and identifying opportunities to the “pay it forward” through service in your college or community; and
- Supporting and improving TheDream.US Scholarship Program by providing feedback through surveys online discussions and by helping us promote the program to friends and family.

Questions? We’re Here to Help!

Email: TheDream.US@applyISTS.com and reference TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship Program in the subject line.

Telephone: 1-(855) 670-ISTS (4787) and ask for the 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.