



# Post Secondary Planning Information Presentation

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**2021/2022**

# Guidance Google Classroom Codes

For additional announcements and information parents and students are asked to join Google Classroom.



Westlane Class of 2022: [ovxq3vv](#)

Westlane Class of 2023: [ceygoz5](#)

Westlane Class of 2024: [2dlh5it](#)

Westlane Class of 2025: [zx43kl3](#)

# Westlane Graduation Information

All Graduation information for this years potential grads is posted in the **Google Classroom: Westlane Class of 2022:** (the code to join is ovxq3w)





**Let's talk  
POST-SECONDARY  
PLANNING...**

# There are 3 Graduation Requirements

1. 30 Credits

2. 40 Community Involvement Hours  
(20 Hours for the class of 2022)

3. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test  
(waived for class of 2022 grads)



## What do you need to graduate from high school?

### 18 compulsory credits

Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

4	credits in English (1 credit per grade)*
3	credits in mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
2	credits in science
1	credit in Canadian history
1	credit in Canadian geography
1	credit in the arts
1	credit in health and physical education
1	credit in French as a second language
0.5	credit in career studies
0.5	credit in civics

#### In addition, students must complete:

✓	12 optional credits <sup>†</sup>
✓	40 hours of community involvement activities
✓	the provincial literacy requirement

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

#### Group 1:

- English or French as a second language\*\*
- a Native language
- a classical or international language
- social sciences and the humanities
- Canadian and world studies
- guidance and career education
- cooperative education\*\*\*

#### Group 2:

- health and physical education
- the arts
- business studies
- French as a second language\*\*
- cooperative education\*\*\*

#### Group 3:

- science (Grade 11 or 12)
- technological education
- French as a second language\*\*
- computer studies
- cooperative education\*\*\*

\* A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

\*\* In groups 1, 2 and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3.

\*\*\* A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education can count as compulsory credits.

† The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit courses.



# “Exit” Planning begins as soon as you “Enter” Westlane!



It's true - before students start secondary school, we are working on getting students out...and onwards!

Elementary and Secondary Transition teams work together to ensure that students experience a smooth transition between panels.

Then, every year from Grade 9-12, lesson planning and presentations, within and outside of the classroom, occur with the end goal that *“all students leave secondary school with a clear plan for their initial post-secondary destination, whether in apprenticeship training, college, community living, university, or the workplace, and with confidence in their ability to implement, and revise or adapt, their plan throughout their lives as they and the world around them change. This vision sees students as the architects of their own lives.”*



# Diploma or Degree? College or University?

- Colleges offer certificate programs, diplomas, apprenticeships and degrees.
- Universities offer undergraduate and graduate degrees and other professional programs.
- All programs vary in length and prerequisites (the courses or qualifications you need to be eligible for a program. All schools set their own admission requirements)

[Ministry of Colleges and Universities Link](#)



**LOTS of writing ahead in the next few slides...**

# Diplomas – achieved in Ontario Colleges

These two and three-year programs prepare students for a specific field of work and include a broad base of study, which enables graduates to pursue various career specialties. Many of these programs also include a co-op field placement component, giving students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience while completing their studies.

Colleges tend to be more directly **career-oriented** than universities. This means they offer practical or hands-on training. Generally, a certificate program is one year or less, and a diploma program is two or three years. Colleges also offer pre-trades and apprenticeship training, language training and skills upgrading.

**Collaborative Programs** are partnerships between a college and university where students study at both institutions. Most collaborative programs allow students to earn credentials from both a college and the university – a diploma AND a degree!

As well, many college programs have **Articulation Agreements** with universities in Canada and abroad that provide advanced standing into certain university degree programs.

For more information on joint programming offered by colleges and universities, visit the ONTransfer site: [ontransfer.ca](https://ontransfer.ca)

**ontariocolleges.ca**  
Apply Today. Change Tomorrow.



# Degrees – achieved in Ontario Colleges and Ontario Universities

- An **Undergraduate Degree** is the first degree that students can complete at the university level. It is commonly called a baccalaureate or bachelor's degree and may be further classified as honours or general. Undergraduate degrees usually take 3-4 years to complete.
- A **General Degree** is typically completed in three years of full-time study and often involves a more generalized study of a broadly defined area.
- An **Honours Degree** is typically completed in four years of full-time study and often focuses on a particular discipline. It provides the widest range of options should students wish to pursue postgraduate studies. An "honours degree" (the fourth year) is usually required if students intend to pursue a graduate program (Master's degree).
- A **Major** is the main area of study within a degree. It involves intensive focus within a specific discipline. A **Minor** is an optional secondary area of study that can be related to, or different from, a major and provides an introductory level of education within a single discipline. A minor is not mandatory and is selected after students begin their university studies.
- Many universities allow students to combine subject areas (e.g., a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biology) into a "double major." Students often determine "major" and "minor" fields of study after their first year, and these can be subject to change
- Students also get confused by the term "Bachelor of Arts". This is not an Arts based degree, but rather the term universities use for any degree that is not a "hard" science (sociology, history, geography, languages, etc.)
- Many universities also offer **professional programs**, such as medicine, dentistry and law. In some cases, students can apply to begin these programs after two or three years of undergraduate study.
- An educational institution cannot grant a degree in Ontario unless the provincial government has given it this right. There are private institutions in Ontario that have been given partial degree-granting authority.
- **Private Postsecondary Schools**



