

Grade 12 Newsletter

December 1, 2025



Weekly Calendar



Monday, Dec. 1	
Tuesday, Dec. 2	
Wednesday, Dec. 3	
Thursday, Dec. 4	
Friday, Dec. 5	
Upcoming:	Dec. 11—Scholarship and Awards Workshop with Black Grad Coach

Upcoming Opportunities



1) Additional Admission Requirements

As you apply to your post-secondary programs, please check requirements and due dates for any programs with additional admission requirements. Many programs at McMaster University require supplementary applications. If you are applying to a McMaster program that has a supplementary application, we encourage you to visit [McMaster's website](#) to gather more information. Some programs offer webinar information sessions to support students with their supplementary application. Supplementary applications are due early in the new year and supports are upcoming.

2) [McMaster Access Award](#) - Application due February 21

Up to \$20,000 per year in aid and award funding towards tuition, compulsory fees, books, equipment and living costs and 1 guaranteed McMaster University work experience. Tenable for up to 4 years. Eligibility for award:

- Students from equity-deserving groups in the Golden Horseshoe area
- Demonstrate financial need

Criteria: An AwardSpring application, which includes:

- Short essay questions detailing the barriers to accessing postsecondary education you are facing and your desire to attend McMaster
- A reference letter

Equity-deserving groups often include:

Students with parents who did not attend, or complete, post-secondary studies (first-generation university students)
Indigenous students
Students with disabilities
Certain racialized minority students (especially youth with Afro-Canadian and Latin American backgrounds)
Students from low-income families and neighbourhoods
Adult learners who are new to post-secondary education
Students from rural communities
Women (in some disciplines)
Students who wouldn't attend post-secondary without additional programs or supports

3) University of Waterloo Conditional Admission to Pharmacy

Virtual Information Session December 4

- Tailored for high school students who are curious or passionate about a future in pharmacy, this virtual session offers a comprehensive introduction to the Conditional Admission to Pharmacy (CAP) pathway at Waterloo.
- Get the inside scoop from our pharmacy advisors and insightful Pharmacy Student Ambassadors as they explore: Pharmacy as a profession – what it means to be a pharmacist and the impact you can make
- Pathways to pharmacy – different routes to becoming a pharmacy student
- CAP program details and admissions criteria – what you need to know to prepare and apply
- Student perspectives – join a live Q&A and hear from former CAP students now thriving in the PharmD program

If you're a high school student planning ahead, this session is the perfect opportunity to start shaping your future in pharmacy.

4) Scholarship and Award Opportunities for Black Students

There are a number of scholarships and awards available for students who identify as Black and of African or Caribbean decent. The [John C. Holland Awards](#) are presented each year by the Hamilton Black History Council to Black students who have demonstrated excellence in their school or in the community. We encourage Westdale students to apply for these awards! We welcome students considering an application to a John C. Holland Award to connect with a caring adult or Guidance counselor in the school for support with this process.

Westdale Guidance will be holding a workshop where we highlight awards and scholarships available for Black students and support students with initiating processes to pursue these awards. **This workshop will be on Thursday, December 11 during Period 3 in the large Library Seminar Room.**

Information For You

1) University and College Applications

This is a reminder that applications for university are due in OUAC by January 15.

Applications for colleges through Ontario Colleges is due by February 1.

Please see your Guidance counsellor if you need support. We recommend completing your applications before winter break as January is a very busy time for Grade 12 students.

2) English Proficiency Requirements

Newcomer students will need to demonstrate proof of English proficiency in advance of meeting conditions for admission to post-secondary school. The deadlines for English proficiency are typically in April. Be sure to complete the arrangement with your test provider to have the results sent to the post-secondary institution.

3) Graduation Requirements

A reminder about your requirements to graduate:

30 credits (including 18 compulsory credits)

Ontario Literacy Requirement

Community Involvement Hours

Online Graduation Requirement

Students with community involvement hours completed, but not yet submitted should submit their completed Community Involvement Hours Form to Guidance.

Students who have not completed two online courses and do not plan to complete two online courses must opt out of the online graduation requirement. Your family can do this through Parent Portal. If you need a paper form, please see your Guidance counsellor.