

QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK WHEN RESEARCHING...

UNIVERSITIES

Start a file. Keep these questions handy. Record the answers for further reference.

1. Where is your program located?
2. What programs are offered by the university in year 1?
3. What prerequisite 4U/M must you have to be eligible for this Year 1 program?
4. What is the anticipated cut-off average for next year, what average must you have in your 6 4U/M courses to qualify for admission to this program?
5. Is there a maximum number of 4M courses that this university will accept? (Queens & Waterloo definitely have policies)
6. In some programs the “major” (concentration in one area) doesn’t start until Year 2. If this is the case, what subjects must you have in Year 1 to qualify?
7. If you are interested in a professional or second-degree program, what undergraduate courses must you take?
8. When will the university tell you if you are accepted? Will they tell most people at the same time, in the late Spring, after Semester 2 mid-term marks are available, or will they admit some people after Semester 1 marks are known, perhaps using Grade 11/12 marks, (“in the first wave”) and others once Semester 2 midterms are known (“in the second wave”)?
9. What is the average size of the first year classes?
10. Will there be a guaranteed residence space for Year 1? Must one have a certain average for a guarantee spot? What will the residence + meal plan cost? What types of rooms are available?
11. Is off campus housing available? How do I access it?
12. Are scholarships awarded automatically if you obtain a certain average? (The high value scholarships that usually require a 90%+ average with lots of extracurricular involvement are not automatic and require application).
13. Under what conditions might a university withdraw its offer of: a) admission b) residence c) scholarship
14. How can you arrange a campus tour with someone who could answer your questions?
15. After you’ve accepted an offer of admission, whom can you get to help choose your courses?
16. How much should you expect to spend on tuition + other required fees + books etc?
17. What joint programs are available at your university?

DID YOU KNOW...?

1. It may be easier to gain admission to a smaller university. Could you see yourself in a small university?
2. The cost of attending university outside Ontario, in another Canadian province, is about the same as attending university here if you don’t live at home. Could you see yourself in another province?
3. In Ontario, perhaps as many as 1/3 of general arts and science grads go to college after their degree to get job training. Could you see yourself doing this? Which post-secondary degree college programs might appeal to you?

STEPS INVOLVED IN PLANNING A POST-SECONDARY DESTINATION COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

Step One: Start with the End in Mind

Where are you heading?

You need to know your destination in order to plan the post-secondary journey.

Step Two: Set the Stage

What is your ideal post-secondary destination?

Do you know which level of study you want to pursue (college/university, etc.)?

Which location is ideal (Ontario, United States, etc.)?

Do you want to be a full or part-time student?

Have you researched financial options available to you?

Step Three: Research Your Options

Jot down post-secondary programs, locations, admission requirements, additional requirements (portfolios, auditions, etc.), possible admission averages and any additional notes.

Step Four: Select Your Top Five

Establish a top five list after you have conducted your research. Do this by comparing high school course and grades achieved with admission requirements and averages.

Step Five: Take a Closer Look

Use viewbooks and websites to examine your top five in detail. Expand your knowledge by arranging for campus visits, attending liaison visits and talking to previous graduates.

*When you work through these five steps you will have developed a **Plan A**.
But you are not finished planning yet. It is wise to have a **Plan B** and a **Plan C**.*

QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK WHEN RESEARCHING...

COLLEGES

Start a file. Keep these questions handy. Record the answers for further reference.

1. What programs are offered by the College in Year 1?
2. What pre-requisite courses must you have to be eligible for this Year 1 program?
3. Is this program usually “oversubscribed”; are there more applicants than spaces?
4. Do marks in specific subjects affect whether or not you will be admitted? What marks do you need in the required subjects?
5. Are other criteria used in determining who’s accepted into the program (e.g. portfolio of drawings, audition, etc.)? How can you find out what the college is seeking in the portfolio, audition, etc.?
6. What courses do you take in Year 1? Year 2? Year 3?
7. What types of work do graduates of this program usually get?
8. According to the college’s Graduate Placement Report, what percentage of graduates find job related work within a short time after graduating?
9. According to the college’s Graduate Placement Report, what is the average starting salary for grads from this program?
10. Is there a paid COOP option in this program?
11. If the college has more than one campus, which campus has your program?
12. Does the college have a residence, or a “housing service” to help you find local accommodation?
13. How can you arrange a guided campus tour with someone who could answer your questions?
14. If a mark in a specified subject is important (e.g. Grade 12 English), and you don’t take that course until Semester 2, what will the college do: will they wait until Semester 2 mid-term marks are available or use the Grade 11 mark, or something else?
15. When will you find out if you are accepted?
16. If you are hoping to transfer to a university after completing the college diploma, when, where and how can you do this? What kind of equivalency will be assessed?
17. How much should you expect to spend on tuition – other required fees – books, etc.?
18. What articulation agreements are in place if I choose to attend university, once I have achieved my diploma at college?
19. What applied degree programs or bachelor programs are available at the college and compare them to university programs?

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

1. Do you think you’d prefer the practical job training offered by colleges rather than the more theoretical education offered at universities?
2. Do you think you’d prefer the even more hands-on training provided in apprenticeships and private care colleges?