

Post-Secondary Information: Applying To College and University



WESTDALE
SECONDARY SCHOOL



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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 & Agenda

Welcome to the 25-26 School Year!

Agenda

- Graduation Reminders
- Accessibility Accommodations after High School
- Applying to College
- Applying to University
 - Ontario
 - Outside Ontario
- Post Secondary Costs
- Financial Support/Paying for Post Secondary
 - Scholarships
 - OSAP/Learn and Stay Grant
- Returning to Westdale/Deferring a University Offer
- Information for International Studies
- Questions



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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. It provides information about the location, appointment booking, and contact details for Ms. Quaglia, Ms. Parkes-Hallmark, and Mr. Meyer. There is also a 'Book a Guidance Appointment Link' and a 'Contacts' section.

A screenshot of the Westdale Secondary School Guidance page. The page features a header with the 'HWDSB HUB' logo and the title 'GUIDANCE - Westdale Secondary'. Below the header is a navigation bar with 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' 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 Photo Dates

Grad Photo sittings are available at Westdale on the following dates:

- November 24 - December 12 (*currently open for bookings)
- www.bookmygrad.ca (school code WHS)



Commencement Class of 2026



Thursday, June 25th
First Ontario Concert Hall



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Grad Checklist

- 30 credits (18 compulsory, 12 elective)
- 40 community involvement hours; due by April 1, 2026
- 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 admission requirements
- If applying to university, you 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.

Grad Checklist- Community Hours

- **40 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS NEEDED FOR JUNE 2026 GRADS**
- 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

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.

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)
- Information Session for Students: **October 6th Per 3** during lunch in the Library Seminar Room with Ms. Faux from HWDSB Post-Secondary Navigation Team.

What's Next?

- **Apprenticeships**
- **Colleges**
- **University**
- **Work**
- **Community Living**
- **Returning to
Westdale/Gap Year**



College

- 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

Ontario College Application Process

- Do research and apply online at www.ontariocolleges.ca starting in early October
- Obtain OEN (Ontario Education Number) from any report card or in a student's myBlueprint profile
- Instructional videos will be posted on the Guidance Hub page under “applying to college and university”
- Equal Consideration Deadline to apply to college is February 1, 2026
- \$150.00 application fee
- 5 choices—no more than 3 programs at any one college

Ontario College Application Timelines

- Application opens October 10
- Apply by February 1 for equal consideration
- Applications after February 1 will be processed only if there is space in the program
- Applications open early October
- November 1 is the earliest date you will receive an offer of acceptance to an Ontario College Program
- We encourage students applying to highly competitive programs (e.g. practical nursing, dental hygiene, paramedic) to apply by end of October
- Offers continue to go out until programs are filled; then waitlisted
- Deadline to accept offer is May 1
- Westdale Guidance will conduct College Application support sessions in October

Sample Student 1: Practical Nursing

	Program of Choice	College
1	Practical Nursing	Mohawk
2	Practical Nursing	Fanshawe*
3	Practical Nursing	Algonquin*
4	Pre-Health	Mohawk
5	Pre-Health	Fanshawe

- Choices 1,2,3 are for the program most interested in by the student
- Choices 4 and 5 allow for a pathway to program if not accepted into Practical Nursing.
- (*) represents a school and program that qualifies for the Learn and Stay Grant

Application Tips

- **Be sure to check the program start date (Sept 2026 vs Jan 2027)**
- **Use all 5 choices**
- **Consider one school outside the GTHA for competitive programs**
- **Keep track of your logins and passwords; use a personal email account**
- **Be sure that your program choices are entered in order of preference**
- **Westdale Guidance will conduct a "How to Apply to College" information session in October TBD**

Learning More About College

- **Westdale College Fair**

- **Tuesday, October 21st 9:30 am- 11:30 am in the Library**
- **Confirmed colleges: Georgian, Niagara, Mohawk, Sheridan, Humber and Fanshawe**

