

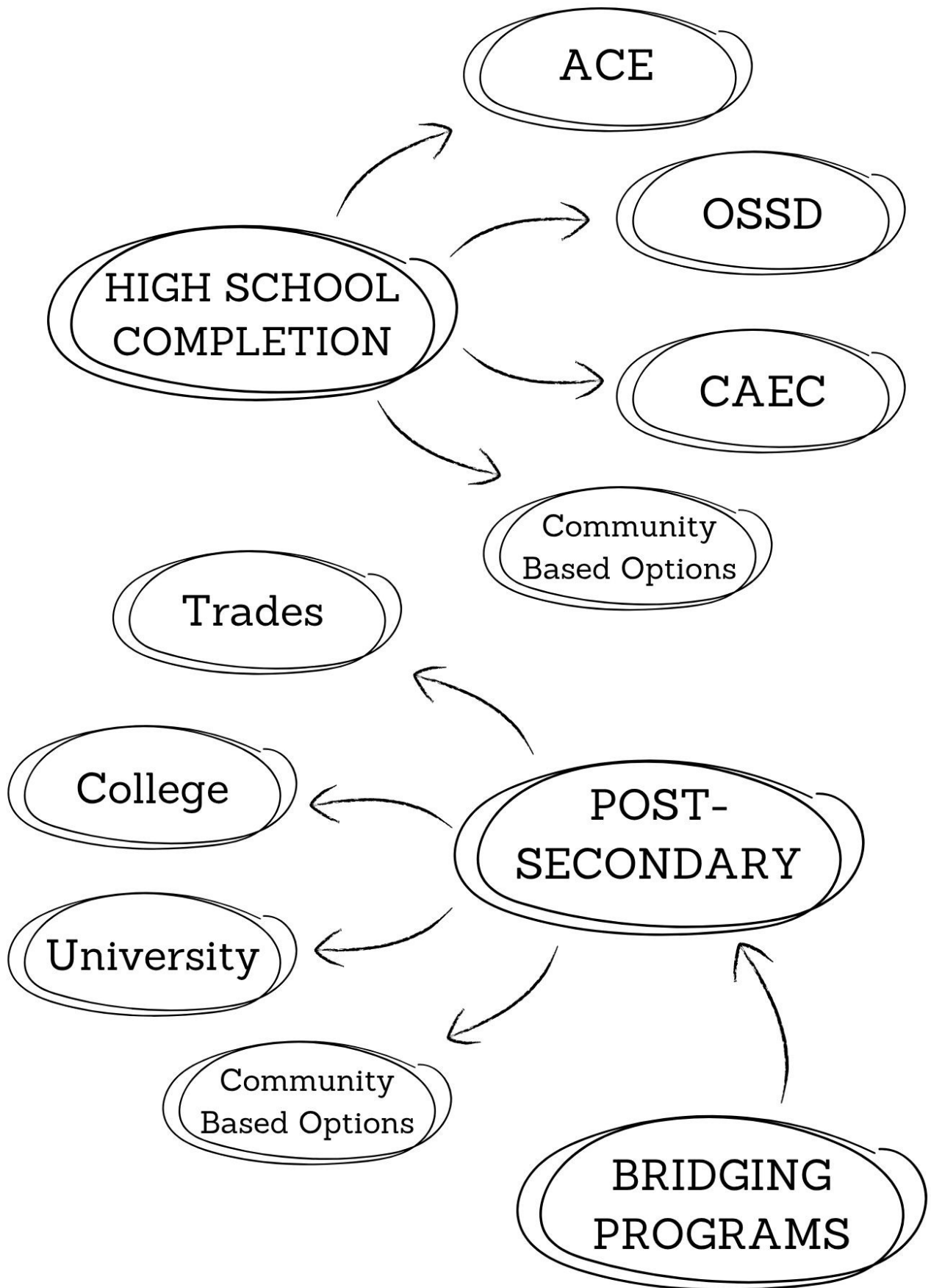
TYES Frontline Workers' Toolkit Series



Educational Attainment for MVP Youth (*Most Vulnerable Youth*)

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental human right as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many young people graduate from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school, and then go on to pursue post-secondary studies without pause. This guide is for all the students who may not have had their picture in a yearbook, or had their graduation picture hung in the walls of their high school. This guide celebrates all the tenacious students who pursue their right to education.

This toolkit was created by **Amadeusz** in partnership with the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES)**. This version was updated as of September of 2025.

The **Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES)** aims to build resiliency and access to supportive systems for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime (MVP youth). TYES includes 28 recommendations and 110 actions the City of Toronto will take to provide better services and outcomes for vulnerable youth. TYES was adopted unanimously by City Council in February, 2014.

For more information, visit [Toronto.ca](https://toronto.ca).

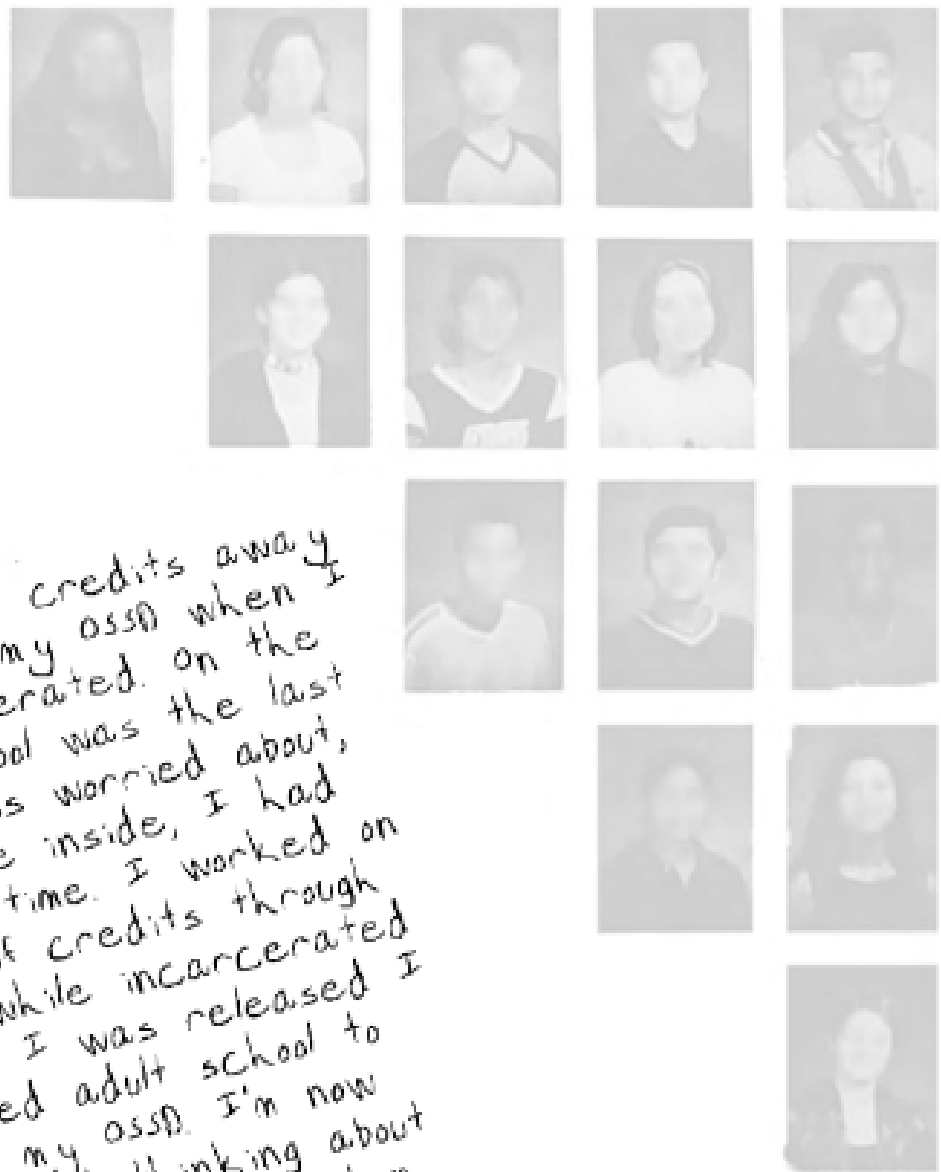
TYES is on Instagram at @TorontoTYES

Amadeusz is a charitable organization based in Toronto which has been operating since 2009. Amadeusz aims to foster the opportunity among young people who are impacted by incarceration, violence and crime to create positive change in their lives and communities.

Amadeusz facilitates education programs for youth aged 18 to 35 who are incarcerated and reside at the Toronto South Detention Centre and the Toronto East Detention Centre.

For more information or to suggest additional resources for this guide, please contact info@amadeusz.ca or visit our website at [Amadeusz.ca](https://amadeusz.ca).

Amadeusz is on Instagram at @AmadeuszTO.



I was just 12 credits away from finishing my OSSD when I was incarcerated. On the outside, school was the last thing I was worried about, but on the inside, I had nothing but time. I worked on a couple of credits through the ILC while incarcerated and when I was released I attended adult school to finish my OSSD. I'm now working and thinking about post-secondary education.

-AJ

For more information on completing credits towards your OSSD, see page 10.

My parents always stressed the importance of getting an education. It's why they brought us to Canada is what they would always say. I graduated from high school and enrolled in university as was expected of me. Two years into my undergraduate degree, I was arrested.

In a less than ideal situation, I was fortunate to have met someone on the inside who told me about an education program for people on remand. The staff at Amadeusz helped me continue working on credits towards my degree. I'm glad I was able to keep moving forward during this time.

-sean

For more information on pursuing educational opportunities while incarcerated, see pages 14 and 26.

As a young person, I found myself focused on trying to support my family and didn't really value high school. It just didn't seem to connect to what I was experiencing at home and in my community. I attended class just enough to keep passing. With two credits left to graduate I got in some trouble and found myself locked up.

I spent a year on the inside. It was a hard time and I did work towards completing some of my high school credits, but I just wasn't focused.