# Admission Requirements: Important for students to know now (while still in secondary school)

To qualify for university entrance in Ontario, or to pursue a degree program at an Ontario college, applicants must complete at least **six Grade 12 U or M courses**.

“University” = course coded “**U**” in the 5th digit; “University/College” = course coded “**M**” in the 5th digit

Secondary school courses are only coded as U or M, not both! For the most part, consider them as equivalent in terms of your application, BUT (there’s always a “but”!) there are a few programs that could require a certain number of U courses, and only consider a certain number of M courses. This will be indicated within the **program admission requirements**.

Universities may require specific **prerequisite courses** within that six in order to apply to a particular program of study.

To qualify for college entrance in Ontario, students must have completed Gr. 12 College English (ENG4C) or Gr. 12 University English (ENG4U). At almost every college, there is no extra consideration given to a grade earned in the university English course vs. a grade earned in the college English course, therefore it is better to take ENG4C if you KNOW you will not be attending university.

Colleges may require specific **prerequisite courses** in order to apply to a particular program of study.

Each college and university sets its own admission standards. Students are encouraged to contact each institution and program in order to fully understand which courses they will use when determining an applicant’s entrance average. In some cases, a prerequisite course would not be factored into the admissions average at a university IF a student has a 7<sup>th</sup> eligible credit with a higher grade.

It’s a good idea to also pay attention to **recommended** courses – these courses are not required for program eligibility BUT might be a good indicator of that program’s content and focus. If a program suggests you need a particular course to enter and you do not enjoy that course - be aware that there will probably be more to come (in that subject area) in your future studies. It is always easier to work with your strengths rather than to enter a program whose main subject area coincides with some of your “less-preferred” study content!

OK, that’s it for the lengthy writing...!

# Researching Degrees

## LINKS

- [Researching Ontario University Programs](#)
- [OUAC tutorials \(Ontario Universities Application Centre\)](#)
- [Important dates & deadlines](#)



- Admission averages are generated using SIX 4U/M courses (Required courses + next best 4U/M courses for a total of 6)
- The **equal consideration date** is the deadline for applying to highly competitive programs if you want your application to be considered on an **equal** basis with all other applicants. After the **equal consideration date**, applications for open program spaces will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- **January 13<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for applications to receive **equal consideration** (if you apply later, you will only be considered if there is still room in a program, even if your average is higher than others). The OUAC still processes applications received after this date and distributes them to the universities; however, specific university deadlines will apply.

# Researching Diplomas

## Website Links

- [Researching Ontario College Programs](#)
- [Important dates and deadlines](#)
- [How to Apply](#)
- [Highly Competitive Programs at Ontario Colleges](#)
- [Why Choose College?](#)



- Admission averages are based on the average of required courses only for each specific program. In some cases, the only required course could be English (ENG4C1 or ENG4U1). In other cases, there could be up to 4, or more, required courses.
- The equal consideration date is **February 1<sup>st</sup>**. Apply on, or before, this date in order to receive equal consideration for admission to programs starting the following fall. After this date, colleges consider applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until programs are full.

**Note that applications to [Highly Competitive Programs](#) must be received by this date in order to be considered. As these programs receive a high volume of applicants, all seats may be filled by February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- Applicants are encouraged to complete their applications well before the Equal Consideration Date, as website volumes on the online application are at their highest at this time.
- Many programs continue to accept applications after February 1<sup>st</sup>. Use the OCAS [Find a Program](#) tool at any time to find programs that are still open.

# Researching Skilled Trades & Apprenticeships

## Website Links

- [Why Apprenticeships?](#)
- [Researching Skilled Trades](#)



**Julie Lee**

Employment and Training Consultant

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Tel: 289-407-3650 | [julie.lee@ontario.ca](mailto:julie.lee@ontario.ca)



St. Catharines contact for post-secondary training.



