

# Helping Your Student Plan for Grade 12

## April 1, 2025



**WESTDALE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



**HWDSB**  
**BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.**

# Land Acknowledgement



The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.

The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.

We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

# Welcome and Agenda

- **Graduation Checklist**
- **Overview of Grade 12 Year**
- **Pathway Planning for All Pathways**
- **Co-op at Westdale**
- **SHSM at Westdale**
- **Scholarships and Financial Aid**
- **Accessing Accommodations in Post-Secondary**
- **Summer School**



# Communicating with You

A screenshot of the Westdale Secondary School Student Services page. The page has a sidebar on the left with a list of links: 'A Welcome From Student Services', 'Choosing Your Courses For Grade 9', 'Choosing Your Courses For Grades 10 to 12', 'Community Involvement Hours', 'Cooperative Education Program', 'Dual Credit Programs', 'Graduation Information/Commencement 2024', 'International Baccalaureate-Prospective IB Students', 'Post-Secondary Pathways', 'Scholarship Information', and 'Specialist High Skills Major'. The main content area is titled 'Student Services' and includes a 'Welcome to Student Services' section with a paragraph about location and appointment booking, a 'Book a Guidance Appointment Link', and a 'Contacts' section listing staff members: Ms. Quaglia, Ms. Parkes-Hallmark, and Mr. Meyer.

A screenshot of the Westdale Secondary School Guidance page. The page features a top navigation bar with the 'HWDSB HUB' logo and the title 'GUIDANCE - Westdale Secondary'. Below the navigation bar is a row of icons for 'Course Home', 'Book Appointm...', 'Xello', 'SHSM 2023', 'Content', 'Summer School', 'Class Tools', and 'Class Progress'. The main content area has a large banner image of a tree-lined path with the text 'GUIDANCE - Westdale Secondary'. Below the banner are two sections: 'Announcements' featuring a 'Volunteer Opportunity - Sept 19' post by Kim Parkes-Hallmark, and 'My Courses In Other Orgs' with a search bar.

Westdale Secondary School Website:  
Student Services

Guidance:  
Westdale Secondary Hub Course

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# Grad Checklist

- 30 credits (18 compulsory, 12 elective);
- 40 community involvement hours;
- Successfully completed Literacy Requirement;
- Online Graduation Requirement; 2 credits or Opt Out;
- If in French Immersion Program...completed 10 French Immersion Credits
- Post-Secondary program prerequisites
- If applying to university, students need a minimum of 6 Grade 12 U/M courses, including ENG4U1 and program prerequisites
- When applying to competitive college and university programs, watch for supplemental applications such as auditions, portfolios, essays etc.

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# Grad Checklist- Community Hours

- **40 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS NEEDED FOR JUNE 2026 GRADS**
- Policies and processes for Community Involvement Hours have returned to pre-COVID-19 practices
- Please submit Community Involvement Hours by April 1 so that hours are complete before Semester 2 midterm data transfers to OUAC and OCAS

## Ineligible Activities

- Any duty/services that would normally be performed for wages in a workplace;
- Requirement for a class, course, or program;
- Takes place during class instructional time;

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# Online Graduation Requirement

- Two-credit online graduation requirement can be earned in the following ways:
  - selecting eLearning as a day school student at Westdale
  - summer school eLearning

OR

- Families can now opt out of the Ministry of Education's online learning graduation requirement. The "eLearning Opt Out for Families" form can be found in Parent Portal. There is currently no expiration date or deadline to submit

# Overview of Grade 12 Year

## September:

- Grade 12 Information Session for all students; evening session for families
- Appointments with counsellors to clarify graduation plan and goals
- Post-secondary visits from universities begin
- Ontario University Fair (Toronto) September 27-28
- Students considering scholarship applications should begin preparing

## October:

- University (OUAC) and College (OCAS) applications open
- Information sessions supporting applications – University, College, Out of Province
- Ontario College Fair October 16-17
- Westdale College Fair October 21
- Post-Secondary Fall Preview Days (Open Houses) begin

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# Overview of Grade 12 Year

## November:

- Students with interest in particular schools or programs should be completing applications:
  - Any program at University of Toronto
  - Students applying to Major Admission Awards at Queen's University
  - Students applying to college programs in nursing, paramedic, dental hygiene

