

Becoming a Teacher in Ontario

Is Teaching for you?

Do you:

- Love learning and sharing your knowledge with others
- Like to help others?
- Work well in a variety of situations and with diverse groups of people?
- Enjoy being a leader?

Are you:

- A good listener?
- Flexible and able to respond to situations as they arise?
- Creative and able to present new concepts in interesting ways?
- Ready to embrace teaching as a lifestyle rather than just a career?

Teaching as a Career Choice in Ontario

Labour Market:

The Ontario College of Teachers conducts a survey of new teachers each year. Visit http://www.oct.ca/publications/PDF/transitions10_e.pdf to read the 2010 Transition to Teaching report.

Salary Information:

Teacher salaries in Ontario are generally based on a combination of years of post-secondary education and years of experience. In Ontario, teachers' salaries are determined by each board through negotiation with the local teachers' federations. The salaries range from approximately \$47,000 to \$98,000 annually. The increase occurs as teachers gain additional qualifications and experience.

For a comparison of 2011 salaries and working conditions for public elementary teachers across all Ontario Boards of Education, visit the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario: <http://www.etfo.ca/bargainingandagreements/comparingagreements/pages/default.aspx>.

For a comparison of salaries and working conditions for public secondary teachers across all Ontario Boards of Education, visit the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation: www.osstf.on.ca. Click on 'Services', 'Career Exploration' and then 'Where to Teach in Ontario'.

How Do I Become a Teacher?

To become a teacher in Ontario it is necessary to obtain a Bachelor of Education and apply to become a member of the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). Registration with the OCT is the necessary requirement to teach in publicly-funded schools in Ontario.

Information about Faculties of Education in Ontario

Website to view admission requirements and to apply: www.ouac.on.ca/teas.

Note: The information below is for reference only and provides general guidelines, not specific requirements for each Faculty. The **TEAS Instruction Booklet** is an excellent overview of the information you need to know when applying.

Basic Requirements for Admission to Faculties of Education in Ontario:

1. A **university undergraduate degree** with a minimum B-/B average. Each Faculty has different criteria for calculating your admission average. For example, some Faculties will look at your last 10.0 or 15.0 credits, some look at your best 10.0 or 15.0 credits. Most Faculties will not include the marks obtained in the year in which you are applying. Tip: Read the information in the TEAS Instruction Booklet carefully (or contact the Faculties directly) to determine how your average will be calculated.

2. Necessary **courses** specific to the grade range you want to teach:

Primary/Junior (K – gr. 6)

- A teaching subject is not required to teach this grade range. However, many Ontario Faculties of Education prefer applicants who have a wide variety of university courses in the subject areas that are taught at the elementary level such as Math, English, Science, Canadian History/Geography, French, Art/Music, Physical Education.

Junior/Intermediate (gr. 4-10 - teachers who study at this level usually teach grades 4-8)

- 3.0 full credits in a teaching subject (see page 4). There are some teaching subjects which may require more courses (e.g., French). Some faculties of education will require more courses (e.g., Western and York require 4.0 credits in the teaching subject). Each faculty may have specific requirements within each teaching subject (e.g., 1.0 credit in Canadian History for a History teaching subject) as well as a required/recommended academic average within your teaching subject.
- Some Faculties of Education also give preference to applicants who have taken a wide variety of university courses in the subject areas that are taught at the Junior/Intermediate level (e.g., Math, English, Science, Canadian History, Canadian Geography, Art, Physical Education, Music or French).

Intermediate/Senior (gr. 7-12)

- 5.0 full credits in the first teaching subject and 3.0 full credits in a second teaching subject (see page 5). Some faculties of education require more courses (e.g., York requires 6.0 credits in the first teaching subject). Each faculty may have specific requirements within each teaching subject (e.g., 1.0 credit in Canadian History for a History teaching subject) as well as a required academic average within your teaching subject.
- The TEAS Instruction Booklet outlines whether a particular combination of teaching subjects is allowed. Some Faculties do not allow combinations such as Physics with Chemistry, two Business Studies, etc.

