

“Nighthawks take flight”

University Edition

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

Application Process: The application process for all Ontario Universities is done online through one central application portal. Please familiarize yourself with this website prior to the application deadline.

University Application Portal – <https://www.ouac.on.ca/>

1. Create an account for yourself using your PIN provided by OUAC (The Ontario University Application Centre). All students who are flagged to apply to university will receive a PIN which will be sent to your school in **late November**. **The Guidance Department will let you know when the PINs arrive at OSS.**
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).
4. **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 13, 2022.**

Guidance Counsellors are available to help you if you have questions!

COVID UPDATE: Information is changing quickly. We will do our best to stay up to date with university application information as it may be different from last year. 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 if these are cancelled, sign up for virtual tours. See the OSS guidance website for a list of all virtual tours available.
- ❑ **Be sure** that you are registered in the courses required for your chosen University programs. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they have the required courses on their timetable.
- ❑ **Ontario University Fair** is scheduled for October 26th from 5 – 7 pm. This is a VIRTUAL presentation <https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/>
- ❑ 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 and will continue until the end of Sem, 1. You can request one via our online booking portal [Make a Guidance Appointment](#)

October

- ❑ The SCDSB creates an electronic file for each potential graduate at OSS and registers this file with the University (OUAC) Application Service.
- ❑ Grad appointments will continue throughout October. This is the time to solidify your research and narrow down your choices.
- ❑ October 26th – Ontario University Fair (see above)

November

- ❑ Nov. 22nd – Midterm marks will be given to students and uploaded into OUAC.
- ❑ Nov. 26th – Universities will receive mid-term marks for students who have already applied by this date.
- ❑ Nov. 29th - Full Disclosure Policy is implemented for first semester courses. See under FAQ's for an explanation of Full Disclosure.

November / December

- ❑ Guidance Counsellors receive the PINs for university applications. We will let students know how and when to pick these up.

January

- ❑ **Applications to Universities are due JANUARY 13, 2022 by midnight. Please note that while this is the deadline, we encourage all students to apply well ahead of this date.**
- ❑ The cost is \$150.00 for 3 choices. Each additional choice is \$50.00. Payment by credit card or electronic banking. **Do not wait until January 13th to apply, as the server is often overloaded at that time!**
- ❑ There is no fee for replacing a program choice with another program choice at the same university. You may apply to as many Ontario universities as you wish; however, you are limited to a maximum of 3 program choices at any 1 university (including its affiliates). Some universities may further limit the number of programs you can apply to.

February

- ❑ Feb 17th – This is the date when Ontario Universities will receive all final grades for 4U/M courses from first semester

May

- ❑ May 6 – Full Disclosure Date for second semester courses (see FAQ's for explanation)
- ❑ May 27 – Latest date by which University applicants shall expect a response from an Ontario university – whether a denial, a deferral or an acceptance.

June

- ❑ **June 1 – the earliest date that Universities can set as a deadline for acceptance of an offer and give a financial commitment (deposit). Note: All other admissions-related elements, including scholarships, other forms of student assistance or financial incentives, and offers of residence are considered part of the offer of admission. Therefore, a student may accept these other offers before June 1, 2021, but Ontario universities will not compel a student in any way to make a decision earlier than this date.**
- ❑ Early June - Once an offer to a university is accepted, students then may apply for OSAP. OSAP is completed on-line. Guidance will run an OSAP training session in May/June.

Check these things carefully...

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

Universities 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 OUAC or OCAS account, or you have concerns that a university 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 or complete a video submission. 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 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 university I have applied to?

It may be as early as December, or the day after the deadline, or as late as the end of May. EVERY PROGRAM HAS DIFFERENT TIMELINES – EVEN WITHIN THE SAME SCHOOL! 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. Very competitive programs will frequently wait until they see the Semester Two mid-term marks. Basically, try not to panic if your friends get some offers and you don't. There are lots of variables. Last date to hear either yes or no from a university application should be May 27.

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, in early June, the Admissions Information Service will publish which university programs still have space.

What is a “conditional offer of acceptance”?

All offers before the end of the school year are actually “conditional” – the university 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.

Other Questions? Ask your friendly Guidance Counsellor!

RESEARCH TIPS

University Calendars / Viewbooks are available in Guidance – but due to COVID19, we have a limited supply. Please ask your guidance counsellor if you require a paper copy. All viewbooks are available online from the specific institutions.

Please come to your Grade 12 Grad Interview having **DONE** some research. See our package attached on important research resources and planning documents!

Online Research:

Ontario Universities – www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca

Easy to use guide to every university program in Ontario. Gives you **prerequisites** for the program, but also tells you exactly what **marks** you would need to be accepted into any program. You can also “sign up” with a university that you are interested in, and they will send you information about Virtual Tours, etc. etc. through this link: <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/universities>

Fosterway - <https://fosterway.com/>

Get the Fosterway app for your mobile device! It is a quick way to search for program requirements and helps you narrow down your program selections.

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 Careers course!

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.

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 to students pursuing postsecondary studies, based on financial need. OSAP 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 / funding?

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.

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 and advice, go to the OSS website, Guidance tab, and look for “Scholarships” under “Future Planning” , or just follow this link: [Scholarships](#)

AVOIDING COMMON MISTAKES - MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR APPLICATION CHOICES (AND YOUR FUTURE).

Maybe you have finally decided what university you want to attend (or have narrowed it down). You see yourself as a Guelph Gryphon or at Ontario Tech University in one of the super-duper modern buildings, or maybe you envision yourself canoeing along the river at Trent University. Whatever the decisions you have made about the PLACE, you need to spend an equal amount of time and energy researching the PROGRAM. Avoid these common pitfalls by asking yourself the following questions.

- 1) **Have I read the details of the program BEYOND THE LITTLE BLURB ON THE WEBSITE?** Answer: Specifics are important! For example, you really like the sound of “Sports Management” at Brock University, but do you know that requires one Grade 12 U Math course? Did you know some Commerce (Business) programs require Calculus? These are important specific requirements that you need to know before applying. If you don’t have the pre-req, chances are you won’t like the program.
- 2) **Do I have ANY IDEA what courses I will actually take in the program in my first and second year?** Answer: One of the big mistakes that grade 12 students make is that they are so focused on getting INTO the program that they forget to look at the courses they will take when they get there. For example, you think Engineering sounds cool, but did you know at most schools you have to take first year Calculus, Physics and Chemistry? Reading the course calendar for your program is one of the BEST ways to decide if that program is a good fit for you. But it is often the step that most students overlook.
- 3) **Have I taken the time to email / contact the specific department with my questions about the program? Have I watched the videos about the program (and not just about the school) and attended the webinars that are available?** Answer: If you aren’t willing or able to do that, then the program is likely not that interesting to you. Seek information, ask specific questions, and focus on the details.
- 4) **Is this really something I am truly interested in and passionate about?** Answer: Don’t be led astray by programs that sound interesting because your friends or parents say so. For example, many students are interested in STEM programs these days, or think computer science degrees are the key to a successful and prosperous future. The only key to a successful future is one that is of interest TO YOU. You want to end up in a program that doesn’t feel like work to you. A common mistake that teens make is to follow the path that they think they should follow rather than following their passions, strengths, and interests.
- 5) **Do I need some help?** Answer: The university application process can be overwhelming. WE CAN HELP YOU! But don’t wait until the last minute to start your research or to reach out for assistance. Your guidance counsellors know this is a stressful time, but we can help you find a program and a place that feels right for you.