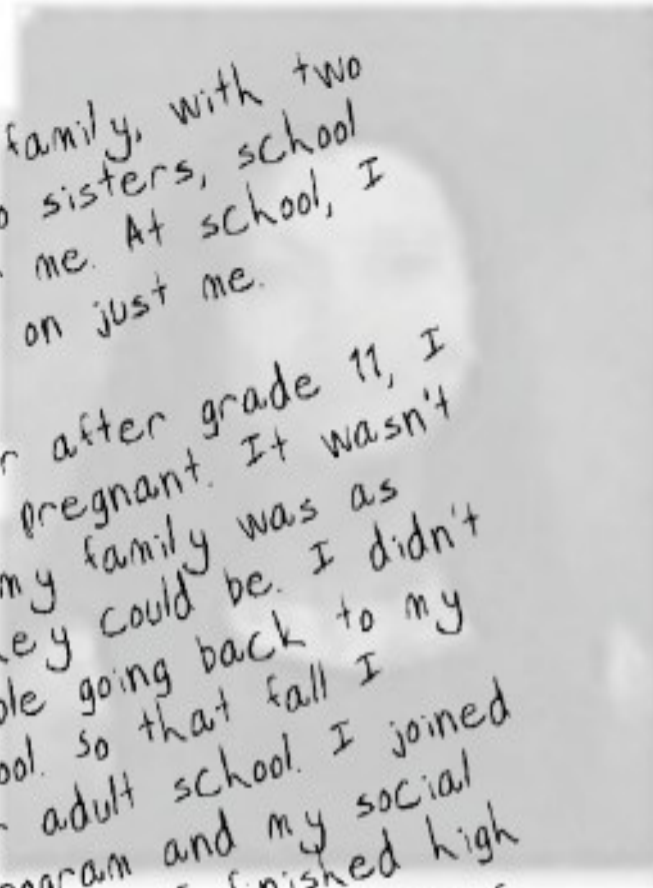
When I was released I knew I needed to get a job to support myself and my family. I decided to apply to college as a mature student. Going back to complete high school just didn't seem worth the time. I knew I was smart enough for college and I just wanted to get on with my life. I graduated and got my college diploma and I now work full-time as a sales representative.

After working for a bit, I started regretting not completing my high school diploma. So, I enrolled in adult school and got my last two credits. I have no regrets about the path I've taken and I'm proud of the steps I've taken to get where I am today.

-Dante

For more information on completing credits towards your OSSD as an adult, see page 21.

For more information on applying to college or university as a mature student, see page 39.



Coming from a big family, with two brothers and two sisters, school was a refuge for me. At school, I could focus on just me.

During the summer after grade 11, I found out I was pregnant. It wasn't planned, but my family was as supportive as they could be. I didn't feel comfortable going back to my high school, so that fall I registered for adult school. I joined the LEAP program and my social worker made sure I finished high school and took parenting classes.

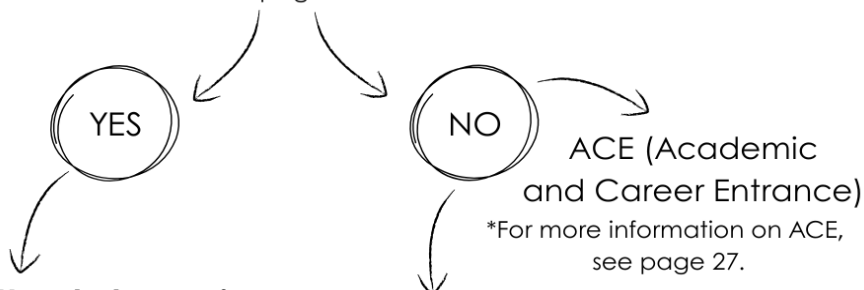
My son is 10 years old now and I'm a college grad. I'm a child and youth worker for a community organization and I love what I do.
-Jessica

For more information on alternative methods to completing your OSSD, see page 13.

INTERESTED IN COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL?

Do you want to complete an OSSD?

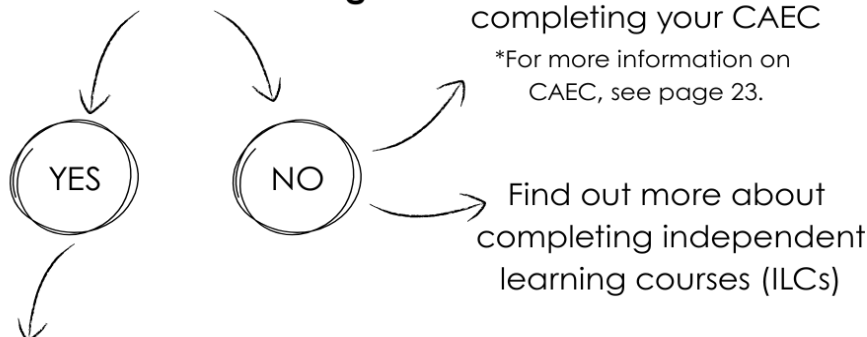
*For more information on OSSD requirements, see page 10.



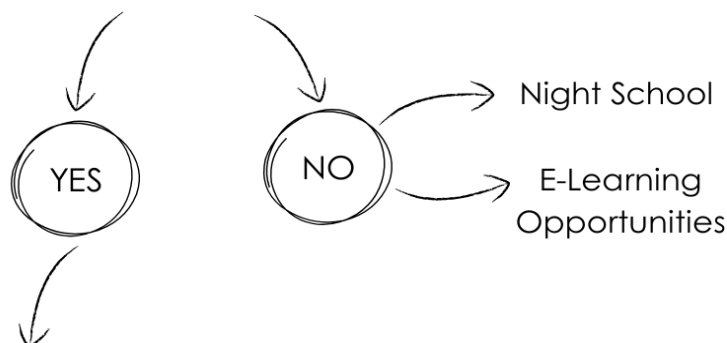
Are you able to attend classes in a school-based setting?

Find out more about completing your CAEC

*For more information on CAEC, see page 23.



Do you want to attend school during the day?

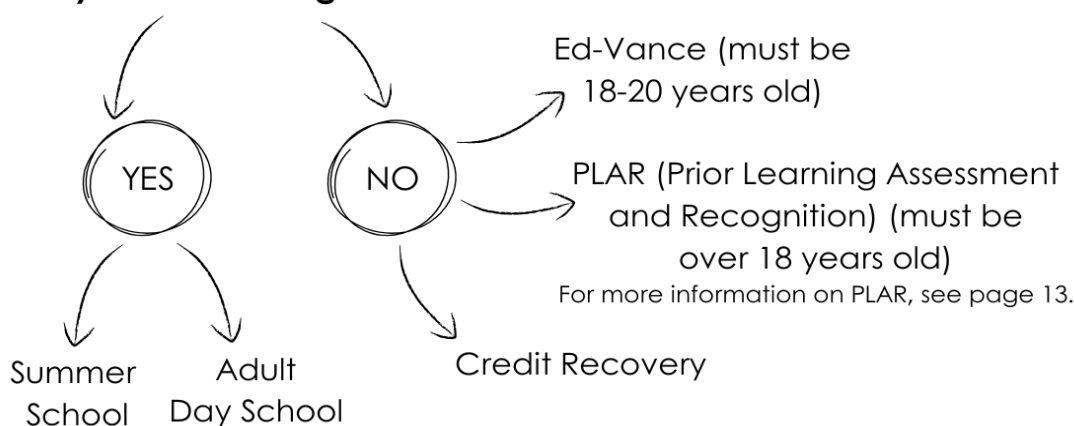


Are you over the age of 21?

Ed-Vance (must be 18-20 years old)

PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition) (must be over 18 years old)

For more information on PLAR, see page 13.



ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA (OSSD)

- ⇒ Granted once a student has earned 30 credits
- ⇒ Students must complete 40 hours of voluntary service
- ⇒ Students must pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

The **Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)** is granted once a student has earned 30 secondary credits, which includes 18 compulsory credits. Students must also provide evidence of 40 hours of volunteer service and pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test or take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC4O).

A breakdown of the OSSD requirements is available [here](#). However, there are alternate ways to earn the OSSD, which can be found on page 13.

40 volunteer hours are required to graduate. These volunteer hours can include any work that you are not paid to complete. Sometimes, through speaking to a guidance counselor, hours that you have earned but do not have paperwork for can be counted towards your required hours.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test requires that the student earn a minimum score of 300/400 to pass. The standardized test is written by all students when they are in grade ten. It focuses on reading and writing, and specifically tests that require

the reading of different types of texts including graphic text, informational text, narratives, articles, and essays. Students must also show competency in essay writing, short answer questions, grammar, multiple choice questions, writing a news report, and writing summaries. The OSSLT is written in the spring every year. If a student has missed the testing or does not pass, s/he may write the test again the following year (and again, if they so choose). An alternative method of meeting this requirement includes taking the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC4O) which focuses on the same skills but requires a 50% to pass.

Some secondary courses are streamed, in that courses allow students to complete high school credits at varying levels in preparation for different post-secondary options. Note that some courses have been de-streamed, meaning that courses are designed for all learners. This change means that students in certain subjects will take the same course, rather than choosing between Academic and Applied.

OSSD CREDIT STREAMS

STREAM

PREPARATION FOR

Locally Developed (L) / Workplace (E, Grade 11/12)

- Courses focus on practical, real-life applications and skills needed to meet the expectations of employers.



Open (O, Grade 9-12)

- Open to all students, designed to broaden students' knowledge and skills in subject areas that reflect their interests. Not designed with requirements of university, college, or workplace in mind.

Applied (P, Grade 9/10) / College (C, Grade 11/12)

- Courses focus on preparing students for the requirements of college.

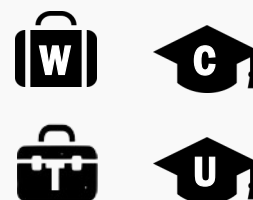


Academic (D, Grade 9/10) / University (U, Grade 11/12)

- Courses focus on theory which prepares students for university.

Mixed University/College (M, Grade 11/12)

- Courses equip students with the knowledge and skills to meet entrance requirements for university and college programs.

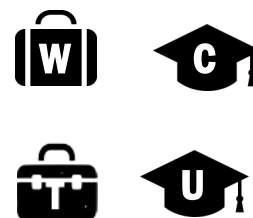


Advanced Placement (AP)

- Courses offer university-level material to high-school students.

Gifted

- Students with a 'gifted' designation on their individual education plan can take these course.



International Baccalaureate (IB)

- Internationally recognized and certified two-year pre-university program designed for highly motivated secondary school students.



OSSD SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Some secondary schools offer unique programs which allow students to prepare specifically for or take part in apprenticeships, college or university credits while also earning high-school credits. Speak to a Guidance Counselor to find out more.

Program

Preparation For

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

- Students obtain OSSD while focusing on an economic sector, to support them in transitioning to post-secondary. SHSM offers programming for a variety of pathways, such as business and aviation/aerospace.



Dual Credit

- Dual credit programs allow students to take college courses or Level 1 apprenticeship training that counts towards both their OSSD and a post-secondary program.



