

# Heading to College?



# Agenda

- Key Terms
- How to prepare to apply to college?
- How to apply
- Important dates
- Funding for college
- Next steps



# College Terms

- Certificate: A one-year program which allows students to explore a general area of study
- Diploma (regular / advanced): A focused area of study lasting 2 (regular) or 3 years (advanced).
- Bachelor's Degree: 4-year programs requiring university prerequisites. (6 grade 12 U or M level courses, including English 4U).



# College Terms

- Collaborative Programs: Study is at both the college and university levels. Students may earn a diploma and a degree (university requirements needed) i.e. Guelph/Humber



# College Terms

- Apprenticeship Programs: Programs are available for registered apprentices only. You cannot apply to these programs directly out of high school without an employer.
- To find out about pre-apprenticeship programs for high school students not registered as apprentices, visit [ontariocolleges.ca](https://www.ontariocolleges.ca).



# College Terms

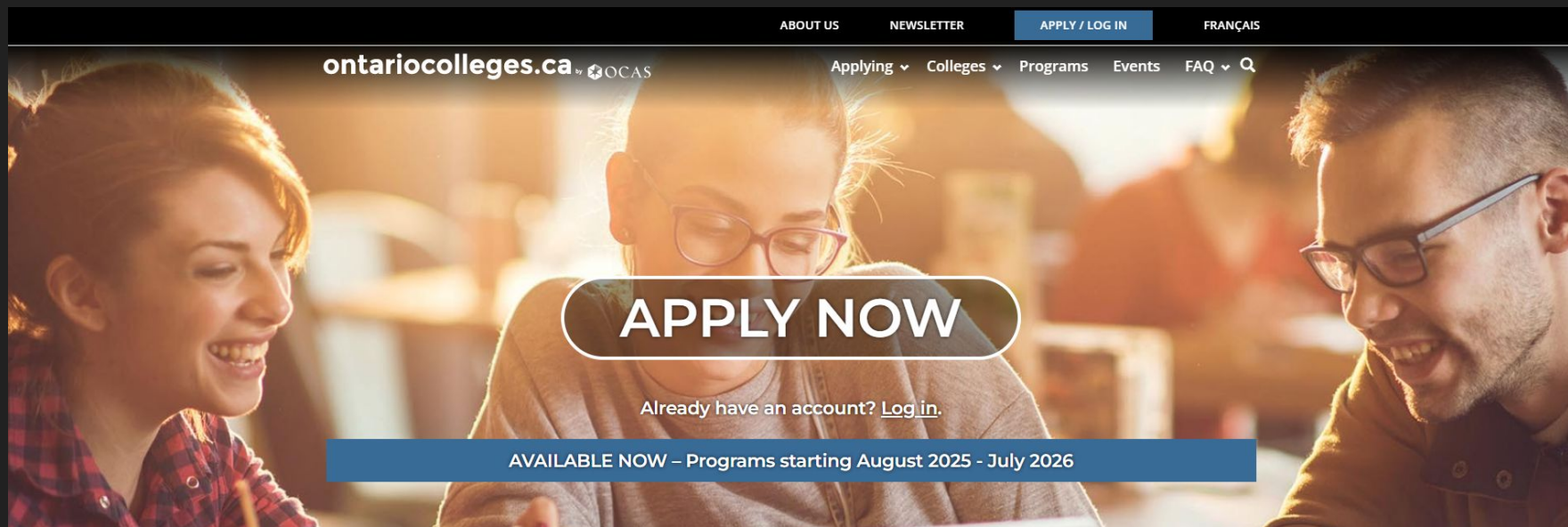
- Trades related programs that are introductory and eligible out of high school are known as techniques or technical foundations programs. You can apply to these.
- Usually 1 year certificate or 2 year diploma
- Gain the basic skills to pursue an apprenticeship in the future or explore related career options in the trades.

# College Terms to look out for:

- **Graduate Certificate:** 1-2 year programs to focus your studies after one has earned a degree or diploma. You cannot apply to these out of high school.
- **Highly Competitive Program:** This indicates the number of qualified applicants far exceeds the number of spots available in the program. The program overview will tell you if it is competitive.

# What to do now

Research programs at [ontariocolleges.ca](https://ontariocolleges.ca) and specific program requirements.



