

## Skills for Success Curriculum Resource Cover Page

### Organization

College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading (CSC)

### Resource Title and Description (for Supporting Underrepresented Groups theme)

***Understanding Academic Admission Requirements for Ontario’s Public Colleges – Part 3***

This is the third 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 3 discusses Ontario’s “C”, “M”, and “U” level requirements, acceptable equivalencies to high school courses, minimum grade requirements, and Mature Student status. 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.

# Understanding Academic Admission Requirements for Application to Ontario's Public Colleges

---

## Introduction

Are you an immigrant considering applying for a college program in Ontario? If so, this resource will help you understand the **academic admission requirements** that are needed to apply for programs at Ontario's 24 public colleges.



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

1. 'U', 'M', and 'C' level requirements
2. 'What is Meant by "Equivalent"'
3. Competitive Programs
4. Minimum Grade Requirements
6. Mature Student Status, Mature Students, or Mature Applicants

**Let's get started!**

---

## 1. 'U', 'M', and 'C' and 'E' Level Courses

In grade 11 and 12 high school (secondary school) courses in Ontario, each course has a title and a "course code", which is a short form of the title. The letters U, M, C, and E are used in the courses codes to designate the type of preparation that the course provides. The course codes (for the course titles in grade 11 and 12 courses in Ontario each contain one of those letters (U, M, C or E). The meaning of those letters in the course codes are explained below.

- **'U'** identifies grade 11 and 12 courses that prepare students for degree level studies at college or university.
- **'C'** identifies grade 11 and 12 courses that prepare students for certificate and diploma level studies at colleges.
- **'M'** identifies grade 11 and 12 courses that prepare students for either degree, certificate, or diploma level studies at college or university.
- **'E'** identifies grade 11 and 12 courses that prepare students for direct entry to the workplace, **not for postsecondary studies**.

The letters U, C, and M are part of high school course codes that are often listed in admission requirements for college or university programs in Ontario. **Some common examples** of high school courses that may be required for admission to college or university in Ontario are listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Some Ontario High School Courses Used for Admission Requirements**

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
ENG4C	English, Grade 12, College Preparation
ENG4U	English, Grade 12, University Preparation
MBF3C	Foundations for College Mathematics
MAP4C	Foundations for College Mathematics
MCT4C	Mathematics for College Technology
MHF4U	Advanced Functions
MCV4U	Calculus and Vectors
MDM4U	Mathematics of Data Management
SCH3U	Chemistry, Grade 11, University Preparation
SCH4C	Chemistry, Grade 12, College Preparation
SCH4U	Chemistry, Grade 12, University Preparation
SBI3C	Biology, Grade 11, College Preparation
SBI4U	Biology, Grade 12, University Preparation
SPH3U	Physics, Grade 11, University Preparation
SPH4C	Physics, Grade 11, College Preparation
SPH4U	Physics, Grade 12, University Preparation

In the course codes listed above, the “3” refers to grade 11 courses and the “4” refers to grade 12 courses. For some programs, either grade 11 or 12 courses in a particular subject area are accepted for admission. For some programs, grade 12 courses only are accepted.

Sometimes there is a minimum grade in certain courses to use them as admission requirements. If so, this is usually stated in the program information on the college website.

The courses that have codes with a **U** (university preparation) **and are completed with a required minimum grade** (if applicable) can be used to apply for bachelor’s degree programs at college or university and all college certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs.

The courses that have codes with an **M** (mixed university/college preparation) **and are completed with a required minimum grade** (if applicable) *can usually be used* to apply for degree programs and for college certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs. Confirm with the college you are interested in attending.

The courses that have codes with a **C** (college preparation) **and are completed with a required minimum grade** (if applicable) can be used to apply for college certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs.

Courses completed in the Academic and Career Entrance (grade 12 equivalent) program at a college are “**C**” level courses and can be used to apply for college certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs.

**To summarize:**

U level courses	M level courses	C level courses
Can be used to apply for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bachelor’s degree programs (college or university)</li> <li>○ College certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs</li> </ul>	May be used to apply for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ both degree and diploma programs</li> </ul> Confirm with the college or university	Can be used to apply for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs</li> </ul>

**Quick Quiz 1**

Fill in the missing letter (U, M, or C) in the blank spaces below.