- **Mohawk College Open House Dates**

- **Fennell Campus (Main Campus) - Nov 1, 10:00 am, 135 Fennell Ave West**
- **Stoney Creek Skilled Trades Campus – Nov 1, 11:00 am, 481 Barton Street**
- **Institute for Applied Health Sciences – Nov 6, 6:00 pm, 1280 Main Street West**
- **Centre for Aviation Technology – Nov 6, 5:00 pm, 9500 Airport Road**

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

- Use www.ouinfo.ca to research
- Use www.ouac.on.ca to apply to Ontario universities
- OUAC=Ontario Universities Application Centre
- Students will apply to an undergraduate degree program at University where you earn a Bachelor's Degree (i.e. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
- Most undergraduate degree programs are four years in length

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

OUAC Key Dates

- **OUAC Platform opens for applications in late September**
- **January 15, 2026 – deadline to apply**
- **May 28, 2026 – latest date student may receive an offer from an Ontario University**
- **June 1, 2026 – deadline to respond to offers of admission**
- **Westdale Guidance will conduct an information session on Wednesday, October 1 during Period 3 in the Auditorium for students applying to university**

Ontario University Application Process www.ouac.on.ca

- **OUAC fee is \$156 for 3 choices**
- **\$50 for each additional choice beyond the first 3**
- **\$10 fee if you are not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident**
- **Some schools have supplemental fees:**
 - **Guelph Landscape Architecture \$60**
 - **McMaster Engineering \$50, Health Sciences \$30**
 - **U of T Architecture \$100, Commerce \$51, Computer Science \$51, Engineering \$43.86, Medical Radiation Sciences \$50, Music \$70**
 - **Waterloo Architecture \$60, Engineering \$60**
 - **York (some programs in School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design) \$25**
- **Supplemental fees will be paid to OUAC at the time of application. All fees are non-refundable**

How do colleges and universities get my marks?

- All Grade 11 and 12 marks are sent electronically by the HWDSB in November, February, April and July.
- Check your OCAS/OUAC account online after every reporting period and let your counsellor know about any errors – students will get an email alert when their profile is updated

Repeated Courses

- Repeated mark policy varies from school to school
 - Some take the mark from the first attempt at the course
 - Some take the highest mark
 - Some take an average
 - Some give a penalty
- Students should check the minimum average and the repeated course policy for your university program of choice
- Where? University website OR ouinfo.ca

Student Information on OUAC Application

- You must provide information about ALL institutions where you have registered in 1 or more high school courses. Institutions may include but are not limited to:
 - Westdale Secondary School
 - Previous high school attended
 - HWDSB summer school eLearning
 - Out-of-Board summer school
 - Private School
 - Ontario Virtual School
- You DO NOT need to include institutions where your home school registered you for courses (e.g. board virtual school, dual credit, SHSM, consortium eLearning)
- It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that Guidance is aware that you are taking that course so it may be added to your historical grades

Early look at Fall 2025 Program Categories (OSSS only)

Program Group	2024	2025	Change #	Change %
Commerce, Management & Business Administration	101726	109285	7559	7%
Computer & Information Systems	54143	39865	-14278	-26%
Engineering	60767	69974	9207	15%
Fine & Applied Arts	21896	21540	-356	-2%
Health Professionals & Related Programs	75196	89673	14477	19%
Liberal Studies & Humanities	49542	48154	-1388	-3%
Mathematics & Statistics	17776	17107	-669	-4%
Other	46	43	-3	-7%
Psychology	22194	21991	-203	-1%
Science	79963	88164	8201	10%
Social Sciences	69666	71928	2262	3%

