



St. Dominic C.S.S.

University & College Information

2008-2009

Your Responsibilities

- Many colleges and universities visit St. Dominic from Sept-Dec.; attend these informative sessions
- Check out college/university websites, publications in 106 and tours
- Decide on a program you wish to study; talk to counselors, family, teachers & friends
- Determine which colleges/universities offer your program. Remember, there are 20 universities and 28 colleges in Ontario
- Ensure that you are willing to travel to any college/university you choose, and that you can afford to live away from home
- Visit your college/university choices. Remember, you will spend a lot of your money attending a college/university, so it's wise to know what you are getting for your money
- See Ms. Dunford for your pin number for university application— Nov/Dec
- Keep a record of your application, pin #, username and password

Application fees are payable to OCAS for college or OUAC for university

- Check your online information after each grade transmission to make certain that your data is accurate. See Ms. Dunford or Mrs. Jackson if you have any concerns
- Change your application if you change your mind
- Listen to announcements and stop in to the Library regularly to check the bulletin board

College: OCAS website: www.ontariocolleges.ca

University: OUAC website: www.ouac.on.ca
www.electronicinfo.ca

Student Services Responsibilities

- Each student planning to attend university will be provided with an OUAC pin number – college applicants will get their OEN number from Ms. Dunford
- All midterm and final grades will be transmitted electronically to OCAS/OUAC. After each transmission, you should double-check your online information
- Any academic information that requires change must be completed by Mrs. Jackson

Scholarships & Awards

Many colleges and universities have scholarships available. For many university programs, students with averages above 80% are automatically considered. For more information go to eINFO under further information and check scholarships or check the college or university calendars found in Student Services.

Take the time to apply to scholarships & bursaries—you may be the successful recipient!

1. Check the scholarship filing cabinet in 106 regularly for scholarships that are applicable to you and the deadline dates
2. Scholarship/bursary information arrives every week from Oct-June so check regularly
3. The Internet has many web sites for scholarships that you may apply for (see below)
4. Give yourself plenty of time to submit your application
5. Make sure that you understand the criteria for the award—you may have to call the association directly to clarify questions that you might have
6. Check with parents and guardians for awards available through their workplace or organizations they are associated with through general interest
7. Check with your own employer
8. Do a rough draft first, and have an up-to-date reference letter
9. Check with teachers to proofread and offer advice on your application to make sure it reflects your best qualities
10. There are some awards that students may apply for in June before graduation – keep checking the Grad board in the Library

It is impossible to keep a complete list of all scholarships, bursaries and awards so it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to discover additional awards. Don't miss out!

Samples of Scholarships & Awards in Student Services

Canadian Merit Scholarship - CMSF National Awards up to 30 valued at up to \$ 16,000 per year, renewable for up to 4 years of study. Criteria: Student must be in the graduating year of uninterrupted full-time studies at high school, present a minimum average of 85% and be a Canadian citizen or have residency status.

Aird Scholarship: amount varies; for students with physical disabilities who enroll in a full-time program at a recognized post-secondary institution

Canada Trust: full tuition for up to four 4 years + \$3500/yr living expenses; outstanding and consistent caring for the community around them through the identification of a significant need in the community, youth, elderly, sick, disadvantaged, regarding the environment, arts, or any other relevant area.
Criteria: Canadian citizen or permanent resident. Be presently completing secondary school diploma/credentials and entering first year of full time studies. Must have an average of 75%.

