



Planning for Success

My Guide to College Preparation



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SECONDARY SCHOOL





Steps to Effective Decision Making

1. **Be Organized.** Start a file to keep all of my information.
2. The **Ontario College Guide** will be the best starting point for compiling information.
3. **Verify my Academic History** with my Guidance Counsellor.
4. Access www.ontariocolleges.ca for further program details.
5. My **Program Choices** should be my first consideration.
6. Generate a list of **Post-Secondary Institutions** where my program is offered using the Ontario College Guide.
7. Using www.ontariocolleges.ca, list the **Admission Requirements** for each program and school. They are different for each.
8. Note last year's **Cut-Off Marks** for each program and school. These cut-off marks can change from year to year.
9. **Prepare Questions** for College Representatives when they visit.
10. **Attend Presentations** from Colleges of potential choices.
11. **Visit Campuses** of potential choices.
12. Begin to **Eliminate Choices** by considering size of school, residence options, distance from home, etc.
13. Prepare my **Final List of Program Choices**.
14. Go to www.ontariocolleges.ca and **Create a User Account**.
15. **Complete the Online Application by Jan. 25th.** Ensure that Supplementary Applications are submitted and Deadlines are met.

College Admission Requirements



General Guidelines for College Admission:

- For Regular Programs, the admission requirement is **COMPLETION** of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- For “Highly Competitive Programs”, check www.ontariocolleges.ca for admission requirements.
- For “Applied Degree Programs”, ENG4U plus FIVE 4M or 4U courses minimum.

Estimating the Cost of My Education



Please note that these are estimated costs.



Tuition (Annual)

\$2500*

*Tuition varies with each program



Books

\$1200



Housing and Meals

\$7500



Transportation / Lifestyle

\$2000

ESTIMATED TOTAL

\$13200



INTERNET RESOURCES

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

www.ontariocolleges.ca - Ontario College Application Service

www.aucc.ca - Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

www.ouac.on.ca - Ontario University Application Centre

www.ocutg.on.ca - Ontario College University Transfer Guide

FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

www.canlearn.ca - a one step resource for students

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

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

www.maplesquare.com - links to specific scholarships and “parents guide” database

www.scholarshipscanada.com - a searchable database of Canadian scholarships

www.electronicinfo.ca—a searchable database of Canadian scholarships

SELF ASSESSMENT / TEST BANKS / INTEREST SURVEYS:

www.careercruising.com - CareerCruising

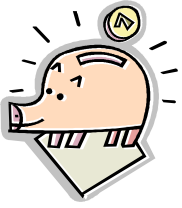
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/career/ - Career Gateway

www.mazemaster.ca - Human Resources Development Canada

www.keirsey.com - Keirsey Temperament Sorter

www.jobfutures.ca - Database showing Future trends in the Job Market

www.osca.ca - Ontario School Counsellors' Association



FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

If you're looking for help in covering the costs of your university education, the news is good: there's more scholarship money available today than ever before. In fact, funding for scholarships, bursaries and prizes by Canadian universities has almost doubled in the last five years alone, rising to about \$800 million in 2003-2004.

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded based on academic merit – usually your marks in your final year of high school – although sometimes extracurricular, leadership or volunteer activities are also taken into account. Scholarships range in value from \$100 a year up to more than \$10,000, and in some cases, they are renewable for up to four years of study, depending on the marks you get in university.

Bursaries

Bursaries are funds given to students who have a good academic track record and can demonstrate a financial need. In addition to academics, sometimes other factors such as community work or athletics are considered. Bursaries differ from scholarships in that they do not have to be repaid by the student.

Grants

Government financial assistance is also available to help offset the cost of a university education for Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. Generally, government programs are in the form of loans that you will need to repay, although some non-repayable government grants are available. These awards are available under the Canada Study Grants program and you can learn more about them directly from the universities you want to attend.

Work placements

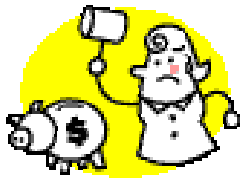
Many campuses also offer special work-study programs, where students who need financial assistance are given preference for jobs on campus. Co-op education, which alternates terms of study with terms in the workplace, is also a good source of additional funding for your studies.

Part time/Summer employment

Summer and part-time jobs can give you a chance to earn spending money throughout the year, and in the case of summer employment, a good source of funds to pay down some tuition costs. Jobs also have the added advantage of giving you work experience for when you graduate. Remember that a higher level of income could affect the amount of money you receive from a government loan program.