STEPS to University

- Senior students will work towards achieving a University of Toronto sociology credit and have access to University of Toronto resources while working on secondary school credits.



Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

- Students receive industry specific education and training through high school cooperative education. To register, students must be at least 15 years old, with 14 completed credits, and be enrolled as a part or full-time student.



Advanced Credit Experience at York University (ACE)

- Senior students from the Jane and Finch area can earn a first year York University half-credit course and receive a co-op placement on campus, while working on secondary school credits simultaneously. Students have the opportunity to earn up to \$5000 towards a bursary that can be used at York University the upcoming school year, upon acceptance.



College



University



Workplace



Trades

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE METHODS

There are alternative methods to obtaining an OSSD, including those below:

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

- PLAR recognizes prior and alternative forms of learning in order to grant students up to 26 credits towards their OSSD, through separate application forms for grade nine and ten courses and grade 11 and 12 courses. For example, having a gym membership can lead to a physical education credit, or having worked in a particular field can be counted as a business credit. In order to gain credits through PLAR, students must be registered with a public school board. Speak to a guidance counselor for more information.

Credit Recovery

- Credit recovery is a program that allows any student who has started a course, but has not passed, to retake parts of the course in order to fulfill the requirements without taking the entire course again. There is no minimum mark that you must have earned previously in order to participate in credit recovery. Course credits must be recovered within two years from the time the student fails the course. A student may work on recovering more than one credit at a time and there is no limit on the number of credits a student may recover. Many schools offer this option. Speak to a guidance counselor for more information.

Section 23 High Schools

- The TDSB Section 23 Programs serve students who are in care, treatment or custody. The program supports youth who require their educational needs to be met outside of the regular school system. Individual education and treatment plans are created for students to address their strengths and needs. Contact your local high school for more information.

Adult High Schools

- Adult high schools offer students over the age of 18 an opportunity to work towards their OSSD in an environment with similar aged students during the day. Adult high schools offer the EdVance program, where students between the ages of 18-20 can earn credits within a couple of months through quad semesters. They also offer adult learning for students over the age of 21, which may also provide night and/or online courses.

E-Learning

- Learning can take place online, based on your own schedule. While most of the course is completed online, there may be an in-person orientation and/or final exam.

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE METHODS

Continuing Education

- Continuing Education through public school boards allows students to complete high school credits on a part-time basis. Most courses offered through day school can also be offered through continuing education. Often, adults are part of continuing education in night school and summer school.

Learning Earning and Parenting (LEAP)

- This program supports parents aged 16 to 25 who are on Ontario Works to complete their high school education, attend parenting classes, and access employment supports. Additional financial supports are provided to participants in this program, including a \$500 bursary for those who complete the program to put towards their own post-secondary education costs or those of their child.

Independent Learning Centre (ILC) Courses

- The Independent Learning Centre (ILC) is the only online high school authorized by the Ontario Ministry of Education to grant credits and the Ontario Secondary School Diploma itself. You can also take individual courses. Each course costs \$40. Often if the ILC is offered through a community organization, the fee for the course is covered by the community organization. If you are over the age of 18 and enrolled in a course through the ILC, you are eligible for free PLAR assessment.

OSSD Support For Individuals On Remand

Amadeusz

Amadeusz.ca

Phone: 416-251-0685

Email: info@amadeusz.ca

- Offers free educational support for individuals on remand at the Toronto South Detention Centre and Toronto East Detention Centre, including high school credit course and OSSD completion.

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

The following schools offer alternative learning options for OSSD completion:

Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Head Office

80 Sheppard Ave E, North York

Phone: 416-222-8282

Email: Through contact form on website

- The TCDSB has a number of secondary level alternative schools. Locations are listed below.

Monsignor Fraser College - Isabella Campus

146 Isabella St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-5533

Email: Msgfrasercollege@tcdsb.org

- Offers Grades 10 to 12 for individuals aged 16 to 20, and continuing education for those 21+.

Monsignor Fraser College - Annex Campus

700 Markham St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-5557

- Offers Grades 10 to 12 for individuals aged 16 to 20.

Monsignor Fraser College - Midland Campus

2900 Midland Avenue, Scarborough

Phone: 416-393-5532

- Offers Grades 10 to 12 for individuals aged 16 to 20, and continuing education for those 21+.

Monsignor Fraser College - Norfinch Campus

45 Norfinch Drive

Phone: 416-393-5558

- Offers Grades 10 to 12 for individuals aged 16 to 20, as well as co-op.

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

St. Martin Catholic School

55 Salisbury Ave, Toronto

Phone: 416-397-6536

- Alternative programs for students in grade 7 to 12.

TCDSB Orientation Centre

Catholic Education Centre—80 Sheppard Avenue East, Room 119, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-5500

Email: Orientation.centre@tcdsb.org

- For newcomer families and their children between the ages of 14 and 20 who wish to attend a TCDSB secondary school.

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Head Office

5050 Yonge St, Toronto

Phone: 416-397-3000

Email: Generalinquires@tdsb.on.ca

Tdsb.on.ca

- The TDSB has 21 secondary level alternative schools. Locations are listed below.

Alpha II Alternative School

725 Bathurst St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0501

Email: ALPHA11alternativeschool@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 7 to 12

Alternative Scarborough Education 1

45 Windover Dr, Scarborough

Phone: 416-396-6914

Email: ASE1@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 11 to 12

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Avondale Secondary Alternative School

24 Silverview Dr, North York

Phone: 416-395-4542

- Grade 10 to 12

City School

585 Queens Quay W, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-1470

Email: Cityschool@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 9 to 12

Contact Alternative School

132 Saint Patrick St 3rd Fl, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-1455

Email: Contact@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 to 12

Delphi Secondary Alternative School

109A Chartland Blvd S, Scarborough

Phone: 416-396-6919

- Grade 9 to 12

East York Alternative Secondary School

670 Cosburn Ave, East York

Phone: 416-396-2925

Email: Eya@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 to 12

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Etobicoke Secondary Alternative Centre

160 Silverhill Dr, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-394-2120

- Grade 11 to 12

Inglenook Community School

19 Sackville St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0560

Email: Inglenook@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 to 12

North East Secondary Alternative School

2900 Don Mills Rd, North York

Phone: 416-395-5300

- Grade 10 to 12

North West Secondary Alternative School

425 Patricia Ave, North York

Phone: 416-395-4824

- Grade 10 to 12

Oasis Alternative Secondary School

20 Brant St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9830

Email: Oasis@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 9 to 12
- Offers the OASIS Triangle Program for LGBTQI2+ students; the OASIS Arts and Social Change Program which delivers arts and social justice influenced curriculum; and the OASIS Skateboard Factory which offers courses with a skateboard and street art focus where students earn credits by operating a socially responsible entrepreneurial business.

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Parkview Alternative School

1641 Pharmacy Ave Room 203, Scarborough

Phone: 416-396-5592

- Grade 9 to 11

School of Life Experience

1 Hanson St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0756

Email: SOLE@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 11 to 12

School Of Experiential Education

40 McArthur St, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-394-6990

Email: Experiential.edu@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 9 to 12

SEED Alternative School

885 Dundas St E 2nd Fl, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0564

- Grade 11 to 12

South East Secondary Alternative Centre

720 Midland Ave , Scarborough

Phone: 416-396-4552

- Grade 10 to 12

OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Subway Academy 1

16 Phin Ave, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9466

Email: Subwayacademy1@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 to 12

Subway Academy 2

64 Baldwin St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-1445

Email: Subwayacademy2@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 11 to 12

The Student School

160 Glendonwynne Rd, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9639

Email: TheStudentSchool@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 11 to 12

West End Alternative School

777 Bloor St W 3rd Fl, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0660

Email: Westend@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 to 12

OSSD: ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS

- ⇒ The TDSB has five adult high schools which offer a variety of credit courses for adults who want to complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, prepare for post-secondary education, or gain job-related training.
- ⇒ Each adult high school offers both EdVance, a program specifically for 18 to 20-year-olds completing their high school diploma, and an Adult Program for learners who are 21 years and older.
- ⇒ Adult high schools offer classes in quads starting in September, November, February, and April.
- ⇒ Tuition is free and classes are offered through different methods such as day school, night school, and online learning.

Burnhamthorpe Adult Learning Centre

500 The East Mall, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-394-7130

Email: Burnhamthorpe@tdsb.on.ca

City Adult Learning Centre

1 Danforth Ave, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9740

Email: Cityadult@tdsb.on.ca

Emery Adult Learning Centre

3395 Weston Road, North York

Phone: 416-395-3225

Email: Emeryadult@tdsb.on.ca

OSSD: ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS

Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies

720 Midland Ave

Phone: 416-396-6921

Email: Scarboroughcentre@tdsb.on.ca

Yorkdale Adult Learning Centre

38 Orfus Rd, North York

Phone: 416-395-3350

Email: Yorkdale@tdsb.on.ca

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY: CAEC

- ⇒ The Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) high school equivalency assessment replaced the GED in Canada. It is for adults who don't have a high school diploma and need to show high school level knowledge.
- ⇒ The CAEC assessment consists of tests in five subject areas: reading, writing, social studies, math and science. If you write and pass these five tests, you will obtain your Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate.
- ⇒ Many colleges, apprenticeship programs, and careers schools will accept the CAEC for entry into their programs.

To take the CAEC assessment in Ontario, you must:

- Not have your Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- Not be currently registered with an Ontario public, Catholic, or private high school.
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Have been a resident of Ontario for a minimum of six months.

If you previously passed the five GED® tests, your high school equivalency credential remains valid. If you completed some of the GED® tests, the CAEC will accept these subjects in place of the associated CAEC test subjects until May of 2027.

Some students choose to prepare for CAEC testing on their own. Students can review the test outcomes and complete practice tests online at www.ilc.org/caec. There are also CAEC preparation programs that will prepare students to write the assessment tests. A list can be found on the next few pages.

TVO ILC is the only organization authorized by the Ontario Ministry of Education to deliver the CAEC tests. You can register with them at www.ilc.org/caec. Tests are computer-based but must be written in-person at an ILC testing center. If you don't pass some of the tests, you will only need to re-take the subjects that you didn't pass. There is a registration fee of \$100 total, no matter how many of the tests you are writing.

CAEC RESOURCES

Many community agencies in Toronto offer programs to assist students with CAEC preparation.

