

APPLYING TO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY 2011-12 WOSS TIMELINE CHECKLIST

September – November 2011

- √ 1. Complete a Release of Information Form and return to Student Services.
- √ 2. Go to www.electronicinfo.ca and/or www.ontariocolleges.ca to research programs and schools that you are interested in.
- √ 3. Check admission requirements for particular programs. Review your past and current marks to determine REALISTICALLY your eligibility to apply.
- √ 4. Visit the university/college fairs:
 - **Ontario University Fair** -- Friday, Oct. 14 – Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011 @ Metro Convention Centre, Toronto
 - B.C. University Fair – Thursday, October 20, 2011 @ T.A. Blakelock S.S., 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 - **Ontario College Fair** – Tuesday, October 25, 2011 @ Direct Energy Centre, Toronto, 10a.m.-7p.m.
 - **University Information Program** – Thursday, October 27, 2011 @ Holy Trinity Catholic S.S., 7p.m.
 - Atlantic University Fair – date TBA
 - Quebec University Fair – date TBA
- √ 5. Visit the campuses of the schools you are considering. Campus visits and special Open Houses are available throughout the fall. This is one of the BEST ways to get good information: GO TO THE SOURCE! (see list below)
- √ 6. Attend the Scholarship meeting – 2011 date TBA
Research scholarship websites and apply for early Major Scholarships.
- 7. Attend the American University Information Session – 2011 date TBA

November – December 2011

- √ 8. Pick up PINs (university only) from South Student Services.
- √ 9. Complete your application(s) to selected universities and/or colleges @:
 - www.ouac.on.ca -- due date: Wednesday, January 11, 2012
 - www.ontariocolleges.ca -- due date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012
 - individual applications to schools outside of Ontario, the U.S., private college
- √ 10. Research scholarship websites and apply for external scholarships as they come available.

Anytime

- √ 11. Visit Student Services for further assistance: check out WOSS Website, bulletin boards, in person

Fall Preview/Open Houses

University		University	
Carleton University Day	Fri. Oct. 7, 2011	Ryerson University	Thurs. Nov. 10 & 24
Lakehead University (Orillia)	Sat. Oct. 22, 2011	York University	Sat. Nov. 12, 2011
Concordia University	Sat. Oct. 22, 2011	OCAD Portfolio Day	Sat. Nov. 12, 2011
McGill University	Sun. Oct. 23, 2011	University of Western Ontario	Sat. Nov. 19, 2011
University of Ottawa Day	Fri. Oct. 28, 2011	University of Toronto (Scarborough)	Sat. Nov. 19, 2011
McMaster University	Sat. Oct. 29, 2011	Lakehead University (Thunder Bay)	Tues. Dec. 6, 2011
University of Toronto (St. George)	Sat. Oct. 29, 2011		
Queen's University	Sat. Oct. 29 & Sat. Nov. 12, 2011	University of Guelph-Humber	2011 date TBA
University of Toronto (Mississauga)	Sun. Oct. 30, 2011		
University of Waterloo	Sat. Nov. 5, 2011		
Trent University	Sat. Nov. 5, 2011	College*	
University of Ontario Institute of Technology	Sat. Nov. 5, 2011	Mohawk College	2011 date TBA
Brock University	Sun. Nov. 6, 2011	Seneca College	2011 date TBA
University of Guelph	Sun. Nov. 6, 2011	Sheridan College	2011 date TBA

*Note that many Ontario Colleges hold their Open Houses in the spring.

Don't forget: all colleges and universities hold Campus Visits throughout the entire school year. Contact individual schools to set up a visit.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY 2010-11

FAQs (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

COLLEGE VS. UNIVERSITY

Q. What is the difference between a college and a university education?

A. Colleges offer 2 or 3 year **diploma** programs and 1 year certificate programs. These programs are designed to educate students to enter specific areas in the job market. They provide more practical, hands-on learning.

Universities offer 3 or 4 year **degree** programs. These programs are more theoretical in nature, providing students with the critical and creative thinking skills necessary to continue into post-graduate degree programs (such as teaching, law, medicine) and/or entry into jobs requiring these kinds of skills.

Many colleges now offer “**Joint-Degree**”, “**Applied Degree**” and/or “**Bachelor Degree**” programs. These programs are similar to taking a degree program at a university; the college setting allows students to receive both the practical experiences and resources offered by the college, as well as the theoretical inquiry of the university level. Note that the eligibility requirements for these programs differ from other college programs.

ELIGIBILITY

Q. How do I qualify to go to university or college?

A. Universities take the average of a student’s best 6 grade 12 U or M level course marks to consider for admission. Courses that are required in particular programs are usually considered in the calculation of this average. Make sure to check individual university requirements for particular programs.

Colleges look at the average of a student’s best 5 marks from either grade 11 or 12 courses that are at the C, M, or U level, including required courses for admission. Remember: there is no longer an admission advantage to having a U-level mark over a C- or M-level mark; colleges no longer inflate marks taken at the U-level.

