

The Career Centre

<http://careercentre.sheridaninstitute.ca>

University
Fair 2012
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University FAQs

Programs and Schools

What is the "best" university to apply to? There is no best university. Universities in Ontario are public and their standards are regulated to provide a quality education. Some are better known than others, but ultimately it comes down to what you want from the university, its program and learning environment. For more help, pick up our "Selecting a University" leaflet.

What is a Bachelor's degree? It is the first level of study in a discipline (Master's is second, Doctorate is the highest level). Common degrees include B.A. (Arts), B.Sc (Science), B.Comm. (Commerce), B.F.A. (Fine Arts), B.B.A. (Business Administration), B.A.S. (Administrative Studies) B.Ed. (Teaching).

What is an undergraduate degree? An undergraduate degree is your first degree (i.e., Bachelor's) whereas graduate degrees (e.g., B.Ed., M.A., M.B.A.) require some other degree as a prerequisite.

What is a major? Your major is the main subject you will study. When you have declared a major you will be given a list of specific core courses you must take as well as options from which you can select. Most degree programs require only around half of the courses you take to be related to your major so, beyond core and option courses, you have great latitude in determining the content of your studies. For example, you could do a B.A. yet take some business courses.

What is an honours degree? An honours degree is when you specialize in a subject as part of a 4 year program (general degrees are 3 years). Your honours specialization is just like a major except that you do a higher proportion of courses in that topic. Honours degrees are called Specialist degrees at some schools. Graduating is based on completing required courses and a total number of credits.

How long does it take? Describing a degree as 3 or 4 year is an indication of typical completion time. Really, it is about completing a certain number of credits to graduate. Transfer credit or advanced standing will lower the number of credits required. Also, university is generally more flexible in being able to take additional course load or summer courses to finish sooner.

Can I change programs once I am there? When applying, you must choose a degree type (e.g., B.A., B.Comm) and a major. If your marks are in good standing, it is usually possible to change your major within that degree at a later time; you may need to catch up on some of the required courses. Changing degree type may be permitted if you have met the prerequisites for the degree program you wish to transfer to.

Applying

What is OUAC? The Ontario Universities' Application Centre coordinates applications, offers and acceptances to degree programs at universities in Ontario, including OCAD (Ontario College of Arts & Design). OUAC does not make admission decisions. OUAC is located in Guelph but is not affiliated with University of Guelph or any other school.

How do I apply? You initiate the process by using OUAC's online application: www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105. The self-serve system takes you through each application step, from selecting programs to ordering college transcripts. Nothing permanent happens until the final step when you pay, so it is a good idea to set up an account and become familiar with the system before you apply. Do not lose your login information... you will need it to amend your application or accept an offer!

What happens after I apply through OUAC? Several weeks after applying, you will receive communication from each university with further information and (in some cases) a more detailed application which may ask you to complete a questionnaire, résumé, portfolio, etc.

How soon can I apply? What is the deadline for applying? Each September, OUAC opens the application for all entry points (January, May, September) in the following calendar year. Most undergraduate programs have application cutoff dates sometime in the spring for September entry*. However, you will have best chances if you apply by mid/late-January. It may be a good idea to wait until January so that you are aware of your fall semester final marks and overall GPA.

Can I apply as a mature student? Most universities define a "mature student" as an applicant over a certain age (usually 21) and who has been out of formal education for a certain period (usually 1 or more years). If you are currently a full-time student you may not meet the criteria for a mature student at most universities. More info see www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105/105-mature/

Do I have to disclose all previous & current education? Yes.

How many universities/programs can I apply to? You can apply to as many universities as you like. The basic \$130 OUAC application fee includes three program choices. Each additional choice costs \$42. Applying to 2 programs at the same university counts as 2 choices. You can apply to a maximum of 3 programs at any one university.

*Some professional programs including teaching and social work may have deadlines as early as December for fall entry.

CONTINUED on reverse side...

Updated:
SEP 2011



<http://careercentre.sheridaninstitute.ca>

Traf-D103 Davis-B219 · Traf x2533 Davis x5328
Career Counselling · Educational Planning · Tutoring
Job Postings · Employment Advising · Career Events



...“Applying” FAQs, continued from reverse side.

What other fees are charged? Each university has a supplementary/document evaluation fee. They range from \$40-\$90 and are collected by OUAC as part of the application process. You only pay one supplementary fee per school, regardless of how many programs you apply to at that university.

I applied for January but didn't get in. How do I reapply for September? Your OUAC application fee covers any entry point in 2012. Do not start a new application; simply amend your application to delete the January programs and add the September ones.

I accepted an offer but then got an offer from another school I would prefer to go to. When you accept an offer it does not cancel your other applications. You may get multiple (or subsequent) offers but you may only accept one. You can cancel a previously made acceptance and take a different offer. If you do this, it will likely be impossible to revert to the original acceptance.

