

“Nighthawks take flight”

College Edition

*Your Guide to Post-Secondary Opportunities for College
September 2021*

Application: The application process for all Ontario Colleges is done online. Please familiarize yourself with this online portal prior to application. It is also an excellent spot to do your research about schools and programs. Start looking at it TODAY!

College Application Portal - www.ontariocolleges.ca

1. Go to the portal and create a profile for yourself,
 - *For college applications you will be able to do this in late October, using a PIN that you create yourself*
2. Select the schools/program you wish to apply for.
3. Pay online for the application. (Credit card, or online banking, but **not** a debit card).

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PORTAL WILL OPEN IN EARLY OCTOBER. DEADLINE TO APPLY TO COLLEGE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2022. This deadline is for highly competitive programs but all applicants for all programs are encouraged to apply BEFORE this date. While there may be programs with spots available after February 1st, we encourage all students to apply by the deadline for equal consideration.

COVID UPDATE: Information is changing quickly. We will do our best to stay up to date with college and university application information as it may be different from last year in certain circumstances. We encourage all Grade 12 OSS students to visit the OSS Guidance Website for the most up to date information. To access this site, go to the OSS homepage, then to the Guidance tab, and “Grade 12’s Important Information”

Overview/Key Dates: 2021 – 2022

September

- ❑ **Research:** What programs are you interested in? What are the entry requirements for those programs? Use the websites that are listed in this booklet, use the online catalogues, visit campuses of schools or sign up for virtual tours. Check out our power point presentation on how to apply to college which is posted on the OSS Guidance Website!
- ❑ Be sure that you are registered in the courses required for your chosen College programs.
- ❑ Grad appointments will be available for every Grade 12 student to meet one on one with a guidance counsellor. These will begin the week of **October 4** until the end of **Sem. 1**. **You can request an appointment via our online booking portal [Make a Guidance Appointment](#)**

October

- ❑ Our School Board creates an electronic file for each potential graduate at OSS and registers this file with the College (OCAS – which stands for the Ontario College Application Server).
- ❑ The **College Application Server** at www.ontariocolleges.ca will be open in early October and ready for applications to college. Create an account and get started! Please Note: Some highly competitive college programs fill up early and you are wise to apply early in the fall for consideration. Check specific program requirements to see if the program you are interested in is deemed “highly competitive”.
- ❑ Oct. 8th – Grade 9, 10 and 11 courses and your grade history will be uploaded into OCAS
- ❑ Grad appointments will continue throughout October.

November

- ❑ Nov. 1st – Earliest date that Colleges can begin making offers of admission. These offers will be based on student’s past academic performance as well as the courses the student is registered in for the 2021-22 school year.
- ❑ Nov. 19th – Midterm marks will be given to students and uploaded into OCAS.
- ❑ Nov. 29th - Full Disclosure Policy is implemented for first semester courses. See under FAQ’s for an explanation of Full Disclosure.

February

- ❑ **Applications to Colleges are due FEBRUARY 1, 2022 before midnight**
- ❑ The cost is \$95.00 for 5 choices. Maximum of three choices at any one college. Payment by credit card or electronic banking. **Do not wait until Feb. 1 to apply, as the server is often overloaded at that time!**
- ❑ Feb. 11th – Semester 1 marks will be uploaded into OCAS and sent to Colleges.

April

- ❑ Apr. 22nd – Mid-term reports are given out to students. These marks are then uploaded by OCAS and sent to the colleges.

May

- ❑ **May 6** – Full Disclosure Date for second semester courses (see FAQ's for explanation)

Check these things carefully.....

Do you have an accurate e-mail address in your account information?

Colleges must be able to contact you directly through an accurate email address throughout the application process. **THIS SHOULD NOT BE YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS AS THEY WILL USE THIS TO CONTACT YOU AFTER GRADUATION WHEN YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL WILL NO LONGER BE VALID.**

Are you taking a Course outside of OSS through Night School, e- Learning, or Summer School? If you don't see that course in the academic record on your account, or you have concerns that a college isn't seeing all the information about courses you are taking, please contact Guidance so we can help you.

Is there "another part" of the application? Do you need to do something extra?

