

## GRADE 12 PATHWAYS PLANNING – ST. MARY’S 2025–2026

	Apprenticeship	College	University
<b>RESEARCH</b>	<p><b>Careers in the Trades:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.careersintrades.ca">www.careersintrades.ca</a></li> <li><a href="http://www.apprenticesearch.com">www.apprenticesearch.com</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.skilledtradesontario.ca/">https://www.skilledtradesontario.ca/</a></li> <li><a href="http://www.skillsontario.com/pathways-to-apprenticeship">http://www.skillsontario.com/pathways-to-apprenticeship</a></li> <li><b>OCAS:</b> <a href="http://www.ontariocolleges.ca">www.ontariocolleges.ca</a></li> <li>Attend College Fair (Details in Guidance d2L)</li> </ul>	<p><b>OCAS:</b> <a href="http://www.ontariocolleges.ca">www.ontariocolleges.ca</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend <b>local fairs</b> (Sept 24 &amp; 25<sup>th</sup>). See d2L for details.</li> <li>College Fall Open Houses – see college sites for details.</li> <li>Attend College Fair @SMH (October during period 2)</li> <li>Important dates and deadlines - <a href="https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/important-dates">https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/important-dates</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>University Info:</b> <a href="http://www.ouinfo.ca/">http://www.ouinfo.ca/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend University Fair in <b>Toronto</b> (Sep 27-28), <b>Locally</b> (Oct 16) or <b>Virtually</b> (Sept 16 and Nov 10). See d2L for details.</li> <li>University Fall Open Houses – See University sites for details.</li> <li>Attend University Fair @SMH (October during period 2)</li> <li><b>Canadian Universities:</b> <a href="http://www.universitystudy.ca">www.universitystudy.ca</a>, <a href="https://schoolfinder.com">https://schoolfinder.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>PROGRAMS AVAILABLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apprenticeship Training Programs: (2 - 5 years)</li> <li><b>For OYAP &amp; Dual Credits:</b> Talk to Guidance Counsellor</li> <li><b>After high school:</b> Must find an employer &amp; become registered as an apprentice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certificate Program - 12 weeks to 1 year</li> <li>Foundation Program – 1 year</li> <li>Diploma Program - 2 or 3+ years               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some transfer programs to degrees available</li> </ul> </li> <li>Degree Program - 4 years (need 6 grade 12 4U/M credits)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergraduate Degree: 4 years (Honours Degree)</li> <li>3 years (General Degree)</li> <li>Degrees may be in Arts, Science, Business, Engineering, etc.</li> <li>May choose a major - usually done at the end of 1st year</li> <li>Check University policy on repeating courses, if necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>HOW TO APPLY?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>For OYAP:</b> See your subject-specific teacher</li> <li><a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/apprenticeship-ontario">https://www.ontario.ca/page/apprenticeship-ontario</a></li> <li>Multiple entry times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario College Application Service (<a href="http://www.ontariocolleges.ca">www.ontariocolleges.ca</a>)</li> <li><b>\$150 for 5 choices</b> with application</li> <li>Maximum of 3 at any one college; no more than 5 choices</li> <li>List in order of preference</li> <li>Create account - need OEN (on report cards)</li> <li><b>Note - If applying to degree program at College, confirm where you need to apply (Ontariocolleges.ca vs OUAC)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario University Application Centre (<a href="http://www.ouac.on.ca">www.ouac.on.ca</a>); select the <b>Undergrad</b> application, create account (Need OEN)</li> <li><b>\$156 for 3 choices + \$50 for each additional selection</b></li> <li>Maximum of 3 programs at any one university</li> <li>An AIF (Additional Information Form) may be required</li> <li>Universities contact via email; <b>CHECK EMAIL REGULARLY</b></li> <li><b>Note - If applying to degree program at College, confirm where you need to apply (Ontariocolleges.ca vs OUAC)</b></li> </ul>
<b>WHAT DO YOU NEED?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May enter Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) while in Grade 12; see Guidance Counsellor <b>OR</b></li> <li>Complete High School Diploma (OSSD) and find an employer who will take you on as an apprentice (If you need help finding a sponsor, contact: <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario">https://www.ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario</a> <b>OR</b></li> <li>Attend a college program that may lead to an apprenticeship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSSD + specific courses depending on program</li> <li><b>Many programs only require ENG4CI/ENG4UI and acceptance is based entirely on the mark you earn</b></li> <li>College and/or University credits can be used</li> <li>Certificate, Diploma and Degree Programs offered</li> <li>Academic upgrading</li> <li><b>Check specific program requirements</b></li> <li>Early conditional offers will be based upon Grade 11 marks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSSD (must have ENG4U) – ensure you have met ALL requirements (40 community service hours, OSSLT, etc.)</li> <li><b>6 grade 4U or 4M-level courses (including prerequisites)</b></li> <li><b>Check specific program requirements - many have additional information forms to submit</b></li> <li><b>Prerequisites included in average</b></li> <li>Early conditional offers will be based upon Grade 11 marks and/or completed Grade 12 marks (NOT ALL SCHOOLS HAVE EARLY ACCEPTANCE)</li> </ul>
<b>COSTS TO ATTEND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs vary</li> <li>Get paid while you train; hourly wage increases each year of training program; tuition costs for in-school technical training about \$400 per session</li> <li>Some government subsidies and grants are available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check individual Colleges’ sites for residence prices</li> <li>Yearly tuition fees from \$2,500 to \$7,000 depending on the program</li> <li>Bachelor programs: approximately \$8,000 per year + books and supplies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check individual university calendars or websites for residence and meal plan prices</li> <li>Tuition fees + other university fees = \$6,000 → \$25,000</li> <li>Books = approximately \$2,000+</li> <li>Residence = \$5,000 → \$8,000+</li> <li>Meal plan = \$3,000 → \$4,000+</li> </ul>
<b>TIMELINES, APPLICATION PROCESS &amp; COST</b>	<p><b>Becoming an Apprentice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have an employer who is willing to take you on as an apprentice</li> <li>Apply online through the Ontario Government website <a href="http://www.ontario.ca">www.ontario.ca</a></li> <li>Once approved, apply to the Ontario College of Trades</li> <li>Apply for apprenticeship courses at local college</li> <li>Make arrangements with your employer for work and school</li> </ul>	<p><b>October 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students create account (need OEN found on Report Cards) (<a href="http://www.ontariocolleges.ca">www.ontariocolleges.ca</a>)</li> </ul> <p><b>February 1, 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DEADLINE. Applications received and paid for on or before this date will be given equal consideration.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>May 1, 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission</li> </ul> <p><b>Mid-June, 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earliest date that colleges may require payment of tuition fees</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost to Apply:</b> \$150 for 5 program choices (limited to 3 at one college)</p>	<p><b>October 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students create account (need OEN found on Report Cards) (<a href="http://www.ouac.on.ca">www.ouac.on.ca</a>)</li> </ul> <p><b>January 15, 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DEADLINE for Ontario secondary school students to submit completed applications to the OUAC. Don't wait, apply early!</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Late May, 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The latest date by which all high school applicants shall expect a response from an Ontario university</li> </ul> <p><b>June 1, 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earliest date Ontario universities may require a response to an offer of admission &amp; financial commitment</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost to Apply:</b> \$156 for 3 program choices plus \$50 for each additional application.</p>