3. Experience working with children/youth. Working or volunteering with students is a great way to find out if teaching is the right career choice for you. The opportunity to work in a classroom with children in the age range you want to teach will be a very important component of your career decision-making process. This experience is also a necessary component for your applications to Faculties of Education in Ontario. Faculties expect applicants to have spent many hours working with children/youth in a teaching-related capacity. A variety of experiences is also helpful. The quality of the experience is more important than quantity so seek out experiences that will aid in your skill development and help you learn why teaching is the right career for you. For some Faculties, this component will be more important than for others. Do your research to find out the specific requirements for each Faculty of Education.

Most applicants should try to have at least one classroom experience, preferably with the age group they want to work with, and if possible, in the teaching subject area. However, any experience where the applicant has worked in a teaching or leadership capacity with children/youth provides valuable experience as well as skills that are transferable to a classroom setting. Experiences such as camp counselling, coaching a sports team, teaching swimming lessons or Sunday School, etc. help future teachers to develop valuable skills. It is also an asset to have experience working with diverse populations and with larger groups of children/youth.

Volunteer Contacts

- Volunteer Database - www.wlu.ca/volunteer
- Waterloo Region District School Board - www.wrdsb.ca
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board - www.wcdsb.ca
- Grand Erie District School Board: www.granderie.ca
- Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board: www.bhncdsb.ca

Teaching Subjects Chart: Junior/Intermediate - 2011-2012

Please check prerequisites when choosing a teaching subject.

Junior/Intermediate program not offered at the following schools: Queen's, Trent, UOIT

Teaching Subjects	Brock	Lakehead	Laurentienne - French	Nipissing	Ottawa - English	Ottawa - French	Toronto	Western	Wilfrid Laurier	Windsor	York
Computer Studies		*	*	*							
Dance											*
Dramatic Arts	*		*			*	*			*	*
English (First Language)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Family Studies								*			
French (First Language)			*			*					
French (Second Language)	*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*
Geography	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health and Physical Education	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
History	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mathematics	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Music - Instrumental		*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*
Music - Vocal	*	*	*				*	*		*	
Native Languages		*									
Native Studies		*						*			
Religious Education			*	*	*			*		*	
Science - General	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Visual Arts	*	*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*

Please note this chart is for quick reference only. Consult the TEAS Instruction Booklet at www.ouac.on.ca/teas for complete details.

Teaching Subjects Chart: Intermediate/Senior - 2011-2012

Please check prerequisites for each teaching subject.

Intermediate/Senior program not offered at the following school: Laurier

Teaching Subjects	Brock	Lakehead	Laurentienne - French	Nipissing	Ottawa - English	Ottawa - French	Queen's	Toronto	Trent	UOIT	Western	Windsor	York
Business Studies - Accounting	*	*	*	*		*		*					*
Business Studies - Entrepreneurship						*							*
Business Studies - General	*		*					*			*	*	*
Business Studies - Information and Communication Technology	*			*									*
Classical Studies – Greek													*
Classical Studies – Latin													*
Computer Studies		*	*	*			*	*	*			*	*
Dance													*
Dramatic Arts	*		*			*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Economics								*					*
English (First Language)	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Environmental Science		*											*
Family Studies								*			*		*
French (First Language)			*			*							
French (Second Language)	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Geography	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health and Physical Education	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
History	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
International Languages - German								*					*
International Languages - Italian								*					*
International Languages - Spanish								*					*
Law													*
Mathematics	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Music - Instrumental		*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*
Music - Vocal		*	*				*	*			*	*	
Native Languages		*											
Native Studies		*					*		*		*		*
Philosophy								*					*
Politics								*					*
Religious Education	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*
Science - Biology	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Science - Chemistry	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Science - General	*	*						*		*	*	*	*
Science - Physics	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Sciences - General		*						*			*	*	*
Visual Arts	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Please note this chart is for quick reference only. Consult the TEAS Instruction Booklet at www.ouac.on.ca/teas for complete details.

The Application Process in Ontario

Where do I apply?

The application for Ontario Faculties of Education is completed online through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre at www.ouac.on.ca/teas. Applicants must set up an online account for which they will receive a login and password. This account allows applicants to select the schools to which they will apply, provide personal/address information, order Ontario university and college transcripts and pay application fees.

What does it cost to apply?

Application fees are charged to cover the administrative expenses of the Teacher Education Application Service (\$130 for the first three choices, plus an additional \$42 for each additional choice) as well as the supplementary fees for individual Faculties (ranging from \$40 - \$100 per school). Both of these fees are collected as part of the online application.

