

Further Education

Tips If You're Considering Teaching

If you're considering becoming a teacher, take some time to consider the following:

Requirements:

- ❑ Completion of an undergraduate degree with an overall GPA of **at least 70%** (B -).
- ❑ Several institutions also require that certain courses be taken (called 'teachables' or 'teaching subjects') in an area of study. Visit the Teaching Education Application Service (TEAS) site for each institution's specific criteria.
- ❑ A referee (academic or professional reference) and a statement of experience are required.
- ❑ Volunteer or work experience is a requirement. The longer and more involved your experiences, the better.
- ❑ Skills which the faculties will be looking for include: Leadership, Teaching/Training, Programming/Curriculum Development, Commitment, Experience with Children or Youth, Organization, Communication, Teamwork, Adaptability, Creativity, Initiative, Diversity and Equity.

The Application Process:

- ❑ The Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) operates the applications for the Ontario Faculties of Education. The deadline is usually December 1st, the year before you plan on attending. For teaching programs outside of Ontario you must contact each school directly to get their application package and deadlines.
- ❑ Follow the application procedure outlined; ensure you meet all the requirements and submit all that is required, and keep on top of any deadline dates!

Program Information:

- ❑ There are three levels of teacher training: primary-junior (junior kindergarten to grade 6), junior-intermediate (grade 4 to grade 10) and intermediate-senior (grade 7 to grade 12). Regardless of the level of training you are considering, the courses last for one full academic year in Ontario and two years in some western and eastern schools.
- ❑ Courses may involve childhood education, evaluation and marking, communication and problem-solving skills, and 'refreshers' on many grade school courses.
- ❑ All programs will have at least one teaching practicum requirement where you will have the opportunity to shadow a teacher and their class gradually taking over some of the teaching responsibilities.



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Hints:

- ❑ Try to get to know a professor in a course that you are doing well in and enjoy attending. This way they can write a more personable letter, rather than just stating your grades and attendance record.
- ❑ Your statement of experience has to be in-depth. For the initial application process, this is the primary way that the institutions learn what type of person you are. Do not submit a vague or poorly worded letter as they may get a negative first impression and reject your application.
- ❑ Different institutions may require different written formats, highlighting specific areas of your experience.
- ❑ Aside from the teachables that each institution requires, any program may be taken! It is best to make sure it is one that you enjoy, can do well in and meets all the prerequisites for each faculty.

***Note: Career Services can help with the review and/or editing of statements of experience for teacher's college applications. Once your personal statement is written, you may book your appointment with a career counsellor using myCareer, accessible via Carleton Central.**

Helpful Links:

OUAC -TEAS Main Page

<http://www.ouac.on.ca/teas/index.html>

Ontario College of Teachers

<http://www.oct.ca/home.aspx>

Ministry of Education

<http://edu.gov.on.ca/>

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

<http://osstf.on.ca/>



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