ETOBICOKE

PTP Adult Learning and Employment Programs - Canadian Adult Education Credential (Online)

5353 Dundas Street West Suite 300, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-239-7309

Email: Karinm@ptp.ca

Ptp.ca/program/canadian-adult-education-credential-caec/

- Free program for individuals 18+ who have a SIN number, have less than a 12 grade education, and currently live in the GTA.
- Assessments and appointments are in-person at this location and classes are all online.

TORONTO & EAST YORK

Miziwe Biik - Academic Upgrading

167 Gerrard St E, Toronto

Phone: 416-591-2310

Email: Tim@miziwebiik.com

Miziwebiik.com/education-and-training

- Provides 1-on-1 support for high school diploma, CAEC, and program prerequisites.

CAEC RESOURCES

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

PTP Adult Learning and Employment Programs - Canadian Adult Education Credential (Hybrid)

815 Danforth Avenue Suite 201, Toronto

Phone: 416-510-3266

Email: Simonem@ptp.ca

Ptp.ca/program/canadian-adult-education-credential-caec/

- Free program for individuals 18+ who have a SIN number, have less than a 12 grade education, and currently live in the GTA.
- Classes are both online and in-person and take place four times a week, two hours a day.

United for Literacy - New Directions Literacy and Basic Skills/CAEC Prep

35 Jackes Ave, Toronto

Phone: 1-800-555-6523

Email: Gsteinberg@unitedforliteracy.ca

Unitedforliteracy.ca/programs

- Free literacy program for adults 18+ who would like to improve their skills for employment, apprenticeship, and post-secondary opportunities.
- Includes workshops on CAEC preparation.

United for Literacy and CAMH - Canadian Adult Education Credential Preparation Program

1025 Queen St W, Toronto (Patient and Family Learning Space)

Phone: 437-332-3273

Email: Pverma@unitedforliteracy.ca

- Free, in-person and online program providing background, assessments, and instruction on each of the five CAEC subjects.

CAEC RESOURCES

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

West Neighbourhood House - Adult Learning Program

1033 King St W, Toronto

Phone: 416-539-9000

Email: Literacy@westnh.org

Westnh.org/learning

- Free program for individuals 18+ who live in Ontario and have a valid SIN.
- Provides in-person small groups or one-to-one tutoring in reading, writing, math, computers, preparing for college or work, and preparing to write the CAEC tests.

ONLINE

The Learning Hub - Online CAEC Preparation

Phone: 1-844-470-7877

Learninghub.ca

- Free online CAEC preparation courses for individuals 18+ who are residents of Ontario and have a valid SIN.
- To apply, you must complete a registration form and a short skills assessment. Once you are registered, you will work with an Online Practitioner who will provide a tailored learning plan based on your assessment results.

CAEC Support For Individuals On Remand

Amadeusz

Amadeusz.ca

Phone: 416-251-0685

Email: Info@amadeusz.ca

- Offers free educational support for individuals on remand at the Toronto South Detention Centre and Toronto East Detention Centre, including CAEC preparation and test facilitation in partnership with the ILC.

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY: ACE

- ⇒ The Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) program is a free high school equivalency program for adults.
- ⇒ Delivered in class by Ontario community colleges and online by the ACE Distance Program.
- ⇒ Colleges in Ontario recognize the ACE certificate as a high school equivalent for admission.
- ⇒ Can be used to apply for college post-secondary programs and apprenticeship training programs.

In order to qualify for an ACE Certificate, students need to complete the following courses:

- Communications (English or French)
- One Mathematics course
- Any two other courses in line with student's learning goals

Courses usually offered in ACE programs include:

- Apprenticeship Math (Equivalent to MAP4C - Grade 12 Foundations for College Math)
- Computers
- Core Math (Equivalent to MEL4E - Grade 12 Mathematics for Work and Everyday Life)
- Physics (Equivalent to SPH3U– Grade 11 University Preparation Physics or SPH4C - Grade 12 College Preparation Physics)
- Self Management/Self Direction
- Technology Math (Equivalent to MCT4C - Grade 12 Math for College Technology)
- Biology (Equivalent to SBI3C - Grade 11 College Preparation Biology)
- Business Math (Equivalent to MAP4C - Grade 12 Foundations for College Math)
- Chemistry (Equivalent to SCH4C - Grade 12 College Preparation Chemistry)
- Communications (Equivalent to ENG4C - Grade 12 College English)

University preparation courses in Biology and Chemistry are also offered at select colleges for a fee. For more information, contact the college that offers this program.

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY: ACE

Eligibility

You must be an Ontario resident who is at least 18 years old. This program might be a good fit for you if you want to prepare for college or get into an apprenticeship.

Requirements

You will need your own professional email address, access to the Internet, and a reliable computer. If you do not have a computer, there are 112 access sites in communities across Ontario where you can use computers at no charge. For more information about locations, go to www.studyonline.ca.

Step 1: Assessment

You must complete an assessment that will indicate your current skill level in several areas. This assessment is called ESEE - Essential Skills for Employment and Education. Each of the three ESEE Assessments (Reading, Document Use, and Numeracy) takes around 90 minutes to complete.

Step 2: Learn to Learn (L2L)

In order to participate in ACE Distance courses, all students must complete Learn to Learn, or L2L. Learn to Learn is a 20-hour course that will introduce you to online learning and help you to decide if this is the right learning approach for you. The Learn to Learn course includes an assessment component that helps you determine if you have the computer skills, academic background and personality to succeed in ACE Distance courses.

Step 3: Registration

After the completion of Learn to Learn, you will receive instructions about how to register for an ACE course. Tuition-free registration takes place in January, March, April, June, September, and November.

ACE programs are geared towards adult learners who have not completed high school. For more information on completing the ACE Certificate online, please visit www.acedistancedelivery.ca.

ACE RESOURCES

Colleges that Offer ACE Programs

Collège Boréal - Adult Upgrading Centre

90 Richmond St E, Toronto

Phone: 416-289-5130

Email: AFB.toronto@collegeboreal.ca

Collegeboreal.ca

- Tuition-free program for Francophone or Francophile adults aged 18+ who are a permanent resident of Ontario.

Centennial College - Academic and Career Entrance Certificate

75 Ashtonbee Rd, Scarborough

Phone: 416-289-5272

Email: Academicupgrading@centennialcollege.ca

Centennialcollege.ca

- Courses are offered in 14 week semesters, in both online and hybrid formats.
- You must complete four credits to receive your ACE certificate. These will include mandatory English and mathematics, along with biology, chemistry, self-management or digital literacy electives.

George Brown College - Academic Upgrading

200 King St. E, Toronto

Phone: 416-415-5000 ext. 3560

Email: Upgradinginfo@georgebrown.ca

Georgebrown.ca

- Tuition-free program for English speaking adults aged 19+ who want to improve their reading, writing, math, science, and computer skills.
- Courses run for 15 weeks of class time and are offered on campus with in-person classes, or online (ACE Distance). The full program may take from four to 12 weeks to complete.

ACE RESOURCES

Colleges that Offer ACE Programs

Humber College - Academic Upgrading Program

205 Humber College Blvd, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-675-6622 ext. 74842

Email: Academicupgrading@humber.ca

Humber.ca

- Tuition-free program offered at the Humber North Campus with classes typically scheduled Monday to Friday. Classes are a mix of in-person and online.
- Purpose is to help learners aged 19+ to improve their English, math skills, and computer skills as well as biology and chemistry in lab-based environments.

Seneca College - Academic Upgrading Program

1750 Finch Ave E, North York

Phone: 416-764-0476

Email: AUC@senecapolytechnic.ca

SenecaPolytechnic.ca

- Tuition-free one-to-three semester Academic Upgrading program intended for those who require additional credits for a certificate, diploma or degree program.
- Offered at Seneca at York, Newnham Campus, and online.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

Academic Skill Building Programs

Academic skill building programs do not earn you credits; however, they help develop and improve literacy, numeracy, and computer skills.

CITY WIDE

Toronto Public Library

Phone: 416-393-7131

[Torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)

- Provides free resources to support learning, as well as free, in-person computer classes.

Toronto District School Board - Essential Skills Upgrading

Multiple Locations - Etobicoke, Bloor Street, Rexdale, North York, and Scarborough

Email: Upgrading@tdsb.on.ca

[Tdsb.on.ca/communityservices/Essential-Skills-Upgrading/](http://tdsb.on.ca/communityservices/Essential-Skills-Upgrading/)

- For individuals 18+ who speak English, are an Ontario resident, and have a valid SIN.
- Free, non-credit program to improve reading, writing, math, and computer skills.
- East Toronto - 416-396-6904
- Central Toronto - 416-393-1995
- West Toronto - 416-394-3809

Toronto Catholic District School Board - Essential Skills Training

Multiple Locations - 45 Norfinch Dr 3rd Fl and 270 Cherokee Blvd, Toronto

Phone: 416-397-6072

Email: James.black@tcdsb.org

Tcdsb.org/o/adulteducation/page/essential-skills-training

- For adults who are Ontario residents, have a SIN, are legally able to work in Ontario, and can speak English at an intermediate level.
- The goal is to help learners improve their reading, writing, math, and computer skills for work, study, or everyday life.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

ETOBICOKE & YORK

Lamp Community Health Care - Literacy and Basic Skills

185 Fifth St , Etobicoke

Phone: 416-252-9701 ext 243 or 360

Email: Learning@lampchc.org

Lampchc.org

- Free program for individuals 19+ who are out of school and want to upgrade their reading, writing, math, or computer skills.
- Must be fluent in spoken English and able to commit to three hours of learning each week. Intake runs year-round.

PTP - Literacy and Basic Skills, West Centre

5353 Dundas St W Suite 300, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-239-7309

Email: Karinm@ptp.ca

Ptp.ca

- Free program for individuals 18+ who have a SIN and have grade 12 or less to practice reading, writing, math, and computer skills.
- Offered full-time or part-time, online or in-person.

NORTH YORK

YMCA of Greater Toronto - Learning Opportunities Program, Literacy and Basic Skills

4580 Dufferin St Suite 200, North York

Phone: 416-635-9622 ext. 31087

Ymcagta.org

- Free program for individuals 19+ to support with reading, writing, and math skills.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

NORTH YORK CONT.

Bob Rumball Canadian Centre of Excellence for the Deaf - Literacy and Basic Skills

2395 Bayview Ave, North York

Phone: 416-449-8881

Bobrumball.org

- Free in-person and virtual program for deaf or hard of hearing adults aged 18 to 64 seeking to enhance their literacy and numeracy skills.

