

Attendees: Sheri Epstein, Heather Leatham, Reina Chidiac, Rebecca Finlason-Harper, Carrie McGregor, Jenny Zheng, Helen Yee, Kourosh Danaie, Anna Myriklis, Linda Sooknanan, Anne Lekhi, Maya Lekhi, Sergei Tsukinovsky, Martin Habekost, Sarrita Tummala, Duck Kim, Huang Yun, Maria B

Minutes:

Presentation by Reina Chidiac, Head of Guidance, French Immersion Teacher by Training

Offered to Grade 12 students to help with Post Secondary Research and the online Application Process.

All information in these minutes is posted on the [LSS GUIDANCE & SUCCESS CLASSROOM](#) listed below.



Students are encouraged to work on short term plans to achieve their goals and be accountable.

Anything related to all students is in this Classroom, and anyone is welcome to join. The classroom is divided into 3 sections that allow (1) booking a guidance appointment, (2) information for Grade 12s, (3) Post Secondary Fairs and Events

Main Message to Students: Whether College, University, or Apprenticeship – they all lead to the world of work. State interests, work backwards, and understand preparation required.

Focus on interests and skills to lead you to a path where you belong.

Do research early on to be confident with choices, leveraging the “My Pathway Planner” through the YRDSB website.

1. PLANNING

For post secondary studies, there are two websites for planning.

www.ontariocolleges.ca

www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca

- Oct 26 is the next date for a virtual fair for Universities.
- Colleges will set aside MONDAYS in Oct & Nov.
- University and college virtual visits in Fall & Winter, usually over lunch
 - Students are encouraged to read ahead of time in order to have questions that can be answered by the institution. Such as classroom size, co-op opportunities.
- All of these details are shared in the classroom

Be open to other schools. Show up and think “why should I go to this school?”

2. APPLICATION PROCESS & KEY DATES

There are two hubs in Ontario where all schools obtain transcripts of Grade 11 and current registrations.

- OUAC: Ontario Universities’ Application Centre
- OCAS : Ontario College Application System

Oct 22: OUAC PIN for University applications via GAPPS and OEN numbers for College application

Nov 11-17: Course drop deadline

Nov 19: Midterm marks provided to OUAC & OCAS

Dec 6: Must drop courses by this date to avoid them being shown on transcript

Jan 13: Deadline to apply to an Ontario University (\$150, 3 choices + some institutions have supplemental fees)

Feb 1: Deadline to apply to an Ontario College (\$95, 5 choices)

Early Feb: Transfer of Semester 1 FINAL marks to OUAC and OCAS

Late April: Transfer of Semester 2 Midterms to OUAC and OCAS

Early July: Transfer of Semester 2 Finals and graduation status

- Universities and colleges are not concerned with marks outside of the top 6 marks being considered. The institutions obtain the top 6 values, the average, and there is no need to panic about marks that are lower and not included into the top 6 values.
- Some Colleges state “Equal Consideration” prior to Feb 1: You can apply after that date, and priority is provided to students who apply before Feb 1. Important for competitive programs.

Advise Ms. Lina Rico if you are applying to college.

- Several schools outside Ontario can access transcripts from OUAC: McGill, Concordia, Bishops, Dalhousie, U of British Columbia, U of Victoria

3. DECISIONS BY INSTITUTIONS

- Based on Semester 1 FINAL and Semester 2 MIDTERM marks
- Offers are conditional and revisited after Semester 2 FINAL marks are received

Early Offers – For marketing purposes, some schools send early acceptances, and want you to feel affiliation by them making that first offer. Most students do not hear until May, especially schools with competitive programs.

Early applications are more common with American schools.

The early submission of your application does not accelerate a response. The only exception is with Queen’s, who requires that you apply to Queen’s by Nov 20 if you are working towards the Chancellor Award scholarship, which is due in the first week of December. Can’t apply to the scholarship until you apply to the Queen’s program.

Some students take courses at Private Schools outside of YRDSB. This practice is not encouraged.

- Some Universities will lower the grade if they see it was taken at a private school and may discount by up to 10%. Not seen as equal to what is completed in “day school”

4. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

4a) UNIVERSITIES REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma)

6 x Grade 12 U or M courses

- ENG 4U1 is almost always required
- Courses vary by program and school
- Some programs require supplemental application forms, portfolio, interview, etc.

4b) COLLEGES REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

Diploma, Certificate, Transfer agreement programs

OSSD Grade 12 College or University English, Other program prerequisites

Joint and Degree programs

OSSD, 6 x Grade 12 U or M courses including any prerequisites

4c) APPLYING OUTSIDE OF ONTARIO &/OR CANADA

- Research deadlines
- Notify Ms. Rico in Guidance
- Most students write their SAT in Grade 11 for USA schools (www.collegeboard.org)

Counsellors usually need to submit a reference and a profile when applying outside of Ontario.

Most students write their SATs in Grade 11.

5. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Students whose first language is not English may require a proficiency test (TOEFL / MELAB / IELTS)
- Apprenticeship Opportunities exist as paid jobs for hands-on training in skills trades.
- Scholarships:

There is a lot of money that goes untouched. Usually, the busy students don't apply, but should, as they are the most involved. Research and start early.

6. FINANCIAL PLANNING & OSAP

OSAP = Ontario Student Assistance Program is a program of loans and grants.

<https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal>