

Welcome to Grade 12: What's Next



WESTDALE
SECONDARY SCHOOL



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Welcome & Agenda

Welcome to the 24-25 School Year!

Agenda

- Graduation Reminders
- Information available to students
- Seeking Apprenticeships
- Seeking Employment
- Applying to College
- Applying to University
- Applying Out of Province
- Scholarships and Awards
- Questions

2025
Class of

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Communicating with You

A screenshot of the Student Services webpage. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with items like 'A Welcome From Student Services', 'Choosing Your Courses For Grade 9', 'Community Involvement Hours', 'Cooperative Education Program', 'Dual Credit Programs', 'Graduation Information/Commencement 2024', 'International Baccalaureate-Prospective IB Students', 'Post-Secondary Pathways', 'Scholarship Information', and 'Specialist High Skills Major'. The main content area is titled 'Student Services' and includes a 'Welcome to Student Services' section with contact information, a 'Book a Guidance Appointment Link', and a 'Contacts' section listing staff members like Ms. Quaglia and Mr. Meyer.

A screenshot of the Guidance webpage. The top navigation bar includes the HWDSB logo and 'GUIDANCE - Westdale Secondary'. Below the navigation are icons for 'Course Home', 'Book Appointment...', 'Xello', 'SHSM 2023', 'Content', 'Summer School', 'Class Tools', and 'Class Progress'. The main banner features a photo of a tree-lined path with the text 'GUIDANCE - Westdale Secondary'. Below the banner, there are sections for 'Announcements' (highlighting a 'Volunteer Opportunity - Sept 19') and 'My Courses In Other Orgs' with a search bar.

Westdale Secondary School Website:
Student Services

Guidance:
Westdale Secondary Hub Course

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Grad Photo Dates

Grad Photo sittings are available at Westdale on the following dates:

- November 26 – December 6
- February 24 - 27
- March 3 - 7
- Link to book an appointment will be on the school website and Guidance Hub.

Commencement Class of 2025

- **Wednesday June 25th at 3pm (First Ontario Concert Hall)**
- **Commencement fee of \$60.00 Includes:**
 - **Grade 12 Breakfast in May (Date TBD)**
 - **Fees for Ceremony, Décor, Tickets (5 per student)**
- **Gowns, Stoles and Caps approx. (\$25.00) will be purchased via Jacor Store Link available in your email and on the HUB- DUE Early Feb**
- **Fees will be collected for Commencement with School Cash online; link will open soon to allow families a flexible pay schedule. If you need financial assistance, please see your Guidance counselor.**
- **Please check the HUB for updates. See Ms. O'Leary in Guidance with any questions about Commencement.**

Grad Checklist

- 30 credits (18 compulsory, 12 elective)
- 40 community involvement hours; due by April 1, 2025
- Successfully completed Literacy Requirement;
- Online Graduation Requirement; 2 credits or Opt Out
- If in French Immersion Program...completed 10 French Immersion Credits
- Post-Secondary program prerequisites
- If applying to university, you need a minimum of 6 Grade 12 U/M courses, including ENG4U1 and program prerequisites
- When applying to competitive college and university programs, watch for supplemental applications such as auditions, portfolios, essays etc.

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Grad Checklist- Community Hours

- **40 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS NEEDED FOR JUNE 2025 GRADS**
- Policies and processes for Community Involvement Hours have returned to pre-COVID-19 practices
- Please submit Community Involvement Hours by April 1 so that hours are complete before Semester 2 midterm data transfers to OUAC and OCAS

Ineligible Activities

- Any duty/services that would normally be performed for wages in a workplace;
- Requirement for a class, course, or program;
- Takes place during class instructional time;
- Students attending school in the 2021-2022 school year may include 10 hours of paid work or duties performed in the home completed during the 21-22 year.

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Online Graduation Requirement

- Two-credit online graduation requirement can be earned in the following ways:
 - selecting eLearning as a day school student at Westdale
 - summer school eLearning

OR

- Families can now opt out of the Ministry of Education's online learning graduation requirement. The "eLearning Opt Out for Families" form can be found in Parent Portal. There is currently no expiration date or deadline to submit

What's Next?