## December:

- Recommended time for OUAC and OCAS applications to be complete

## January

- OUAC applications due mid-January
- OCAS applications due end of January

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# Overview of Grade 12 Year

## February:

- Commencement information communicated to Grade 12 students and families

## April:

- Recommended completion date for Community Involvement Hours

## May

- Deadline for student to accept offer from Ontario Colleges (usually May 1)
- University offers continue until late May

## June

- Deadline for students to accept offer from Ontario Universities (often June 1)
- Students may apply to OSAP after confirming acceptance to post-secondary program

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# Pathway Planning



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# Pathway Planning

## Types of Grade 11 and 12 Courses:

- College (C)
- University (U)
- College/University (M)
- Workplace (E)
- Open (O)

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# **Resources to Support Post-Secondary Research**

- **myBlueprint**
- **Ontario Universities Info**
- **Ontario Colleges**
- **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program**
- **Skilled Trades Ontario**

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## HWDSB's NEW platform for Individual Pathway Planning

- Students in Grades 7-12 have access via the Office 365 landing page
  - Students will learn about themselves, set goals, build portfolios, course selection, plan for high school and beyond
  - Students select courses and register for summer school in myBlueprint
  - If students make changes to next year's course selection in the spring, these will not be reflected until the fall
- <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/plan-for-high-school/myblueprint/>
  - [www.myBlueprint.ca/HWDSB](http://www.myBlueprint.ca/HWDSB)
  - <https://education.myblueprint.ca/hwdsb-family>



# University Prerequisites

- Top 6 Grade 12 U/M courses including ENG4U + specific program prerequisite courses
- Some university programs limit the number of 'M' level courses you can have in your top 6
  - e.g. McMaster - Nursing Degree Program  
ENG4U, (1 of MHF4U, MCV4U, MDM4U), SBI4U, SCH4U  
+ 2 other 4U/4M courses
- Co-op, college and open level courses DO NOT count towards your university admission average
- Use [ouinfo.ca](http://ouinfo.ca) to research admission requirements for programs



# Search Results

Sort By

Program Name

57 Programs

## Arts

[Western University – Huron University College](#)

English | EHA | Exp. learning: Practicum or internship option available

## Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce

[Nipissing University](#)

English | PAB | Exp. learning: Not Available | Enrollment: Open enrollment

## Bachelor of Business Administration

Compare



Compare



Compare



A-C D-Z

## Find a Program

Engineering

[Show Advanced Search Options](#)

[Search All Programs](#)

## Browse Programs

[Browse All Programs](#)

[Browse by Category](#)

[Browse by University](#)

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## Engineering Co-op I

[McMaster University](#)

English | MEC | Exp. learning: Co-op program | Enrollment: 900 (total for OUAC codes ME and MEC)

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Compare  
✓

## Engineering I

[McMaster University](#)

English | ME | Exp. learning: Co-op or internship application available at the university after registration | Enrollment: 900 (total for OUAC codes ME and MEC)

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Compare  
✓

## Engineering Science

[University of Toronto](#)

English | TK | Exp. learning: Co-op or internship option available

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Compare  
✓

## Engineering Systems and Computing (co-op and regular)

[University of Guelph](#)

English | GEK | Exp. learning: Co-op option available with this program

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Compare  
✓

## Engineering – Aerospace Engineering (co-

Compare  
✓



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## Program Summary

University	McMaster University
Degree	Bachelor of Engineering, BEng Bachelor of Engineering and Management, BEng&Mgt Bachelor of Engineering and Society, BEngSoc
OUAC Program Code	MEC
Grade Range	A minimum of 87% is required for consideration. Admission is by selection.
Experiential Learning	Co-op program
Enrollment	900 (total for OUAC codes ME and MEC)
Instruction Language	English

## Subjects of Major Interest

Chemical Engineering
Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Engineering
Electrical Engineering



[Show Advanced Search Options](#)

Search All Programs

## Browse Programs

- > [Browse All Programs](#)
- > [Browse by Category](#)
- > [Browse by University](#)
- > [Show My Comparisons](#)

## Discover Other Options



- > [Collaborative University and College Programs](#) 
- > [Programs Requiring Prior University Study](#)
- > [Ontario Postsecondary Transfer Guide \(ON Transfer\)](#) 

## Prerequisites

- ENG4U
- MCV4U
- SCH4U
- SPH4U



## IB and AP Requirements

- [IB Admission Information](#) 
- [AP Admission Information](#) 

## Additional Admission Criteria

Mandatory supplementary application due January 30, 2025 (noon ET). Applicants will be provided with details.

OUAC application deadline: January 15, 2025.