Savings and earnings

In addition to scholarships, bursaries and grants, financial sources can include your own savings, employment income and contributions from your parents and other family members. Financial gifts from your family members have the advantage of being interest free, and you may be fortunate enough to not have to repay the amount you receive!



FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

Loans

Government loans come from the federal and provincial or territorial governments, and you must apply by filling out an application in your home province. Canada and provincial student loans are based on financial need, and are interest-free while you are in university. Full-time students don't need to start paying them back until six months after graduation.

Lines of credit

Many banks and financial institutions offer line of credit products to students with special interest rates and repayment options to make university education more accessible to some who can handle the responsibility. There may be an annual maximum and a total load assigned to the line of credit. Unlike a government loan, which does not require any payments until six months after graduation, a line of credit holder is responsible for at least some payment toward the balance every month. As well, a line of credit starts incurring interest immediately upon withdrawal of funds. You can shop around the banks to see what works best for you, and determine who has the best rates.

Who offers scholarships and assistance?

To avoid any unnecessary debt, you should begin with a search for all kinds of non-repayable assistance (anything that's not a loan or credit). You could:

- **Consult the financial aid office of the university you want to attend to find out more about their available scholarships and awards**
- **Talk to your high school guidance office – there are often local and regional scholarships and prizes available for your high school or in your community**
- **Ask your parents or grandparents if the company they work for has a scholarship program for employees' dependents (many do)**
- **Inquire whether your church, sports, service group or club has any special scholarships available**
- **Check out www.canlearn.ca for information on government student loans and other financial assistance tools and information**
- **Refer to the section entitled "Student assistance" for every university in this Directory for scholarship details**
- **Research government sources like the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (www.millenniumscholarships.ca) which helps students based upon financial need**
- **Visit the AUCC Web site (www.aucc.ca/scholarships) to review the scholarships and awards that AUCC manages on behalf of more than 170 Canadian companies and organizations.**

Who is eligible for scholarships?

Eligibility for company scholarships usually have minimum grade average that students need to achieve. However, more and more, companies are looking for well-rounded individuals who are active in their communities and who display leadership qualities. When you are looking for scholarships you should make sure your resumé is up-to-date and that it highlights all of your experiences (volunteering, work, membership in a club or sports team) – not just academic achievement.



IMPORTANT DATES

College Events:

September 23 rd	College Info Assembly (Applicants)	Period 2
September 25 th	Canadore College	10:00 am
September 29 th	Humber College*	12:45 pm
October 7 th	Georgian College	10:15 am
October 13 th	C.I.P. @ Georgian College (Orillia Campus)	12:30-2:00 pm
November 16 th	Canadore College	12:45 pm

* please note that additional visits may be added. These visits occur during senior lunch or after school.

NOTES:

January 25th - Suggested deadline to complete OCAS Application

February 1st - All applications must be received by OCAS on or before this date

** Payment - OCAS - \$95.00 for a maximum of 5 choices - no more than 3 program choices at any one college



Possible Questions for School Reps

Admission and Selection:

- 1.) What are the pre-requisites or entrance requirements for the program?
- 2.) Besides required courses, what other courses are required?
- 3.) Is this program oversubscribed? How are the applicants selected?
- 4.) If I don't get into this program, will there be an alternate offer of admission?

Program Outline:

- 1.) What are the career options for graduates from this program?
- 2.) How does this program compare to similar programs at other schools?
- 3.) Are there any articulation agreements with other schools for graduates of this program to proceed to further education?

Class Size, Hours, Location:

- 1.) How many hours of class time can I expect per day / week?
- 2.) When do classes start and end?
- 3.) What is the average class size for students in this program?
- 4.) Are there mandatory seminar classes or labs in addition to regular classes?

Co-op / Field Placements:

- 1.) Is there co-op available for this program? What are the entrance requirements?
- 2.) What are the benefits of doing a co-op option for my program?
- 3.) Are the co-op placements directly related to my field?

Accommodations:

- 1.) Does your school have a residence? What is the cost of residence?
- 2.) Is residence guaranteed for first year students?
- 3.) What meal plans are offered? What is the cost of the meal plans?
- 4.) What type of off campus housing is available?

Expenses:

- 1.) What is the cost of tuition? Are there additional fees?
- 2.) Is there financial aid available?
- 3.) Are there entrance scholarships or bursaries for my program?

Extra-Curricular Activities:

- 1.) What experiences do you offer students (e.g.-recreational, cultural, athletic, etc)