1. Courses with the \_\_\_\_\_ code may be used to apply for degree programs and for certificate/diploma programs. Confirm with the admissions department at the college you choose.
2. Courses with the \_\_\_\_\_ code can be used to apply for college certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs.
3. Courses with the \_\_\_\_\_ code can be used to apply for degree programs and all college certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs.



What high school courses are required for your selected programs? On the next page, write down the courses with their codes in the box below. You can find this information by going to the college or university website and searching for the program(s) you are interested in.

## 2. 'Equivalent'

Sometimes, the word '**equivalent**' is included with the admission academic requirements, especially for Ontario college programs. In this context, it means '**comparable**' or **equal in value**'. It is included because the **academic requirements do not have to be completed at a high school**.

It also means that **applicants do not have to have a high school diploma** to be able to apply for a college program.

Courses completed in the **Academic and Career Entrance (ACE)** program at a college are equivalent to grade 11 or 12 courses completed at a high school and can be used to apply for college certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs at Ontario's public colleges.

See examples below that demonstrate how the term "equivalent" would be used in college academic admission requirements:



### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

#### General Admission Requirements

- ▶ Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)
- ▶ Grade 12 English (C, U) (Minimum 60% GPA required)

Or equivalent

Academic prerequisites for this program may be obtained free of charge through **Academic Upgrading**.

Applicants who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent and will have reached the age of 19 years on or before the start of the program must undergo academic testing and may be required to complete **Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR)** process to demonstrate equivalency of admission requirements prior to admission into a program.

For more details, please contact the Admissions Office at 705-235-7222 or [admissions@northern.on.ca](mailto:admissions@northern.on.ca).

<https://www.northerncollege.ca/admissions/>



Careers

How You'll Learn

Courses

Further Study

Costs

Admission Requirements

News

## Admission requirements

### Required academic preparation

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or **equivalent**
- Grade 12 English (C) level or **equivalent**

OR

- [Mature applicant](#)

<https://loyalistcollege.com/how-to-apply/>

## Quick Quiz 2

Fill in the blanks in the paragraphs below using the words or phrases from the box. Each word or phrase can only be used once.

equivalent, admission, comparable, high school, completed,  
college, certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, public

Sometimes, the word '\_\_\_\_\_ ' is included with the \_\_\_\_\_ requirements for a college program. In this context, equivalent means '\_\_\_\_\_ ' or 'equal in value'. It is included because the academic requirements do not have to be completed at a \_\_\_\_\_ . It also means that applicants do not have to have a high school diploma (or courses) \_\_\_\_\_ at a high school) to be able to apply for a \_\_\_\_\_ program. . Courses completed in the **Academic and Career Entrance (ACE)** program at a college are equivalent to grade 11 or 12 courses completed at a high school and can be used to apply for college \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_ programs at Ontario's \_\_\_\_\_ colleges.

### 3. Competitive Programs

Some programs at Ontario's colleges are **more popular** with applicants than other programs. Colleges receive many more applications than available seats and **not everyone is accepted** into the program they apply for.



The popularity of a program can depend different things such as

- job prospects for graduates;
- salaries for the jobs in that field; and
- the reputation of the program .

Those very popular programs are sometimes referred to as 'oversubscribed', 'highly competitive', or 'limited enrolment' programs.

**Different programs are considered oversubscribed or competitive at different colleges.**

Also, a program may be competitive for one start date, e.g. the Fall semester, but not necessarily competitive for another start date, e.g. the Spring semester.

If your program is identified in the program description as "competitive", **you must apply before the "equal consideration date"** that applies to the start date of the program you are interested in. For example:

- For full-time programs starting in September, the equal consideration date is February 1 of that same year.
- For full-time programs starting in January, the equal consideration date is usually September 15 of the previous year.

Although you can apply for a competitive program after the equal consideration date, it is unlikely you will be accepted as those who applied by the equal consideration date will have priority.

**\*Some colleges require applicants to competitive programs to have all admission requirements completed when applying.\***

Competitive programs are noted as such on college program websites. Other information, including minimum grade requirements for some programs, may also be noted.

See the examples below from two colleges.

