



2023 Definitions & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Definitions

Merit-based aid – Merit aid is a form of college financial aid awarded to students based on their academic and/or extracurricular achievements rather than their financial need. Scholarships are the most common type of merit-based aid.

Non-renewable aid – A non-renewable scholarship is a scholarship that is only awarded for one academic year and is not eligible for renewal. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is not renewable.

Post-secondary institution of education – An institution offering any level of study beyond secondary school including colleges, universities or career technical schools.

Accredited – An accredited school is a college or university or career technical school (post-secondary school) that is recognized by an accrediting agency as conforming to a set of quality educational standards. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes several accrediting agencies.

Not-for-profit – A not-for-profit school does not exist for the purpose of making a profit. Public schools, schools supported by taxes and operated by a local government, and private schools, schools established, conducted and primarily supported by a nongovernmental agency, are considered “not for profit” schools. The Brave Buffalo Scholarship may be used at not-for-profit schools.

For-profit (proprietary) – A school that is owned, managed and run as a profit-making organization. The Brave Buffalo Scholarship may not be used at such a school.

Full-time and part-time status – For the purposes the Brave Buffalo scholarship, a scholarship recipient must be enrolled in at least twelve credit hours of coursework by fall semester. The scholarship committee does not use the terms “full-time” and “part-time” to define student status.

Unweighted GPA – Unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA) calculates the average grade on a 4.0 scale without regard to the difficulty of the coursework.

Weighted GPA – A weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) reflects grades *and* course level rigor. The weighted GPA uses a scale above 4.0 but varies from district to district.

ACT cumulative score – The average of the four subject scores from one ACT test attempt.

ACT superscore – The average of the best score from each of the four subjects from multiple ACT test attempts.

Seven-semester high school transcript – The transcript includes listed courses with grades and a cumulative GPA from both semesters of grades 9, 10 and 11 and the first semester of grade 12.

Parchment - An online transcript-by-request service used by Edmond Public Schools. The student places a request through the system and an official transcript is delivered directly to the destination email.

Non-relative letter of recommendation – A letter recommending the scholarship applicant from an individual who is not a relative of the applicant. Letters often come from school staff, community organization contacts, employers or others who can attest to the applicant’s attributes and achievements firsthand. For the 2023 Brave Buffalo scholarship, the recommendation is optional.

FAQs

Eligibility Requirement

Do I have to attend an Oklahoma college?

No, you may attend academically accredited, not-for-profit institutions or career technical schools in the United States.

May I apply for a scholarship if I don’t know where I’ll be going to school?

Yes. If you don’t know which school you’re going to attend, you may still apply. You will be asked for your first-choice and second-choice schools and your status with those schools – applied, accepted, committed.

I don’t have Straight A’s. May I still be considered for a scholarship?

Yes. The Brave Buffalo Scholarship requires a minimum unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.0 and does not have a minimum requirement for ACT or SAT scores. In addition to academic

performance, the scholarship committee reviews areas of performance such as leadership, community service and other extra-curricular and work activities.

I'm planning to go to career technical school. May I still apply for a scholarship?

Yes. The Brave Buffalo scholarship may be applied to tuition and other educational expenses at career technical schools as defined by the scholarship committee. The scholarship committee does reserve the right to make reductions to the scholarship award amount in light of projected educational expenses.

I plan to pursue a degree exclusively online. May I apply for a scholarship?

Yes, but please read on. An online degree program does not disqualify an applicant so long as the degree-granting postsecondary institution is an accredited not-for-profit school. However, the scholarship committee places value on in-person time with faculty, networking with students and would like to see students engaged in predominantly in-person learning, realizing some courses may be offered online.

I attended Centennial Elementary for a year or more, but it did not include my 5th grade year. May I still apply?

No. The alumni scholarship is to be awarded to a Centennial student who graduated from the school.

I attended Centennial Elementary for a year or more including my 5th grade year but I am not a graduating senior at Edmond Memorial, North or Santa Fe High Schools. May I still apply?

No. The scholarship is intended for a student who has continued through the Edmond Public Schools system to high school graduation. Due to re-districting and moves within the city limits, Centennial alumni at all three of Edmond's public high schools are eligible; not just Centennial's feeder school – Memorial.

Do I have to know my major to apply?

No. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is not tied to a specific area of study. Field of study is not a question on the application.

The Application Process

May I save my application and finish it later?