NOTE: The “**Joint-Degree**”, “**Applied Degree**” and/or “**Bachelor Degree**” programs offered at colleges require the same admission requirements as at a university (best 6 grade 12 U or M level course marks), since these programs are similar to taking a degree program at a university.

FINDING A PROGRAM/FINDING A SCHOOL

Q. How do I find out which university or college has the program that I’m looking for?

A. A great place to start is by using the **university and college guides** for help.

E-Info (www.electronicinfo.ca) is the online database that lists every program of study offered at Ontario universities and tells you which universities in Ontario offer that particular program. You can look at each particular university, their admission requirements, scholarship information, and other important contact information. E-Info also lists important application information, such as key dates for applications. **Please note: there is no paper copy of this information guide.**

The Ontario College Guide (www.ontariocolleges.ca) lists every program of study offered at Ontario colleges and tells you which colleges in Ontario offer that particular program. You can look at each college, their admission requirements, new program offerings, and other important contact information. Key application information is also listed. **Please note: there is no paper copy of this information guide.**

Q. How do I decide which university or college is the right one for me?

A. Consider the following things:

- geographic location of the institution (How far away from home do you want to be?)
- size of institution (Do you prefer a smaller, medium-size, or larger school?)
- transportation issues (costs, availability)
- accommodations (residence availability, food quality, cohabitation)
- availability of your particular program of choice
- admission cut-offs (if you won’t make the grade, don’t use up a choice)
- quality of program / resources available
- additional admission criteria (i.e. portfolio, interview, audition, testing)
- student life (athletics, services, activities available)

One important recommendation: VISIT THE CAMPUS! You will be spending two to four years of your life at this institution; it would be wise to “try it on” to see how it feels! Plan a campus tours and/or check out the list of special fall preview days or open houses, where you can “be a student” for the day!

PROCESS

Q. How do I apply to an Ontario university or college?

A. Applications to university are made online through OUAC; applications to college are made online through OCAS. OUAC requires a PIN number to apply (see below).

Once you have selected the specific institutions and particular programs to which you wish to apply, you follow the instructions given on the individual OUAC or OCAS sites. There are tutorials for both systems.

Q. What is OUAC?

A. OUAC stands for the Ontario University Application Centre. It is the centre that is responsible for registration to all public universities in Ontario. (www.ouac.on.ca)

Q. What is OCAS?

A. OCAS stands for the Ontario College Application Service. It is the centre that is responsible for registration to all public colleges in Ontario. (www.ontariocolleges.ca)

Q. What is a PIN (Personal Information Number)?

A. When you complete the **Release of Information form**, the school sends your personal information to OUAC and/or OCAS as you have directed on the form. This tells OUAC to issue you a PIN, and tells OUAC and/or OCAS that you are intending to apply. Students will be called down to Student Services to pick up their PINs, usually in late-November. There are no PINs necessary to make an application to OCAS.

Q. How many programs can I apply to?

A. For OUAC, it costs \$125.00 to apply to three different programs. Each additional program will cost \$42.00.

For OCAS, it costs \$95.00 to apply to up to five different programs. You may apply to no more than three programs at any one college.

Q. Can I apply to both college and university?

A. Yes. This is particularly recommended if you are unsure about your pathway choice OR if you are unsure that your marks will meet admission requirements for university programs or highly competitive programs.

Q. When is the deadline to apply?

A. OUAC deadline: Wednesday, January 11, 2012

OCAS deadline: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

It is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that to avoid frustration and possible delay that you submit your application to either OUAC and/or OCAS **before** the Winter Holidays in December 2011.

Q. When do my marks get sent to universities or colleges?

A. Marks are submitted several times throughout the school year.

At the end of November, after midterm marks are collected, the HDSB sends a data transmission of student information only to OUAC, and a data transmission of student information **and marks** to OCAS. Therefore, universities no longer consider first-semester mid-term marks in their decision-making.

Further data transmissions of marks are sent at the beginning of February (final semester 1 marks) and at the end of April (midterm marks for semester 2). The last data transmission of marks occurs in early July for final marks from semester 2.

REMEMBER: NO marks will be sent to OUAC or OCAS unless you have signed a Release of Information form.

Q. What is “full disclosure”? How does it affect the marks that universities/colleges see?

A. “Full disclosure” is the date during each semester that a student’s enrolment in a course is considered to be permanent and that a mark must be issued for the course. This means that if a student drops a course **after** this date, the mark for that course will be permanently recorded on the student’s transcript, and will therefore be sent to OUAC and/or OCAS.

The full disclosure date for semester 1 is Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

The full disclosure date for semester 2 is Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

It is therefore strongly recommended that if you do NOT want a particular mark to be included with the transmission of marks to OUAC and/or OCAS, see a counsellor to drop the course **BEFORE** the deadlines.

