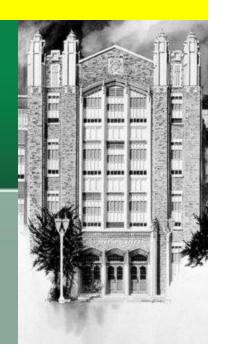
Welcome to Grade 12: What's Next







Welcome & Agenda

Welcome to the 25-26 School Year! Agenda

Graduation Reminders

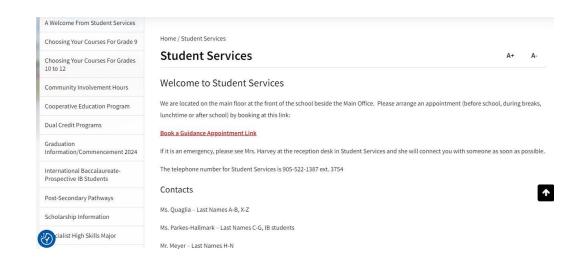
Information for students:

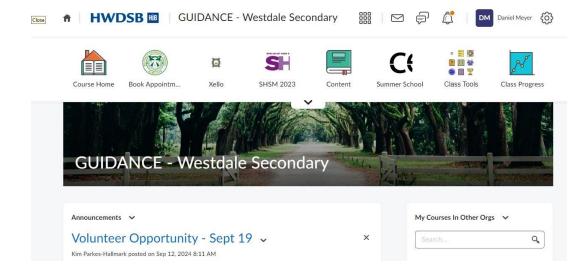
- Seeking Apprenticeships
- Seeking Employment
- Applying to College
- Applying to University
- Returning to Westdale
- Questions





Communicating with You





Westdale Secondary School Website: Student Services Guidance:

Westdale Secondary Hub Course



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



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

<u>OR</u>

 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 (<u>kvenizel@hwdsb.on.ca</u>)
- Guidance counsellor



What's Next?

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



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!

Comparing Pathways to Apprenticeship

Direct Entry to Apprenticeship

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

VS

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.

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



HWDSB



Apprenticeships Information Night for Students and Families

Learn about Training and Career Opportunities in Apprenticeships and Skilled Trades. Meet with Colleges, Training Delivery Agents, and leading Local Employer partners.

DETAIL INFORMATION:



SEPT. 24, 2025



5:30pm to 8:00pm

LiUNA Station

360 James St. North, Hamilton

LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITES IN:

Electrician Plumber General Carpenter

Automotive Service Technician

Welder Millwright

Construction Craft Worker

Chef Hairstylist

and many more....

Truck and Coach Technician

Refrigeration (HVAC)







OYAP - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

- Allows students to earn high school credits while participating in apprenticeship training in a skilled trade
- Full day co-op placement
- Semester 2 Accelerated OYAP opportunities available see your Guidance counsellor if interested
- Signed apprentice = Paid employment + 4 credits + apprenticeship hours earned towards certification





Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program ACCELERATED PROGRAMS 2024-2025



PROGRAM	LOCATION	Applications Due	Format	START DATE	END DATE
Automotive Service Technician (AST) (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Fennel Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Electrician (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Plumber (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Construction Craft Worker (CCW) (Level 1)	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
Welder (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 10 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
General Carpenter (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Truck & Coach Technician (Level 1)	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!

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

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



Going to work after high school?

- **■** Earn money and gain independence
- Get real life experience, build resilience, confidence and social skills by working in the real world
- Develop employability skills
- Get a taste for a career in a specific industry
- A job in a skilled trade could lead to apprenticeship training
- **■** Earn money for education costs
- Some companies help employees pay for college & university tuition costs



Career Research & Job Search Websites

Employment Resouces:

- 1. www.youth.gc.ca
- 2. YMCA Employment Hamilton
- 3. **Employment Hamilton**
- 4. 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.



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 Timelines

- 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



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
- College Information Program Stop
- September 29, 9:30 am, Niagara College Welland Campus
- Mohawk College Open House Dates
 - o 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



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)



APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

- Use <u>www.ouinfo.ca</u> to research
- Use <u>www.ouac.on.ca</u> 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



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



How do colleges and universities get my marks?

- All Grade 11 and 12 marks are sent electronically by Westdale 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



Learning More About University

- Ontario University Fair:
 - September 27-28 at Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- Regional Fairs:
 - October 16 at University of Waterloo 5:00pm 8:00pm
 - October 17 at Niagara Falls Convention Centre 10:00am 1:00 pm
- OUAC Virtual Event September 16 must sign up online



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



OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program)

- OSAP applications will open in the spring (<u>OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program</u> <u>ontario.ca</u>)
- 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 (<u>OSAP Aid Estimator for Full-Time</u> <u>Students: Home Page (gov.on.ca)</u>)



Learn and Stay Grant

- Ontario Learn and Stay Grant | 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



Next Steps

- Understand your responsibility with timelines, deadlines and communication. Check email and 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>	Alpha by Last Name	<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