Post-Secondary Education Financing Information Websites

www.canlearn.ca •a one-stop resource for students

www.studentawards.com •lists government, institutional and private awards

www.electronicinfo.ca a searchable database of Canadian scholarships

www.fastweb.com/canada •a personal scholarship search

www.resp.org or schoolfinder.com

www.scholarshipcanada.com •a searchable database of Canadian scholarships

Estimated Costs

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tuition | \$2000-2500 (college) | \$5000-6000 (university) |
| Books & Supplies | \$1200 | |
| Transportation | \$0-1000 | |
| Accommodation & Meals | \$5000-7000 (residence) | \$4000-6000 (room & board) |
| Miscellaneous | \$500-1500 | |
| Total | \$8700-15,700 | |

Sources of Funds

\$ Your own earnings and savings

\$ Assistance from family

\$ A student loan from a financial institution

\$ OSAP– online application available in May/June and a workshop will follow

\$ Bursaries, scholarships and awards (school, local, college & university, private)

\$ Swapping used textbooks

Students can qualify for a maximum of \$9350 per year in loans from the **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)**. This amount can still leave a significant portion of a student's financial needs unmet, particularly those of students who must live away from home or whose parents are unable to contribute. You should apply for OSAP even if you are not sure you qualify.

Ontario has a **30% tuition set-aside policy**, which mandates that the equivalent amount in dollars of 30% of all tuition increases be directed towards needs-based financial aid at each institution. At the University of Western Ontario, for example, this fund currently makes about \$10.5 million available to students.

The **Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund (OSOTF)** is made up of permanent endowments for student aid worth \$600 million. Although some institutions have had more success raising funds from private donors for this public-private matching program than others, be sure to check out OSOTF at whichever school you decide to go to.

Talk to someone at your institution's **Financial Aid Office** about the level and type of assistance you can access, and stop by your **Campus Student Association Office** and find out about any help or advice the people there have to offer. Many institutions require you to apply for OSAP before you can access other sources of funding. There are people out there to help you; all you have to do is ask. Many universities and some colleges also have **scholarships and awards** that are administered through their finance offices. Some of these scholarships are automatically awarded and others must be applied for. Check each out carefully; some are not available until years 2 or 3.

If you receive a bursary or scholarship refer to the Department of Revenue pamphlet "Students and Income Tax" when completing your Income Tax Return

More info on student financial aid services can be found on the OCAS / OUAC websites.

Important Dates - see Ontario College Guide or INFO guide

| College | University |
|--|--|
| <i>October</i> —application becomes available | <i>November-December</i> —schools distribute Compass.101 access codes – <i>December 20th</i> suggested deadline to complete application |
| <i>Jan 19th 2009</i> —suggested deadline to submit applications to OCAS | <i>Jan. 14th, 2009</i> —latest date to submit completed online applications to OUAC |
| <i>Feb. 1, 2009</i> —all application must be complete to OCAS | <i>May 25th, 2009</i> —date by which the universities must respond to your application for admission |
| <i>May 1, 2009</i> —last day for applicants to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission | <i>May 28th, 2009</i> — earliest day that universities may expect a response to admission and financial commitment |
| <i>June 16, 2009</i> —earliest date that colleges will expect payment of tuition fees | |

Paying for your Application

College: \$85 for up to 5 programs

University: \$110 for 3 choices + \$35/extra

3 options:

1. VISA / MasterCard
2. Internet / Telephone Banking
3. Certified Cheque / Money Order

Financing Your Education

Since 1993 tuition for postsecondary education in Ontario has risen by 123%, and in 2005 students can expect to pay an average of \$4600 for tuition and fees. At the same time, students' other costs, such as those for textbooks, supplies, and residence accommodation have also risen substantially.

The key to surviving financially during the first year of post-secondary education is to plan ahead! Find out exactly how much everything costs and figure out how much you have to work with. Life will be a lot easier.

As in any large, long-term investment, the key to success is careful planning. You cannot resolve all problems three or four years in advance, but you need to be aware of the costs and possible sources of money. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities tells us that total costs may vary from \$5,000 for a college student living at home to \$13,000 or more for a university student living on campus or boarding away from home. Specific costs are listed in the college and university calendars.

- You need not postpone or forego your education for lack of money
- A large % of students who attend college or university receive government assistance
- Graduates of St. Dominic may also receive support from bursary and grad awards