The image shows a screenshot of the website [ontariocolleges.ca](https://ontariocolleges.ca). The page features a dark navigation bar at the top with links for "ABOUT US", "NEWSLETTER", "APPLY / LOG IN" (highlighted in blue), and "FRANÇAIS". Below the navigation bar, the website logo "ontariocolleges.ca" and "OCAS" are visible. A main menu includes "Applying", "Colleges", "Programs", "Events", and "FAQ" with a search icon. The central banner shows three students (two women and one man) smiling and looking at a laptop. A large, white, rounded button with the text "APPLY NOW" is overlaid on the banner. Below the button, the text "Already have an account? [Log in.](#)" is displayed. At the bottom of the banner, a blue bar contains the text "AVAILABLE NOW – Programs starting August 2025 - July 2026".

ontariocolleges.ca OCAS

Applying ▾ Colleges ▾ Programs Events FAQ ▾ 🔍

**APPLY NOW**

Already have an account? [Log in.](#)

AVAILABLE NOW – Programs starting August 2025 - July 2026

# What to do now

- Plan B

Make sure that you a plan B in case your first plan does not work out, or if your plan changes.



# What to do now

- Make sure you have provided permission via a signed 'Release of Information' form. This allows Doyle to share your educational information with OCAS and/or OUAC.

This is done through School Cash Online. Talk to your parents about this. Without this form completed, we cannot send any of your marks/transcript to the application service.



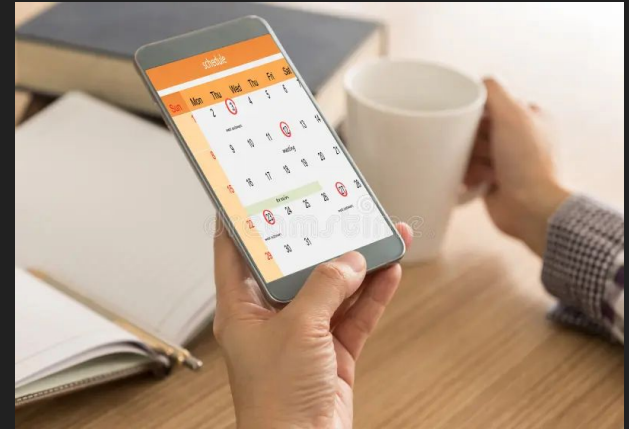
# What to do now

- Sign up for post-secondary visits on the Google Survey shared by Guidance. Record dates of all post-secondary presentations or college fairs you can attend.
- Make sure your financial plan can pay for your application fee of \$150 and start saving for college.



# What to do now

- Attend the post-secondary fair on the afternoon of October 29, 2025 here in the Doyle gyms.
- All colleges offer a wide-range of in-person and virtual options to connect with students, families, and educators - including Open Houses, campus visits, school presentations, webinars, podcasts and one-on-one advising. Check your college websites for more info / dates.