Q. Do universities look at grade 11 marks?

A. Yes, they can. For universities, where data is unavailable for a required course at the grade 12 level, the computer will look at the mark of a similar or prerequisite course at the grade 11 level for admission consideration. Historically, this was done for “early acceptance”. However, “early acceptance” is almost a myth now, as early acceptances are now appearing later than in previous years; universities will wait until at least February to see first semester grade 12 final marks before making their offers.

Q. If I take a course twice to upgrade my mark, how do universities consider the course for my average?

A. It depends: on the particular university and the particular program that you are interested in. Some universities take the better of the two marks. More and more universities are taking an average of the two marks. In many cases, different faculties in the same university will have different policies on how they consider the mark. The more competitive the program, the more likely that they will take an averaged mark.

Q. Do I need to have my compulsory subjects (like English and Math) in first semester to be considered for admission?

A. NO! It is a myth that students require compulsory subjects in certain semesters in order to gain advantage of admission. All universities depend on second semester mid-term marks for offers of admission. The vast majority of offers will not be issued until April-May, so that universities can see mid-term marks. Remember: your final offer is completely dependent on your final marks in June.

OTHER CANADIAN, AMERICAN, AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Q. How do I apply to other Canadian schools outside of Ontario or International schools?

A. You will need to consult the websites of individual schools for their application process for Out-of-Province or International Students. These applications are sent independently. Also, you will need to arrange to have mark transcripts sent to each school; see Mrs. Dougan in South Student Services. Exceptions are Bishop’s, Concordia, McGill, UBC, Victoria, and Dalhousie universities, where marks are sent through OUAC.

Q. How do I apply to U.S. schools?

A. Many U.S. schools use the Common Application, where you can submit only one application to apply to a variety of participating schools. However, certain U.S. schools require their own application form. You will need to consult the websites of individual schools to determine the application process for International Students.

All U.S. applications, including the Common Application, require information from the Guidance Department. Please see your counsellor in Student Services if you are intending to apply to U.S. schools.

Q. If I want to study in the U.S., do I have to take SATs?

A. Most U.S. schools require that students write the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). This is done independently. Visit www.collegeboard.com for information, test dates, and to register for testing.

SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS/FINANCIAL NEED

Q. Where do I find information about scholarships?

A. There are several kinds of scholarships. Most are determined by four categories of factors:

- academic achievement
- extracurricular involvement
- community/volunteer involvement and leadership
- financial need

University Entrance scholarships

Most universities have entrance scholarships dependent on your admission average of your top 6 U/M courses. Usually, these are automatic once you have accepted an offer of admission, and they do not require an application. Amounts vary from school to school.

University Major Scholarships

Most universities offer major scholarships to students with high academic achievement (90-95%+), outstanding school/community involvement, and who demonstrate leadership. Major scholarships DO require an application and often require sponsorship from the school, and they require a bit of time to complete (transcripts, essays, references, etc.)

Make sure to check out the scholarship information available from individual university websites and program books.

Colleges also offer some scholarships. Again, check out the individual college websites and program books for more information.

External Scholarships

There are many sources of external scholarships. These are scholarships sponsored by individual companies, service organizations, and institutions. You must apply to each scholarship through an application process.

It pays to do some research! Check out www.scholarshipscanada.com and www.studentawards.com for more information about specific kinds of scholarships. Also, there is a Scholarship Binder located in South Student Services that lists information that the school receives about specific external scholarships.

External Major Scholarships

- For those students with high academic achievement (90-95%+), outstanding school/community involvement, and who demonstrate leadership, there are a few external major scholarships offered:
- Loran Awards (Canadian Merit Scholarships) – due date: Wed. Oct. 19 / Wed. Oct. 26, 2011
- TD Canada Trust Scholarship for Community Leadership – due date: Mon. Oct. 31, 2011
- National Scholarship Program at University of Toronto – due date: Friday, Nov. 11, 2011

Q. Are there any awards or scholarships to available from WOSS?

A. There are many awards, scholarships, and bursaries available from our school, provided to us from donors in the community, school board partners, as well as staff.

Fill out the yellow “**WOSS Application for a School Award**” form to provide valuable information to help us choose suitable recipients for school awards/bursaries at Commencement.

Due date: Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Q. Where else can I find sources of money to finance my education?

A. Ask your parents and family members about awards available through their employers, cultural or civic organizations/affiliations, unions or faith affiliations, etc. Many awards/scholarships can be found this way.

Q. What is OSAP?

A. OSAP stands for the Ontario Student Assistance Program. It is a system whereby students can apply for financial assistance in the pursuit of post-secondary education. There are varied amounts of assistance available, dependent on financial situation and need. Most assistance is in the form of a loan, which students pay back at the end of their schooling.

Applications are made online; students can only apply for OSAP once they have accepted an offer of admission. As a result, the OSAP application link usually goes live in the month of May each year. Check out the website at www.osap.gov.on.ca for more information and application process.

This OSAP website is also an excellent source of information, with links to other scholarship, award, and bursary opportunities offered through government sources.

Also check out www.canlearn.ca for information about the **Canada Student Loans Program** offered by the federal government.