**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Eligibility**

1. Who is eligible for this scholarship?
* Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for the Brave Scholars Program:
* Be accepted to enroll in an approved educator preparation program leading to initial licensure at UNC Pembroke
* Be one of the following:
* A North Carolina high school senior; able to use an award of up to eight (8) semesters
* A student transferring from a community college applying to the educator preparation program
* Minimum Academic Requirements:
* Students must have a minimum unweighted GPA of 2.75
1. What if I want to teach something other than Elementary Education (K-6) or Special Education (K-12) – can I still apply?
* Only those willing to teach in an elementary education (grades K-6) or special education (grades K-12) are eligible to apply and be considered for the program. Students are welcome to complete minors in other areas of study
1. What obligations do I need to meet to receive support from the Brave Scholars Program?
* Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 while at UNC Pembroke
* Participate in all Brave Scholars programming activities (unless an exception is requested and approved by the program coordinator)
* Uphold the North Carolina Teacher Code of Ethics
* Apply to Brave Scholars prior to admission to the Educator Preparation Program

**Application & Selection**

1. What does the application process look like?
* Students must complete the application listed on our website which includes:
* General Demographic Information
* Provide a copy of unofficial transcript
* 650 maximum word essay
* 2-minute video
* 2 letters of recommendation from a teacher or educational professional
* Once all eligible applications are reviewed, finalists will be selected and invited to participate in a finalist interview day during February. Following the interviews, the Brave Scholars Committee will meet to make the final selection for those applicants who will be offered a Brave Scholars Scholarship. All applicants will be notified of their status by the end of March.

1. Who can I ask to write a letter of recommendation?
* Recommendations should come from a teacher or educational professional who knows the applicant well enough to speak of their character and work ethic as a student.
* Recommenders can be a teacher, coach, school counselor, advisor, or anyone who serves in an educational capacity.
1. If I am selected as a Brave Scholar, am I automatically guaranteed acceptance as a student at UNC Pembroke?
* No. Students must be first accepted by the university and submit an intent to enroll before being confirmed as a Brave Scholars participant.
1. What do I need to know for the finalist interview?
* Please prepare for a 25-minute interview in front of the Brave Scholars Committee
* All applicants should dress in business attire

**Financial Commitment**

1. How long do I have to work in one of the three partner districts?
* Each year of scholarship assistance equals one year of service at a school in one of our partner counties (Columbus, Robeson, Scotland)
1. What if I can’t find a job teaching in one of the three participating districts?
* The program will ensure that you are a top candidate for employment with one of our participating partnering districts.
1. What if I decide to change majors or move to a different school?
* Students who decide to change majors will no longer be eligible for the scholarship.

**Other Questions**

1. Can Brave Scholars award be deferred for a gap year?
* This scholarship cannot be deferred, so all prospective students are encouraged to apply when they are preparing to begin their time of study
1. What if I still have questions?
* For any additional questions about the program or application, please email us at bravescholarsprogram@uncp.edu or call 910.521.6672