

Question 5: What Do I Need To Go To University?

Guidance office and on-line at <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

- create a short list of Canadian universities to which you will apply and check their websites to see if you will have to write any essays, submit a personal information form, or submit additional criteria such as letters of reference or a portfolio
- look for announcements regarding the university fairs, scholarships, university speaker/representative dates at your school and other pertinent information
- check the school's Guidance department bulletin board for scholarships. University undergraduate calendars and viewbooks may also be available from the Guidance department. Ask to sign them out or order them from the universities. Also, view the undergraduate calendars on-line.

In October:

- attend regional and local university fairs
- if you miss the counsellor's visit to your school or area for delivery of university information, find out when there is a makeup session and get the handouts
- go on to the university websites and the application website to familiarize yourself with the application process
- apply for scholarships such as TD Bank, the Loran Merit Scholarship, Wendy's Restaurants and any other national scholarships for which you realistically qualify
- request reference letters from teachers and community contacts (for leadership and volunteerism) at least two weeks in advance of the due date of the scholarship or university request
- request transcripts in advance.

In November:

- apply as soon as possible to the universities and programs of your choice
- Ontario students need to wait for your Personal Identification Number (PIN) to

apply through the Ontario Universities Application Centre

- make copies of everything you send away in your applications.

In December:

- consider early offers if received (always conditional until the very end) based on your Grade 11 marks. It is not necessary to accept anything at this early date.
- check your email regularly and respond to any information requests by the universities
- continue to do your research if you still are undecided about which universities are of interest. Attend university sessions and sign up for field trips
- talk to your parents about plans to finance your university education and the financial commitment
- stay in touch with your Guidance counsellor and on top of scholarships and bursaries.

In January:

- note that for many universities this month marks the deadline for getting applications in order to be considered equally for the major upcoming round of offers
- make sure universities receive all the pertinent information about additional components such as on-line courses, night courses and current timetable changes for Semester Two.

In February:

- note that this month marks the last date, in some provinces, to revise your university choices without penalty
- check your incoming information because this month many universities will send out their second round of offers based on final Semester One marks
- continue to check for scholarship and bursary opportunities
- continue to check your email to be informed of important dates for supporting documents, auditions or interviews for some specific