- **Apprenticeships**
- **Colleges**
- **University**
- **Work**
- **Community Living**



Apprenticeship

What is an apprenticeship?

- As an apprentice, you learn a skilled trade on the job. You work with and learn from experienced workers – and get paid while you do it.
- You also learn in a classroom from instructors who know the skilled trade. This may take place in high school, on a college campus or a union training centre.
- Canada has a large demand for workers in the skilled trades and technologies. There are 144 skilled trades in Ontario!

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Comparing Pathways to Apprenticeship

Direct Entry to Apprenticeship

As an apprentice, you learn a skilled trade on the job in combination with class training

Apprenticeships are completed in 3-5 years

VS

VS

Pre-Apprenticeship College Program

The college courses may be 1 or 2 year programs. The courses are designed to deliver the skills enabling persons enter a skilled trade.

After completing a college program, the students begin the apprenticeship process.

Post-secondary trades options

Option 1: Find an employer to sponsor you as an apprentice.

- Traditional apprenticeship
- Trade union or group sponsor

Option 2: Complete a college course in a skilled trade of interest.

- Pre-apprenticeship
- College diploma or certificate



OYAP

ONTARIO YOUTH
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Apprenticeships: How to get started

- Take courses in Technologies (or other areas leading to your chosen skilled trade) to develop skills that apply to skilled trades
- Take co-op courses to test out career pathways, gain real-world experience and form relationships with potential employers
- Leverage co-op experience and relationships to explore an apprenticeship opportunity OR apply to a college program where you will develop skills and be connected with an employer

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OYAP - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

- Allows students to earn high school credits while participating in apprenticeship training in a skilled trade
- Full day co-op placement
- Semester 2 Accelerated OYAP opportunities available - see your Guidance counsellor if interested
- Signed apprentice = Paid employment + 4 credits + apprenticeship hours earned towards certification

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PROGRAM	LOCATION	Applications Due	Format	START DATE	END DATE
Automotive Service Technician (AST) (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Fennel Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Electrician (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Plumber (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Construction Craft Worker (CCW) (Level 1)	LIUNA Local 837 LIUNA Training Centre 260 Hunter Rd. Grimsby	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks (no training during March Break)	February 2025	May 2025
Welder (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 10 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
General Carpenter (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Truck & Coach Technician (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025

Note: Students must provide their own transportation to and from these programs.

Note: All assigned dates and locations are tentative!

Apprenticeship Resources

- Trades Report – can be found on the Guidance Hub course (password required)
- [Skilled Trades Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program](#)
- [Apprenticesearch.com](#)
- [Apprenticeships in Ontario](#)

Going to work after high school?

- **Earn money and gain independence**
- **Get real life experience, build resilience, confidence and social skills by working in the real world**
- **Work experience makes you more employable for future jobs**
- **Get a taste for a career in a specific industry**
- **A job in a skilled trade could lead to apprenticeship training**
- **Some companies help employees pay for college & university tuition costs**

Career Research & Job Search Websites

Employment Resources:

1. www.youth.gc.ca
2. [YMCA Employment Hamilton](#)
3. [Employment Hamilton](#)
4. www.mohawkcollege.ca/community-employment-services
5. [Goodwill Halton and Hamilton](#)

Find opportunities to network – friends, family members, part-time employers, co-op employers are all people who can help.

Ontario College Application Process

- Do research and apply online at www.ontariocolleges.ca starting in early October
- Obtain OEN (Ontario Education Number) from any report card or by contacting the Guidance office
- Instructional videos will be posted on the Guidance Hub page under “applying to college and university”
- Deadline to apply to college is February 1st, 2025
- \$150.00 application fee
- 5 choices—no more than 3 programs at any one college

Ontario College Application Timelines

- Apply by February 1 for equal consideration
- Applications after February 1 will be processed only if there is space in the program
- Applications open Sept 28
- November 1 is the earliest date you will receive an offer of acceptance to an Ontario College Program
- Offers continue to go out until programs are filled; then waitlisted
- Deadline to accept offer is May 1
- Tuition deposit due to college June 2025