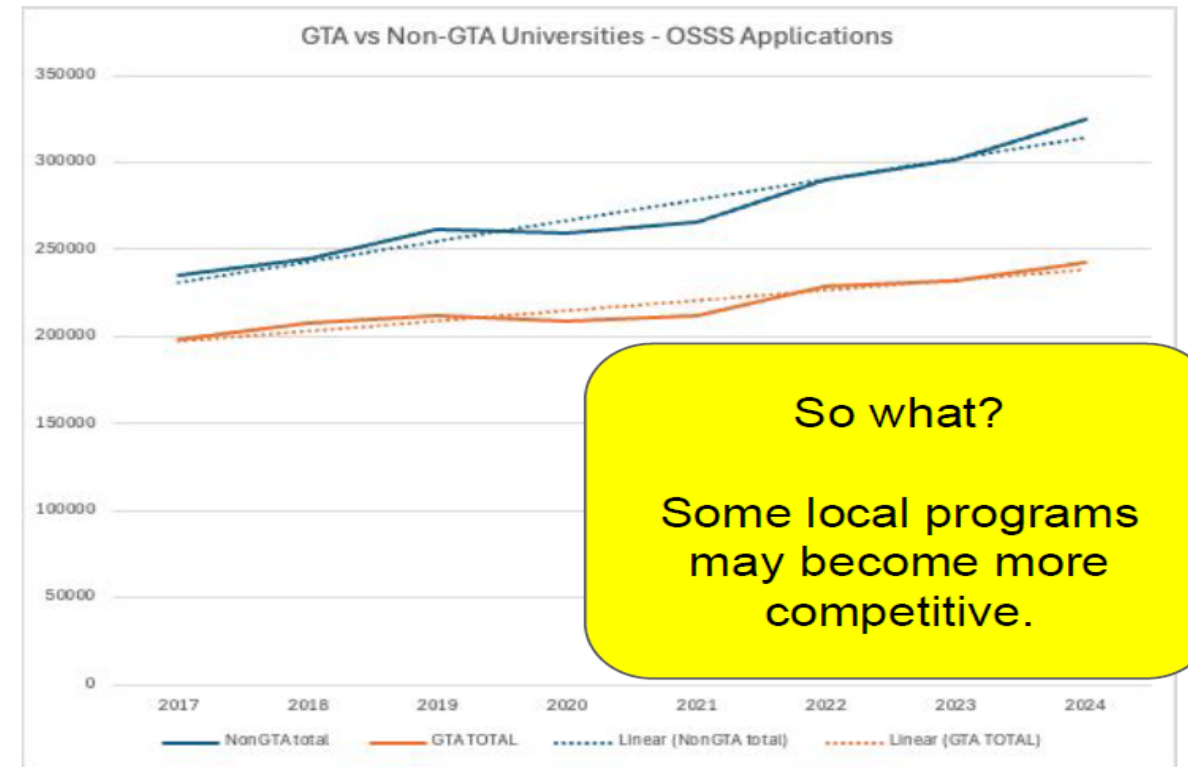
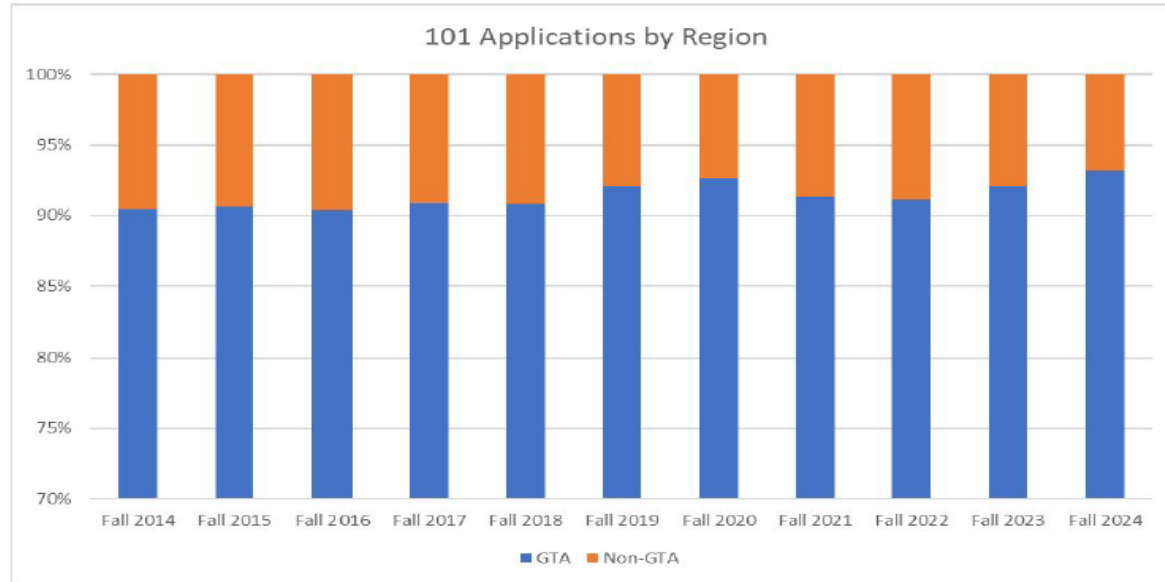
So what?

