

Grade 12 Post-Secondary Information

This year will bring many decisions and excitement as you explore and apply for college and university programs. Stay informed about information sessions, opportunities and deadlines by signing up for the Student Services Remind messages. These messages are for you and your parents.

You can receive messages through text and/or email. Follow these instructions to join this free service:
For text messages: Text the message **join @g4h4e** to the number (418) 800-7941

Key Dates

October 5	College Information Program (CIP) Reps from Ontario Colleges at Algonquin College 1:00-2:30 p.m.
October 2017	Website ontariocolleges.ca opens for registration/applications for colleges.
Oct. 21 & 28 Depending on faculty	Carleton University Open Houses 10:00am to 2:00 pm / for students and parents Register online at Carleton's website
October 24 & 25	University Information Program (UIP)—representatives from 21 Ontario Universities will be at the following locations: Oct. 24 Colonel By SS 6:15pm-8:30pm Oct. 25 AY Jackson Secondary School 6:15pm-8:30pm
October 28	University of Ottawa Open House Register online on the University of Ottawa website.
November 4-25	Saturday Engineering & Design Sessions at Carleton. Free information sessions exploring different types of engineering, architecture & design. Check Carleton website for details.
November 7 & 8	Algonquin College Open House. Register online. If you are attending during the day, a parent must phone in your absence to the school.
November	Students will receive a PIN number from the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) in order to apply to Ontario universities.
Jan. 17, 2018	Deadline to apply to Ontario Universities for fall 2018 entry
February 1, 2018	Deadline to apply to Ontario Colleges for fall 2018 entry to be given equal consideration. Some programs will accept applicants after this date, but it depends on space in the program.

Research

- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/job-trends-and-outlook>– This Ontario government site provides labour market information including employment outlook, salaries and other details for different occupations.
- www.AlgonquinCollege.com - Follow links for Future Students - Career Tools. Information on jobs in the Ottawa area and training at Algonquin.
- Careercruising.com - Use your login to complete or redo assessments, and to research thousands of careers.
- Ontariocolleges.ca and OUAC.ON.CA are the sites for information and application to Ontario colleges and universities. They are filled with links, information, deadlines, fees etc. etc.
- Plan to attend university and college open houses where you can tour facilities and attend information sessions on specific programs.
- Check the board across from Student Services for dates of college and university visits to MHS.

Book an appointment with your guidance counsellor (via Student Services link on MHS website) to discuss graduation status and options for next year. We look forward to seeing each of you.

Applying to College

1. How do I apply to college?

You can apply online at ontariocolleges.ca starting in October. You will use your Ontario Education Number (OEN) to create an account. This number is on your timetable or see Student Services for assistance.

NOTE: Merivale High School may be listed under Nepean rather than Ottawa. Your marks will be forwarded to the colleges electronically by Student Services.

2. How can I research programs?

The ontariocolleges.ca website outlines all programs at all colleges in Ontario and high school prerequisite courses. Students do not need to wait until the application process opens to start exploring.

3. What are the costs?

There is a non-refundable application fee of \$95. You may select up to five programs (with a maximum of three at any one college.)

4. What else can I do to prepare for the application process?

You may visit Student Services to look at the college course calendars or research them online. These calendars and guides give specific information on each program of study. Book an appointment with your guidance counsellor. Attend the college information sessions at lunch and after school and visit the colleges by attending an open house, or by calling to arrange a tour. Be proactive and make informed decisions.

5. How do I apply to an out-of-province college?

Look up requirements on the college's website and see your guidance counsellor for assistance.

6. How soon will I receive a response from a college?

Offers of admission will be released by the colleges anytime after February 1st. Offers will continue to be issued until programs are filled. As well, waitlists will be established.

Applying to University

1. How do I apply to Ontario universities?

The Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) is a central agency that all Ontario students use to apply to any Ontario university. Each student will be given an OUAC PIN number in November that will be used to apply online to the universities. Your marks will be transferred automatically from our school to your OUAC account and updated throughout the year. If English is not your first language, speak to your counsellor for instructions before applying. **Deadline to submit your completed application to OUAC is January 17, 2018**

2. What is the cost?

The basic non-refundable application fee is \$150.00 for the first three university/program choices. For each additional program a \$50.00 fee is charged. Generally, applicants are limited to a maximum of three program choices at any one university. Check out www.ouac.on.ca for all of the details.

3. Can I make changes to my choices?

You may make changes to your application once you have applied. Although changes will be processed at any time, OUAC recommends that all changes are made by February 6, 2018.. If you are changing institutions there will be a \$50 charge for every change.

4. Which marks will they see?

The universities you apply to will have access to your marks from last year which they may use for early admission and some scholarship offers. Marks are then sent at the end of semester one, and at midterm and at the end of semester two. If you have taken a course online or through a private school, check to ensure that it has been included. See your guidance counsellor with any questions or concerns.

5. Which six U or M marks are being considered?

The university will average six grade 12 U/M marks. These six will include the prerequisite courses for your program, plus your highest other 4U/4M course marks. The website www.electronicinfo.ca outlines all program prerequisites in Ontario. This information can also be found on university websites and in calendars.

6. What if I want to take a year off?

Some schools will allow you to defer your acceptance for a year and others will have you apply again. Check with the individual universities for their policies. You may want to talk with your guidance counsellor about ideas for your gap year.

7. What else can I do to prepare for the application process?

Come by Student Services and look at the university and college course calendars. Each school's website will also provide more details about courses. Attend the university and college information sessions at lunch. If possible, make arrangements to visit campuses for open houses or tours. Book an appointment with your guidance counsellor. Be proactive and make informed decisions.

8. How do I apply to a university that is out of province or in the U.S.?

Check the website of the institution for application procedures. Also, book an appointment with your guidance counsellor for assistance.

9. How soon will I receive a response from a university? Offers of admission may occur any time after you apply. Some offers are sent out after each round of marks are sent to OUAC. May 29, 2018 is the latest date by which all secondary applicants shall expect a response from an Ontario university.

Financing your education

Have your researched the costs of the university or college programs? Costs may range more than \$5,000 for a year at college (living at home) to over \$10,000+ per year at university (living at home). Going away and staying in residence may add another \$10,000 or more to the cost per year. Some programs at various colleges and universities are more expensive than others. Do your research on each school's website as part of your planning.

- Look into applying for OSAP in the spring. OSAP is the Ontario government program that provides loans and bursaries based on your family's financial situation. Check out the OSAP Aid Estimator on their website to see what you may be able to access. Interest charges and loan repayment begins after you have finished your education.
- **Bursaries** are gifts of money based on financial need. **Scholarships** are gifts of money based on other criteria such as volunteerism, leadership and/or high marks. **Loans** will need to be repaid in the future.
- Check the financial services link on the website of the schools you are looking into. Many offer bursaries based on financial need or scholarships you can apply for. Application deadlines may come early, so check before spring. If you have excellent marks and extensive volunteer involvement during high school, consider applying for a prestige scholarship such as a chancellor's scholarship.
- Admission scholarships are offered by some universities based on grade 12 marks. You will be considered automatically for these when you apply.
- Apply for scholarships which you can research at yconic.com or scholarshipscanada.com. Check the Scholarships bulletin board in Student Services which will be updated throughout the year with information on contests, scholarships and bursaries.