



NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE DREAM.US

National Scholarship Program Guide

2020-2021



**TheDream.US
is more than
a scholarship;
our team of
people and
our college and
career support
services will
guide you in
your journey.**

You are part of a community of over 5,000 students 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 to ISTS Program Support and ask about TheDream.US Scholarship Program:
 - ✉ TheDream.US@apply!STS.com
 - ☎ 1-(855) 376-7076
- 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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The Scholar Pledge

I believe in my future and myself.

I commit to enroll and persevere in college.

I commit to support other DREAMers
who want to go to college.

I 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.



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 will join the Scholar Facebook Community and accept to receive text messages from TheDream.US and I will respond to emails from TheDream.US National Scholarship Program within two days of receipt.



Persevere while I am in college.

- ☐ I will build and maintain a relationship with my Scholar Advisor by checking-in at least once per term to review my progress.
- ☐ If I am struggling to meet my commitments, I will work with my Scholar Advisor to develop a plan to get on track to complete college.
- ☐ I will work with my Scholar Advisor to develop and use an educational plan with goals for the completion of my degree. I will review and update this plan with my Scholar Advisor at the beginning of each year.
- ☐ I will work with my Scholar Advisor to identify and participate in available academic support programs (e.g., tutoring, study workshops, etc.) as I need them.



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

- ☐ I will pay it forward by either supporting and mentoring fellow and new DREAMer Scholars or through other service at my college or in the community.
- ☐ I will support and help improve TheDream.US Program by providing feedback through surveys and online discussions and by helping promote the program to friends and family.



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

- ☐ I will join TheDream.US Alumni Network to connect with fellow graduates and take advantage of career resources.
- ☐ I will keep TheDream.US Scholarship Program informed as to how I have used my education to help others and myself.



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 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 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 our scholarship that are not answered here.

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



"To my fellow Scholars, you are not alone."

YULISSA, GRADUATE, BARUCH COLLEGE

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 payments
- Approved breaks in enrollment
- Determine your renewal status

Login

(dream.applyists.net)



Your Scholar Hub

- Your Scholarship Program Guide
- Your Partner College Directory
- Latest News/Emails
- Career Connections
- Scholar Resources

Scholar Hub

(thedream.us/for-scholars)



ISTS Program Support

- To change your partner college
- Notify of a break in enrollment
- Request an exception
- Get help with the acceptance or renewal form

✉ TheDream.US@applyISTS.com

☎ 1-(855) 376-7076



Your Facebook Community

- Private, closed
- Connect with scholars 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

Your Application ID: 2846307
 Scholarship Type: First Time College Student
 Scholar Status: Eligible (as of most recently completed form)
 Current Partner College: Lehman College
Breaks in Enrollment:
 Maximum Award Amount: \$33,000.00
 Total Amount Used: \$29,467.60
 Last Payment made on 9/22/2018 for \$4,104.60
 Award Amount Remaining: \$3,532.40

When will I receive my award?

We calculate and pay your award each term. We will send your award to your college for deposit in your account 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/](https://dream.applyists.net/)

How much is my award?

The amount of your award varies by your state; whether you received our award as a high school or community college graduate; and whether you are enrolled in a two or four-year college. To determine your maximum term award, see the table in [Appendix A](#).



There are three caps on your award:

1. Your award will never be more than your actual cost of tuition and fees for the term after the application of state aid*;
2. Your award will never be more than the maximum award for the term; and
3. Your award will never be more than your unmet need after applying all other state, institutional, and scholarship aid.

* You must apply for any available state aid if you are eligible. In Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York we will determine your award after the application of state aid. In California, Texas, Oregon, or Washington State we will not consider your state aid in calculating your award.

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

You do not need to take any action! 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 account.

Check your [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.

Managing Your Award *(continued)*

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).

If your tuition and fees are covered by other financial aid, you may use TheDream.US award to pay for other costs of attendance – including housing and meals.

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).

Can I use my award for classes required for a double major or a second degree?

No. Our scholarship is intended to cover one major and one degree. You may seek a minor if it does not require additional credits beyond those required for your degree.²

Will my award be reduced by other financial aid?

If you are going to a Partner College in Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York, 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.

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

Most of our scholars receive a \$1,000/year award for books, supplies, and transportation (called a “stipend”). You are eligible for the stipend unless you live in California or Washington State or you are a Purdue Global University Scholar.

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.



“When I found out I received TheDream.US Scholarship, my goals changed; they became bigger.”

BRIAN, SCHOLAR

2. At some colleges you are required to enroll in a joint bachelor’s/master’s degree program that requires a fifth year. You may only use your funds for this dual degree program with the permission of TheDream.US.

Managing Your Award *(continued)*

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.

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. Upon receiving your legal status, send an email to ISTS Program Support and your Scholar Advisor and Financial Aid Advisor to notify them of your change in status. ISTS will confirm with your Partner College the term in which you become eligible for federal aid.

Can I use my award to study abroad?

No. Our scholarship cannot be used for study abroad programs.

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 \$500 stipend for books, supplies, and transportation costs (CA scholars do not receive a stipend).

State University

State	University
CA	All 4-year public Partner Colleges
CO	All CO Partner Colleges
FL	All FL Partner Colleges
IL	National Louis University
NJ	Rutgers University – Newark; Essex County College
NV	Nevada State College
NY	All NY Partner Colleges
TX	All TX Partner Colleges
VA	NOVA; George Mason University

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.

These funds will be deducted from your overall scholarship total.