2025 may be easier to get into CS. Tougher to get into Engineering or Nursing/Health.

<https://www.ouac.on.ca/statistics/> - January Applications by Program Group, OSSS only

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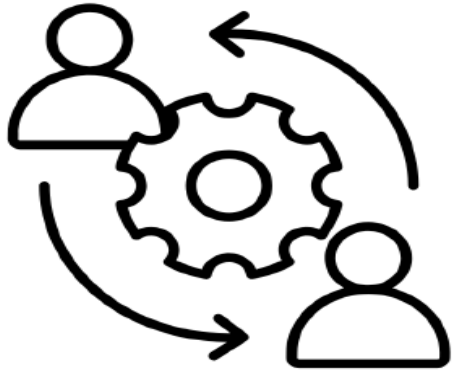
Trend: Students Seem to be Sticking Closer to Home



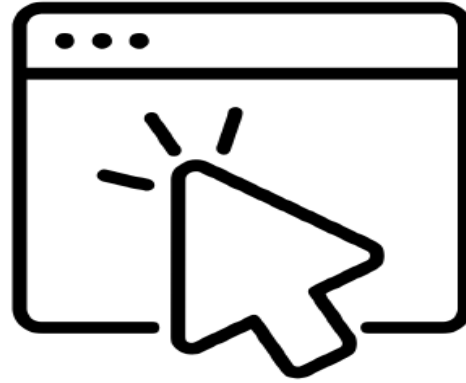
Sources: TMU Internal Data - proportion of 101 Applications by Postal Code (GTA vs non-GTA)
and OUAC Applications by Institution (GTA=TMU, UofT, Mac, Ontario Tech, OCAD, York, Guelph-Humber)

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Applicant Strategies - Competitive Programs



Do NOT
expect to
transfer in Y2



Read the
websites and
OUAC re:
averages



Consider
alternate
schools

Application Strategies

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 January 15 application deadline as necessary.

Sample Student 1: BSc Nursing

	Program of Choice	University
1	Nursing I (BSc)	McMaster
2	Nursing (BSc)	Western *
3	Nursing (BSc)	Queen's *
4	Nursing I	Mohawk
5	Nursing (BSc)	Nipissing *

- Nursing programs are in high demand provincially and the number of applications exceeds the number of seats available in programs
- NOTE: If you apply to Mohawk BSc Nursing, must apply in OUAC as a second choice at McMaster
- If nursing is your goal, always choose a school outside the GTHA
- * Learn and Stay Grant eligible

Sample Student 2: Health Sciences

	Program of Choice	University	Notes
1	Honors Health Sciences	McMaster	Min 90%, Supplemental application
2	Health Sciences	Western	High 80's/Low 90's
3	Bachelor of One Health	Guelph	80-85%
4	Health Sciences	Waterloo	Mid 80's REG High 80's COOP
5	Health Sciences	Ottawa	78% French Immersion available

- Offers to McMaster Health Science are based on a combined score of admission average and Supplemental application score.
- At least one choice needs to be a school where you know you will exceed the cut off average for the program.