Check to see if the program you apply to has any Secondary Application criteria. You may have to complete an on-line "Personal Statement of Experience," write an essay, complete a test. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AWARE OF THESE ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

FAQ'S

What is “full disclosure”?

Any course that you drop **after** this date will have a mark recorded on your transcript. Before this date it simply doesn't show on that transcript. There is no need to panic if you do drop a course after this date – in most cases it is not relevant to the college or university you are applying to and it will not adversely affect your application. It is designed for very specific situations that may not apply to you. Come to us and talk about it if you are concerned.

When can I expect to hear from the college I have applied to?

It may be as early as the day after the deadline, or as late as the end of May. In the past two years there has been a trend towards “early acceptances”, meaning that offers are made before the Semester Two mid-term marks are submitted. However, it depends on many factors. Basically, try not to panic if your friends get some offers and you don't. There are lots of variables.

Can I still apply to a program after the deadline?

Yes you can, but your chance of getting accepted into a competitive or popular program is almost certainly diminished. However, there are definitely courses that still have openings in April, May, June, and a late application to those could certainly be successful. The college application site, in particular, will indicate whether a specific program is still “Open”.

What is a “conditional offer of acceptance”?

All offers before the end of the school year are actually “conditional” – the college is offering you a spot on the condition that you actually successfully complete the courses that are listed in your account, with results that are consistent with the marks you had when they made the offer. Sometimes they are very specific about the average you need to maintain, sometimes they are not. Read your offer of acceptance carefully.

Can I accept an offer, and then change my mind and accept a different offer?

Yes – just be sure that the offer you are switching to is still an “open” offer before you switch. As soon as you accept the second offer, the first offer is nullified.

You can learn more about these questions, and the answers to many other questions on the College application site:

www.ontariocolleges.ca

RESEARCH TIPS

College Calendars (also known as Viewbooks) are in Guidance – due to COVID19, we have a limited supply. Please ask your guidance counsellor if you require a paper copy. All are available online and you can order a copy to be sent to your home.

Online Research

My Blueprint - <http://www.myblueprint.ca/simcoe>

Login: your school e-mail

Password: you created your own when you registered for this earlier in your school career

This program will do it all – interest surveys, occupation planner, post-secondary planner, help you with a resume. A bit complex to use, but lots and lots of information about careers and post-secondary study.

Ontario Colleges – www.ontariocolleges.ca

Easy to use guide to every college program in Ontario – description of the program, prerequisites, everything. Also, everything you ever want to know about college in general, including costs/loans. This is the same website that you use to actually apply to college.

NOTE: *Many of these colleges also offer **degrees** now, as well as **diplomas**. Check the prerequisites – if it is a “degree”, you need the same secondary school prerequisites that you would to attend university!*

FINANCIAL AID - AN OVERVIEW

Awards offered by individual colleges/universities.

Scholarships and bursaries, which require no repayment, are available through most universities and colleges. Some scholarships are awarded based on financial need; others are awarded based on community involvement or academic achievement. Some scholarships require an application, while others do not. In general, most institutions have a list of their scholarships/bursaries on their website

Reminder: Scholarships that require an application may have early deadlines - make sure that you do your research and apply on time.

Government

Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP)

OSAP provides loans and grants to students pursuing postsecondary studies, based on financial need. OSAP grants don't need to be repaid, and loans are interest-free until you have graduated from university, and you start repaying the loans six months after you have graduated. Find details at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/osap-ontario-student-assistance-program>

Bank loan

If your parents' household income is too high, OSAP may not cover all the costs of university. In this case, you may want to look into personal bank loans or lines of credit. Unlike OSAP, bank loans do charge interest immediately.

Other sources of awards?

There are many organizations and companies around the country that offer scholarships, often based on competition. You must actively seek out and apply for these awards. The internet is a great source of information. We also have binders in the Guidance office that list and describe some of these. Come in and spend some time researching!

It's also worthwhile to look into scholarships offered by organizations or community groups that you or your family belongs to as these groups often have special scholarships available only to members and their families.

For more detailed and specific scholarship information, go to the OSS website, Guidance tab, and look under "Future Planning" for Scholarships. Or just follow this link [Scholarships](#)