TORONTO & EAST YORK

Alpha-Toronto - Literacy and Basic Skills

90 Richmond St E Suite 302, Toronto

Phone: 416-542-1574

Email: Alphatoronto@bellnet.ca

Alpha-Toronto.ca

- Offers free French literacy and basic skills to francophone adults who have not completed their high school education

Alexandra Park Neighbourhood Learning Centre - Literacy and Basic Skills

Scadding Court Community Centre - 707 Dundas St West, Toronto

Phone: 416-591-7384

Email: Info@apnlc.org

Apnlc.org

- Free literacy, numeracy, and essential skills services for individuals 18+.
- Also provide English as an Additional Language, digital literacy, one-to-one tutoring, financial literacy, and Indigenous literacy programs.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

Canadian Hearing Society

271 Spadina Rd, Toronto

Phone: 1-866-518-0000 ext 4220

Email: LiteracyTraining@chs.ca

[Chs.ca](http://chs.ca)

- Free classes for individuals aged 19+ provided in American Sign Language to develop communication, numeracy, and digital skills to achieve goals in education and employment.

Centre of Learning & Development - Academic Upskilling (AU)

540 Dundas Street E, Toronto

Phone: 647-493-2462 (press option 1)

Email: Info@tcld.org

Tcld.org/programs/academic-upgrading

- Free virtual and in-person program for individuals aged 18+ that focuses on improving writing, reading, writing, numeracy, communications, and digital technology skills.

Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre - Adult Literacy and Basic Skills

1900 Davenport Rd, Toronto

Phone: 416-656-8025 ext 421

Email: Wtse@dpnchc.ca

Dpnchc.ca

- Free literacy program for adults to support in upgrading reading, writing, math, and basic computer skills.

Dixon Hall - Literacy and Basic Skills (Virtual)

Phone: 416-956-4949

Email: Esc.info@dixonhall.org

Dixonhallonlinetraining.org/literacy-basic-skills

- Free online classes held through Zoom for individuals 19+ to improve reading, writing, and basic math skills.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

East York Learning Experience

266 Donlands Ave, East York

Phone: 416-425-2666

Email: Eyleliteracy@gmail.com

Eastyorklearningexperience.ca

- Free one-to-one supports for individuals to improve literacy, math, and digital literacy skills.

Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto - Education Program

191 Gerrard St E, Toronto

Phone: 416-963-9963

Email: Education@nwrct.ca

- Free program to support with communication, numeracy, interpersonal, and digital skills.

Parkdale Project Read – Academic Upgrading Program

180 Sudbury Street Unit C7, Toronto

Phone: 416-531-6308

Email: Info@parkdaleprojectread.org

Parkdaleprojectread.org

- Free in-person and online programs for individuals 19+ to support reading, writing, math, and computer skills.

PTP - Literacy and Basic Skills, East Centre

815 Danforth Ave Suite 201, Toronto

Phone: 416-510-3266

Email: Simonem@ptp.ca

Ptp.ca

- Free program for individuals 18+ who have a SIN and have grade 12 or less to practice reading, writing, math, and computer skills.
- Offered full-time or part-time, online or in-person.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

Street Haven at the Crossroads - Literacy and Basic Skills

87 Pembroke St, Toronto

Phone: 416-220-5280

Email: Training@streethaven.com

Streethaven.org

- Free program to support women aged 19+ who are looking to strengthen their reading, writing, math, computer, and digital literacy skills.

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre - Literacy and Basic Skills

439 Dundas St E, Toronto

Phone: 416-360-4350

Email: Educationsupport@councilfire.ca

Councilfire.ca

- Free program to support adults with communication, basic math, digital technology, and art and wellness expression.

West Neighbourhood House - Literacy and Basic Skills

1033 King St W, Toronto

Phone: 416-539-9000

Email: Literacy@westnh.org

Westnh.org

- Free program for individuals 18+ to support with reading, writing, math, and digital literacy.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

Tutoring

Educational programs often have identified support within. Ask the program you are working with if they offer additional tutoring.

IN PERSON...

- **Pathways to Education** offers tutoring in Regent Park, Lawrence Heights, Rexdale and Scarborough Village to those who are enrolled in the program. Note that this is for individuals who are registered at a high school which offers the Pathways to Education program.

Pathwaystoeducation.ca

- **The Toronto Public Library** through their adult literacy program.

Torontopubliclibrary.ca/adult-literacy/

ONLINE...

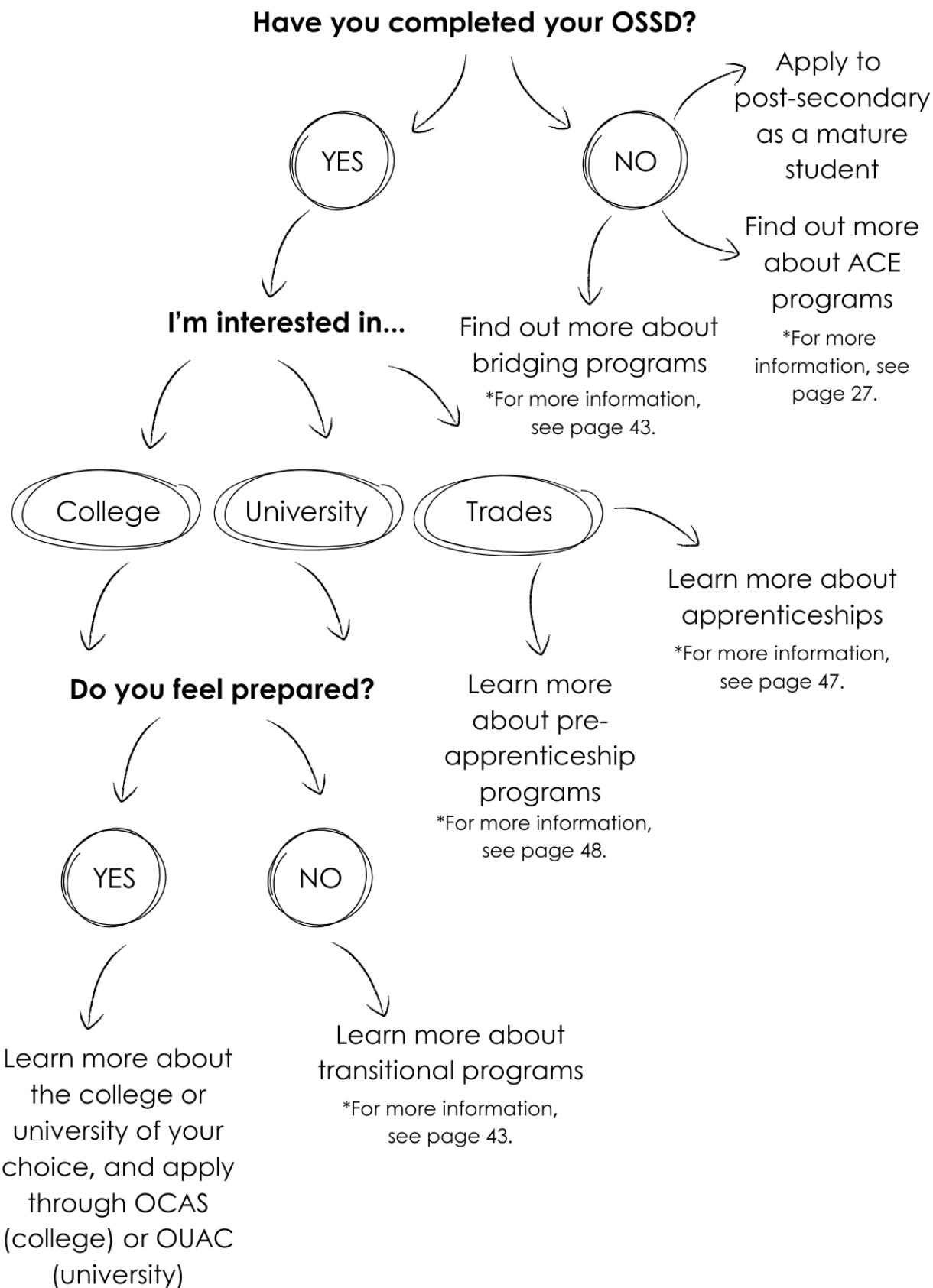
- **Khan Academy** offers practice exercise, videos, and a personalized learning dashboard to empower learners to study at their own pace. Covers subjects from kindergarten through early college.

Khanacademy.org

- **TVO Learn Mathify** offers free online 1:1 grade 4 to 12 math tutors Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm, and Saturday and Sundays from 3pm to 9pm.

Mathify.tvolearn.com

INTERESTED IN POST SECONDARY EDUCATION?



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

College & University Studies

In Ontario, there are 23 publicly assisted universities, 24 colleges, nine Indigenous Institutes, and more than 500 registered career colleges. It can seem like a daunting task to decide what school and program is the right fit for you. If you have access to a computer, visiting www.ontario.ca/page/go-college-or-university-ontario is one possible starting place. If possible, visiting a school and arranging to meet with an academic advisor can provide helpful information. There is also information on the Ontario colleges and universities websites:

- ⇒ Ontariocolleges.ca
- ⇒ Ovac.on.ca

Mature Students

Although it can be helpful, it is not essential to complete your high school in order to pursue post-secondary studies. For example, if a person is not applying directly from high school, they would likely apply as a mature student, and they do not necessarily need to have completed secondary school to do so. Each college and university has specific application requirements and procedures, so visiting the school's website or calling the registrar's office is a good place to start. Below are websites with information regarding applying as a mature student for Ontario colleges and universities:

- ⇒ Ontariocolleges.ca/apply/mature-students
- ⇒ Ovac.on.ca/planning/i-am-a-mature-applicant/

Pre-University Programs

Some schools offer "Pre-University Programs," which give people the opportunity to take courses in a certain field of study that can be used towards a university degree. For more information, refer to the website below:

- ⇒ Ontariocolleges.ca/en/programs/career-and-preparation/pre-degree-university

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Community Colleges & Universities

ETOBICOKE & YORK

Humber College

North Campus: 205 Humber College Blvd, Etobicoke

Lakeshore Campus: 3199 Lake Shore Blvd W, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-675-3111

Email: Enquiry@humber.ca

Humber.ca

NORTH YORK

Seneca College - Newnham Campus

1750 Finch Ave E, North York

Phone: 416-265-3847

Email: Student.recruitment@senecacollege.ca

Senecacollege.ca

York University

Keele Campus: 198 York Blvd, North York

Glendon Campus: 2275 Bayview Ave, North York

Phone: 416-736-2100

Email: Study@yorku.ca

Yorku.ca

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Community Colleges & Universities