College Prerequisites

- **To apply for college in Ontario:**
 - **Graduate with OSSD**
 - **Grade 12 English mark is critical**
 - **Programs have specific prerequisites, check each program carefully.**

College Pathway Planning

- **College Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas can lead to the world of work, apprenticeships, or university**
- **Students interested in skilled trades, but who do not have prior experience or an employer sponsor for an apprenticeship can apply to college and pursue an apprenticeship after college**
- **Students earning a college diploma or advanced diploma can pursue a university degree (or bachelor's degree) after earning their diploma. Some colleges and universities have articulation agreements where students can complete their degree after earning their diploma**

Application Tips

- **Be sure to check the program start date (Sept 2025 vs Jan 2026)**
- **Use all 5 choices**
- **Keep track of your logins and passwords**
- **Be sure that your program choices are entered in order of preference**
- **Westdale Guidance will conduct a "How to Apply to College" information session in October TBD**

Learning More About College

- **Westdale College Fair**
- **Thursday October 24th 9am-11am in the Library**

- **Ontario College Information Fair**
- **Enercare Centre, Toronto (Exhibition Place)**
- **Wed, Oct 16th 5 – 9 pm and Thurs, Oct 17th 9 am – 2 pm**

- **Mohawk College Open House Dates**
- **Institute for Applied Health Science**
- **Monday, November 4th 6 pm to 8 pm**
- **Fennell Campus (Main Campus)**
- **Saturday, November 2nd 10 am to 1 pm**

Dual Credits

- The HWDSB has a partnership with Mohawk College where students can earn credits that count toward their high school OSSD and college. Many of these programs are offered at the Mohawk campus or elsewhere in the community.

Here is a sample of Semester 2 offerings:

- Positive Psychology & Movies, Identity and Culture
- Community Services – Intro to Social Work & Rec Therapy
- Developmental Psychology & Health and Wellness
- Computer Technology – HTML and CSS & Hardware/Software
- Aviation (located at Hamilton Airport)
- Welding (located at Stoney Creek campus)

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

- Use www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca to research
- Use www.ouac.on.ca to apply to Ontario universities
- OUAC=Ontario Universities Application Centre
- Students will apply to an undergraduate degree program at University where you earn a Bachelor's Degree (i.e. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
- Most undergraduate degree programs are four years in length

University Prerequisites

- Top 6 Grade 12 U/M courses including ENG4U + specific program prerequisite courses
- Some university programs limit the number of 'M' level courses you can have in your top 6
 - e.g. McMaster - Nursing Degree Program
ENG4U, (1 of MHF4U, MCV4U, MDM4U), SBI4U, SCH4U
+ 2 other 4U/4M courses
- Co-op, college and open level courses DO NOT count towards your university admission average

Ontario University Application Process www.ouac.on.ca

- **OUAC Platform opens for applications in late September**
- **OUAC Applications no longer require PIN to begin process; students can apply, independently, using their OEN**
- **Westdale Guidance will conduct an information session on Thursday, October 10 during Period 3 in the Auditorium for students applying to university**
- **Deadline to apply is January 15, 2025**

Ontario University Application Process www.ouac.on.ca

- OUAC fee is \$156 for 3 choices
- \$50 for each additional choice beyond the first 3
- \$10 fee if you are not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Some schools have supplemental fees:
 - Guelph Landscape Architecture \$50
 - McMaster Engineering \$50, Health Sciences \$30
 - U of T Architecture \$45, Commerce \$51, Computer Science \$50, Engineering \$43, Medical Radiation Sciences \$47
 - Waterloo Accounting \$53.25, Architecture \$60, Engineering \$60
 - York (some programs in School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design) \$25
- Supplemental fees will be paid to OUAC at the time of application. All fees are non-refundable

Repeated Courses

- Repeated mark policy varies from school to school
 - Some take the mark from the first attempt at the course
 - Some take the highest mark
 - Some take an average
 - Some give a penalty
- Students should check the minimum average and the repeated course policy for your university program of choice
- Where? University website OR ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca

How do colleges and universities get my marks?

