

Student FAQs – Ontario’s Universities and COVID-19

Admissions Questions

How will the impact of current high school closures on midterm grades affect my application? Will the deadline for high schools to submit midterm grades to the OUAC be moved as a result of COVID-19?

Ontario universities and the Ministry of Education have agreed that school boards can now report marks for students to the Ontario Universities’ Application Centre (OUAC) between April 23 and May 1. OUAC expects to forward all of the grades to the universities by the published May 5 deadline.

Will universities honour offers to students who have not written the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or not completed their community service/volunteer hours?

In March, the Ministry of Education announced that the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) and community involvement, generally required to achieve an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), has been waived for this year. Students who are otherwise on track and eligible to graduate, will graduate.

I’ve been recently laid-off and debating on going back to university, can I still apply?

Many universities are still accepting applications past the initial deadline. OUAC has published an application guide for each of Ontario’s universities that can be found [here](#).

I was recently accepted to an Ontario university and need final transcripts to be sent to the university from my high school, but my school is closed. What should I do?

Ontario universities understand the challenges students are facing in applying for university during this time. Universities are committed to being as flexible as possible in their admission processes and will consider adjusting timelines for submitting documentation, including transcripts, as required by individual circumstances. Contact your university choices directly for more information.

I am a first-year university student and I want to apply to transfer to another university. I can’t obtain my official transcript because the offices at my current university are closed. What should I do?

Universities across Canada are facing similar challenges, Ontario universities understand the issues faced by student and will be as flexible as possible in their admission processes. Universities in Ontario will consider adjusting timelines for submitting documentation, including transcripts, as required by individual circumstances.

Contact your [university choices](#) directly for more information.

Is it possible to defer my application for September 2020 admission? If not, can I receive a refund for the cost of the application and re-apply?

Universities are continuing to be as flexible as possible in their admission processes during this difficult time. The approach to deferrals and refunds will vary by university. If you wish to defer your application to 2021 or receive a refund, we advise you contact your [university choices](#) directly.

Attending University

How will entrance scholarships be determined?

The approach to entrance scholarships will vary by university. Specific information related to scholarship updates is available on each universities' website.

I've received a conditional offer of admission. Will school closures impact the required conditions? Will I still be required to meet a minimum final admission average to keep my offer of admission?

Universities are continuing to be as flexible as possible in their admission processes during this difficult time and will consider adjusting timelines for acceptances, including conditional offers, as required by individual circumstances.

Can I still live in residence or on campus?

It is too soon to be sure exactly what the situation will be in the fall or if the residences will open on schedule for the fall term. Decisions in this area will be guided by advice from local health units. Our priority, first and foremost, is the health and safety of our students.

How can I see residences while universities are closed? Are campus tours cancelled indefinitely?

The approach to resident and campus tours is being driven by guidance from the local health units and will vary by university. Specific information related to campus tours is updated on universities' websites. Some universities are offering virtual tours while others have made videos featuring their campuses available online.

What options will I have for meal plans?

Universities are continuing to look at all options for what the fall semester will look like, including what on campus services will be offered. Please check your universities website for the most up to date information.

What will orientation look like?

Updates to orientation sessions will vary by university. Universities are working on innovative approaches to the way student supports are delivered and will leverage this to provide the best orientation possible.

What happens if the fall semester is online?

It is too soon to be sure exactly what format classes will be held in this fall. Decisions in this area will be guided by advice from local health units. Universities' priority, first and foremost, is the health and safety of our students.

Ontario's universities remain committed to the academic success and intellectual development of our students.

While fall classes are a significant concern, our institutions are also continuing to support students who are dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 today. Universities will continue to provide a number of student supports including, career counselling, access to health services, particularly for mental health, and wellness activities.

Student Financial Aid

What financial aid options will be available to me to help me attend university in the fall?

The Government of Ontario provides the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) for eligible students. More information on the program and eligibility can be found [here](#).

The Government of Canada is also changing the eligibility requirements for the Canada Student Loan Program to allow for more students to qualify for support and be eligible for greater amounts. More information on the program can be found [here](#).

In addition, universities offer a number of different student financial supports. Please contact your university for more information.

I've lost my job or won't be able to work and save money for university because of Covid-19. What can I do?

The Federal government recently announced \$9 billion in student aid, including the creation of the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB), which will offset the cost of lost income. More information on the federal benefits can be found [here](#).