



(Michelangelo at age 87)

Post-Secondary Planning Guide

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate | Student Services

The Post-Secondary Path



Like any other plan, the Post-Secondary path is best taken thoughtfully and one small step at a time.

Research, research, research!

The key is to gather as much data as possible and weigh the options carefully.



The Post-Secondary Landscape

University?

College? Technical College?

Private Career College?

Gap Year Options?

Collaborative University-College Path?

What are you hoping to achieve?

Professional Degree? Applied Degree? First degree as a stepping stone to getting a Master's Degree? Hands-on training for efficient transition to employment?

Not sure?

Know your options. Research is key!



Personal Research Resources

Begin your research into personal skills, interests, values, goals, temperament, experience and preferences with the following links:

[Jackson Vocational Interest Survey \(JVIS\)](#)

[University of Toronto's Online Self-Assessment Package](#)

[Enneagram Personality Test](#)

[Myers-Briggs Type Indicator](#)

[Multiple Intelligence Test](#)



College & University Requirements and Recommendations

Electronic Info (for university only)

A one-stop source for admission requirements for all programs at all Ontario Universities.
Information includes:

1. specific course prerequisites
2. courses that are recommended but not required
3. programs that require a portfolio or an interview
4. grade averages accepted
5. number of applicants accepted into the program
6. links to the university program web sites
7. universities' policies on documentation for students with disabilities/ learning challenges
8. Impact, if any, of repeating courses in Grade 12



Ontario Colleges (for college only)

This site has program information for all Ontario college programs. Program requirements are found through the links to the individual college websites.

Word of Caution:

Be sure to research the university-level prerequisites that may be part of an applied degree at college or collaborative university-college program.

The logo for Ontario Colleges .CA is a teal rectangular box containing the text "ONTARIO COLLEGES .CA" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. The word "ONTARIO" is on the top line and "COLLEGES .CA" is on the bottom line.

ONTARIO
COLLEGES .CA

Studying Outside Canada

PSAT/ SAT

Students who plan to study in the United States must take the SAT test. Looking into the SAT process in Grade 10/11 in order to have sufficient time to prepare, take practice tests, get tutoring, if necessary, and then to be able to take the test several times, if required. Registration is done at www.collegeboard.org.

ACT

The ACT test is similar to the SAT test and is accepted by many of the same American Colleges as well as learning institutions around the world. Registration is done at www.act.org.

Individual Institution Requirements

Visiting the websites and requesting information from individual American institutions is the best way for you to discover their specific program requirements. This is the same process for International schools.

Scholarships and Paying for a Post-Secondary Education

Scholarships are widely available and, every year, thousands and thousands of dollars go untapped simply because students have not been committed to the research and application process.



If a student spent the equivalent of one semester's course or a very part-time job researching and applying for many scholarships, a significant portion of their tuition could be paid and the burden of graduating in debt could be avoided.

Funding Research Starting Places

1. Individual college and university web sites
2. Rockway's Daily and Flash Announcements
3. ScholarshipsCanada.com
4. Studentawards.com (yconic)
5. [Loran Scholarship](#)
6. [Universities Canada](#)
7. [Colleges & Institutes Canada](#)
8. [Youth and Students - Services Canada](#)
9. [CanLearn - Student Financial Assistance Support](#)
10. [International Student Scholarships, More for International Students](#)
11. [Globe Articles on Choosing and Funding an Education](#)
12. [6 Ways to Save for a Post-Secondary Education](#)
13. [OSAP](#)

September/October

- Students attend a post-secondary session facilitated by Student Services where they are given a version of the information here
- They are informed of a very useful online tutorial where they can see the complete application process with video and audio instructions
- The transcripts of our current students intending to graduate in June are sent to the [Ontario University Application Centre \(OUAC\)](#) and to [Ontario Colleges \(OCAS\)](#)
- Students are encouraged to attend the many college and university fairs announced in their homerooms, on our web site and through the FLASH
- Students are encouraged to attend the many visiting college and university sessions at Rockway that are posted on the Student Services calendar on our web site and homeroom
- Students are encouraged to continue researching program requirements and prerequisites and scholarship opportunities