SCARBOROUGH

Centennial College

Progress Campus: 941 Progress Ave, Scarborough

Morningside Campus: 755 Morningside Ave, Scarborough

Ashtonbee Campus: 75 Ashtonbee Rd, Toronto

Phone: 416-289-5000

Email: Admissions@centennialcollege.ca

Centennialcollege.ca

University of Toronto - Scarborough Campus

1265 Military Trail, Scarborough

Phone: 416-287-8872

Utscc.utoronto.ca

TORONTO & EAST YORK

George Brown College

Casa Loma Campus: 160 Kendal Ave (CLC); 1 Dartnell Ave (CLD); 146 Kendal Ave (CLE)

St. James Campus: 200 King St E (SJA), 300 Adelaide St E (SJB), 290 Adelaide St E (SJC), 215 King St E (SJD), 230 Richmond St E (SJE), 193 King St E (SJG), 341 King St E (SJH)

Waterfront Campus: 51 Dockside Dr (WF), 3 Lower Jarvis St (WFD), 185 Queens Quay E (WFL)

Phone: 416-415-2000

Email: Ask.george@georgebrown.ca

Georgebrown.ca

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Community Colleges & Universities

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

OCAD University

100 McCaul St, Toronto

Phone: 416-977-6000

Email: Admissions@ocadu.ca

Ocadu.ca

Toronto Metropolitan University

350 Victoria St, Toronto

Phone: 416-979-5000

Torontomu.ca

Université de l'Ontario français - French-speaking university

9 Lower Jarvis St, Toronto

Phone: 437-291-7344

Email: Liaison@uontario.ca

Uontario.ca

University of Toronto - St. George Campus

27 King's College Cir, Toronto

Phone: 416-978-2011

Utoronto.ca

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Transition & Bridging Programs

Some colleges and universities offer transition or bridging programs for students who have not completed high school. These programs generally offer smaller class sizes and provide support for students who may have been away from school for some time. Depending on the program, courses taken may count as credit towards a diploma or degree.

Centennial College - HYPE (Helping Youth Pursue Education)

[Centennialcollege.ca/about-centennial/community-commitment/hype-helping-youth-pursue-education/](https://centennialcollege.ca/about-centennial/community-commitment/hype-helping-youth-pursue-education/)

- HYPE is a tuition-free, six-week, on-campus summer program that supports young people aged 17 to 29 who are living in underserved neighborhoods to explore educational and career pathways. Benefits include TTC tokens, breakfast and lunch, and application support for post-secondary programs.

George Brown College - Transitions to Post-Secondary Education Program (TPE)

[Georgebrown.ca/programs/transitions-to-post-secondary-education-program-a107](https://georgebrown.ca/programs/transitions-to-post-secondary-education-program-a107)

- George Brown College offers a free, three-semester program for adults who have faced barriers to school or work related to mental health and/or addiction experiences. TPE provides supports for students to transition into further post-secondary programs, with a focus on communication, critical thinking, problem solving, community building, and self advocacy.

Humber College - Youth Transition Program

205 Humber College Blvd, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-675-6622 ext. 77316

Email: YTP@humber.ca

[Humber.ca/community/pathways-to-post-secondary/youth-transition-program](https://humber.ca/community/pathways-to-post-secondary/youth-transition-program)

- Humber College offers a free, seven-week Youth Transition Program for youth between the ages of 19 and 29. This program is designed to help youth make a successful transition to college, whether they have completed high school or not. There is a strong focus on developing individualized learning plans, mentoring, advising, career exploration, and skill building. Interested individuals must attend an information session before applying to the program.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Transition & Bridging Programs

Toronto Metropolitan University - Spanning the Gaps

Phone: 416-979-5000 ext. 552291

Email: Spanningthegaps@torontomu.ca

Continuing.torontomu.ca/access

- Toronto Metropolitan University offers various programs to help ensure a successful transition to post-secondary for those who haven't finished high school or have been out of school for a while. Tuition subsidies are provided, making the programs completely free for eligible learners, and programs can also be completed online.
- Transition Foundations: Online program that takes a minimum of one year to complete for learners 21+ with gaps in pre-requisites. Those who complete the program will receive a recognition of completion from The Chang School of Continuing Education.
- Indigenous Foundations: Online, 13-week program for Indigenous community members who want to boost their post-secondary education opportunities and achieve academic success. This includes upgrading writing and critical thinking skills.

University of Toronto - Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program

119 St. George St Room 220, Toronto

Email: Academic.bridging@utoronto.ca

Wdw.utoronto.ca/index.php/programs/academic_bridging/overview/

- The Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program offers an opportunity for those who do not meet the academic requirements for admission to the University of Toronto to qualify for Honours Bachelor of Arts or Honours Bachelor of Science degree programs in the Faculty of Arts & Science. This program also provides academic preparation in university-level reading, writing, research, examination, and critical thinking skills, financial aid, academic learning supports, and access to student services at the University of Toronto.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Transition & Bridging Programs

University of Toronto - Transitional Year Programme

123 St. George St, Toronto

Phone: 416-978-6832

Email: TYP.info@utoronto.ca

Typ.utoronto.ca/about-typ

- The Transitional Year Programme (TYP) is a full-time, eight-month access-to-university program intended for adults who do not have the formal qualifications for university admission. Most TYP students have grown up in communities where very few people have access to higher education. The TYP provides students with an academic advisor, access to counselling and funding options, and full access to the University and its resources. Completion of the Transitional Year Programme grants students access to the Faculty of Arts & Science, programs of study of Humanities, Social Sciences & Life Sciences.

York University School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies - Bridging Program for Women

Phone: 416-736-2100 ext.77818

Email: Cirvin@yorku.ca

Yorku.ca/laps/gsws/bridging-program-for-women/

- York University's Bridging Program for Women is for women aged 20+ who have been out of school for a minimum of two years to upgrade their writing and speaking skills and to explore university studies. Upon completion, a grade of B or higher means you can get an offer of admission to the Faculties of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. Courses are \$150 each plus the cost of reading material and span for 13 weeks, with classes being held once per week for three hours, typically in the evening.

SKILLED TRADES: PATHWAYS

Ontario has over 140 designated skilled trades, categorized into sectors like construction, industrial, motive power, and service. These skilled trades include autobody repair, baker, electrician, carpenter, hairstylist, heavy equipment operator, plumber, welder, and many more. You can find a full list at www.skilledtradesontario.ca/.

Some trades have a **Red Seal endorsement**, which shows that you have the knowledge and skills necessary to practice your trade across Canada. You need to pass the Red Seal examination in order to receive this seal. There are currently 56 designated Red Seal trades. You can find the full list at www.red-seal.ca/eng/trades/trades-list.shtml

There are many benefits of getting into the skilled trades, including good wages, stable hours, and job benefits. There is also a high demand for skilled tradespeople, meaning it may be easier to get a job. See the below steps for how to enter into a skilled trade:

1. **Choose a trade.** Do your own research to identify the trade you are interested in. You can visit the website above or speak with individuals who are in the skilled trades.
2. (Optional) **Complete a pre-apprenticeship program.** This will support you in learning the preparatory skills needed for an apprenticeship. For more information on pre-apprenticeship programs, see page 48.
3. **Find an apprenticeship.** First, you must find an employer who is willing to sponsor you in an apprenticeship. Next, you must register your training agreement with Skilled Trades Ontario. You will then complete your apprenticeship requirements. Once you complete your apprenticeship, you will receive your Certificate of Apprenticeship. Find out more about apprenticeships on page 47.
4. **Complete the required certification for your trade.** In compulsory trades, such as electrician or plumber, a Certificate of Qualification is essential for legal work. In order to attain this, you need to pass an exam. If your trade is part of the Red Seal program, you must pass an examination to receive a Red Seal endorsement.
5. **Complete any ongoing requirements if necessary.** For example, in compulsory trades, you need to renew your Certificate of Qualification regularly.

SKILLED TRADES: APPRENTICESHIPS

- ⇒ An apprentice takes classes and learns a skilled trade by working under the direction of more experienced workers.
- ⇒ Apprentices are workers, so you will need to find an employer who will train you. This also means you get paid while you learn.
- ⇒ Apprenticeships take two to five years to complete.

Skilled Trades Ontario

Apprentices must be members of Skilled Trades Ontario, which is the agency responsible for apprenticeship and skilled trades certification in Ontario. Becoming an apprentice can be an important first step to learning new skills and building a rewarding career.

Some apprenticeships require you to take an exam once your training is complete. You can find more information [here](#).

Apprentices become skilled workers once they have acquired the knowledge and skills in a trade or occupation and are certified by a provincial or territorial authority.

Online Search Tools

Find Employment and Training Services in Ontario (FEATS)

- Search engine for work, training, and apprenticeship opportunities.
Feat.findhelp.ca

Ontario Job Bank

- Jobs and apprenticeship opportunities across the province.
On.jobbank.gc.ca/home

SKILLED TRADES: APPRENTICESHIPS

What is Pre-Apprenticeship?

A pre-apprenticeship is a preparatory program that supports individuals who want to begin an apprenticeship for certain industries and trades. Pre-apprenticeship programs equip workers with expertise and real life experience to help them find employment as an apprentice and, eventually, as a licensed professional.

People who enroll in a pre-apprenticeship program get a head start on succeeding as an apprentice because they learn prerequisite skills, gain an overview of daily expectations in their target professional field, and learn strategies for getting selected into formal apprenticeships.

Due to the focus on job readiness, pre-apprenticeship training includes extensive amounts of hands-on preparatory work to simulate real world application of skills and experience. When not working on projects and assignments, participants of pre-apprenticeship training also spend time in the classroom with licensed and certified instructors, learning from texts and code books.

Many community based organizations provide pre-apprenticeship programs. An online search for free pre-apprenticeship programs in Toronto will get you off to a great start. You can also find information on some pre-apprenticeship programs on the following pages.

Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Community)

Building Up

Phone: 647-594-6191

Email: Hello@buildingup.ca

Buildingup.ca

- Building Up's pre-apprenticeship program is a 16-week paid training program that uses construction contracts and in-class training to prepare individuals facing barriers to employment for successful careers in the trades. It provides 8 weeks of in-class training and 8 weeks of field training working on site.
- Applicants must be 18 years or older and have their high school transcript (high school completion not required), government issued photo ID, and SIN card to apply. You must submit an application online and attend an information session. There are then two rounds of interviews to select the cohort of 16 participants.