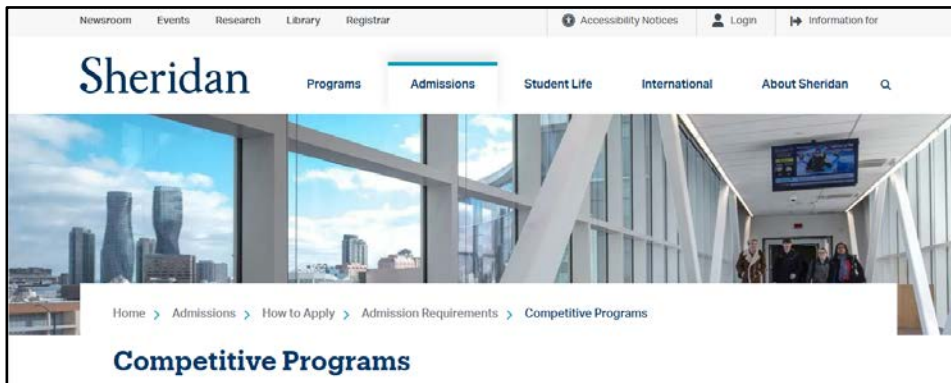
## Limited enrolment and selection benchmarks

The following table includes the benchmarks, or cut-offs, for successful admission to Cambrian College's limited enrolment programs for Fall 2023. The minimum cut-off scores is the overall average of all prerequisite marks considered for the program.

### Benchmarks

PROGRAM	CUT-OFF SCORE*
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Nursing (NURS)</a>	75%
<a href="#">Medical Radiation Technology (MRPG)</a>	83%
<a href="#">Paramedic (PARA)</a>	65%
<a href="#">Powerline Technician (PLTN)</a>	84%
<a href="#">Practical Nursing (PNDP)</a>	70%
<a href="#">Medical Laboratory Technology (MDLY)</a>	65%

<https://cambriancollege.ca/admissions/applying-to-cambrian/accept-an-offer/limited-enrolment>



Competitive Program	Minimum GPA Required
Animation, Honours Bachelor of	Applicants are selected on the basis of their previous academic achievement (range 75–80% GPA) <b>and</b> the results of a portfolio assessment
Computer Science, Honours Bachelor of	Average Academic GPA 80%
Film and Television, Honours Bachelor of	Average Academic GPA 80% <b>and</b> the results of a statement of intent assessment
Game Design, Honours Bachelor of	Applicants are selected on the basis of their previous academic achievement (range 75–80% GPA) <b>and</b> the results of a portfolio assessment
Illustration, Honours Bachelor of	Applicants are selected on the basis of their previous academic achievement (range 75–80% GPA) <b>and</b> the results of a portfolio assessment.

<https://www.sheridancollege.ca/admissions/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/gpa>



### Quick Quiz 3

Decide if each statement below is true or false. Insert T or F in each blank space.

1. All colleges have the same competitive programs. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Competitive programs are competitive because they are more popular with applicants than other programs. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Limited enrolment programs' is another term used for 'competitive program'. \_\_\_\_\_
4. You should apply to a competitive program after February 1<sup>st</sup>. \_\_\_\_\_



Are you applying for a competitive program? If so, have you checked to see if you must have all admission requirements completed when you are applying for the program?

## 4. Minimum Grade Requirement

Colleges often have a **minimum grade requirement** for admission into competitive (very popular) programs such as Practical Nursing or Dental Hygiene. That means that **admission requirement courses must be completed with a particular grade** or higher. For example, a minimum of 70% final grade, or minimum 85% final grade, may be required.

Grades are shown on applicants' high school transcripts or other documents that are used as proof of academic requirements.

Sometimes colleges will require a higher-grade point average (GPA) to be considered for admission into a competitive program. Your GPA is typically calculated by taking the average of your senior-level high school or equivalency marks shown on your high school transcripts or other documents used as proof of academic requirements.

If a grade is lower than the minimum grade requirement, applicants are suggested to re-take the courses or to enroll in equivalent courses, for example, with the academic upgrading/ACE program at their local college.

## Quick Quiz 4

Using the figures on the previous pages that list some of Cambrian College and Sheridan College's current competitive programs, indicate the required cut-off score or GPA for the following programs.

1. Cambrian College: Medical Radiation Technology Program cut-off score \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sheridan College: Honours Bachelors of Computer Science GPA score \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cambrian College: Practical Nursing Program cut-off score: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sheridan College: Honours Bachelor of Game Design GPA score \_\_\_\_\_



1. Does the program(s) you are interested in have a minimum cut-off score or GPA required for admission to the program? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. If yes, what is the minimum cut-off score or GPA requirement? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## 5. Proof of Academic Admission Requirements

Applicants need to prove to the college that they completed the required courses before they can be accepted into the program of their choice.

Table 2 on the next page explains what academic requirements are accepted, where you can complete them, and what proof (documentation) is needed by the college Admissions department.