If you have a strong admission average, you may qualify for free choice of discipline in Level II.

## Language Requirements

You are **not** required to submit an English-language test if you:

- resided in an English-speaking country for at least 4 years immediately prior to September 2024 or
- attended an English-speaking educational institution in a full-time academic (non-ESL) program for at least 4 years immediately prior to September 2025. Official documentation from the school is required for this exemption.

[Show Advanced Search Options](#)

[Search All Programs](#)

## Browse Programs


[Browse All Programs](#)

[Browse by Category](#)


[Browse by University](#)

[Show My Comparisons](#)

## Discover Other Options

[Collaborative University and College Programs](#) 

[Programs Requiring Prior University Study](#)

[Ontario Postsecondary Transfer Guide \(ON Transfer\)](#) 

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# Application Strategies For University

Advice from one post-secondary representative:

- 1) Check to be sure that programs and/or schools align (e.g. make sure student has more than one option for first choice of program).
- 2) Consider applying to one school outside of the GTHA.
- 3) As best as possible, apply to one program where you are very confident you will receive an offer of admission.
- 4) Consider applying by December 1; add more programs before the application deadline as necessary.



# College

- Research programs at [ontariocolleges.ca](http://ontariocolleges.ca)
- Colleges offer students many different program types:
  - Certificate (often one year, but length of program varies)
    - e.g. Preparatory Studies, Skilled Trades Techniques, CICE
  - Diploma (usually four semesters in length)
    - Workforce readiness (e.g. Paramedic, Technician)
  - Advanced Diploma (usually at least six semesters)
    - Workforce readiness PLUS additional theory and skills
  - Bachelor Degree (four years)
    - e.g. BSc Nursing, Bachelor of Interior Design, Bachelor of Digital Health

Start Date	▼
Credential	▼
Language of Instruction	▼
Program Availability	▼
Program Level	▼
Program Type	▼
Program Delivery	▼
Highly Competitive	▼

### Aviation Technician-Aircraft Maintenance (Co-op) (0301) ▼

Confederation | Campus: Thunder Bay | Full Time | Sep 3, 2025 | ● Open | [Website](#) 🔗

### Aviation Technician - Aircraft Maintenance (Co-Op) (AAM4) ▼

Fanshawe | Campus: London Campus Airport | Full Time | Sep 2, 2025 | ● Open | [Website](#) 🔗

### Aviation Technician - Avionics Maintenance (Co-Op) (AVM4) ▼

Fanshawe | Campus: London Campus Airport | Full Time | Sep 2, 2025 | ● Open | [Website](#) 🔗

### Aviation Technician - Aircraft Maintenance (269) ▼

Mohawk | Campus: Centre for Aviation Technology | Full Time | Sep 3, 2025 | ● Open | [Website](#) 🔗

### Aviation Technician - Aircraft Maintenance (269) ▼

Mohawk | Campus: Centre for Aviation Technology | Full Time | Jan 26, 2026 | ● Open | [Website](#) 🔗

### Aviation Technician - Aircraft Maintenance (269) ▼

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Overview

**Admission**

Tuition and Fees

Financial Assistance

Program of Studies

Experiential Learning

Learning Outcomes

Career Opportunities

Educational Pathways

Additional Information

Faculty

Contact Us

## Admission

### Domestic and International student admission requirements

- OSSD or equivalent ([Mohawk Academic Upgrading, GED](#)) including:
  - Grade 12 English, C or U or equivalent
  - Grade 12 Mathematics, MAP4C  $\geq$  60%; or MCT4C; or any U or equivalent

### Language Requirements for Applicants with English as a Second Language

- See below for accepted equivalents for Grade 12 English:
  - Successful completion of the [GAS-English for Academic Purposes \(478\)](#) program
  - [TOEFL](#) minimum score of 560 (83 Internet based)
  - or [IELTS](#) Academic minimum score of 6.5 overall with no band less than 6.0
  - More information about acceptable certificates, can be found on the [International Admission Requirements](#)

### Canadian Domestic Students

#### Centre for Aviation Technology at Hamilton International Airport (HA) ☑

September 2025	☑ Open
January 2026	☑ Open

### International Students

#### Centre for Aviation Technology at Hamilton International Airport (HA) ☑

September	<a href="#">Apply as an international student</a>
January	Check the <a href="#">PGWP Eligibility List</a> .