- **All Grade 11 and 12 marks are sent electronically by Westdale in November, February, April and July.**
- **Check your OCAS/OUAC account online after every reporting period and let your counsellor know about any errors – students will get an email alert when their profile is updated**

How do colleges and universities get my marks?

- You must provide information about ALL institutions where you have registered in 1 or more high school courses. Institutions may include but are not limited to:
 - Westdale Secondary School
 - Previous high school attended
 - HWDSB summer school eLearning
 - Out-of-Board summer school
 - Private School
 - Ontario Virtual School
- You DO NOT need to include institutions where your home school registered you for courses (e.g. board virtual school, dual credit, SHSM, consortium eLearning)
- It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that Guidance is aware that you are taking that course so it may be added to your historical grades

Application Strategies

Advice from one post-secondary representative:

- 1) Check to be sure that programs and/or schools align (e.g. make sure student has more than one option for first choice of program).
- 2) Consider applying to one school outside of the GTHA.
- 3) As best as possible, apply to one program where you are very confident you will receive an offer of admission.
- 4) Consider applying by December 1; add more programs before the January 15 application deadline as necessary.

Learning More About University

- **Ontario University Fair:**
October 5-6 at Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- **Regional Fairs:**
October 7 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Brock University (St. Catharines)
October 8 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo)
- **OUAC Virtual Events: September 25 & November 21**

Post-Secondary Visits

DATE	INSTITUTION	LOCATION
Thursday, September 19, 2024	McMaster University	Auditorium
Monday, September 23, 2024	Kings University College (NS)	Library Seminar Room
Tuesday, September 24, 2024	University of Ottawa	TBD
Wednesday, September 25, 2024	Trent University	Library Seminar Room
Thursday, September 26, 2024	Toronto Metro University – International Student Recruitment	TBD
Thursday, October 3, 2024	Toronto Metro University	Library Seminar Room
Friday, October 4, 2024	University of Toronto	TBD
Monday, October 7, 2024	Sir Wilfrid Laurier University	Library Seminar Room
Tuesday, October 8, 2024	Brock University	Library Seminar Room
Monday, October 21, 2024	Western University	Library Seminar Room
Tuesday, October 22, 2024	Atlantic University Fair (9 – 11)	Library
Thursday, October 24, 2024	College Fair (9:30 – 11:30)	Library
Thursday, November 7, 2024	University of Waterloo (11 am)	Library Seminar Room
Thursday, November 14, 2024	University of Guelph	Library Seminar Room

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Atlantic University Fair

Connect with the following Atlantic Canada Universities:

- Acadia
- Mount Saint Vincent
- Dalhousie
- Saint Mary's
- St. Francis Xavier
- Cape Breton
- Mount Allison
- University of New Brunswick
- NSCAD
- University of Prince Edward Island
- St. Thomas

When: Tuesday, October 22

Time: 9:00 – 11:00

Where: Westdale Library

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Universities Outside of Ontario

- **Check each university website for deadlines and application fees as they vary from university to university.**
- **Some schools outside of Ontario have a reciprocal agreement with OUAC to receive marks. Many do not. For schools that do not, students will either need to mail an official transcript or email an electronic transcript. Students need to know the process for each school they are applying to.**
- **U.S. universities may require SAT or ACT scores, and most use The Common Application.**
- **Information session Oct 16 at lunch**

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OUAC Reciprocal Agreements

- **OUAC has agreements with the following Canadian schools:**
 - **Acadia University**
 - **Bishop's University**
 - **The University of British Columbia**
 - **Concordia University**
 - **Dalhousie University**
 - **McGill University**
 - **Saint Mary's University**
 - **Simon Fraser University**
 - **The University of Victoria**

OUAC Reciprocal Agreements

- If you apply to any school listed on the previous slide, you can authorize that school to request your academic information from OUAC
- There will be space on each school's application for you to enter your OUAC Reference Number
- Your Reference Number will be 2025-XXXXXX and it is generated AFTER you submit your OUAC application
- Some schools ask for your Reference Number in the format above. Other schools want it in the format 2025XXXXXX0 (no dash and an 11th number which is ALWAYS zero)
- For this reason, we always recommend completing the OUAC application first

