

Enriched Support Program

Discover your potential

What is ESP?

- The **Enriched Support Program** (ESP) is a full-time first-year program designed for students who may not meet traditional entrance requirements.
- Our program offers the opportunity to take first-year courses with academic support to qualify for a degree programs in Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Computer Science, Science or Engineering.
- Students who complete our program with the necessary average are eligible for admission to a degree program at Carleton University and the credits they earned in ESP are eligible to transfer to a degree.

Admission

How do I apply to ESP?

- The ESP admissions process is entirely separate from the degree program application.
- We are interested in more than simply your grade 12 average and/or college GPA; we ask you to put together an application that includes a personal statement and letters of reference.
- Apply at our **ESP Application page** (carleton.ca/esp).

If I already applied to Carleton University, will you automatically admit me to ESP?

- No; you must complete the application in order to be considered for admission to the program. The application process is competitive because we have limited seats available.

What average is required to be admitted to ESP?

- We do not set a minimum average, though typically we admit students with senior-year averages in the 60s.
- We look at your entire transcript, personal statement, and letters of reference in assessing your eligibility.

What are the minimum academic requirements?

- High school diploma with (recommended) three Grade 12 university-preparation (4U and/or 4M) courses. Students with fewer than three 4 U/M level courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- If you are completing credits in the summer term, you may be considered for conditional admission.
- Prerequisite subjects (grade 12 Advanced):
 - ESP Engineering or Science Stream: Chemistry (min 60%) and Advanced Functions (min 60%), 4U Physics (Physics may be taken concurrently, min 60%), Calculus recommended
 - ESP Business Stream: Advanced Functions (min 60%), Calculus recommended
 - ESP Computer Science Stream: Advanced Functions (min 60%), Calculus recommended
 - ESP Arts and Social Science Stream: Advanced English is recommended, but not required
- Please note that *meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission*. Candidates will be chosen based on their entire application package.

What if I haven't heard back about my application to a degree at Carleton?

- You are encouraged to apply to ESP even if you are waiting on a degree application decision. One application will not affect the other.

What's the deadline to apply to ESP?

- **Fall:** June 15 **Winter:** November 15 Deadlines *may be extended; visit our website for updates.*

Program



What courses would I take in ESP?

- One **First-Year Seminar (FYS)**: a credit designed to develop critical writing, thinking and reading skills while you learn the course material (choose from a variety of subjects) in a small class setting. Peer mentors serve as guides to the transition to university.
- Two **Elective Courses**:
 - Arts and Social Science stream* (two of): Anthropology, Criminology, Cognitive Science, Communication & Media Studies, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Human Rights, Law, Neuroscience, Political Science, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology.
 - Engineering or Science stream*: Algebra, Calculus & Chemistry.
 - Business stream*: Business, Calculus & Economics.
 - Computer Science stream*: Algebra, Calculus & Computer Science.

- Two **Workshops** to help you succeed in your elective courses. Workshops are group study sessions designed to help you develop university level study skills and habits, while you review the material you are learning each week.
 - Workshops provide structure to help successfully manage the transition to university expectations, stay on top of the work, and get support from your fellow students.
- **Academic Coaching** services provide one-on-one support with academic writing, reading and research, subject-specific support for math and chemistry, and support for learning how to learn effectively.
- **Student Advisors** help you to navigate the university's rules and regulations, qualify and apply for your degree, and connect you with resources.

Do courses taken with ESP count toward a degree?

- Yes; you are enrolled in regular first-year university credits that may be transferred to a degree upon successful completion of ESP with the necessary grade point average. Please note: Engineering and some other limited enrollment programs may not transfer all credits earned to the degree. Consult an **advisor** for more information.

Is ESP a full-time program?

- Yes; as an ESP student, you are considered full time, enrolled in 3 credit courses and 2 non-credit workshops.
- For Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) purposes, you are considered to be in a full course load.

Is ESP a remedial program?

- No; as an ESP student, you are enrolled in the same first-year courses as other students and participate in the same orientation and campus activities. Our workshops complement the course activities, providing an opportunity to develop university-level study strategies, habits and skills.

Does it work?

- Yes! ESP students are very successful. On average, 80-90% of students who fully participate in the program are admitted to a degree. Hear from former students at our success stories page: carleton.ca/esp/success.

Costs

How much does the program cost?

- 2024/25 Fall/Winter program costs were approx. \$6,920 in tuition, workshop and bus pass fees (books, supplies and living expenses, not included). Costs for 2025/26 will be posted to **our costs page** when available.

Is bursary and/or loan support available?

- Ontario residents can apply for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).
- ESP students can apply for bursaries.