



You can do it!
Don't let anything
hold you back.

It doesn't matter where your talents lie or what line of work attracts you. Whether you want to be a computer technician or a restaurant chef, a city planner or a mechanic, a child-care worker or an accountant – the best move you can make is to get the higher education you need.



www.ontario.ca/yourfuture

Change
your world

What if

What if I'm not sure more education is really worth all the time, effort, and money?

Investing in your education is one of the smartest moves you'll ever make. People with more education earn better incomes, enjoy their jobs more, are healthier, and have better opportunities throughout their lives.

If you have a good education, the outlook for new jobs is bright. New opportunities are emerging in almost every sector of the economy. Well-educated young people are in demand.

Having more education shows you have the winning combination of life skills and knowledge that employers look for in new hires.

What if

What if I've had enough of school?

The environment and atmosphere at a college or university or in an apprenticeship program are very different from what you've known in high school. Many students find that the change of scene and the different kind of learning they experience in postsecondary settings are just what they need to regain enthusiasm for school.

In most programs the academic year is shorter than in high school, giving you more time to earn money or do other things. You have more independence. You choose your courses and decide how to manage your time. You also spend much less time in class and more time completing assignments on your own.

Find out what other students have to say about the experience, by visiting www.ontario.ca/yourfuture.

What if

What if I don't fit in?

Everyone worries about the social side of new situations and places. But you'll find that campus life offers many ways to make friends and enjoy life both in and out of class. Orientation events give newcomers a chance to meet fellow students and faculty, learn their way around campus, and get involved in a wide choice of clubs, activities, and athletic programs. It won't take long for you to feel at home.

Contact the various institutions that you are interested in and ask them about their orientation events and the range of student activities available on campus.

What if

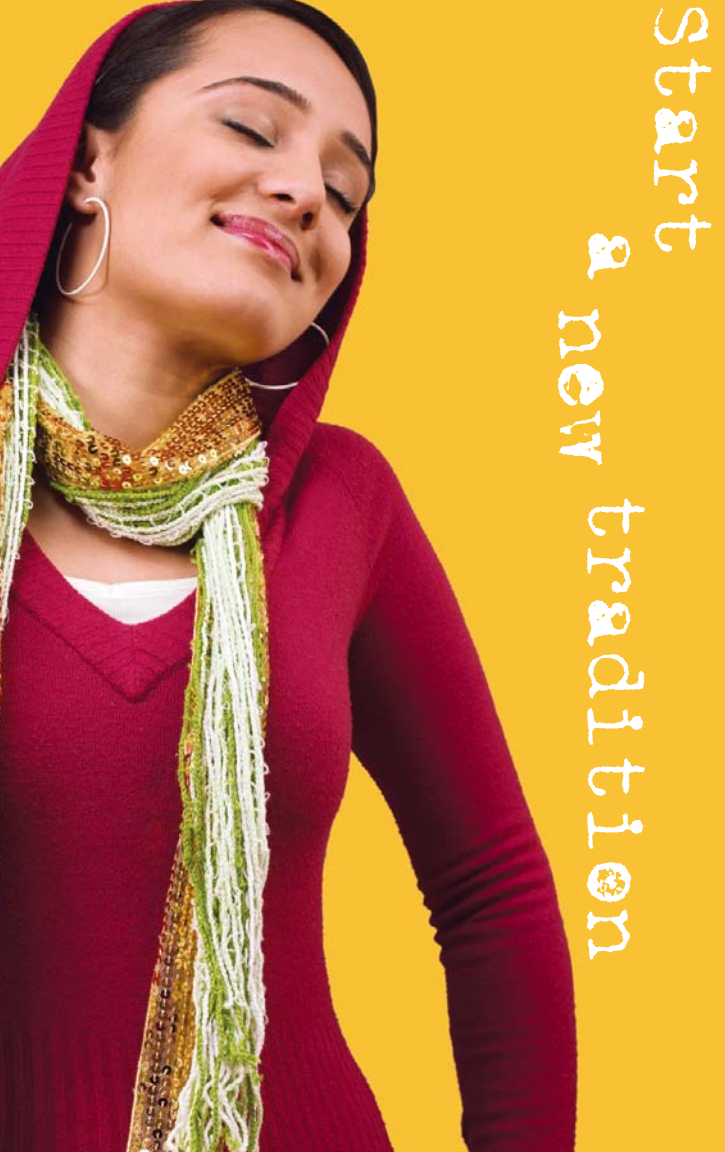
What if I need help when I'm there?

