St. Thomas Aquinas

Applying Online to Ontario's Colleges

OCAS Online Application for Ontario Secondary School Students

www.ontariocolleges.ca

Why choose college?

- Diversity of programs and locations
- Tuition savings
- Smaller class sizes
- Hands on work experience
- + 84% of students found employment within 6 months of graduation
- + 40% of all new jobs created in the next decade will be in the skilled trades and technology
- The number of university grads enrolled in colleges has increased by more than 40% over 5 years
- Offer University degree programs with easier access than University
- University transfer programs & joint programs with Universities

Thinking about College Programs

- College programs combine academic and applied learning with employment preparation in some of the following areas:
 - Applied Arts, Business, Health and Human Services and Technology
- <u>May be a transition pathway</u>:

General Arts and Science Program for **two years** and then transfer to university (check transfer agreements)

Diploma Programs

- Two or three years in special career related area
- Will usually require:
 - Grade 12 English
 - Graduation from high school
 - Senior level courses
- Some programs may require specific courses such as:
 - Biology, Tech Math, grade 11 or 12 Math

Joint Programs

- Earn a degree and a diploma at the same time from the partner schools in four years (college and university components)
- Prerequisites are based on degree requirements (i.e. 6 U/M credits)
 - E.g. Nursing George Brown/Ryerson

Specialized Degree Programs

- 4 years of academic study and applied practical experiences
- Requires 6 Grade 12 U or M courses
- I.e. Sheridan College BBA Bachelor of Business Administration

Entrance Requirements for Diploma Programs

- Based on all Grade 11 and 12 marks including Co-op
- Averages are usually 65% or above
- Highly competitive programs are much higher**
- Prerequisite courses marks are included
- May prefer a good grade in College English and Math courses instead of a mediocre grade in the University level

How To Apply



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Refer to your Credit Counselling Summary or MyBlueprint
- 30 credits (18 compulsory/12 elective) by end of JUNE!!
- 40 hours community service by: MAY 1 2021
- Successful completion of Literacy Test

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🙈 Credit Counselling Summary / St Marcellinus / MARCL

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"TO DO LIST" FOR COLLEGE APPLICATION

Research your options by using the following resources:

• <u>Ontario Virtual College Fair</u>: **November 4 and 5**

(https://ontariocollegefair.ca/)

- myBlueprint (<u>www.myblueprint.ca</u>)
- STA College Info Sessions: Oct. 22, 2020 (Virtual panel)
- Each college usually has a "career finder" tool
- Fall Open Houses are being done virtually. Check Websites.

"TO DO LIST" FOR COLLEGE APPLICATION

- College websites and viewbooks
- Campus virtual visits!!!! Very important
- On-line application tutorial (see OCAS website)
- Guidance bulletin boards
- Guidance Counsellors, teachers, parents

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Scholarships

- studentawards.com
- scholarshipscanada.com
- parent employers
- check College entrance scholarships

- Bursaries
- Awards i.e. Graduation
- OSAP: on-line applications available in fall of 2020
 - Ontario.ca/osap

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 2020: Online Application Opens
- February 1, 2021: Equal Consideration Date. (After this date, a first-come, first-served basis until programs are full). Note that applications to Highly Competitive Programs must be received by this date in order to be considered
- Complete applications well before the Equal Consideration Date, as website volumes on the online application are at their highest at this time

IMPORTANT DATES

• February 1, 2021: Earliest Offer Date

• May 1, 2021: Deadline to Confirm Offers of Admission (Log in to your ontariocolleges.ca account to confirm your offer)

• Colleges may extend offers of admission after this date

• Mid-June 2021: Tuition Deposit Due at the Colleges

WHEN APPLYING

- Have a valid and suitable email address
- Know you Ontario Education Number (left of student number on timetable)
- Know your full address (including postal code)
- Have a (parent/guardian) credit card number (expiry date and cvv number) if paying online or by phone
- "Next business day" could take up to 10 days to process

• Check if you should be applying through OUAC or OCAS (joint, collaborative or degree)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Log in to your account.
- Fill in your personal information and educational history.
- · Add your program choices.
- Request your transcripts. (These are sent automatically. Be sure to check that all courses show up)
- Pay the application processing fee and any transcript fees.
- Log back in to verify your transcript information, or to make changes or updates to your application.
- Log back in after February 1 to view and confirm offers of admission.

For a step-by-step tour of the secure online application, 🛓 download the user guide 🖉.

Additional Important info

How To Apply To An Ontario College

Important Da	tes
Application Fe	es
Transcripts	
Program Type	s
Highly Compe	titive Programs
Admission Re	quirements
Immigrant Ap	plicants
International	Applicants
Mature Stude	nts
Offers of Adm	ission
e-Materials	

The first step in applying to college is to research the programs and colleges available to you. If you have not already decided what programs you are applying to, see our **College Map** to find a campus near you, browse our **Find a Program** tool to see all college programs offered in Ontario, go directly to **college websites** for more details about their programs, and consider attending a **College Information Program** event to meet college representatives in person.

The next step is to create an account with ontariocolleges.ca and begin your college application.

Your ontariocolleges.ca Account

If you have never applied through ontariocolleges.ca before, click the "Create an Account" button to get started. Your ontariocolleges.ca account allows you to

- Apply to any of Ontario's 28 public colleges
- · Review and update your college application
- Request Ontario high school transcripts (from *** participating schools**)
- Request Ontario college/university transcripts
- · View and accept offers of admission

Important Info Before You Apply

- The application processing fee is \$95.00 (non-refundable).
- · An application allows you up to 5 program choices (no more than 3 at any one college).
- All program choices must start within the same academic year (August-July).
- There may be additional fees to request transcripts.
- · Your username is permanent.
- · Your password must be between 8 and 14 characters in length.
- Use a valid email address.
- · DO NOT create more than one account.
- The application works best in certain web browsers.

Ready to start your application?

Create an Account

Log In

to your account to complete your application, make changes or confirm offers of admission.







Debunking the Myths

- Myth: College is an easier alternative to university.
- Fact: They are equally demanding. What makes it different is the smaller learning environment, personalized attention and the blend of theory and practical application.

- Myth: College is for students that can't get into university.
- Fact: A good percentage of students in college have already completed university study. College is suitable for students that benefit from an alternate learning style and are looking for the skills to be job ready on Day 1.

Debunking the Myths

- Myth: University is the key to getting a job.
- Fact: Maybe 10-15 years ago. Employers now demand staff that have the theoretical knowledge but also the practical skills to be job-ready on day 1. Employers report a 93% satisfaction rate with college graduates, higher than can be said for university graduates.

- Myth: I have to apply to college or university.
- Fact: You can apply to both,

Other points to remember

- NIGHT SCHOOL/SUMMER SCHOOL /PRIVATE COURSES-IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP US INFORMED
- FOLLOW THE STA APP FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRINT OUT WHAT YOU ARE ABLE TO AND KEEP IT. ESPECIALLY YOUR OCAS Reference# once you pay
- TOFEL for students that have come from other countries outside of North America
- Check your account for emails from the colleges if this is required.
- Most colleges require an English and/or Math placement test



Need Assistance?

- Call 1-888-892-2228
- Email <u>ask-us@ontariocolleges.ca</u>
- If you have an <u>IEP</u> or <u>need support services</u> they are available at all Ontario Colleges, but it is your responsibility to find out about them. Contact the College and ask to speak to the Student Support Office. Also speak to your SERT.
- Also check this website for students with disabilities. <u>http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca/</u>
- Speak to your Guidance Counsellor.