No. While a Google Form application will automatically save periodically while open on your computer screen, there is not a way to save, close, and return at a later time. The Committee recommends you be ready to start and finish the application in one session. You may open the Google Form application and review all questions in advance so you are prepared when you begin.

If I need to edit my application, may I do so?

Yes, if you save the editing link provided after submitting your Google Form application. Your save linked may be used up until the application deadline and will then no longer work.

Will a copy of my application responses be provided to me?

No. Due to the settings used for this Google Form application, a copy of your responses will not be emailed to you. If you would like to keep a copy of your responses, we recommend you print before submitting.

May I give you a give you my transcript directly?

No. Your transcript must come directly from your school. It is the scholarship committee's preference that students use *Parchment's* transcript-by-request system used by all Edmond high schools. If needed, a counselor or registrar may email the official transcript directly to scholarships@centennialpto.org Please be sure to request the transcript well before the scholarship deadline. These requests are usually processed in days, not hours.

May I fax or email my application?

Nothing may be submitted by fax or mail. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is an online Google Form application. The transcript and optional letter of recommendation may be emailed.

May I send in part of my application after a scholarship's deadline has passed?

No. Both the online application and email requested materials must all be received by the deadline to be considered. The committee will not review partial applications and will not extend to the deadline. If you are having technical difficulties with your submission, please email scholarships@centennialpto.org, or if needed, call Centennial Elementary at 405-340-2275.

Application Review & Notifications/Awards

Who makes the award decisions?

The Brave Buffalo Scholarship committee is comprised of current Centennial administrators, faculty and parents. These individuals read and evaluate each application based on the scholarship's guidelines.

Who funds this scholarship?

The Parent-Teacher Organization, at the request of Centennial Administration, launched the Brave Buffalo scholarship in 2023 by designating privately donated PTO funds for a single \$1,000 scholarship. It is the intention of the PTO and Administration to continue this line-item designation in the PTO budget each year.

When will I find out if I've been awarded a scholarship and will you let me know if I have not?

The scholarship recipient will be notified by phone and email (official award notification) on approximately May 1. Applicants not receiving the scholarship will be emailed shortly

thereafter. If you have not received an email in this timeframe, you may reach out to scholarships@centennialpto.org.

What happens if I am selected as a scholarship recipient?

The scholarship recipient will be given the date and time of the Centennial Elementary Morning Student Assembly in early May to appear in person to receive the award and be celebrated by Centennial's students. An inability to attend will result in forfeiture of the award. The recipient's award notification email will include instructions on how to claim the award.

Do I need to pay scholarship money back?

No. Scholarships are charitable grants that do not need to be paid back, provided they are used for the purpose stated in the scholarship award.

What expenses can the scholarship pay?

Scholarship awards may go to the payment of tuition, fees and books.

Will I receive a check for my scholarship?

No. Scholarship payments are made directly to the school financial aid office of the college, university or career technical school where you enroll.

When will you send my scholarship payment to the school?

Once your Claim Form providing verification of enrollment is received by the Centennial Scholarship Chair, the scholarship payment will be issued to the school by the Centennial PTO Treasurer. Note: Many schools wait until after the class add/drop period to apply your scholarship funds to your account.

What if I change colleges after you sent my check to the previous school?

Please contact your previous school's bursar's office immediately and have the check sent back to Centennial Elementary [4400 N. Coltrane Rd, Edmond OK 73034] and email the Centennial Scholarship Chair at scholarships@centennialpto.org to provide notification. We cannot process a check to your new school until we receive the funds from your previous school AND a new verification of enrollment form from you. The new school must be an accredited not-for-profit postsecondary institution.

What if I don't enroll by fall of 2023? Do I give the scholarship back or may I get an extension?

Immediately contact the Scholarship Chair at scholarships@centennialpto.org if this situation arises. The Centennial PTO must pay out the scholarship within the calendar year the award is made but may only do so if the recipient is enrolled and attending their selected school. The Scholarship Director, in collaboration with the school Principal and the PTO Board Chair, may choose to redistribute the scholarship to a runner-up scholarship candidate if feasible.

I received a scholarship and I'd like to send a thank you note. Where should I send my letter?

Please send thank you letters to Centennial Elementary Scholarship Chair. The mailing address is 4400 N. Coltrane Rd, Edmond OK 73034.

If I receive a scholarship one year, will I automatically receive an award for the following year?

No. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is a one-time award made to an eligible high school senior. It is not a renewable scholarship.

I have a question you didn't answer here. What should I do?

Please contact our Scholarship Chair at scholarships@centennialpto.org