

Skills for Success Curriculum Resource Cover Page

Organization

College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading (CSC)

Resource Title and Description (for Supporting Underrepresented Groups theme)

Applying for Admission to Ontario’s Public Colleges – Part 2

This is the second of a 3-part resource with information about applying to public college programs in Ontario. It is directed toward immigrants and groups who may be underrepresented in postsecondary education in Ontario, but domestic students may also find this information helpful. Part 2 discusses English language proficiency requirements and testing at Ontario’s public colleges. Note that the information is current as of early 2024.

OALCF Alignment

Competency	Task Group	Level
Competency A -Find and Use Information	A1. Read continuous text	3
Competency B - Communicate Ideas and Information	B2. Write continuous text	2
Competency E - Manage Learning	N/A	2

Goal Paths (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Postsecondary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship | <input type="checkbox"/> Independence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary School Credit | |

Embedded Skills for Success (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptability | <input type="checkbox"/> Numeracy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creativity and innovation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital | |

Notes:

The opinions expressed in this document are the opinions of the College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading. The Government of Ontario and its agencies are in no way bound by any recommendations contained in this document.

Applying for Admission to Ontario's Public Colleges - PART 2

Introduction

Welcome to Part 2 of “Applying for Admission to Ontario's Public Colleges”. In Part 1, we discussed applying to college as an immigrant student, admission requirements, credentials, and transcripts



This resource is the second in a series of three and covers the following topics:

1. Proof of English Language Proficiency
2. English Language Training
3. Education From Outside of Canada
4. Non-Academic Admission Requirements

Let's get started!

1. Proof of English Language Proficiency

If you wish to apply to a public college in Ontario and English is not your first language, the college will require you to provide proof of your English language proficiency. This is because instruction at 22 out of 24 colleges in Ontario is conducted in English, and the college wants to know that applicants have the English language skills needed to be successful in a college program.

Providing proof of English language proficiency can be done in many ways. Some examples include transcripts from high school (secondary school) English courses and/or transcripts from English as a Second Language courses at an academic level.

Scores of internationally recognized English assessments are also accepted. You can have your English language skills evaluated through one of the following organizations:

Test of English As a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

Website: ets.org/toefl

Telephone: 1.877.863.3546

Use Institution Code 0211 when taking the TOEFL test

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Website: ielts.org

Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL)

Website: cael.ca

Telephone: 1.855.520.2235

Some colleges may require a specific test or language assessment. Also, the minimum scores required on English proficiency tests can vary from one college to another.

You can find information about English language proficiency requirements on each college's website. Some colleges include that information in the description for each program and some colleges have general information about English language proficiency on their Admissions page.

Sometimes, the information about English language proficiency is located within the information for international students on the website. Always contact the college(s) you are interested in **before applying** to confirm if and how you need to prove your English language proficiency to the college.

2. English Language Training

If you would like to improve your English language skills before you take an English proficiency test, many colleges offer programs such as “English for Academic Purposes” and/or courses that focus on subject areas such as language test preparation (IELTS, TOEFL and CAEL); Enhanced Language Training (ELT); Occupation-Specific Language Training (OSLT) and Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC).

Many of these programs are offered in traditional classroom or online. Sometimes there are no tuition fees for eligible internationally trained individuals. For more information, contact the college(s) you are interested in to see what they can offer you.

Quick Quiz 1:

Decide if each statement below is true or false. Write T or F in the box to the left of each statement.

	1. Proof of English Language Proficiency is required if your first language is not English.
	2. You should always check with your college to see if you need to prove your English language proficiency.
	3. There are many options should you choose to refresh your English language skills before taking the test, and many courses available are free.

4. List the 3 ways a person can provide a proof of English language proficiency:

Research and Reflection:

Where is the information about the English language proficiency located at the college you are considering attending? (Conduct a search on their website to find the answer)

What will your proof of English language proficiency be? How will you submit it to the college?