All of Ontario's publicly funded colleges and universities have excellent student services that offer assistance and advice in many different areas. Help is available for finding a place to live or a part-time job, managing financial or health concerns, or accommodating special needs.

Many students who struggled academically in high school do very well in college or university, or in an apprenticeship. A variety of academic supports are in place at Ontario's publicly funded colleges and universities to help you succeed. Discuss your concerns with your guidance counsellor. You can also contact the institution you hope to attend and ask about the types of assistance they offer.

Amaze
yourself





Start a new tradition

Get the education you need to achieve your dreams.

College, university, or apprenticeship...

The choice is yours.

At one time, a high school education was enough to get you a decent job. Not today. By 2013, more than 70 per cent of all new jobs – even entry-level positions – will need some postsecondary education or skills training.



www.ontario.ca/yourfuture

What if

What if I don't know what I want to do?

Choosing what to do after high school is a big decision. Many students worry about making the wrong choice and getting stuck in a career they don't like. It can also be hard to choose between things you like.

It's okay if you don't know exactly what you want to do when you graduate. Many students feel that way. Don't let it stop you from going ahead with your education. You can enrol in a general arts or science degree or diploma program. This is a good way to explore your interests and future direction.

Your high school guidance counsellor and teachers can help you think about your strengths, talents, and interests. They can help you identify the types of careers that are right for you and the kind of education you need for each of them.

Start by talking to your guidance counsellor and doing some research on your own. The more you know, the more confident you'll feel about choosing the university, college, or apprenticeship program that is best for you.

What if

What if I don't know which school or program is right for me?

Ontario's colleges and universities offer more programs in more locations than ever before. Many also offer programs online. Every institution has unique advantages. Take some time to sort out your priorities and identify the schools and programs that best fit your needs. Your guidance counsellor can help you get started.

For more information about college programs, visit the website of the application service for Ontario colleges, at www.ontariocolleges.ca. You can access information about university programs through the e-INFO website, the guide to Ontario universities for secondary students, at www.electronicinfo.ca. For information on apprenticeship programs, visit the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities website at www.ontario.ca/apprenticeship. For distance and online education opportunities, go to Ontario Learn at www.ontariolearn.com and Contact North/Contact Nord at www.contactnorth.ca.

What if

What if I don't have a required course? What if my grades aren't good enough to get in?

It may not be too late – but it will require work. Your guidance counsellor can explain your options and support your progress. With a plan in place, you can get the grades and earn the credits you need to qualify for the college, apprenticeship, or university program of your choice.

If there's a gap between the grades or credits you have and those that are required for a program you're interested in, you might be able to take one of the preparatory or upgrading programs that are offered by all colleges and some universities. Ask your guidance counsellor or teachers for advice, and contact the institution you hope to attend for details about its preparatory or upgrading programs.

What if

What if I need help paying for it?

The Ontario government is committed to making sure that all qualified Ontario college and university students have access to the financial support they need to cover the costs of tuition, books, and mandatory fees. (If you decide to become an apprentice, you will be earning money to help cover your costs at the same time that you are learning a new trade.)

The Ontario government has introduced the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) Access Window to help you estimate the approximate costs of your postsecondary education and the financial assistance available to help you pay for it. The Access Window is available through the OSAP website at www.ontario.ca/osap.

There are many sources of financial aid that can help you cover the costs of your postsecondary education:

- OSAP provides loans, grants, scholarships, and/or bursaries to supplement contributions from your family, your own personal savings, or income from work.
- Ontario's publicly funded universities and colleges offer bursaries, scholarships, and work-study and summer employment programs for which you may be eligible. For details, contact the student financial aid office of the institution you want to attend.
- Scholarships are also offered by private companies. Information on these scholarships is available from universities, colleges, and public libraries, as well as online.

How do I apply?

Applying to Ontario's colleges and universities is easy. You can do it either online or by mail. You can apply to more than one school or program at the same time. The application fee will vary depending on the number of institutions or programs to which you apply. Your guidance counsellor can help you with the application process.

For more information about applying to college, go to the website of the application service for Ontario colleges, at www.ontariocolleges.ca.

You can find out about applying to university by going to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre website, at www.ouac.on.ca.

For information on apprenticeship programs, go to the ministry's website, at www.ontario.ca/apprenticeship.