

# The application checklist

Spare yourself the stress of last-minute rushing—just follow our multi-year, step-by-step plan

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE IN GRADES 9 & 10

- Consider what you might be interested in studying: many colleges and universities offer advice on what courses to take at the start of high school to ensure you meet admission requirements later on
- Get involved in extracurricular activities: not only do they help land scholarships, they're useful for finding passions and potential careers
- Discuss affordability of post-secondary education with your parents; find a part-time job if you are expected to contribute to the cost of an education

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE IN GRADE 11

### September

- Visit your school counsellor and talk to your teachers about picking a major; review what courses you've taken and what prerequisites you need for college or university
- Continue extracurricular activities

### October

- If interested in U.S. schools, register for the SAT, offered four or five times a year; dates are posted at [CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org)

### February

- Do some deep research into individual programs: find out about a program's prerequisites and early admission dates, as well as scholarship opportunities
- Pick your Grade 12 courses: know prerequisites for your post-secondary programs of choice
- Quebec students: apply to CEGEP; some have two or three admission deadlines per year

## March

- Use the March break to tour the campuses of your prospective schools
- Attend career and education fairs to explore options; be on the lookout for programs you haven't heard of

## April

- Look for a summer job or volunteer opportunity; these will help your resumé and allow you to explore possible career options

## May

- Prepare your scholarship applications (personal statements, essays, resumé, references); it's a time-consuming process, so block off time and have someone proofread your work

## August

- Update your portfolio with Grade 11 marks, plus any work and extracurricular experience
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## September

- Narrow your choice of programs to a handful; know these programs' application and scholarship deadlines; cut-off dates can vary significantly depending on where you're applying
- Visit the schools you want to attend, either at an open house or a pre-booked tour
- Attend individual college information sessions and college fairs
- Continue applying for scholarships

## October

- Though dates vary widely by program, it's now possible to apply to Canadian schools
- Many provinces have a central service (OUAC, ApplyBC, ApplyAlberta) to apply to multiple schools simultaneously; know their deadlines and be sure to print out your confirmation

## November

- Deadlines for some scholarship applications; be aware of specific dates
- Give your references plenty of time to write letters of recommendation

## **December**

- If you haven't applied, use the Christmas break to apply to school: the first wave of deadlines is in January, and it comes quicker than you'd expect

## **March**

- Depending on when you applied, letters of admission start to arrive
- Know how and when to register for classes; details will be provided in your offer-of-admission letter; read through all the material included in the package
- Let your school know your housing preference; some residence applications are first-come, first-served, so make sure you know the deadlines; if you'd like to live off-campus, visit your school's student housing service website to find listings and potential roommates
- Bursary deadlines tend to happen a month or so after early admissions; if you think you qualify, take the time to apply

## **April**

- Look for work or volunteer experience

## **May**

- Different provinces begin accepting loan applications at different times; you can usually still apply up to a certain period after classes have started, but that won't help you pay your first tuition bill
- Attend your school's transition programs (such as academic advising and school tours)

## **June**

- Check your institution's website for deposit and fee deadlines

## **August**

- Make a checklist of everything you need for your dorm or off-campus housing
- Contact future roommate(s); coordinate who is to bring what for your shared accommodation
- Do back-to-school shopping
- Start packing
- Look at the course calendar and choose your courses as soon as possible—getting into the classes you want, in the time slot you want, may require preparation



## **RESOURCES**

### **APPLICATION/ GENERAL INFO**

- [ElectronicInfo.ca](http://ElectronicInfo.ca)
- [Ouac.on.ca](http://Ouac.on.ca)
- [OntarioColleges.ca](http://OntarioColleges.ca)
- [ApplyAlberta.ca](http://ApplyAlberta.ca)
- [EducationPlanner.bc.ca](http://EducationPlanner.bc.ca)
- [Bccat.bc.ca](http://Bccat.bc.ca)
- [Sram.qc.ca](http://Sram.qc.ca)
- [CareerCruising.com](http://CareerCruising.com)

### **SCHOLARSHIPS/ FINANCIAL AID**

- [ScholarshipsCanada.com](http://ScholarshipsCanada.com)
- [Yconic.com](http://Yconic.com)
- [Macleans.ca/education](http://Macleans.ca/education)
- [Osap.ca](http://Osap.ca)
- [StudentAidBC.ca](http://StudentAidBC.ca)