

About Us

Opportunity Programs (OP) offer impactful services and support to students from underserved populations, including those who are first-generation, academically underprepared, under-resourced, or undocumented. OP serves diverse student groups such as Achievement First, TheDream.US, Promise Scholars, and more. The program creates a student-centered environment that promotes academic success, engagement, and progress toward graduation. Through collaboration with campus and community partners, OP expands access to postsecondary education and builds strategic connections with community colleges and alumni to further support students' academic journeys.

Contact Us

Christina Irizarry

Director

irizarrych@easternct.edu
(860) 465-3729

Olivia Sidman

Assistant Director

sidmano@easternct.edu
(860) 465-0095

Yesenia (YES-C) Cajigas

Academic Advisor

cajigas@easternct.edu
(860) 465-5150



(860) 465- 0223



opportunityprograms
@easternct.edu



J. Eugene Smith Library,
Room 107

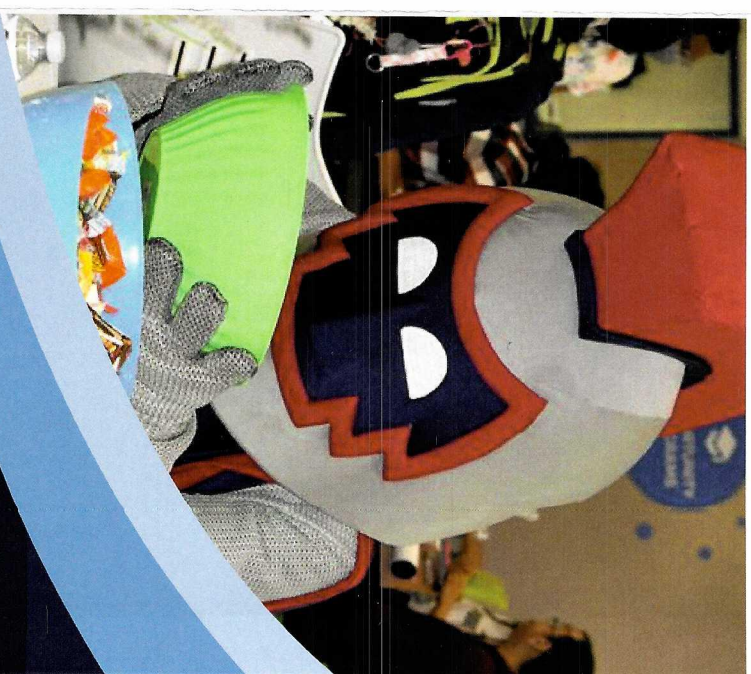
Follow us on our socials



uop_eastern



uopeastern



**OPPORTUNITY
PROGRAMS**



EASTERN
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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 undocumented with or without DACA or TPS 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 more about our eligibility criteria below!

Our Scholars

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 undocumented students face each day.

Our Award

The National Scholarship Award will cover your tuition and fees **up to** a maximum of \$16,500 for an associate degree and \$33,000 for a bachelor's degree 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, 2025 - Application Opens
- February 28, 2026 - Application Closes
- Late-April 2026 – 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 undocumented 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 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 undocumented students because you have access to generous state and institutional aid. If you are a Tennessee student, please apply with our partner [Equal Chance for Education](#) and their Scholarship for Dreamers.

You must be admitted to and eligible for in-state tuition at one of our public Partner Colleges or admitted to one of our private Partner Colleges in your state to receive our National Scholarship.

Note: Due to the recent policy changes in Texas and Florida, we have new Partner Colleges and rules in these states, please see those below.

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 is currently undocumented with or without DACA or TPS who came to the United States before November 1, 2020, and have continuously lived in the United States since then;
2. Entered the United States before the age of 16;
3. Has earned or will earn by the start of the academic year a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, or has obtained a general education development certificate recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States:
 - a. Have graduated or will graduate from a United States high school (or have earned or will earn a high school equivalency diploma) before Fall of 2026;
4. 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 out of high school);
5. Intend to enroll full-time in an associate or bachelor's degree program at a Partner College in your state in the Fall of 2026 or Spring of 2027; and
6. Are eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College you want to attend (not applicable if it is a private Partner College in your state or you live in Texas and plan to attend San Antonio College or South Texas College).
7. Have significant unmet financial need.

Note: This scholarship is intended to support undocumented students. If you are a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident, an international student, or hold a non-immigrant work visa in the

IMPORTANT: Restrictions on Eligibility for Certain States and Partner Colleges

State	Partner College Restrictions
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Canyon University: Our award can only be used at Grand Canyon University (on-campus). It cannot be used at GCU Online.
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASU Online: Preference will be given to STEM majors. If you are not a STEM major, we suggest you consider one of the other online partner colleges. Miami Dade College: You must be eligible or categorized as instate for tuition purposes.
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oglethorpe University: If commuting, you must live within a 25-mile radius of campus.
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASU Online: Our award can only be used if you live in Florida or Texas. Capella University: Our award cannot be used if you live in Massachusetts. Miami Dade College Online: Our award cannot be used if you live in Florida. Strayer University: Our award cannot be used if you live in Massachusetts.
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASU Online: Preference will be given to STEM majors. If you are not a STEM major, we suggest you consider one of the other online partner colleges. San Antonio College: Our award can be used at SAC regardless of whether you qualify for in-state tuition or not. South Texas College: Our award can be used at STC regardless of whether you qualify for in-state tuition or not.

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, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. PST:**

- 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.

Financial Information

Our scholarship is available to low-income students who cannot otherwise afford to go to college. To assess this, we need to understand your financial situation.

Don't forget! You must submit your application and upload the required transcripts **by February 28, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. PST:**

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

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 your online status to update.

- **Incomplete:** Items are missing or are being processed by ISTS. Click on the status button to view additional information about your application, including the status of each requirement.
- **Completed:** 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. Incomplete, Complete):

- ☐ **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 submit the corrected transcript 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

Call: 1(855) 376-7076 and ask for the TheDream.US Scholarship Program

Step 4: Award Notification

ISTS will notify you by email in late-April 2026 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!***



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR **DREAMERS**

Opens November 1

For More Info:
www.TheDream.US





BECAS PARA **DREAMERS**

Se Aceptan Solicitudes Comenzando
1 de Noviembre

Para Mas Información:
www.TheDream.US