## Canadian Armed Forces

- For all information check [www.forces.gc.ca](http://www.forces.gc.ca) or call recruiting at 905-521-0928 (Hamilton, nearest recruiting centre)

## Out of Province

- Check out websites; may have to write individual university/college to request information and application.
- Application fees & deadlines for application will vary (likely earlier than Ontario).
- Must request transcript from Guidance.
- OUAC can transfer marks for some Universities. Contact OUAC for further details.
- Some Canadian universities/colleges may visit Waterloo region.

## American Colleges & Universities

- Register at CollegeBoard.org for SAT and ACT information.
- Check out university and college websites for programs and application instructions.
- Most use the Common App; application very detailed; requires letters of reference and essay - start ASAP!
- Watch deadlines – They will vary and are earlier than Ontario.**

## Things to Consider

- Program requirements? Prerequisites; cut-off averages; other criteria, e.g. audition, portfolio
- Location? Home or away; size and location of city.
- Co-op or internship opportunities?
- Campus Factors? Size; atmosphere on campus; scholarships; cost of program
- Extra-curricular activities - clubs, sports, etc.
- Start date - some programs have start dates other than September

## Workplace

### Attend WCDSB Events

- See d2L for details

### Conestoga College Career Centre

- <https://www.conestogac.on.ca/career-centre>

### Starling Community Services (formerly Lutherwood)

- <https://starlingcs.ca/employment>

### FindYourJob.ca

Local Job Support Connections  
519-622-7122

- <https://www.findyourjob.ca/>

### Job Search Websites:

- <https://ca.indeed.com/>

## myBlueprint - Getting Started Guide



### HOW DO I SIGN UP?

- Visit [www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic)
- Login or sign up using your school login information

### EXPLORE YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT CHECKLIST

- Complete the five (5) **Who Am I** surveys
- Go to **Match Results** tab > Complete two (2) **Compatibility** Surveys
- Go to **Home** > **Goals** > **Add a goal**
- Go to **Post-Secondary** > Select a **Pathway** (e.g. College & University) > Favourite a **program**
- Go to **Work** > **Occupations** > Favourite two (2) **occupations**
- Go to **Work** > **Job Search** > Look up and favourite a **job posting** in your area
- Go to **Home** > **Portfolios** > **Add a Portfolio** > Name your portfolio
- Add an **Avatar** and a **Banner** image
  - + Add Box** > Add Media > Upload a picture/image that represents who you are
  - + Reflection** > Give an explanation of how the image represents who you are
  - + Add Box** > **Add Recent** > **Favourites** > An occupation that you favoured
  - + Add Box** > **Add Recent** > **Favourites** > A post-secondary program you favoured

### POST-SECONDARY OR OCCUPATION PLANNING

- Select **Post-Secondary** or **Occupations** from the menu navigation on the left hand side of the screen
- To get started with **Post-Secondary**, choose a pathway option from the dropdown list (e.g. Apprenticeships)
- To get started with **Occupations**, choose **Work** from the menu navigation on the left hand side of the screen and then select **Occupations**. Enter **Occupation Name or Keyword** in the search bar and click **Search** when you are ready.
- Pick **TWO (2)** opportunities that interest you and favourite them by clicking the heart beside it

## Financial Planning

### OSAP—Ontario Student Assistance Program

- <https://osap.gov.on.ca> - can apply to get an estimate. Be sure to enter this year as your academic year, not next year. Amounts will be similar.
- Eligible Ontario students may receive financial assistance
- Apply in the spring once you have accepted an offer to a college or university

### Scholarships

- Visit <https://yconic.com>, [www.scholartree.ca](http://www.scholartree.ca), [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com), [www.StudentAwards.com](http://www.StudentAwards.com),
- St. Mary's website – Scholarship information (<https://stmary.wcdsb.ca/student-supports/guidance/post-secondary-career-planning/>)

### Bursaries (Based on Financial Need)

- Visit college/university website for information