**Table 2: Proof of Academic Admission Requirements**

<b>Academic Requirements</b>	<b>Place of Completion</b>	<b>Proof</b>
OSSD or high school course completion	High school, Independent Learning Centre, school board adult credit program	High school transcript issued by the school (or school board office) where courses were completed
Academic Upgrading/ACE course completion	Academic Upgrading programs at Ontario' public colleges	A transcript or other college-specific document issued by the college
Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) Certificate completion	Academic and Career Entrance programs at Ontario's public colleges	Academic and Career Entrance certificate issued by the college

**Quick Quiz 5**

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box. Words can only be used once.

public colleges, school. college-specific document,  
college, school board, transcript

1. The proof of completion for high school credit courses is issued by the \_\_\_\_\_  
or \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The proof of completion for academic upgrading/ACE courses (equivalent to high school courses for college admission), may be a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Academic upgrading/ACE courses can be taken at any of Ontario's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The ACE certificate is issued by the \_\_\_\_\_.



1. What proof of academic requirements do you already have?

2. What proof of academic requirements do you need?

---

## 6. Mature Student Status, Mature Students, or Mature Applicants

Sometimes in the list of academic requirements for a college program, **Mature Student Status (or Mature Students or Mature Applicants)** is mentioned.

At most colleges, applicants who are **19 years of age or older** before their program's start date, and **do not have a high school diploma or an equivalent credential** can apply as mature students.

Mature student applicants may be advised to **complete academic upgrading/ACE courses** or to write a **Mature Student Test** to be considered for admission to a college program.

Each college has its own way of assessing 'mature student' applicants' skills. Depending on the program of choice, **applicants may be asked to write an English skills assessment, and/or a math skills assessment.** Assessments may be online or paper-and-pen. Each college has its own standards to evaluate the mature student assessment scores, and to make admission decisions.

Applicants will need to **identify their status when they create an application on [ontariocolleges.ca](http://ontariocolleges.ca)**. They can apply as high school graduates or as academic upgrading students. **Note:** applying as a mature student does not necessarily meet all admission requirements. Specific high school (or ACE) courses may still be required.

See below for examples of the Mature Student Status mentioned as part of college programs' academic requirements.



## Admissions Requirements

All applicants must satisfy both College Eligibility and Program Eligibility requirements.

Select the Academic Year:

Sept 2024 - Aug 2025 ▾

Admissions Next Steps >

### College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- **Mature Student status** (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee of \$50 (subject to change) will be charged.

### Program Eligibility

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).

<https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro/admissions/admissions-requirements/college-requirements/>



## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are selected on the basis of their academic achievement, including the required courses, and any other selection criteria outlined below.

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent\*\*
- grade 12 English (C or U)
- grade 11 Math (M or U) or grade 12 (C or U)

\*\* **MATURE STUDENT STATUS** (19 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND NO OSSD)

**Mature students** may take the **Admissions Assessment** for English and math, OR may consider upgrading to achieve the credit(s) needed in **English** and **math**.

Please note that George Brown is committed to ensuring that applicants will succeed in their program of choice and meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Applicants may be required to have grades higher than the minimum requirements stated.

<https://www.georgebrown.ca/apply/admission-requirements>

## Quick Quiz 6

Decide if each statement below is true or false. In each blank space, write T or F.

1. Mature Students must be 19+ years old before their program start date. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Each college assesses 'mature student' applicant skills differently. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Applicants may be asked to write a geography skills assessment. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mature student status satisfies all admission requirements to any college program. \_\_\_\_\_



1. Would you like to apply for your college program as a mature applicant? Why or why not?

2. If yes to #1, what qualifies you to apply as a mature applicant?

## Summary

Now that you have completed this module, you should have more knowledge about academic admission requirements for postsecondary studies. It is always best to inquire directly with your chosen college (or university) to gather information regarding questions you may have.

All the best for success in your studies!



## **Answer Key**

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

### **Quick Quiz 1**

1. M.
2. C
3. U

### **Quick Quiz 2**

equivalent, admission, comparable, high school, completed, college, certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, public

### **Quick Quiz 3**

1. False.
2. True.
3. True.
4. False.

### **Quick Quiz 4**

1. 83%
2. 80%
3. 70%
4. 75-80%

### **Quick Quiz 5**

school, school board, transcript, college-specific document, public colleges, college

### **Quick Quiz 6**

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F