SKILLED TRADES: APPRENTICESHIPS

Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Community)

Hammer Heads

Phone: 416-449-5115

Email: Hammerheads@hammerheadsprogram.com

Hammerheadsprogram.com

- Hammer Heads is a 12-week skills development program that introduces youth to several different construction trades while developing skills important to successful and long lasting careers in construction. The program is comprised of safety training, hands-on skills development, mentoring and coaching.
- The program is offered to youth aged 18 to 26 who reside in an under-resourced community in the GTA. A minimum of grade 10 math, English and science credits, or a GED/CAEC, is required.

Miziwe Biik Trades Training Programs

Phone: 416-591-2310

Email: Reception@miziwebiik.com

Miziwebiik.com/tag/training

- Miziwe Biik runs various training programs in the trades, including for carpentry and electrician. Each program has its own requirements. Check their website for current pre-apprenticeship program offerings.

NexGen Builders - Quick Start in Construction Program

Phone: 647-545-8226

Email: Quickstart@communitybenefits.ca

Nexgenbuilders.communitybenefits.ca/quickstart

- Quick Start in Construction is a 140-hour, full or part-time program that prepares those who want to work in construction trades with basic requirements and certificates, including Working at Heights, WHMIS, and more.
- The training program is held at 25 Klondike Drive, Toronto.

SKILLED TRADES: APPRENTICESHIPS

Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Community)

TradeLinx

Phone: 416-537-6532

Email: Info@laboureducation.org

[Laboureducation.org/tradelinx/](http://laboureducation.org/tradelinx/)

- Tradelinx is a 12-week pre-apprenticeship training program for Ontario Works (OW) recipients between the ages of 18 to 30 who are interested in a career in the skilled trades or construction industry.
- Participants will earn a variety of Health and Safety certifications that are essential to work in the trades, as well as hands-on technical training.

Woodgreen Pre-Apprenticeship and Trades Programs

Phone: 416-405-5281

Email: Tradetraining@woodgreen.org

Woodgreen.org/programs/pre-apprenticeship-and-trades-programs

- Woodgreen offers 14 to 16 week pre-apprenticeship skills training programs followed by support in finding a job placement. Programs are free and for those 18+ with a grade 12 equivalency. Check their website for current pre-apprenticeship program offerings.

YWCA - STAR 4-Women: Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness

Phone: 416-964-3883

Email: Skilledtrades@ywcatoronto.org

Ywcatoronto.org/ourprograms/employmentandtraining/iaminterestedinskilledtrades

- This program is for women and gender diverse people aged 16+ who are interested in skilled trades training. It combines vocational assessment and skilled trades career exploration and includes access to certifications, skills training, hands-on experience, and networking opportunities.

SKILLED TRADES: APPRENTICESHIPS

Pre-Apprenticeship Programs at Ontario Colleges

Pre-trades programs at Ontario colleges expose students to a variety of skilled trades by providing hands-on experience in each, so students can become familiar with what the industry has to offer. After completion of these programs, students have a better idea of which skilled trade program to pursue and which career path is the right choice. Some of these programs are tuition-free and funded by the Government of Ontario. Below are some examples of pre-apprenticeship programs at Ontario Colleges, however you should contact your college of choice to inquire about their current pre-trades program offerings.

George Brown Apprenticeship and Skilled Trades Programs

Email: Skilledtrades@georgebrown.ca

Georgebrown.ca/construction-engineering-technologies/apprenticeship-skilled-trades

- Offers one-year certificate programs in plumbing techniques, welding techniques, electrical techniques and construction techniques, some of which are eligible for a \$20,000 scholarship.
- Offers two-year diploma programs in heating, refrigeration, and air conditioning technician, and carpentry and renovation technician. These programs are eligible for a \$40,000 scholarship.

Humber College - Pre-Apprenticeship and Training Opportunities

Email: Pre-apprenticeship@humber.ca

Humber.ca/community/training-programs/youth

- Plumber Pre-Apprenticeship Program for Low-Income Women: 12-week, tuition-free program designed to support women experiencing financial difficulties to transition towards a Plumbing apprenticeship. You will receive the equivalent of Level 1 plumber apprentice training.
- General Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship: 10-week, tuition-free program designed to introduce youth aged 18-35 who have completed grade 12 or equivalency to the skilled trade of Carpentry.
- Plumber Pre-Apprenticeship: 12-week, tuition-free program for youth 18-29 that is designed as a transition step to finding an apprenticeship. You will received the equivalent of Level 1 plumber apprentice training.
- Humber College also offers many paid pre-apprenticeship diploma and advanced diploma programs.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Financial aid programs are often changing, with new scholarships and bursaries available every day. Scholarship databases are continually updating their information. It is highly recommended to check resources often and research financial aid directly at the school or program you are applying to.

Schools - Financial aid programs are often available through schools. You could be eligible for bursaries, scholarships, work-study programs, or summer employment opportunities.

Emergency loans - Most schools offer emergency loans. You could be eligible for a short-term loan (ex. 90 days) to cover tuition while you wait for OSAP to arrive.

Eligibility criteria - Scholarships are often aimed at specific target groups, which can be based on income, geographic region, subject of study, crown ward status, or disability. Search criteria can be used to find scholarships or bursaries that may be applicable to you.

Types of Financial Aid - Quick Definitions

- **Scholarships** - A financial prize that is to be used towards tuition payment; no repayment is required. Applicant criteria vary, but often include academic merit, extracurricular activities, and/or financial need. Application procedures are different for each scholarship. Some will request a copy of academic transcripts. Most academic institutions offer scholarships that you either need to apply for or are automatically considered for (i.e., entrance scholarships).
- **Entrance Scholarship** - Specific type of scholarship, often not requiring an application, that is based on academic performance from a previous school, most often high school. Similar to general scholarships, no repayment is required. Check out each academic institution for specific dollar amounts and requirements.
- **Renewable vs. Non-Renewable Scholarships** - Renewable scholarships continue year after year, so long as minimum requirements are met as set out by each scholarship. Non-renewable scholarships are generally for one defined time period, i.e. one year.
- **Bursaries** - A financial award for students with demonstrated financial need. Bursaries often have academic requirements, however more generally focus on students who do not have the financial resources to pay for school. Application procedures are different for each bursary; generally, you are required to show why you are in need of assistance and how great your need is.
- **Loans** - Borrowing money with the requirement to pay back, often with interest. Common loans include government loans (OSAP) and bank loans (student loans). Loans are often paid back once education has been completed or stopped.
- **Other Awards** - Includes all other financial prizes. This can include contest-type prizes or prizes from corporate/private sector. Tips: Always read the eligibility criteria for any scholarship, bursary, or award. Adhere strictly to deadlines and submit all required documents.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP)

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) is a financial aid program that can help you pay for college or university. OSAP offers funding through two kinds of money: **grants** (money you don't have to pay back) and a **student loan** (money you need to repay once you're done school). When you apply for OSAP, you will be automatically considered for both grants and loans. If you don't want to take a loan, you can decline it after your application is approved.

Who is eligible to receive OSAP?

OSAP is open to Ontario citizens of any age who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons.

You may not be eligible for OSAP if you don't meet the academic progress requirement; have enough financial resources to cover your expenses; report income on your OSAP application that is significantly different from what was reported to CRA; have defaulted on a student loan; have grant or bursary overpayments; filed for bankruptcy; made a consumer proposal; obtained a consolidation order; have reached your lifetime limit of student loan funding; are an international student; or are not a resident of Ontario.

What can OSAP be used towards?

OSAP can be used towards tuition, books and equipment, fees charged by your school, living expenses (for full-time students), and child care (for full-time and part-time students with children).

How much OSAP can I get?

The amount of money you can get depends on a number of different factors including:

1. **Education expenses:** Amount of money required to pay for education, including tuition, books, child care, living expenses, and other materials.
2. **Personal financial situation:** Personal and family contribution, based on personal and family income and other factors.
3. **Course load:** Full-time or part-time.

To get an estimate on the OSAP you will receive, click [here](#).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

How to Apply for OSAP

1. **Register online for an OSAP account at www.osap.gov.on.ca.** You will need your Social Insurance Number to create your OSAP account. Be sure to write down your OSAP access number and password.
2. **Apply for OSAP through your account.** This typically takes less than 15 minutes. You will need information about your school and program, your parents' or spouse's SIN number (if applicable), your tax information, and your parents' or spouse's tax information (if applicable).
3. **Submit your OSAP application by the deadline.** For part-time students with study periods of 21 weeks or more and for all full-time students, submit your application no later than 60 days before the end of your study period. For part-time students with study periods of 20 weeks or less, submit your OSAP application no later than 40 days before the end of your study period. For micro-credential programs, submit your OSAP applications no later than the end of your study period.
4. **Receive an estimate of how much OSAP funding you may be eligible for after submitting your application.** You could qualify for more money if you are an Indigenous student, a student with a permanent disability, or a current or former Crown ward. See next page for more details.
5. **Complete either a Full-Time or Part-Time Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) if required.** This is a lifetime student loan agreement, which only needs to be completed once for full-time or part-time studies. If you are enrolled in a micro-credential program, you will complete a Micro-credential Student Loan Agreement instead. NSLSC will send you an email when it's time to complete your MSFAA online.
6. **You may need to complete your signature and declaration forms and upload them to your OSAP account.** You may also need to submit additional documents. For full-time and part-time students, your financial aid office must receive these documents no later than 40 days from the end of your study period. For micro-credential students, you must provide these documents no later than five days after your study period has ended.
7. **Check your OSAP account regularly and opt-in for email notifications so that you know when updates occur.** It typically takes about four to six weeks to hear back after submitting your application and documents.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

OSAP for Under-Represented Learners

Indigenous Students

Funding may be available to you through various sources including your band and OSAP. Other funding programs include...

1. **The Indigenous Student Bursary:** Available to full-time and part-time post-secondary students attending publicly-assisted colleges and universities in Ontario or an approved Indigenous Institute in Ontario. Bursary amounts range from \$1000-\$3500. Click [here](#) for more information.
2. **Ontario Indigenous Travel Grant:** Assists with the cost of travelling between your remote First Nations community and the postsecondary school that you attend. Click [here](#) for more information.
3. **Indigenous Bursaries Search Tool:** Click [here](#) for a searchable list of bursaries and scholarships for Indigenous students.
4. **Post-Secondary Student Support Program:** Indigenous Services Canada provides financial assistance to First Nations students who are enrolled in eligible post-secondary program. Click [here](#) for more information.
5. **Métis Student Bursary Program::** Funding from the Métis Nation of Ontario is available for Métis students who are enrolled at eligible institutions. Click [here](#) for more information.

