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Admissions 101

Understanding admissions

It can be **easy to feel overwhelmed** by everything admissions related. When can you expect a response? What happens if you apply after the deadline? What do you do once you accept an offer? What if you want to take a gap year instead? Don't worry — there are plenty of people you can turn to for help answering these questions. **Your guidance counsellors, parents, and friends are great resources to use!**



Early admissions

Getting early admissions is **not as common in Canada** as it is in the U.S. Most Canadian admissions are done on a **rolling basis**, meaning applications are reviewed when they're completed and received. So **the earlier you apply** with all the necessary information, **the sooner you should hear back** from schools!

However, just because early admissions are uncommon, it doesn't mean they don't exist! **Smaller schools and less competitive programs may offer early admissions**, which means you'll typically receive an admission offer anytime between November and February. Here's how schools make their decision for early admission:

- These offers are **based on your grade 11 marks**, so make sure yours are exceptional!
- Your offer will often be **conditional on the fact that your grade 12 marks are similar** to your grade 11 marks.
- Once the school receives your **final grade 12 transcripts** and it shows that you've met their grade requirements, your conditional offer of acceptance will be approved.

Since early admissions occur less frequently, here are some responses to common questions you may have:

1. Can I wait to hear back from other schools before I respond to the early admission offer?

Yes! Just because you received an offer of admission early doesn't mean you need to respond early. With your offer of admission, **schools will provide a date for when you need to respond by**. This deadline will be around the same time other schools expect a response, no matter when you received your admissions offer. This gives you the opportunity to decide which school to attend if you receive more than one offer.

2. If I apply early, do I have a better chance at getting accepted?

Not quite. When you apply early, the pool of applicants is smaller so you may be able to stand out more. But, applying early doesn't mean you'll have a better chance at acceptance. **The only benefit of applying early is you'll receive a response sooner.**

3. What kind of conditions would a conditional offer include?

A conditional offer of admission will have been made based mainly on your grade 11 marks. Some conditions you may receive are that you **successfully complete one or more required prerequisite courses** for your program with a **minimum grade achieved**, and must **achieve a certain overall grade average** for your grade 12 courses.

4. When will my conditional offer be approved?

Once the school receives your final transcripts after the school year, and can verify you met all of their conditions, your acceptance will be approved.

Accepting your offer of admission: next steps

So you've received an offer of admission. Now what? Here are some general next steps that you'll most likely see:



1. Paying deposits

To secure your spot in the program, you'll often have to pay a tuition deposit. This will be a small portion of your tuition cost to **confirm your intention to begin classes**. The school typically lets you know the deadline to make this payment in your offer of admission or the next steps email. Make sure you pay this deposit by the deadline or else you may lose your spot in the program!

2. Applying for residence

If you're planning on living in residence during your first year, **take a tour of the residences** either virtually or in-person to get a feel for where you may be living. If the school asks for your preference, you'll have a better idea of what you want. **Keep an eye out for important dates:** residence application deadline, deposit due date, move-in, and more!

3. Scholarships

Once you know where you'll be going to school, you can begin applying for scholarships. The earlier you begin applying for scholarships, the better your chances are at receiving some funding. Remember, **scholarship applications take time, so start early!**

4. Registering for courses

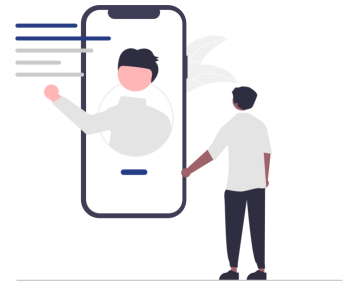
Course registration comes up quickly, so start planning what classes you want/need to take. **Find your program requirements before choosing your courses.** Often, there will be courses that are mandatory, and courses you need later on require you to have taken prerequisites beforehand. Make sure you make a note of what day course registration opens. **Classes fill up fast!**

5. Sign up for orientation

Sign up for your orientation so you can **make new friends, learn more about the resources available to you,** and most importantly — have fun!

Applying after the deadline

All schools have an application deadline known as an **equal consideration date.** This means that **your application will be looked at with everyone else's.** After this date, schools consider applications on a first-come, first-served basis until the program is full. But, popular programs fill up fast and may be full by the equal consideration deadline. **Smaller schools and less popular programs may have the space to consider applications after the deadline.** If you're unsure if your application will be considered after the deadline, **reach out to the admissions team** at the school!



Deferring your admission

Deferring your admission essentially means **delaying when you begin your program.** If you want to take some time to travel, work, or earn more skills, this may be the choice for you. Keep in mind, **not all requests to defer your admission will be accepted,** as most schools do it on a case-by-case basis, and some programs may not allow it at all.

Deferrals are different for every school, but the general process is similar. First, you **must be accepted** to the school and meet all the requirements in your offer. Then, you must **submit your request** for a deferral before the school's deadline. If you've been offered financial aid and a place in residence, check with the school to see if those offers will be available when you return.

Good luck with your applications

This is an exciting time! Before you know it, you'll be graduating high school and getting ready for whatever comes next. Remember to celebrate the little and big wins!