“The Big 3”

UBC (www.ubc.ca)

Dec 1: first round offers & major awards

Jan 15: final deadline

\$74.25 (domestic) or \$170 (international)

McGill (www.mcgill.ca)

Feb 1: deadline for applications

\$133.41 application fee

Dalhousie (www.dal.ca)

Feb 15: entrance scholarship consideration

\$70 application fee



McGill



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

HWDSB

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On MY Way

HWDSB Pathways Event for Grades 11 & 12

Thursday, October 24, 2024

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

LiUNA Station

360 James St N, Hamilton, ON L8L 1H5



**For more information about
On My Way and the RSVP form,
scan the QR Code.**

Scholarships

Many Types...

- Automatic Entrance Scholarships based on marks and no application is required (no need to apply separately)
- Additional Scholarships are available but may require an application (e.g. TD Community Leaders, Loran)
- Additional Scholarships are available but may require school nomination with your application (U of T National, Queen's Chancellor's, Schulich Leader, Western National)
- Scholarship information is available on ontariocolleges.ca, ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca, and under the Scholarships and Awards tab on the Guidance Hub page
- Westdale subscribes to The Scholarship Report which is also found on the Guidance Hub page

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Queen's Major Admission Awards

Chancellor's Scholarship

- Westdale can nominate two students for this award

Melvin R Goodes Scholarship

- Any number of Westdale students can apply
- Must also complete the Financial Needs Bursary application on the SOLUS website

Deadlines to be aware of:

- November 8 – information session for students at lunch
- November 20 – deadline to apply to Queen's through OUAC
- November 25 – Westdale deadline for Chancellor's consideration
- December 8 – MAA application due on SOLUS

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OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program)

- OSAP applications will open in the spring ([OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program | ontario.ca](#))
- Cannot apply for OSAP until you have accepted an offer to a post-secondary institution
- Can be used at institutions throughout Canada and outside of Canada as well; there is a list of eligible institutions on the OSAP website
- Combination of grants (non-repayable) and loans (repayable)
- Check eligibility requirements before applying
- Check the estimator to get an idea of amount ([OSAP Aid Estimator for Full-Time Students: Home Page \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

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Learn and Stay Grant

- [Ontario Learn and Stay Grant | ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca)
- Funding for students studying in priority regions in Ontario (Northern, Southwestern and Eastern) in eligible college and university programs
- Students must commit to working 6 months/year of their program in the region where they studied; failure to meet obligation will turn the grant into a repayable OSAP loan
- College programs – Practical Nursing, Paramedic, Medical Lab Technology
- University Programs – Nursing
- Covers tuition, books, compulsory fees, direct educational costs
- Applications open in the spring

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Next Steps

- **Understand your responsibility**
- **Research next steps and requirements**
- **Connect with your Guidance Counsellor**

International Student – Literacy Requirement

It is your responsibility to make all arrangements regarding the writing of English Language Proficiency tests and to have the official score report forwarded to the Admissions Office directly from the testing centre by April 1st!

You are **not** required to submit an English-language test if you:

- resided in an English-speaking country for at least 4 years immediately prior to September 2024

OR

- attended an English-speaking educational institution in a full-time academic (non-ESL) program for at least 4 years immediately prior to September 2025.

IELTS – International English Language Testing System (Academic and Academic UKVI) _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	PTE – Pearson Test of English Academic _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	TOEFL – Test of English as a Foreign Language _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +
CAE – Cambridge Advanced English (C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency) _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	CAEL – Canadian Academic English Language _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +	Duolingo English Test _____ Minimum Acceptable Score +

International Student – Study Permits

- If you already have a study permit and it is still valid, then you don't need to change or apply for a new permit.
- If your study permit is about to expire, then you need to apply to extend it
 - [Guide 5552 - Applying to Change Conditions or Extend Your Stay in Canada - Student - online application - Canada.ca](#)

DO NOT wait until the last minute!!