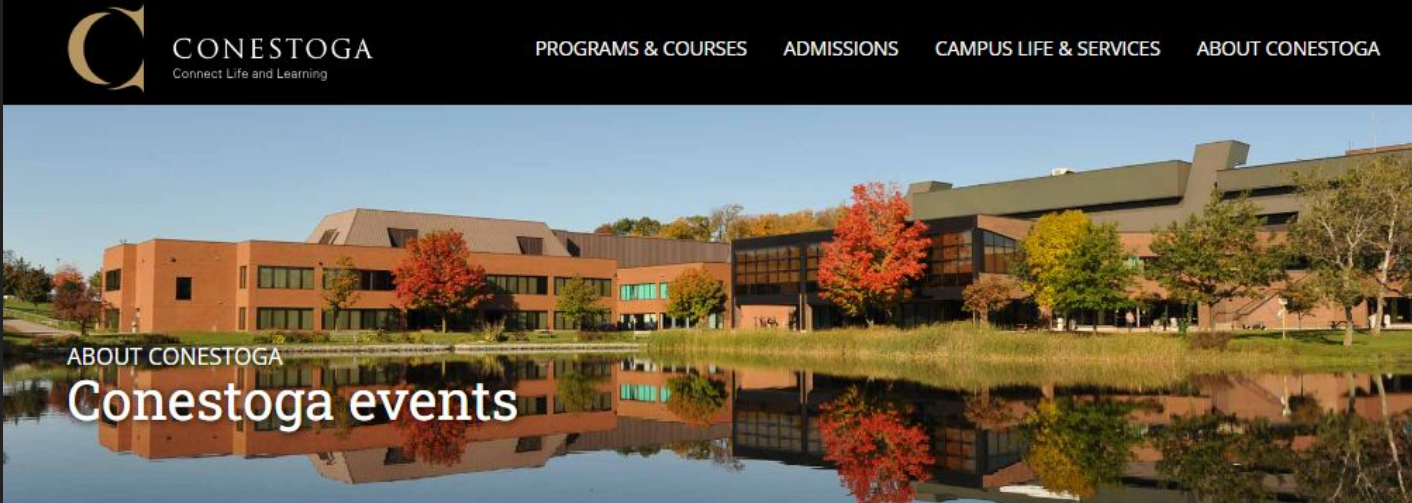


# College Fair evening event at Conestoga College

- September 24, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Kitchener - Doon campus

Learn about the post-secondary options available at Conestoga and other Ontario colleges attending this event and get your questions answered.

More info about the event: [College Fair](#)



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ABOUT CONESTOGA

Conestoga events

# Before you apply to college

- Ensure you have a valid email address
- Know your complete home mailing address
- Be sure to apply with your legal name
- Know your OEN and Student Number (both are 9 digits and found in ASPEN)
- Make sure all information is accurate!

# How to Apply

- “How to Apply” YouTube Video Tutorial: [How to Apply to College](#)
- Apply on the [ontariocolleges.ca](https://ontariocolleges.ca) site before February 1st, 2026. Applications are generally open in early October.
- Click on “sign up with email”. Your personal email address is required along with a password.
- Agree to the Terms and Conditions and click to activate.



# How to Apply

- Apply to up to 5 programs with no more than 3 program choices at any one college.
- List your choices in order of preference.
- Pay the \$150 application fee; it is non-refundable.
- Payment **MUST** accompany your application by February 1. OCAS will not process your application without paying the fee.
- You cannot pay extra nor submit a another application.
- **Be sure to record your application number.** It is assigned electronically by OCAS.



# How to Apply

What if you change your mind?

- You can change your application anytime.
- Changes made after February 1st may affect the equal consideration of your application (be careful with *Highly Competitive* programs).



# How to Apply

- You are responsible for reviewing your grades in OCAS. Look in My Profile in the “education” section.
- If you are taking an E-learning course, make sure you see that course listed on your education information.



# Offers

- To see your offers, check your OCAS account regularly under Offers.
- To confirm an offer, select the offer you wish to accept and click confirm.



# Supplementary Application

- If your college requests any supplemental information such as an interview, portfolio, essay, performance piece or attending an information session - this is mandatory!
- Do not ignore these requests as it could jeopardize your chances of acceptance.



# Key Dates

- Early October, 2025: Online application opens at [ontariocolleges.ca](https://ontariocolleges.ca)
- February 1st, 2026: Deadline for equal consideration to apply to colleges.
- May 1st, 2026: Deadline applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer.
- Mid-June 2026: Tuition deposit due at the Colleges to secure your spot in your program. Each college has its own payment deadline.



# How am I going to pay for College?

- Talk with your family now and get a plan in place for your education.
- Explore the Scholarships information section on MDCSS website for valuable websites and available scholarships and bursaries. Sign up for September 30th Scholarship Session if interested.
- Sign up for scholarship search engines
- Save money through a part-time job.



# Paying for College

- OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) are government loans which assist students in Ontario. You apply to OSAP **after** you have accepted an offer of admission (portal opens in May)
- Applications are available online at [OSAP](#)
- We usually host an OSAP presentation in the spring in the lecture hall. Check D2L for the announcement.

The OSAP logo consists of the lowercase letters "osap" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular box with rounded corners. A green circular icon containing a white checkmark is positioned in the top right corner of the white box.

osap

# Paying for College

- Loans: Must be paid back along with interest payments.
- Scholarships: Cash or the equivalent put towards education expenses. Often an application is needed.
- Bursaries/Grants: Cash or the equivalent put towards students' educational expenses.
- Part-time Job? If so, save, save, save!
- Ask your college: They may offer loans, grants and scholarships -visit their website.



# What do I do now?

- Ensure you meet OSSD requirements (Community Service due May 1st)
- Continue to research college programs of interest
- Sign up for college presentations
- Apply during Christmas break - no later than February 1st, 2026
- Make sure you've signed the "Release of Information form" through School Cash Online
- Focus on your grades



Any Student Questions?