

# Post-Secondary Education: What does 2020-21 look like?

## September/October

## Exploration

- Research your options on the available websites and myBlueprint.ca. Check the Splash page for the link to *Future Directions: Internet search*.
- Make sure you are taking all the required courses for the programs that interest you.
- Check to see if you need a supplementary application, portfolio, volunteer experience and/or other requirements in addition to the required courses.
- Have a Plan B. Do not be afraid to consider lots of options.
- Talk to people – parents, siblings, guidance counsellors, teachers, mentors, people in your community, grads.
- Keep a folder with information including passwords, PINs, application numbers, scholarship deadlines, apprenticeship descriptions, résumé, networking opportunities.
- Visit the **Ontario University Fair** website and sign up for information from the universities you are interested in.
- Plan a virtual visit with a **Canadian Christian University**.
- Visit the virtual **Ontario College Information Fair** on October 21, 22, 2020. Registration is required. If interested in an apprenticeship, check out the programs at the community colleges.
- Check out scholarships and deadlines. (Studentawards.com, yconic.com) See Guidance Group Grade 12 for information.
- Take Virtual tours at colleges and universities – Open Houses are available in the fall and spring or you can make a personal appointment for a “tour”.
- If you are planning to study outside of Canada, you may need to write the ACT or the SAT.
- If you are an international student, check the English Language Requirements.

## November/December

## Application

- Please note that for Ontario Universities, you will receive a PIN in November, after which you can begin the application process.
- For Ontario Community Colleges, you will create your own account by selecting a user name and password. Applications open in October.
- TD will send your academic records (your marks and current courses) to both OUAC and OCAS. It is your responsibility to check that they are accurate and to notify your guidance counsellor if there are errors.
- When applying to a Christian and/or private university/college or out of province, you will need to apply online and inform guidance so we can send them your transcript by mail or email. *Check their individual deadlines*.
- Make sure you pay by the deadlines. You can pay online using a credit card.

## January/February/March

## Confirmation

- Submit your OUAC 101 application no later than January 15, 2021.
- Return to your account frequently to check that all your academic information is correct, including your marks and your current courses. Inform your guidance counsellor if there are errors or omissions.
- Make any necessary changes to your program choices.
- Submit your OCAS application no later than February 1, 2021.
- Make sure you sign-up for or submit any required tests, portfolios, on-line interviews, and supplementary application packages.
- Check to see if you have been accepted.
- Continue to research scholarships and make sure you have the necessary letters of recommendation. Do not wait until the last minute.
- Check deadlines for residence applications and scholarships.
- If pursuing an apprenticeship, begin the search for an employer.

## April/May

## Acceptance

- Depending on your program choices and your marks, you will hear from the colleges and universities.
- Continue to visit campuses and talk to people as you think about finalizing your choices.
- Check your emails frequently.
- Attend information sessions if available.
- Continue to work hard in your courses. Your first three quadmester marks determine acceptance (or not) and your final marks may make you eligible for scholarships. If your final marks are much lower than the midterms, you can lose your acceptance and your scholarships.
- If you need reference letters, make sure you give enough time to your referee.
- Make final decisions, make sure you check deadlines and accept in time.

## Important deadlines:

University Applications: January 15, 2021  
College Applications: February 1, 2021

**Enjoy the journey!!**