

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/transitions08_e.pdf to read the 2008 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 \$43,000 to \$84,000 annually. The increase occurs over a 10 – 12 year period as teachers gain additional qualifications and experience.

For a comparison of 2008 salaries and working conditions for public elementary teachers across all Ontario Boards of Education, visit the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario: 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 'Careers' 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

Note: This information is for reference only and provides general guidelines, not specific requirements for each Faculty. You must visit the Teacher Education Application Service (TEAS): www.ouac.on.ca/teas to obtain complete information about all the Faculties of Education in Ontario and to apply online. The TEAS **Instruction Booklet** provides an overview of the information you need to know when applying.

Basic Requirements for Admission to Faculties of Education in Ontario

There are three main components necessary for applying to Ontario Faculties of Education:

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)

- Although a teaching subject is not required to teach this grade range, most 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. Many schools prefer students who have taken at least four courses in the following areas: Math, English, Science, Canadian History/Geography, French, Art/Music.

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 will require more courses (e.g., French). Some universities will require more courses (e.g., Western and York require 4.0 credits in the teaching subject). They 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.
- 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 universities require more courses (e.g., York requires 6.0 credits in the first teaching subject). They 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.

Volunteer Contacts

- Volunteer Database - www.wlu.ca/volunteer
- Waterloo Region District School Board - www.wrdsb.on.ca
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board - www.wcdsb.ca

Teaching Subjects Chart: Junior/Intermediate - 2009-2010

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	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 - 2009-2010

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

The application for Ontario Faculties of Education is completed online at www.ouac.on.ca/teas. Applicants must set up an online account for which they will receive a login and password. The application can be accessed multiple times, rather than filling it out in one sitting. 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.

Application fees are charged to cover the administrative expenses of the Teacher Education Application Service (\$110 for the first three choices, plus an additional \$35 for each additional choice) as well as the administrative expenses incurred by the individual Faculties (ranging from \$40 - \$100 per school). Both of these fees are collected as part of the online application.

Ontario Faculties of Education require applicants to fill out an experience profile as part of their application. Some 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 (under "Have a Question? We have the answer!").

With the exception of York University and UOIT, Ontario Faculties of Education do not interview applicants. Therefore, the experience profile is the only opportunity applicants have to introduce themselves to the admissions committee and demonstrate their unique skills, qualities and experiences. 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

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.

Reference letters are generally not accepted for applications to Ontario Faculties of Education. If they are a requirement for a particular school, the verification 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.

Tip: If you would like assistance with your application, 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.

Important Dates to Remember

Deadline for applications to be submitted to the OUAC: end of November

Ontario Teacher Education Information Sessions: October 5-6, 2009

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

US/International Teacher Education Information Sessions: October 6-8, 2009

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 14, 2009

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.

Education Links

- Links to all the Faculties of Education in Ontario - 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

Faculties of Education in the State of New York

- Canisius College - www.canisius.edu/canadian
- Daemen College - www.daemen.edu/admissions/gradadmissions/weekend
- D'Youville College - www.dyc.edu/admissions/graduate/canadian_teacher/index.asp
- Medaille College - www.medaille.edu/canada – Childhood (gr. 1-6) Education only
- Niagara University - www.niagara.edu/teacher-education

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

Information about 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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