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# **College Pathway Planning**

- **College diploma may lead directly to work**
- **Students interested in skilled trades, but who do not have prior experience or an employer sponsor can apply to college and pursue an apprenticeship after college**
- **Students earning a college diploma or advanced diploma can pursue a university degree (or bachelor's degree) after earning their diploma. Some colleges and universities have articulation agreements where students can complete their degree after earning their diploma**

# Dual Credits

- The HWDSB has a partnership with Mohawk College where students can earn credits that count toward their high school OSSD and college. Many of these programs are offered at the Mohawk campus or elsewhere in the community.

Here is a sample of this year's offerings:

- Positive Psychology & Movies, Identity and Culture
- Community Services – Intro to Social Work & Rec Therapy
- Developmental Psychology & Health and Wellness
- Computer Technology – HTML and CSS & Hardware/Software
- Graphic Design
- Aviation Technology (located at Hamilton Airport)
- Welding (located at Stoney Creek campus)

# Apprenticeship

## What is an apprenticeship?

- As an apprentice, you learn a skilled trade on the job. You work with and learn from experienced workers – and get paid while you do it.
- You also learn in a classroom from instructors who know the skilled trade. This may take place in high school, on a college campus or a union training centre.
- Canada has a large demand for workers in the skilled trades and technologies. There are 144 skilled trades in Ontario!

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# Apprenticeships: How to get started

- Take courses in Technologies (or other areas leading to your chosen skilled trade) to develop skills that apply to skilled trades
- Take co-op courses to test out career pathways, gain real-world experience and form relationships with potential employers
- Leverage co-op experience and relationships to explore an apprenticeship opportunity OR apply to a college program where you will develop skills and be connected with an employer

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# Comparing Pathways to Apprenticeship

## *Direct Entry to Apprenticeship*

As an apprentice, you learn a skilled trade on the job in combination with class training

Apprenticeships are completed in 3-5 years

**VS**

## *Pre-Apprenticeship College Program*

The college courses may be 1 or 2 year programs. The courses are designed to deliver the skills enabling persons enter a skilled trade.

After completing a college program, the students begin the apprenticeship process.

**VS**



# Post-secondary trades options

**Option 1:** Find an employer to sponsor you as an apprentice.

- Traditional apprenticeship
- Trade union or group sponsor

**Option 2:** Complete a college course in a skilled trade of interest.

- Pre-apprenticeship
- College diploma or certificate



**OYAP**

ONTARIO YOUTH  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

# ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

- Start chosen career and train as a registered apprentice while enrolled in high school
- On-the-job training for students who like to learn by DOING
- Signed apprentice = Paid employment + 4 credits + apprenticeship hours
- Well-paying, in-demand jobs with benefits
- Research how opportunities at Westdale AND co-op can help you get started
- A good start is to select Tech course(s) and co-op in Grade 11

PROGRAM	LOCATION	Applications Due	Format	START DATE	END DATE
<b>Automotive Service Technician (AST) (Level 1)</b>	Mohawk College (Fennel Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
<b>Electrician (Level 1)</b>	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
<b>Plumber (Level 1)</b>	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
<b>Construction Craft Worker (CCW) (Level 1)</b>	LIUNA Local 837 LIUNA Training Centre 260 Hunter Rd. Grimsby	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks (no training during March Break)	February 2025	May 2025
<b>Welder (Level 1)</b>	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 10 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
<b>General Carpenter (Level 1)</b>	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
<b>Truck &amp; Coach Technician (Level 1)</b>	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025

**Note:** Students must provide their own transportation to and from these programs.

**Note:** All assigned dates and locations are tentative!

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## Apprenticeship Resources

- Trades Report – can be found on the Guidance Hub course (password required)
- [Skilled Trades Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program](#)
- [Apprenticesearch.com](#)
- [Apprenticeships in Ontario](#)



# Career Research & Job Search Websites

## Employment Resources:

1. [www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca)
2. [YMCA Employment Hamilton](#)
3. [Employment Hamilton](#)
4. [www.mohawkcollege.ca/community-employment-services](http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/community-employment-services)
5. [Goodwill Halton and Hamilton](#)

Find opportunities to network – friends, family members, part-time employers, co-op employers are all people who can help.

# Co-op at Westdale

COO3OE

Two-Credit Co-op  
Full Morning OR Afternoon in  
Semester 1 or Semester 2

COOFT1

Full Day Co-op In  
Semester 1

COOFT2

Full Day Co-op In  
Semester 2

Special Central Placement opportunities at HHS, Cable 14, Hamilton Police Services, Crown Attorney, Art Gallery of Hamilton and more!