Sample Student 3: Engineering/Staying Local

	Program	University	Notes
1	Engineering I	McMaster	Minimum 87%; admission by selection
2	Chemical and Physical Sciences Gateway	McMaster	Mid 80's
3	Automation Systems: Engineering Technology	McMaster	Minimum 82%
4	Mechanical Engineering	Guelph	84% - 89%
5	Integrated Engineering	Brock	Low 80's

- McMaster is a common first year Engineering program while Guelph requires students to apply for the specific discipline they are interested in
- McMaster also requires a supplemental application for Engineering I
- Choices 2 and 3 are not Engineering programs but allow a student to remain local while studying in a similar field

Learning More About University

- **Ontario University Fair:**
 - **September 27-28**
 - **Metro Toronto Convention Centre – South Building**
 - **9 am – 5 pm daily**
- **Regional Fairs:**
 - **October 16 at University of Waterloo 5:00pm – 8:00pm**
 - **October 17 at Niagara Falls Convention Centre 10:00am – 1:00 pm**

Post-Secondary Visits

University and College Visits Fall 2025.docx

Universities Outside of Ontario

- Check each university website for deadlines and application fees as they vary from university to university.
- Some schools outside of Ontario have a reciprocal agreement with OUAC to receive marks. Many do not. For schools that do not, students will either need to mail an official transcript or email an electronic transcript. Students need to know the process for each school they are applying to.
- U.S. universities may require SAT or ACT scores, and most use The Common Application.
- Information session Oct 16 at lunch

OUAC Reciprocal Agreements

- **OUAC has agreements with the following Canadian schools:**
 - **Acadia University**
 - **Bishop's University**
 - **The University of British Columbia**
 - **Concordia University**
 - **Dalhousie University**
 - **Saint Mary's University**
 - **Simon Fraser University**
 - **The University of Victoria**

OUAC Reciprocal Agreements

- If you apply to any school listed on the previous slide, you can authorize that school to request your academic information from OUAC
- There will be space on each school's application for you to enter your OUAC Reference Number
- Your Reference Number will be 2026-XXXXXX and it is generated AFTER you submit your OUAC application
- Some schools ask for your Reference Number in the format above. Other schools want it in the format 2025XXXXXX0 (no dash and an 11th number which is ALWAYS zero)
- For this reason, we always recommend completing the OUAC application first

“The Big 3”

UBC (www.ubc.ca)

Dec 1: major awards application deadline
Jan 15: final deadline
\$78.50 (domestic) or \$173.25 (international)

McGill (www.mcgill.ca)

Feb 1: deadline for applications
\$136.08 application fee

Dalhousie (www.dal.ca)

Feb 15: entrance scholarship consideration
\$70 application fee



McGill



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Post-Secondary Costs

	Mohawk College	McMaster University
Tuition	\$3000 (approx) Two terms/one year of study	\$6000 - \$12,000 Per year for domestic students
Residence	\$10,000 (approx) Private bedroom in double occupancy suite	\$6500 - \$11,500 Varies by type of accommodations selected
Meal Plan	\$3500 (approx) Depends on preference	\$4000 - \$7200 Depends on preference and living accommodations
Ancillary Fees	\$1000 (approx) Career Services, Student ID Card, etc.	\$1500 - \$2000 Insurance, Bus Pass, Academic Support, etc.
Other	\$1500 - \$2000 (approx) Books and course materials, travel home, etc.	\$1500 - \$2000 Books and course materials, travel home, etc.

