



# Dream Scholarship

A need-based scholarship for undocumented students

## **Scholarship Award: \$10,000 per successful applicant**

Undocumented students often come from disadvantaged backgrounds and face significant socio-economic challenges accessing and transitioning to college. In recognition of these challenges, University of the West (UWest) has set aside a special institutional scholarship fund aimed to increase undocumented students' participation and success in higher education.

Dream Scholarship is designed for select first-time undocumented students matriculating to UWest. A successful scholarship applicant will be awarded \$10,000 annually for up to four years, or eight semesters. Renewal of the scholarship is not guaranteed but depends on the student's performance and funding availability. The scholarship can be applied toward tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, and other expenses required for attendance at UWest.

Students applying for this scholarship must self-declare the underserved/disadvantaged status during their application process. A maximum 800-word Statement of Underserved/Disadvantaged Status is required in addition to the applicant's family financial data.

Priority is given to graduating high school seniors from local area high schools intending to complete a degree at UWest.

## **Number of Awards per Year: 3**

### **Eligibility:**

- The Dream Scholarship is available to **new first-time undocumented** students seeking a **bachelor's degree** at UWest with a declared major.
- Minimum high school **GPA 2.8**.
- Must submit Intent to Enroll for the upcoming fall semester.
- Must submit a **California Dream Act Application** to UWest and demonstrate exceptional financial need.
- Must enroll at UWest full-time (minimum 12 units per semester).



### **Maintaining Scholarship:**

To maintain the Dream Scholarship while at UWest, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Have no (I) "Incomplete" on the transcript. Students must resolve any incomplete course(s) before the Scholarship can be renewed and/or disbursed.
- Maintain full-time enrollment at UWest.
- Uphold academic integrity standards (e.g. refrain from plagiarizing, cheating, etc.).
- Actively engage in student life (e.g. UWest Student Government, student clubs, events, volunteer opportunities, committees, etc.) and/or community service.
- Uphold UWest values and student conduct standards. (The University reserves the right to disqualify a student from scholarship renewal if that student has been held responsible for serious violations of the UWest Student Conduct Code.)

**During the first two weeks of the Spring semester, recipients of the scholarship are reviewed for continued eligibility based on the above-mentioned requirements. Recipients may be disqualified from the scholarship if one or more of these requirements are not met.**

Recipients of the Dream Scholarship are entitled to appeal disqualification should they encounter extenuating circumstances. The appeal needs to be submitted to the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee no later than the beginning of the Spring semester. Each student may qualify for no more than two appeals during their respective course of study. Contact the Financial Aid Office for detailed information.

### **Scholarship Disbursement:**

Disbursement of the Scholarship award is made in two installments, the first in Fall semester and the second in Spring semester. The funds are applied directly to the student's account. The Bursar's Office issues a direct deposit or a stipend check if a student has a credit balance in their account after the add/drop date of each semester.

### **Required Documents for a Successful Application**

1. Completed UWest Financial Aid and Scholarship Application Form;
2. A maximum **800-word essay** detailing circumstances that have contributed to the applicant's underserved/disadvantaged status;
3. Submission of a ***California Dream Act application***.
4. One recommendation letter from the applicant's high school official.



5. (Optional) Any evidence the applicant feels supports the scholarship application.

**Note: The Dream Scholarship Application should be submitted together with the Application for Admission to UWest.** All required documentation for admission and scholarship must be submitted by the indicated deadline. Applications not completed by these dates will not be considered.

**Deadline: June 1**

**Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

1. The scholarship is non-transferable to other students or institutions.
2. The scholarship cannot be deferred.
3. **This scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with Metta Scholarship, Lotus Scholarship, President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship, IBEF Fellowship or UWest Scholarship. Students must return the scholarship funds if other scholarship money is received.**
4. Recipients may be required to engage in an academic plan as necessary to receive and/or maintain the Dream Scholarship.
5. Recipients may become disqualified from the scholarship if they fail to uphold UWest academic or social conduct standards.
6. Recipients may become disqualified after the scholarship is disbursed if their enrollment status changes during the term of the award, in which case students must return the scholarship funds received.
7. When a student declines or returns the Scholarship, it will be considered forfeited and UWest may keep the award or award it to another student.
8. Recipients of the award agree to release to UWest the right to use their images for publication in any format chosen by the university (i.e. print, video, digital image).



### **Tips on Dream Scholarship Essay**

In preparing your maximum 800-word essay, please focus on the specific hardships and circumstances that you feel have disadvantaged you educationally, socially, or culturally, and address how you have dealt with these challenges to overcome the hardships and/or how the Dream Scholarship will support your efforts to overcome such challenges. (Please do not repeat your personal essay.)

Circumstances to be considered include one or more of the following:

#### Financial disadvantages:

- Low-income family
- Student has to contribute to family income

#### Educational disadvantages:

- First person or first generation in the family to attend college
- Family members unable to encourage attending college
- Absence of a college-going culture at home
- College education is not common for graduates of the applicant's high school

#### Social and cultural disadvantages:

- Minority status (race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification, physical handicap) that distinguishes the applicant from the mainstream of American society
- Living in a socio-economically disadvantaged neighborhood