- A sponsor is required for apprenticeships, which could be difficult to secure right out of secondary school. Students could also choose to attend college to gain additional specialization and to make themselves more marketable for an apprenticeship. Research all of your options and reach out to both skilled trades unions/organizations and colleges as you plan your future.
- Apprenticeships require a certain number of hours of “on the job training” as well as “school” hours.
- Westlane Co-op courses and SHSM specializations provide excellent experiential opportunities in the skilled trades for high school students.
- Westlane students who are interested in Skilled Trades, Apprenticeship, OYAP are encouraged to consider a co-op placement and/or to speak with our Co-operative Education Program Leader, Mr. Mazzone [dean.mazzone@dsbn.org](mailto:dean.mazzone@dsbn.org)

# Researching Scholarships & OSAP



- Ask for reference letters well in advance (at least two weeks before you need them) and provide LOTS of content ideas to assist them with structuring their submission!
- Connect with the Financial Aid and/or Student Awards departments of each post-secondary institution and check college/university websites for school-specific funding opportunities.
- Reach out to skilled trade unions and organizations for advice and direction.



# OSAP - Ontario Student Assistance Program

## OSAP website

💰 OSAP is money provided by both the federal and provincial governments to assist with tuition. Money is provided in the form of a **GRANT** (money does not need to be paid back) or an interest-free **LOAN** during your schooling (money needs to be paid back after graduating).

💰 Apply to OSAP even if you do not need the money. You do not need to accept the loan if that is what you are awarded.

💰 Applying to OSAP might open opportunities for other scholarships which require, as an eligibility requirement, an initial OSAP application.

💰 Use the OSAP Aid estimator: **OSAP Aid Estimator just takes 5-10 minutes!**

💰 Secondary schools play no role in OSAP. Questions need to be referred to the Financial Aid office of any post-secondary school in Ontario. You do not need to be attending that school to ask your questions and to get advice (Brock U. and Niagara C. liaisons are close, convenient and friendly!).

💰 Every spring arrangements are made for representatives from Brock U. or Niagara C. to deliver OSAP presentations to Westlane students (this year's format has yet to be determined). This will be a general session and not specific to Brock and Niagara students.



# Researching Employment Opportunities

**Employment Ontario**: (Government website which helps job seekers, workers and employers with advice, grants and other services around public and private sector employment)

**Workopolis** (Job search, resume writing, interviewing, negotiating, on the job support – Articles, Videos & Podcasts)

**Ontario's Labour Market** (Government website which projects where the jobs will be and expected salaries)



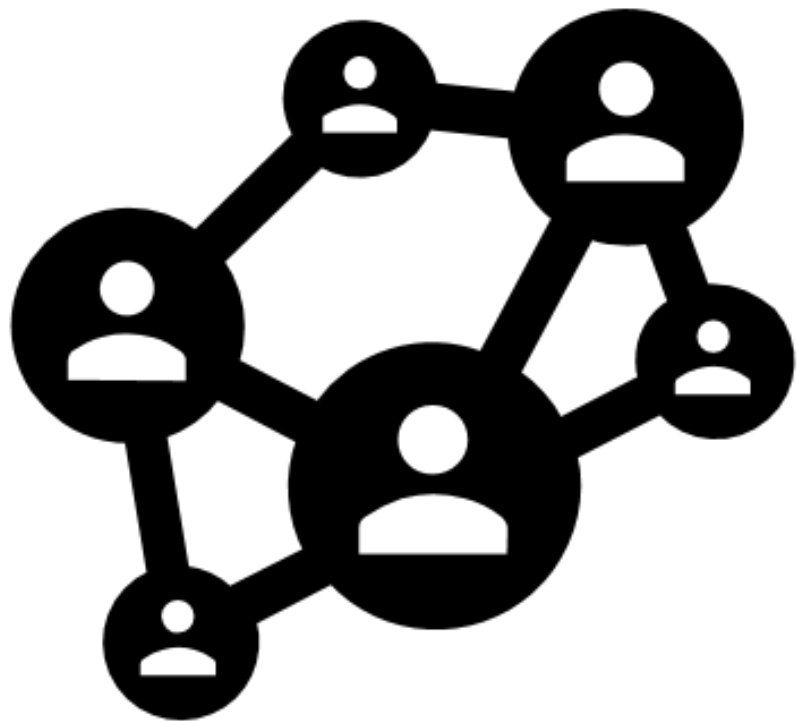
# Researching a Gap Year

## Website Links:

- [CanGap](#)
- [Gap Year Programs in Canada](#)



When you apply to a post-secondary program after a Gap year, you may be asked, "What did you do? Why didn't you apply to us right out of high school?". Use this "time-off" wisely and productively!



**Let's talk KEEPING  
CONNECTED...**

# Contact Information: Student Services

## [Westlane's Student Services Website Link](#)

Your Westlane Guidance Department can be contacted via email or phone (905) 356-2401 ext. 66614

**Sheona Bilon**, Guidance Teacher, Program Leader x66622 [Sheona.Bilon@dsbn.org](mailto:Sheona.Bilon@dsbn.org)

**Michelle Miller**, Guidance Teacher x66624 [Michelle.Miller@dsbn.org](mailto:Michelle.Miller@dsbn.org)

**Parti Vani**, Guidance Secretary x66614 [Patri.Vani@dsbn.org](mailto:Patri.Vani@dsbn.org)