November

- PIN numbers for each graduating student arrive from the OUAC
- Students use their PIN to apply for university at OUAC (101)
- Students applying for college will use the Ontario Colleges/OCAS site (no PIN required)
- **Students and parents are strongly encouraged to go through the application tutorial and read the Common Question section before going through the application process**
- Students must safely record and store all the numbers they are given and all correspondences from the individual schools and OUAC/OCAS

December

- Students are strongly encouraged to complete their application before they leave for the Christmas Break as the application deadline comes within days of their January return
- Questions are answered more easily in December when Guidance Counsellors are available for support
- The application website gets very busy and slow in January to accommodate the sheer volume of applicants
- Universities make a small selection of students based on the Grade 11 marks alone

January

Deadline for university application this year is

January 16, 2019

It is up to each student to know their own deadlines for portfolios, interviews and additional information forms requested by a university

February

Deadline for Ontario college application this year is

February 1, 2019

- First semester marks are sent to OUAC for universities
- Universities make another round of selections based on first term final marks
- Continued research into scholarships is important
- Diligence with school work is expected and will contribute to mid-term marks

April

- Mid-term marks sent into OUAC
- Universities make their third round of selections based on mid-term marks
- Worry levels rise significantly for those students who have not yet heard so implementation of stress-relieving and resilience-building practices encouraged!

May

May 29, 2019 is the latest date by which all secondary school applicants shall expect a response from an Ontario university.

Such a response will be one of:

- 1) an offer of admission
- 2) a refusal
- 3) a deferral pending the receipt of specific additional information

June

June 3, 2019 is the earliest date by which Ontario universities may require a response to an offer of admission and a financial commitment of any kind (e.g., registration deposit, residence deposit, etc.) from an Ontario secondary school student.

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 prior to June 3, 2019, but Ontario universities shall not compel a student in any way to make an earlier decision.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I know which college or university is best for me?

The short answer is: Research! Learn about yourself, your abilities and your preferences to begin with. Then research the universities to find a suitable match.

Look at the [Macleans University Rankings](#) and focus on the areas ranked that matter most to you. Do you care more about the size of university or the ranking that the professors get? Do you care more about the graduation employment rate or what kind of reputation the school has worldwide or the cafeteria menu?

2. To how many colleges or universities should I apply?

Our experience has taught us that 3 – 5 schools is a good number. It means that you have done your research thoughtfully and have found schools that expect grade averages near yours and that you have all the prerequisites and are most likely to be accepted.

If you pick many more than that, it may become problematic in January when some schools require you to fill out information forms or write short essays while you study for exams.

3. How much does it cost to apply?

In 2018, the cost to apply to university through OUAC was \$150 for the first three selections and \$50 for each selection after that. Check the OUAC 101 Application site for 2019 fees.

In 2018, the cost to apply to college was \$95 for five selections with some additional fees required based on specific selections. Check out the Ontario Colleges site for 2019 fees.

4. What if I have an IEP? What do I need to do?

Students with Individual Education Plans must contact the department at the university/ college they have chosen to attend to set up an appointment.

Most colleges and universities want some professionally administered documentation supporting the physical disability or learning challenge to be updated within two or three years. Research this in Grade 11 to be prepared.

Schools will have their specific requirements on their web sites.

5. What if I don't have enough Community Service Hours?

Universities and colleges will extend a “conditional offer” until all Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements are met.

Students who submit their hours by mid-May 2019 will ensure that the hours are recorded on their transcript for schools to see. Any hours that are submitted after May will take longer to process and will not be seen by universities or colleges until the end of June.

6. What if I have questions about the application process?

The OUAC and OCAS site have all the answers
you need about how to apply, accept
and defer to Ontario Universities.

**Other questions? Please do research on the sites of
specific schools of interest then make an appointment
with a Guidance Counsellor.**