

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

Students basically have six main choices after finishing their post-secondary education:

1. Entering a program at a university (public or private)
2. Entering a program at a college (public or private)
3. Entering an apprenticeship
4. Entering the military (further education this way)
5. Entering the workforce
6. Taking a “gap year”

This section will give general information about [applying to university](#).

- Students applying to a university within Ontario will use the **Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC)**. This is the central portal for all publicly-funded universities in Ontario.
- Students applying to a private university, or a university outside of Ontario must go to each university’s individual website to check for admission requirements, admission forms and registration costs / due dates.
- Students applying to American schools will be required to submit either SAT or ACT scores – or both. Check with the school you’re applying to, to see what the requirements are. We generally recommend that students write their SAT / ACT tests twice to improve their scores.
- It is recommended that students who want to attend university start investigating programs in **GRADE 11** so that they can properly plan their grade 12 year to meet any admission requirements for their prospective program.
- Students should partake in any university exploration activities offered at the high schools. Locally, Lakehead University will offer a grade 12 Preview Day in December, and a grade 11 Preview Day in February. As well, all Ontario universities are represented at University Information Program (UIP) night, that occurs annually in the fall, hosted by an area high school.
- Information about programs at Ontario universities can also be discovered through one easy online portal: www.electronicinfo.ca
- Information about transfers from college programs to university programs can be found through the online portal: www.ontransfer.ca

- Remember that universities may differ from one another with regard to policies and requirements. Check their websites carefully and ask for clarification if needed.
- Universities will communicate with students through e-mail. Students should have a current e-mail account and check their security filters to allow e-mails from universities.
- In Ontario, students will require **six grade 12 U/M level** courses, including any necessary program pre-requisite courses. If the student takes more than six courses, the university will generally look at the top six marks.
- Most universities will accept repeated courses, and look at the higher mark for that course.
- Students completing AP exams can check their prospective university for information on the university's approach to AP courses for credit. This will vary from university to university.
- Most program require a **minimum 70% overall average** (over 6 courses). This average can be higher in highly-competitive programs.
- Some universities will offer programs to students who do not meet the minimum grade average requirement but are in the 65 – 69% range. This will vary from school to school. Students will be required to meet with academic advisors to ensure that they are handling the demands of the post-secondary environment.
- On the university's website, check out any "**future students**" categories. Also look for the words "**undergraduate programs**". Programs may be organized alphabetically or according to each **faculty** (department).
- A basic Bachelor's degree is normally 3-4 years. An Honours Bachelor degree is normally 4-5 years. Post-graduate degrees include Masters and Doctorates.
- Some careers require the completion of (or at least the completion of a couple years of) an undergraduate degree and then entry into a professional degree program. Examples would be: doctor, lawyer, veterinarian, dentist
- Some degrees are offered "**concurrently**", which means that upon completion of the program, two degrees are earned. An example would be the Concurrent Education program at Lakehead University.

- Many university programs offer co-operative learning experiences, and many also offer international study experiences. This will differ from university to university.
- A “**major**” indicates that you have a concentrate of your courses in one particular area of study. A “**minor**” is the lesser concentration of your courses. Some programs may offer double majors as well (there are a lot of combinations, depending on each university).
- Most universities have “**admissions and recruitment**” personnel to help students with information about programs, requirements, tuition etc. You can access these people by phone, e-mail or sometimes live chat lines depending on the university.
- Universities offer campus tours throughout the year. Some universities will offer financial bursaries / assistance to students who come from a distance. This will vary from university to university. Many websites also offer virtual tours.
- Students apply to an Ontario university through OUAC. They will have accounts pre-created for them by the school. They can access these accounts with a PIN number, which is normally sent to the school in mid-November. Students can complete the online application from any computer. Guidance counsellors can assist with this process if needed.
- There is a fee for applying to university. The fee grants the student 3 choices – either 3 programs at one university, or 3 programs different universities. There is an additional fee for every choice above the base 3. The base fee for this year is \$150, with \$50 charged for each additional choice.
- Many university programs will have additional requirements as well, such as a portfolio submission or an audition. As well, many universities require that a student complete a personal statement of experience to accompany their application. If it is not required but recommended, it would be in the student’s best interest to do it anyway.
- Universities receive students’ grade 11 and grade 12 marks. These are automatically sent to OUAC by the school. Grade 11 marks may be used to determine early offers of admission; however, the basis of admission are grade 12 marks. Students are informed that offers are conditional and are based on continuation of good marks / meeting program requirements; the university reserves the right to revoke any offers.

- Universities will often have 2-3 rounds of admission offers. Once students apply, they will receive responses anytime from January to May (this is not under the high school's control), so patience is needed.
- Some universities will give students alternate offers if they do not get admission to their first choice.
- There is a final date by which students must accept their programs. Some universities may also require monetary deposits at this time. We recommend that students start deciding in April, as school-based scholarships are often based on confirming post-secondary destinations.
- Most universities have scholarships available to students. Entrance scholarships are based on marks and are granted upon admission to the school. Additional scholarships will normally require the completion of application forms. Check the "**financial aid**" section of each university's website for information on scholarships.
- The **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)** governs student loans. Applications are normally available in the spring. OSAP can also offer bursaries to students (which do not need to be repaid) upon review of their application. Further information on OSAP can be found at: <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal>
- Tuition amounts will vary from university to university, and program to program. Residence fees will also vary.
- Most universities will offer guaranteed residence spots to first-year students, provided that the student completes all required documentation and meets marks requirements (if applicable). Read the residence information very carefully and note any deadlines for applications, deposits etc.
- Universities will also have sites dedicated to their extra-curricular activities and their athletic programs for students who are interested in these.
- Universities have student success centres to aid students in their transition to post-secondary education. Students with IEP's are encouraged to self-identify and become aware of the accommodations and resources available to them as these will vary from university to university.

Students can make an appointment with their high school guidance counsellor for information or assistance with their transition to post-secondary education.