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 that your DACA or TPS authorization is current or certify that you meet the immigration eligibility criteria.*

You will not be able to renew if:

-  Your GPA has been below a 2.0 for more than one academic year;
-  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.**

* Note: As long as DACA or TPS is in effect, you must continue to renew your authorization to remain eligible for the 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 as a High School Graduate	Three years to earn an associate degree or transfer to a 4 YR Partner College; plus 3 years to complete your bachelor's degree
Started at a 4 YR Partner College as a High School Graduate	Six years to earn bachelor's degree
Started at a 4 YR Partner College as a Community College Graduate	Three years to earn 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!**

What to Do If I Struggle

We ask you strive to maintain full-time, continuous enrollment (12 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](#)



"I didn't quite get it right the first semester... By speaking with my TheDream.US advisors and letting them know I was struggling, they supported me and helped me come up with a plan to fulfill my graduation requirements."

JOSIE, GRADUATE, BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (AA) & HUNTER COLLEGE (BA)

Can I take a term off (break in enrollment)?

Yes. If special circumstances require you to take a term off or to drop all your classes mid-term, you should:

- ☐ **Notify both ISTS and 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** to develop a plan for completing your degree on time (3 years if an associate degree; 6 years if a bachelor's degree).

You cannot take off more than two terms (or three if you are on the quarter system). Your time off will be included in the maximum time you have to use your award.

Appeal: You may be able to appeal the loss of your award. Not all appeals will be granted, and our decision is final. To appeal, you must:

- ☐ First, meet **with your Scholar Advisor** to develop a plan for completing your degree; and
- ☐ Second, **submit an email to ISTS and your Scholar Advisor** explaining (1) the extenuating circumstance, and (2) the plan you have developed with your Scholar Advisor.



If you fail to notify ISTS of your break in enrollment, you will risk losing your scholarship!

What to Do If I Struggle *(continued)*

Can I enroll less than full time?

Yes. If special circumstances require that you enroll in less than 12 credits, **reach out to your Scholar Advisor** to discuss the circumstances and develop a plan for completing your degree on time.

What happens if I fail or drop a class?

If you fail or drop a class and need to retake it, you will not lose your scholarship and 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.



If you drop a course before the add/drop deadline, your college may refund some or all of your tuition and fees for the class.

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 do 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 or reach out to TheDream.US or ISTS.

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 remains below a 2.0 for more than one academic year, you will lose your scholarship.

Everyone struggles. Your fellow Scholars have study tips for success:

- Use the Cornell Method to take notes
- Review your 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



Transferring My Scholarship to a Partner College

You may be able to transfer your scholarship to another Partner College in your state if you have applied and been accepted.

You must continue to meet all the eligibility requirements, including eligibility for in-state tuition (if applicable). As stated in the Scholar Commitments, you are required to have an education plan. If you are transferring it is important to meet with your Scholar Advisor to ensure you can stay on track with your education plan.

As soon as you know you are going to transfer, you must:

- ☐ **Contact your Scholar and Financial Advisors** at your current and new Partner Colleges to let them know that you are transferring; and
- ☐ **Notify ISTS Program Support** that you are going to transfer to a different Partner College in your state.



If you do not notify ISTS that you are transferring, you will not receive your award payment!

You may not transfer to the following Partner Colleges without prior approval from TheDream.US:

- × **Illinois:** Arrupe College of Loyola, Illinois College, Illinois Institute of Technology, Lewis University, North Park University, Northeastern Illinois University
- × **New Jersey:** Rutgers University - Newark, Rutgers University - New Brunswick
- × **Virginia:** George Mason University

You are unable to transfer to the following Partner Colleges:

- × **Arizona:** Arizona State University
- × **Illinois:** Dominican University, University of Illinois Chicago

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.

Appendix A

How to Determine your Maximum Scholarship Award and Maximum Number of Years

What is my maximum scholarship award to pay for my tuition and fees?
(Does not apply to CA, CT, IL, NJ, NY, WA, or Purdue Scholars – see below)

I received TheDream.US Scholarship as a ...	And I am attending a ...	My max. annual award is:	My max. total award is:	Max. award may be used over:
<i>High school graduate</i>	Community college	Up to \$8,250	Up to \$16,500	3 Years
<i>High school graduate</i>	4-Year institution	Up to \$8,250	Up to \$33,000	6 Years
<i>Community college graduate</i>	4-Year institution	Up to \$14,500*	Up to \$29,000	3 Years

** \$8,250 at Grand Canyon University*

What is my maximum scholarship award to pay for my tuition and fees?
California, Washington, or Purdue University Global Scholars

I received TheDream.US Scholarship as a ...	And I am attending a ...	My max. annual award is:	My max. total award is:	Max. award may be used over:
<i>California – High School Graduate</i>	Community College	Up to \$2,000	Up to \$4,000	3 years
<i>California or Purdue – High School Graduate</i>	4 – year institution	Up to \$8,250	Up to \$33,000	6 years
<i>California, Purdue, or Washington Community College Graduate</i>	4 – year institution	Up to \$7,250	Up to \$14,500	3 years

What is my maximum scholarship award to pay for my tuition and fees?
Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York Scholars

I received TheDream.US Scholarship as a ...	And I am attending a ...	My max. annual award is cost of tuition and fees after applying state aid ..	My max. total award is:	Max. award may be used over:
<i>High school graduate</i>	Community College	Up to \$8,250	Up to \$16,500	3 years
<i>High school graduate</i>	4 – year institution	Up to \$8,250	Up to \$33,000	6 years
<i>Community college graduate</i>	4-year institution	Up to \$14,500	Up to \$29,000	3 years

Acknowledge you have read the National Program Guide

It is important that you read this Guide to help you understand the National Scholarship Program and how to manage our Scholarship Award. Please complete this Google Form to attest that you have read the entire Program Guide and that if you have any questions, you will reach out to ISTS at TheDream.US@applyISTS.com.

Complete the Google Form >



“TheDream.US Scholarship program
has made the impossible possible.”

CAROLINA, SCHOLAR