Individuals In or Formerly In Society Care (previously known as Crown Wards)

Individuals 23 to 26 years old who left the care of an Ontario Children's Aid Society and received Ready Set Go program financial support may be eligible for a Living and Learning Grant. This grant provides additional funds above the regular full-time OSAP aid limits. You are automatically considered for this grant when you submit an OSAP Application for Full-Time Students. Supporting documents may be required to confirm your eligibility.

Individuals 18 to 26 years old who are in or were formerly in the care of an Ontario Children's Aid Society and are not receiving Ready Set Go support may also be eligible for the Living and Learning Grant. Eligible individuals include those currently or formerly in extended society care in Ontario; subject to a customary care agreement in Ontario; subject to a protection custody order; or receiving support under a Voluntary Youth Services Agreement.

If you are currently or were formerly in extended society care in Ontario, you can get a refund for the fees you pay when you apply to an approved program at a college, university, or Indigenous Institution, and a first post-secondary degree, diploma, or certificate. For more information on how to apply, click [here](#).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

OSAP for Under-Represented Learners

First-Generation Students

If your parents didn't attend post-secondary studies, you could be eligible for the Ontario First Generation Bursary for between \$1,000 and \$3,500. Each school will have an Ontario First Generation Bursary application which will outline any required supporting documents. For more information, click [here](#).

Students with Disabilities

If you have a permanent disability or a persistent or prolonged disability, you could be eligible for full-time OSAP funding if you are taking 40% or more of a full course load. You must self-identify as having a disability when applying for OSAP to be considered.

You may also be eligible for the Bursary for Students with Disabilities and/or the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities, which help eligible full-time and part-time students pay for disability-related services and equipment needed to participate in postsecondary students.

Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

If you are Deaf, deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing and want to study at a school where American Sign Language or Quebec Sign Language is the primary language of instruction, you could be eligible for a special bursary that can help you cover the extra cost of studying outside of Canada. For more information, click [here](#).

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

If you get income support through ODSP, you can also apply for OSAP. OSAP is meant to help cover specific educational costs. You can continue to get ODSP income support to help with living costs while receiving OSAP. Contact your caseworker for more information,

Ontario Works (OW)

If you receive financial assistance through OW, you need to apply for OSAP to help cover both your educational and living costs. For single, full-time students getting OSAP, you are not eligible for OW support. For married or a sole-support parent, you could be eligible for an OW top up if the amount of money you get from OSAP is less than you would get through the OW program. Contact your caseworker for more information.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Student Access Guarantee

If you attend a public post-secondary institution in Ontario and you're a full-time student, you may also be eligible for financial help through the Student Access Guarantee (SAG). SAG is a partnership program between the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities and Ontario's public colleges and universities. Through SAG, Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities provide qualified students with additional financial aid so that financial need is not a barrier to accessing post-secondary education. Students are assessed for SAG when they apply for OSAP, and this money is then disbursed to your school account.

If OSAP doesn't cover your program costs and you still need money, your school may provide additional financial aid in the form of a bursary, scholarship, or work-study or summer-employment program.

Note that you are only eligible for SAG if you were approved for full-time OSAP and did not opt out of available OSAP loan funding (for example, deny OSAP loans and accept only grant funding).

Contact your school's Financial Aid Office for more information. You can find the contact information for your school's Financial Aid Office [here](#).

Scholarships for MVP Youth

There are scholarships available for youth from a range of communities. Examples include:

Second Chances Scholarships

[Secondchancescholarshipfoundation.ca/](https://secondchancescholarshipfoundation.ca/)

- To provide post-secondary education scholarships to youth who are, or have been, involved in the criminal justice system or multi-barriered youth who are most vulnerable to becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

FYI Scholarship

[Foryouth.ca/fyi-scholarship](https://foryouth.ca/fyi-scholarship)

- The FYI Scholarship supports youth aged 16 to 29 who will be attending a Canadian post-secondary institution of training school in the coming year, with priority given to youth that live, work, volunteer, or go to school in the York South-Weston and Oakwood-Vaughan communities.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Scholarships for MVP Youth

Investing In Our Diversity Scholarship Program

[Torontohousing.ca/iiods](https://torontohousing.ca/iiods)

- Scholarships of up to \$4,000 for youth up to the age of 29 who are Toronto Community Housing tenants or a person living in the Scadding Court Community Centre catchment area. Recipients must have made a contribution to their communities in promoting diversity, equity, and anti-racism dialogue.

Elevate Youth Toronto

[Elevateyouthtoronto.com/scholarship-fund-drive](https://elevateyouthtoronto.com/scholarship-fund-drive)

- Scholarships for Black youth with financial need in order to help alleviate the financial burden of obtaining higher education. Scholarships will be launched on a quarterly basis and will be available to both past program participants and new applicants.

Pathways to Education Scholarship Program

[Alumni.pathwaystoeducation.ca/financial-support/](https://alumni.pathwaystoeducation.ca/financial-support/)

- The Pathways to Education Scholarship Program is provided to eligible alumni to support post-secondary or training, up to a maximum of \$2,000. Funds can be applied to post-secondary expenses.

Amadeusz

[Amadeusz.ca/scholarship](https://amadeusz.ca/scholarship)

- The Amadeusz Scholarship is designed to offer support to individuals in the community, who have been released from incarceration and are working towards reaching their post-secondary education goals. This scholarship is for youth who are 18 to 35 years old, pursuing post-secondary education (college, university, trades, or other institution), a current resident of Ontario, and recently released from incarceration. Scholarships are offered on an annual basis. Reach out to info@amadeusz.ca with any questions, and follow the Amadeusz Instagram @AmadeuszTO for updates on upcoming scholarship opportunities.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Scholarship Databases

There are a number different online scholarship databases that list the current available scholarships, eligibility criteria, and submission requirements. These databases are continually updating their information, so it is recommended to check back regularly.

Black Foundation of Community Networks Scholarship Directory

[Bfcn.ca/scholarships](https://bfcn.ca/scholarships)

- Black Foundation of Community Networks Scholarship Directory is a free detailed and accessible compilation of 50+ available scholarships, awards, and bursaries for youth pursuing post-secondary education primarily at the undergraduate level. This directory was created to support students and their parents, educators, coaches, and guidance counselors in finding, applying for, and winning scholarships, awards and bursaries.

Ontario Universities Info (OUInfo)

[Ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/scholarships](https://ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/scholarships)

- Ontario Universities Info offers a free scholarship directory for those looking for university-level scholarships in Ontario. It allows you to search by university as well as other eligibility factors including identity, location, and grade range.

Scholarships Canada

[Scholarshipscanada.com/](https://scholarshipscanada.com/)

- Scholarships Canada is a free Canadian scholarship database website which helps students find and apply for bursaries and scholarships. Students are matched to relevant scholarships and bursaries when they create an account.

Yconic

[Yconic.com](https://yconic.com)

- Yconic provides weekly newsletters for scholarship updates, a searchable database to find relevant funding opportunities, and access tools and resources for new post-secondary students.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Financial Supports for Apprenticeship Training

Government of Ontario Tools Grant

[Ontario.ca/page/financial-supports-apprentices-and-sponsors](https://ontario.ca/page/financial-supports-apprentices-and-sponsors)

- The Tools Grant is a non-repayable cash grant available for Ontario apprentices to help pay for trade-related tools and equipment. You can receive up to \$1,000 for motive power trades, \$600 for construction or industrial trades, or \$400 for service trades. To qualify, you must have completed level one in-class training on or after April 1st, 2020, have a registered training agreement, and have been registered as an apprentice for at least 12 months.

Government of Ontario Apprentice Development Benefit

[Ontario.ca/page/financial-supports-apprentices-and-sponsors](https://ontario.ca/page/financial-supports-apprentices-and-sponsors)

- The Apprentice Development Benefit provides financial assistance for apprentices who are attending class full-time and are registered as an apprentice with Skilled Trades Ontario. Eligible expenses can include basic living expenses, dependent care, and travel.

Apprenticeship Completion Bonus

[Ontario.ca/page/financial-supports-apprentices-and-sponsors](https://ontario.ca/page/financial-supports-apprentices-and-sponsors)

- The Apprenticeship Completion Bonus is a \$2,000 cash grant for those who have completed their training in a non-Red Seal trade. You must have received your Certificate of Apprenticeship and have been issued a Certificate of Apprenticeship or Certificate of Qualification no more than 180 days prior to the date you are applying. Skilled Trades Ontario will send you an application when you are eligible to apply.

Canada Apprentice Loan

[Canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/support-skilled-trades-apprentices/loan](https://canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/support-skilled-trades-apprentices/loan)

- The Canada Apprentice Loan is an initiative of the Government of Canada to help individuals complete their apprenticeship in a designated Red Seal trade. You can get up to \$4,000 in interest-free loans per period of technical training to help pay for tuition, tools, equipment, and living expenses.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Additional Financial Supports

Banks - Banks often have scholarship opportunities specifically for students. These scholarships may have specific eligibility requirements, which could be dependent on post-secondary institution, identity, and/or income. It is recommended to check out each individual website to determine scholarship details. Some examples include:

- **TD Scholarships for Community Leadership:** For students in their final year of high school who have shown a commitment to making a positive difference in their community.
- **RBC Future Launch Scholarship:** For youth 15 to 29 years old enrolled part-time in school or not in school at all. Scholarships are flexible and can be used for any learning opportunity.
- **Bank of Canada Scholarship Award for Post-Secondary Students:** For students with disabilities or who are Indigenous, 2SLGBTQ+, Francophone, or who identify as a member of a visible minority or racialized group. Must be pursuing post-secondary studies in economic and finance, administration and operations, or information technology and cyber security.

Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) - This is a long-term savings plan that assists in saving for a child's post-secondary education. Savings grow tax-deferred until they are withdrawn. When funds are withdrawn for education purposes, the money is taxed in the student's hand, typically at a lower rate.

Canadian Learning Bond (CLB) - CLB is a grant from the Canadian government that helps low-income families start saving early for their child's post-secondary education. The bond works by depositing money for each eligible child, born in 2004 or later, into a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). You don't need to invest anything to receive these deposits. In the first year, the CLB deposits \$500 per child initially and \$100 per child every year until each child turns 15, up to a maximum of \$2000. Employment and Social Development Canada will also pay \$25 into the RESP in recognition of a one-time incidental expense associated with opening the RESP account. For more information, call 1-800-622-6232.

The **TYES Frontline Workers Toolkit Series** is designed to provide resources to City & community-based staff working with MVP youth (*youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence & crime*).