3. Education From Outside of Canada

If you completed your education in another country, the college you are interested in may accept the courses you completed as admission requirements. The college will need to know which courses you completed and how they compare to courses in Ontario.

For that, your transcripts need to be evaluated for every course that you completed outside of Canada. That means the college will need to see how each of your courses compares to courses in Ontario.

Important Items to Keep in Mind

- It is **your responsibility** to get your foreign credentials evaluated.
- Your documents must be sent to the evaluating institution **directly** from your original university, college, or high school, to be considered "official". Some exceptions may apply.
- You will need to pay a fee to get your credentials evaluated. Some government funding programs may help you pay for evaluating your credentials.
- Getting your credentials evaluated is a **lengthy process**. It may take a few months. While waiting, consider enrolling in such free programs as academic upgrading or ACE courses, especially if you are not sure whether your international credentials will qualify for admission to college in Ontario.

Check with each college you are interested in to find out which evaluation services your college approves.

The most popular evaluation services are:

- World Education Services (WES): www.wes.org/ca
- International Credentials Assessment Services (ICAS): <https://www.icascanada.ca/home.aspx>
- Comparative Education Services (CES) at University of Toronto: <https://learn.utoronto.ca/comparative-education-service>

Quick Quiz 2

Decide if each statement below is true or false. Write T or F in the box to the left of each statement.

	1. Your chosen college can evaluate your credentials.
	2. Getting your foreign credentials evaluated is a free service.
	3. It is a good idea to enroll in free academic upgrading if you are not sure whether your current credentials will qualify for admission to college.

More Research and Reflection

What credentials do you have from outside of Canada?

Where can you get them evaluated and how much will it cost? (Remember to ask your college which organization they accept).

4. Non-Academic Admission Requirements

In addition to the academic requirements such as English, mathematics, and/or sciences, the program(s) you are interested in may also have **non-academic requirements**.

Examples of non-academic admission requirements include:

- immunization (vaccinations)
- certifications (for example, CPR, First Aid)
- a portfolio or an example of artwork
- an interview
- a resume
- a police check (criminal reference check)
- a health assessment
- a physical assessment
- a driver's license
- additional skills testing

Some non-academic requirements must be submitted with your college application and are included in the selection process of applicants. Some non-academic requirements must be submitted before the start of the program or later.

It is important to gather all the necessary information about your program admissions requirements. Sometimes, in the admissions requirements, other things are suggested or recommended to be completed before the start of the program. They are not mandatory but can help students succeed in their program. Some examples include:

- completion of additional math courses
- completion of an additional high school course (for example, Design Technology or Physics)
- digital skills competency in relevant software

Quick Quiz 3

Use the words listed below to correctly fill in the blanks in the following statements.

- requirements
- recommended
- non-academic
- information

1. Sometimes, other courses are _____ to be completed before the start of your program to ensure student success.

2. Immunization, a resume, and a police check submitted with your college application are examples of _____ requirements.

3. It is important to gather all _____ about your program admissions _____.

Reflection:

1. What are the non-academic requirements for the college program you are interested in?

2. Which ones have you completed already? Which ones do you still need to complete?

3. When can you complete those requirements and submit proof of them to the college?

Summary

Now that you have completed this module, you should be better informed about some of the admission requirements needed to enroll in a college program, especially with regard to English language proficiency. Be sure to inquire directly with your chosen college(s) to gather any information about questions you may have.

All the best for success in your studies!



Answer Key:

There are no right or wrong answers for “Reflection” questions.

Quick Quiz 1

1. T
2. T
3. T

4.
 - Transcripts from high school English courses.
 - Transcripts from English as a Second Language courses at an academic level.
 - Scores of internationally recognized English assessments.

Quick Quiz 2:

1. F
2. F
3. T

Quick Quiz 3

Using the words in the box, fill in the blanks in the sentences below:

1. recommended
2. non-academic
3. information, requirements