

POST- SECONDARY INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



COLLEGE FAQ

Why should University bound students know about College?

- *It could be the better option. The majority of students in Ontario will go to college. They may start at university and even complete their degree and head to college afterwards for the specialized one-year programs.*
- *College can give more specific preparation for a given job or career.*

What resources are available to students researching College?

- *Attend the Ontario College Information Program held annually*
- *Access information through The Ontario College Guide @ www.ontariocolleges.ca*
- *Obtain individual college calendars or their websites*
- *Speak to individuals in the career field*
- *Speak to college representatives and program directors*
- *Visit the college campus*
- *Talk to your school counselor, family members and family friends*

What can students do to ensure they are choosing the right program for themselves?

- *Consider a co-op placement at school*
- *Speak to individuals in anticipated career field*
- *Find a mentor*
- *Consider Coop*
- *See your counselor to do a career assessment/Interest survey*
- *Examine your interests, abilities and personality*

How do students apply to College?

- *Students apply on-line through the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) @ www.ontariocolleges.ca*
- *The Guidance Department provides an in-service in late November*
- *Students can make five (5) program choices, with no more than three (3) choices at any one college*
- *There is an \$95. application fee, which is non-refundable*

What factors do the Colleges look at in the decision making process?

- *Diploma or mature student status (19 years) with required courses*
- *Some colleges use both the grade 11 and 12 marks in the selection process*
- *Additional criteria are often required such as an interview, portfolio, testing, supplementary application, experience, and/or attendance at an orientation session*

What are the significant dates?

- *February 1st - deadline for equal consideration*
- *May 3rd - students must confirm their acceptance*
- *June 15th - the earliest date that the colleges will expect payment of tuition fees*

What is the average cost of College per year?

Tuition: Certificate/Diploma \$2020

Bachelor Degree Program \$4500

Collaborative College/University Program - \$4300

Ancillary Fees \$700

Books/Supplies \$1200

PRIVATE CAREER COLLEGES

What are some of the benefits or drawbacks of private colleges?

Visit the Private Career College website for listing of the various colleges and the programs offered: National Association of Career Colleges @ www.nacc.ca

Benefits

- *Shorter length of time to complete program*
- *Greater concentration on subject area*
- *Students could begin to earn an income at an earlier date*

Drawbacks

- *Initial outlay of money is greater*
- *Programs are condensed with shorter breaks*
- *Not financially supported by the Ministry of Education*

UNIVERSITY FAQ

How do students choose a program of study at University?

- *Examine your passions, interests, abilities and personality*
- *Obtain university calendars and review the programs offered*
- *Speak to individuals in anticipated career areas (find a mentor)*
- *Ask family members and friends for suggestions*

What resources are available to students?

- *Research by accessing information electronically @ www.electronicinfo.ca*
- *Attend the Ontario University Fair held annually in late September at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre*
- *Attend the university information sessions held at St. Augustine C.H.S. in November*
- *Obtain first-year university handbooks*
- *Refer to the university course calendars on university websites*
- *Speak to university representatives, school counselors, friends and family*
- *Visit the university Campus Days program*

What criteria are used to determine entry into University programs?

- *High school diploma or mature student status (21 years)*
- *Specific prerequisite courses depending on program applied to*
- *High school graduates require six (6) grade 12 U level or M level courses*
- *Specific cut off averages for program of choice*
- *Some programs may require a supplementary application, interview, audition and/or portfolio, depending on the program. Deadlines vary. Please refer to university websites for specific requirements.*

How do Universities view repeated courses: summer or night school and correspondence courses?

- *Most universities will take the higher mark when a course has been repeated. However, it is wise to check with each specific university's admissions office.*
- *Generally, all methods of delivery are seen equally. However, we would recommend you check with the university and the specific program.*

How do students apply to University?

- *Students apply on-line @ www.ouac.on.ca/101/*
- *Students must have their PIN letters (on-line access code) which is distributed in late November by the Guidance Department*
- *The \$115. application fee covers the initial 3 choices; each additional choice is \$38.*
- *We recommend that students select programs using the ranges published at the www.electronicinfo.ca website. We urge students to be realistic.*

What are the timelines?

- *PIN letter (access codes) are distributed in late November*
- *January 13th - deadline for submitting application for equal consideration*
- *February 5th - recommended deadline to make changes to their application*
- *May 25th - date that universities must respond to students application for admission*
- *May 25th - earliest date by which universities require responses to offers of admission.*

How much does university cost per year?

Tuition ranges \$5000 - \$6000 +

Residence \$4000 - \$7000

Meal Plan \$3000 - \$5000

Books, utilities and transportation are extra

AREAS THAT CAUSE THE MOST ANXIETIES FOR STUDENTS/PARENTS

My friends have all heard from a university and I still have not. What should I do?

- *Check that your application has been processed*
- *Universities are beginning to have rolling acceptances and students will often hear at different times. All students should receive a response by May 25th.*

What if I do not receive a letter of acceptance from any university?

- *In late June, OUAC will provide a phone number or website that students can access to find out what universities have available places and are still accepting applications. Students can then amend their application form to include this new choice.*
- *Consider attending St. Augustine C.H.S. for an additional semester to upgrade marks.*

What if I'm concerned my marks may not meet the published ranges?

- *Consider applying to college. Explore the Bachelor Degree programs offered at various colleges*
- *Consider the General Arts and Science Programs at College that provides transferable credits to university.*

How do we pay for university?

- *Consider applying for scholarships, bursaries and/or Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).*
- *Scholarships are often available to children of parents at their place of work and the competition is often less intensive, so parents are encouraged to check with their employers.*
- *Banks also provide loans to students.*

How will my daughter/son manage being away from home at such a young age?

The universities reported that they did not see any significant increases in adjustment problems as compared to other years. However, the parents displayed more anxiety than their children.

What if my child chooses the wrong program or has second thoughts about completing their current program?

Students will not be 100% certain that they have chosen the correct program until they are attending. Therefore, the likelihood is great that students may change their direction. If students change within the same faculty, chances are they will not fall behind in their credits. However, if a student wishes to make a considerable change, then they should approach the college/university counseling department to understand the implications of the change.

Will my past grades affect my chances of getting into a university?

The grade 12 marks are still the basis of acceptance. The grade 11 marks are transmitted to the universities along with the grade 12 marks, and some universities may be using the grade 11 marks in their selection process. However, at this point, the universities are only using the grade 11 marks to the student's advantage. For example, if a student presents strong final first semester grade 12 marks, some universities and only some programs may look at the grade 11 marks. If the grade 11 marks are strong, the universities may offer an early, conditional letter of acceptance. If the grade 11 marks are not as strong, the universities will wait for the mid-term mark of second semester to make their decision, when the majority of applicants are assessed.



RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

Career Assessment/Interest Surveys:

www.careercruising.com

Username – ycdsb

Password – augustine

Scholarships, Bursary and Financial Aid

www.schoolfinder.com

www.studentawards.com

www.scholarshipsCanada.com

Information on the Ontario Student Assistance Program referred to as OSAP, visit:

<http://osap.gov.on.ca>

Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC)

www.ouac.on.ca

Ontario University e-Information

www.electronicinfo.ca

Ontario College Application Service (OCAS)

www.ontariocolleges.ca

Ontario College/University Transfer Guide: Going from college to university

www.ocutg.on.ca

Degree Programs at College

www.ontariocolleges.ca

Click on:

1. "Find"
2. Enter: Applied Degree Programs

Council of Ontario Universities

www.cou.on.ca

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