What about part-time studies? Use OUAC to apply to part-time degree programs at Carleton, Guelph, OCAD, York, and some Ryerson programs. For other schools, apply directly to them.

How do I apply to universities outside of Ontario? You can apply to as many out-of-province/country universities as you like. You apply to each one directly, not through OUAC.

Admission, Marks & Documentation

What do universities look for in assessing college students for admission? Universities are typically most interested in capability (can you do the program?) and motivation (how much do you want to do the program?). One of the main ways to judge capability is by looking at marks. They will look at your overall average (i.e., cumulative GPA) but may put an emphasis on academic (reading, writing, theory) courses. Consistently strong academic performance is an asset but a few bad marks should not affect you as long as your overall average is still good. In most cases they will look at all marks (including high school) but are more likely to put an emphasis on your college marks as recent performance is seen as the best indicator of future performance.

How do I find out my current/cumulative GPA? You can view your marks on AccessSheridan through myOTR or you can request a printed unofficial transcript from the Registrars Office. It is useful to understand how GPA is calculated when attempting to estimate or project it... from the Sheridan home page look under Services > Records & Registration > Academic Information.

What is an official transcript? It bears the stamp of the issuing school and is in a sealed envelope. Universities always require official transcripts. If you are late in the application cycle, they may accept unofficial ones (i.e., issued directly to you) until they receive official ones. Do not have transcripts sent to OUAC. Separate transcripts must be sent to each university.

How do I request transcripts from high school and/or Sheridan? As part of the OUAC application process, you can request that your Sheridan transcript be sent to the schools you are applying to. There is no additional charge for this. Sheridan will send them directly to the schools you indicate. For secondary school transcripts, contact the last high school you attended. Your high school may send transcripts directly or give you sealed envelopes to address and mail to universities yourself.

I don't want my high school marks (or college marks) used—can they be left out? The application asks you to disclose all secondary and post-secondary education, and to account for any time while out of full-time education. This is also included in the declaration you must sign as part of the application process. If there were extenuating circumstances that affected your marks, there is usually an opportunity to state this in the university's supplemental application.

Transfer Credits, etc

Can I get credit at university for what I have done at Sheridan? It depends on several factors including:

- the university - some are known to be more accommodating in how they assess college courses than others
- program relevance - how much crossover is there between your college program and the university degree
- your marks - generally, credit is awarded for 70% or higher
- whether there is a formal transfer agreement or policy for college transfer students.

What is a transfer agreement? Also known as an “articulation agreement”, it is a specific written understanding that specifies how much course credit you may be entitled to when moving from a specific program at Sheridan to a related program at a specific university. It usually lists minimum GPA for consideration but keep in mind that being eligible is not a guarantee because other applicants may exceed that minimum. Ontario transfer agreements are detailed at: www.ouac.on.ca

What if there is no transfer agreement? You may still be eligible for transfer credit. Search the university web site for a general policy toward college transfer students. Sometimes you may qualify to receive a block of unspecified transfer credit in recognition of good marks and time spent at college. If there is no such policy you can apply for advanced standing on a course-by-course basis once you are admitted to the university.

What is advanced standing? If there is a course at university that has similar learning outcomes, evaluation methods, and classroom hours as a course(s) in which you got good marks at Sheridan you can apply for advanced standing, which means it will count as a course in your university program without having to actually do it. They will want to see the Sheridan course outline and you will have to pay a fee for the assessment of advanced standing. Ultimately, it is up to the university whether to grant advanced standing.

Where can I view course outlines? Applying for advanced standing does not guarantee you will receive it. You can make your own initial assessment by comparing the university course outline with the Sheridan one. From the Sheridan home page look under Services > Records & Registration > Academic Information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

These answers to questions frequently asked by students are intended as general guidance and do not replace professional advice. Always be sure to check university web sites for the most-up-to-date admission information and requirements.

USEFUL WEB SITES

Very detailed instructions on applying plus a complete list of programs, organized by university:

www.ouac.on.ca/docs/105/b_105_b.pdf

A chart of all Ontario universities and programs, allowing you to look up any major and see where it is offered:

www.electronicinfo.ca/en/degree.php

Need more help?

Career Counsellors are available to help you with career exploration and educational planning. No appointment necessary.

Career Counsellor Drop-In Times 2011-12

Day	TRF D103	DAV J314L
Monday	2:30-4:30	1:30-3:30
Tuesday	10:30-12:30	10:30-12:30
Wednesday	2:30-4:30	9:30-11:30
Thursday	10:30-12:30	1:30-3:30
Friday	9:30-11:30	10:30-12:30
HMC 163A	schedule tba - inquire at office	