Post-Secondary Costs

2023 Fall Term

	Due Date	Amount
Undergraduate Full Time - ON	2023-09-29	4,054.15
Virtual Health - UOSU	2023-09-29	15.04
Health Services -Undergrad	2023-09-29	28.76
Sports - Undergrad	2023-09-29	131.38
University Centre - Undergrad	2023-09-29	17.23
Students' Union (UOSU)	2023-09-29	120.07
Telfer-Career Centre Ugrad	2023-09-29	125.75
Telfer Student Council	2023-09-29	19.63
Transit Pass U-Pass	2023-09-29	446.96
Gee-Gees Pass	2023-09-29	7.00
Resident Insurance Program	2023-09-29	140.00
Residence Fees - 90U	2023-09-29	5,817.00
7 day Meal Plan	2023-09-29	3,375.00
Housing Deposit - Credit Card (700.00 received 2023-03-29)		-700.00

Fall Term = Sept to Dec

Subtotal

\$ 13,597.97

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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, U of T Wolf Scholars)
- 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, ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca, and under the Scholarships and Awards tab on the Guidance Hub page
- Westdale subscribes to The Scholarship Report, a quarterly publication. Access is through the Guidance Course in The Hub or through our newsletter.

Queen's Major Admission Awards

Chancellor's Scholarship

- Westdale can nominate two students for this award

Melvin R Goodes Scholarship

- Any number of Westdale students can apply
- Must also complete the Financial Needs Bursary application on the SOLUS website

Deadlines to be aware of:

- November 13 – information session for students at lunch
- November 20 – deadline to apply to Queen's through OUAC
- November 24 – Westdale deadline for Chancellor's consideration
- December 8 – MAA application due on SOLUS

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))

Learn and Stay Grant

- [Ontario Learn and Stay Grant | ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca)
- 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

Returning to Westdale

- Most students wishing to return to Westdale may do so for one semester only; must be a full – time student in that semester (minimum of 3 classes)
- Students with an IEP are eligible to return for a full year
- Other students may be eligible to return for a full year under certain circumstances

Deferring an Offer to University

- **You may be eligible to request a deferral of up to one year after being admitted to a university**
- **The rules for deferring varies between schools; almost always the student may not complete any education during the deferral year (at high school or post-secondary)**
- **You must check the rules at each school of interest**

International Student – Literacy Requirement

It is your responsibility to make all arrangements regarding the writing of English Language Proficiency tests and to have the official score report forwarded to the Admissions Office directly from the testing centre by April 1st!

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 2025 and have no ESL classes

OR

- attended an English-speaking educational institution in a full-time academic (non-ESL) program for at least 4 years immediately prior to September 2026.

IELTS – International English Language Testing System (Academic and Academic UKVI) _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	PTE – Pearson Test of English Academic _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	TOEFL – Test of English as a Foreign Language _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +
CAE – Cambridge Advanced English (C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency) _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	CAEL – Canadian Academic English Language _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	Duolingo English Test _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +

International Student – Provincial Attestation Letter

- Once you have accepted an offer of admission then you need to make arrangements to obtain your Provincial Attestation Letter directly from the university you will be attending
- Your PAL will be granted specifically for the university you will be attending and for the program you have accepted the offer to
- If your study permit is about to expire for high school, then you need to apply to extend it through to June 2026 so that you can graduate
 - [Guide 5552 - Applying to Change Conditions or Extend Your Stay in Canada - Student - online application - Canada.ca](#)

DO NOT wait until the last minute!!

Next Steps

- Ensure you are in the correct classes this year to meet admission requirements for post-secondary goals
- **Understand your responsibility with timelines, deadlines and communication. Check email REGULARLY!**
- **Use a personal email. If you don't have one, make one!**
- Check The Hub regularly
- Research next steps and requirements
- Connect with your Guidance Counsellor
- Check out our FAQ document for additional information

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I take a study period?**
 - New this year – Waterloo has relaxed their policy for Engineering admissions and students may now take a spare (or two) and not be penalized in the application process
- **Can I do an early application?**
 - There is no official 'early application' period in Ontario. OUAC opens in late September and are due by January 15. U of T, to our knowledge, is the only school that publishes an 'Early Application Deadline' in Ontario.
- **Can I get early admission?**
 - Early offers of admission vary from school to school. Some schools send early offers to highly qualified applicants while other schools wait until more Grade 12 marks are available before beginning to send offers. By and large, schools in Ontario send offers in numerous rounds, and the number of rounds each school does depends on the school
- [Post – Secondary Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Who is my Counsellor?

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



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