How do I complete the experience profile/supplementary application?

Ontario Faculties of Education require applicants to fill out an experience profile as part of their application. Most faculties will provide an online form for this information and others will have a separate form (typically a PDF form) to download and complete. Links to these forms will also be found on the TEAS website (on the right-hand side) although some schools will email applicants about the experience profile once the TEAS application is submitted.

How do I write a strong experience profile?

The experience profile is your opportunity to introduce yourself to the admissions committee and demonstrate your unique skills, qualities and experiences (York and UOIT are the only schools who conduct interviews as part of the application process). Some of the items that might be relevant to mention in an experience profile include knowledge/skills/experience in:

- working with children and youth
- experience with diverse populations
- developing lesson plans
- classroom management
- commitment to learning and teaching
- teaching lessons to a large group of students
- assisting children with different abilities
- teamwork
- adaptability, creativity, initiative
- effective communication and organizational skills
- liaison with the public/parents

The tone of the experience profile should be positive, demonstrating a passion for the teaching profession as well as the individual qualities that make the applicant an ideal candidate to become a teacher. Each Faculty of Education has a different Experience Profile so take the time to tailor your answers for each application.

Should I include reference letters?

Reference letters are accepted for some applications to Ontario Faculties of Education. If they are a requirement for a particular school, the forms can be accessed through links on the TEAS website. These forms are typically filled out by teachers/others who have observed the applicant in a teaching or leadership capacity with children. If a Faculty does not accept letters, they may ask for the name and contact information for a verifier (someone who can verify the experience you discuss). Faculties will not accept any information in addition to the forms they provide.

Where I can receive assistance in preparing my applications?

Book an appointment at the Career Centre for assistance with fine tuning your application. But book early... we have a limited number of appointments available. You can also access assistance at the Career Centre through drop-in hours.

Important Dates to Remember

Deadline for applications to be submitted to the OUAC: December 1, 2011

Ontario Teacher Education Information Sessions: early October (Waterloo campus)

Representatives from the Ontario Faculties of Education will present information and answer your questions about their teacher education programs. You can view recordings of these presentations at www.ustream.tv/channel/laurier-career-centre.

US/International Teacher Education Information Sessions: vary throughout the year (Waterloo campus)

Representatives from US and International Faculties of Education will present information and answer your questions about their teacher education programs.

Graduate and Professional Education Fair: October 19, 2011 (Waterloo campus)

A great opportunity to speak one-on-one with selected Faculty of Education representatives from Ontario and abroad. Visit our website for the complete list of participants: www.wlu.ca/career.

Further Education Fair: October 12, 2011 (Brantford campus)

A great opportunity to speak one-on-one with selected Faculty of Education representatives from Ontario and abroad. Visit our website for the complete list of participants: <http://brantford.mylaurier.ca/career/career-events>.

Education Links

- Links to all the Faculties of Education in Ontario and in Canada - www.lauriercc.ca/career/students/education/teacher
- To locate other Faculties of Education in Canada - www.aucc.ca
- Ontario College of Teachers - www.oct.ca
- Canadian Teachers' Federation - www.ctf-fce.ca
- Ontario Ministry of Education - www.edu.gov.on.ca

Other Teacher Education Programs in Ontario (Private/International Schools)

- Charles Sturt University - Australian university in Burlington - www.csu.edu.au/faculty/educat/ontario
- Niagara University - Toronto Campus - www.niagara.edu/ontario-teacher-s-college
- Redeemer University College (Christian University) - Ancaster - www.redeemer.on.ca/academics/departments/education
- Tyndale University College (Christian University) - Toronto - www.tyndale.ca/university/education

Faculties of Education in the State of New York

- Canisius College - www.canisius.edu/canadian
- Daemen College - www.daemen.edu/canadian
- D'Youville College - www.dyc.edu/admissions/graduate/canadian_teacher/index.asp
- Medaille College - www.medaille.edu/sage/canadian-education-program
- Niagara University - www.niagara.edu/teacher-education

Education Consultants for Studying Abroad

- Australearn - www.australearn.org
- Barclay & Knap Educational Services - www.barclayknap.com
- CANTEACH Educational Consultants - www.canteach.net
- KOM Consultants - www.komconsultants.com
- OzTREKK Educational Services - www.oztrekk.com
- TEACH Educational Consultants - www.teach.ca

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