Check out System Co-op programs – Building Construction Careers, Militia, Healthcare Support and ARTSMART

# SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS

## Pursuing a SHSM enables students to ...

1. Customize their secondary school education to suit interests and talents;
2. Develop specialized knowledge and skills that are valued by the sector or post-secondary education institutions;
3. Earn credits that are recognized by the sector and post-secondary education institution;
4. Gain sector-specific and career-relevant certification and training;
5. Identify, explore, and refine career goals and make informed decisions about their post-secondary destination;
6. Remain flexible, with the option to shift between pathways should their goals and plans change;

# How can students achieve SHSM?

- ✓ **FOUR Major Credits (at least one Gr. 11 and one Gr. 12)**
- ✓ **ONE Additional Credit as determined by SHSM**
- ✓ **Grade 12 English**
- ✓ **Some SHSM require Grade 12 math – check with Guidance or SHSM teacher**
- ✓ **Certifications – organized by SHSM teacher**
- ✓ **Reach-ahead experience**
- ✓ **Experiential learning**
- ✓ **TWO credits of co-op. Your placement must be related to your SHSM sector**

# Scholarships

## Many Types...

- Automatic Entrance Scholarships based on marks and no application is required (no need to apply separately)
- Additional Scholarships are available but may require an application (e.g. TD Community Leaders, Loran)
- Additional Scholarships are available but may require school nomination with your application (U of T National, Queen's Chancellor's, Schulich Leader, Western National)
- Scholarship information is available on [ontariocolleges.ca](https://ontariocolleges.ca), [ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca](https://ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca), and under the Scholarships and Awards tab on the Guidance Hub page
- Students should read The Scholarship Report on the Guidance Hub page for information about Community Scholarships and planning during Grade 12

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# OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program)

- OSAP applications will open in the spring ([OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/osap))
- Cannot apply for OSAP until you have accepted an offer to a post-secondary institution
- Can be used at institutions throughout Canada and outside of Canada as well; there is a list of eligible institutions on the OSAP website
- Combination of grants (non-repayable) and loans (repayable)
- Check eligibility requirements before applying
- Check the estimator to get an idea of amount ([OSAP Aid Estimator for Full-Time Students: Home Page \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca/osap/aid-estimator))

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# Learn and Stay Grant

- [Ontario Learn and Stay Grant | ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca/learn-and-stay-grant)
- Funding for students studying in priority regions in Ontario (Northern, Southwestern and Eastern) in eligible college and university programs
- Students must commit to working 6 months/year of their program in the region where they studied; failure to meet obligation will turn the grant into a repayable OSAP loan
- College programs – Practical Nursing, Paramedic, Medical Lab Technology
- University Programs – Nursing
- Covers tuition, books, compulsory fees, direct educational costs
- Applications open in the spring

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# Accessibility Accommodations After High School

Do you access Special Education Services and need help accessing accommodations and support after high school?

For help with next steps, speak with:

- Learning Resource Teacher
  - Ms. K. Venizelos – Head of Learning Resources  
([kvenizel@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kvenizel@hwdsb.on.ca))
- Guidance counsellor
- We encourage students and families to meet with Student Services at their post-secondary destination with current documents

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# SUMMER SCHOOL

Use summer school to

- Get ahead in credits
- Make up missed credits
- Upgrade your foundational skills and upgrade your mark
- Summer school registration reopens April 1. Deadline to register is June 27 at 11:00 am.
- Students register for Summer School through myBlueprint.
- Most summer school courses begin July 2. Co-op courses include in-person learning in the spring
- Credit Recovery available for many Grade 9 and 10 credits
- Summer School On-Line | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board ([hwdsb.on.ca](http://hwdsb.on.ca))
- Summer Co-op | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board ([hwdsb.on.ca](http://hwdsb.on.ca))

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# Who is my Counsellor?

<u>Counselor</u>	<u>Alpha by Last Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ms. Quaglia	A – B, X – Z,	cquaglia@hwdsb.on.ca
Mrs. Parkes-Hallmark	C - G + IB students	kiparkes@hwdsb.on.ca
Mr. Meyer	H – N	dmeyer@hwdsb.on.ca
Mrs. O'Leary	O - W	coleary@hwdsb.on.ca
Ms. Kuder	ESL/ELL/ International VISA	tkuder@hwdsb.on.ca



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