



Applying to Post Secondary Education

▶ Choosing Where to Study

University websites contain a great deal of information.

If you start early, you'll be able to browse the websites without the pressure of having to make a decision right away.

Spend some time each week exploring different schools and programs.

Terminology

Certificate – A certificate typically takes one year or less to complete. It can sometimes ladder into a diploma, meaning the courses may be counted toward a diploma program in the same area of study.

Diploma – A diploma typically takes 2 years to complete and can sometimes ladder into a Bachelor's degree.

Bachelors Degree – The first level of degree a student can receive is a bachelor's degree (ex. BA, BSc, BEng). A bachelor's degree normally requires a minimum of 60 units of coursework and typically takes 4 years to complete.

Terminology

Admission Requirements: The minimum courses, marks and other conditions that must be met in order to be considered for admission to a program.

Faculty - A group of related departments or schools such as Business, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, Human and Social Development, Humanities, Law, Science, and Social Sciences.

Undergraduate student - A student registered in an undergraduate program leading to a Bachelor's degree. Your first degree will be an undergraduate degree. If you choose to continue on to a masters or PhD these are considered graduate programs.

Academic Advising - On-campus or virtual help for students to select courses and plan programs. Academic advising is available to prospective students and can often be booked online.

Terminology

Credits: The 'numerical value' given to an individual course. Most courses in certificate, diploma and degree programs, at almost all institutions, have a value of 3 credits.

Prerequisite: A course that must be completed before taking a prescribed course.

Minimum Requirement: The lowest grade or number of experience hours required for your application to be considered. Meeting the minimum requirement does not guarantee admission. Competitive admissions are often well above the minimum.

Elective: An optional course that is not specific to your program.

Academic Calendar - The academic calendar provides a list of courses, faculty and department information, academic policies, regulations, along with information about the university.

▸ Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply? How long does it take?

- Most schools in BC accept applications through Education Planner BC. You will create an account and then use this site to apply to any of the schools listed.
- UBC, UVic and BCIT accept applications directly on their website.
- Ontario universities accept applications through the OUAC website.
- In most cases, your application will take less than 30 minutes. Some faculties may require a supplemental application.
- UBC requires a Personal Profile as part of their application. This will take several hours to complete, edit and submit. The personal profile is an important part of the selection process and should be taken very seriously. Advice on completing this step can be found on <https://you.ubc.ca/>.
- You will pay an application fee to submit your application.

▸ Frequently Asked Questions

How many universities should I apply to, when do I apply, and is there a cost?

- Application fees typically range between \$50-\$200.
- Applications open October 1st for the following fall. You will begin applying in October of your grade 12 year.
- Even if you are certain about your program choice and confident in meeting the admission requirements, it is best to apply to three or more schools. In competitive programs, selection depends not only on your own grades, but also on those of everyone else who applies, so cut-offs can vary from year to year. In addition, you may be offered a scholarship to one or more schools that may ultimately influence your final decision.
- If you are having difficulty narrowing down your school or program choice, applying to more schools can keep your options open a little longer.

▸ Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to attend university 'full-time'?

- Some trades or technical programs run full time Monday to Friday.
- Most university degree programs are flexible with the same course being offered at many different times. Courses are often 3 hours once a week. Some courses also have labs at other times. Once the course calendar is available for the semester you are attending, you will be able plan your week in a way that works for you.
- In most programs, you will be able to decide how many courses to complete each semester. However, taking less courses at a time will mean that you will need to attend spring or summer semesters or extend your degree over more years.

▸ Frequently Asked Questions

What university is the best?

The university that is 'best' for you depends on you!

Some things to consider:

- Does the university offer a program that aligns with your goals?
- Will you meet the admission requirements?
- Will you have to live away from home? If yes, are you financially and emotionally ready to make a move?
- What is the first year class size? Will you thrive in an auditorium with 300 students or do you learn better in a class of 30?
- Does the university offer clubs, exchange programs, co-op placements, or research opportunities that interest you?

▸ Frequently Asked Questions

Can I transfer between faculties or schools?

- Yes, as long as you meet the requirements. If you know you plan to transfer, it is best to speak to an academic advisor as soon as possible.
- Not all courses transfer between schools. You can check which courses transfer using the BC Transfer Guide website.
- Some schools offer transfer programs that simplify the process. For example: The Engineering Transfer Programs at UBC and UVic allow you to take your first year at a number of institutions including UFV.

▸ Frequently Asked Questions

What happens after I apply?

- You will receive confirmation and possibly further instructions.
- You will need to check your email regularly to be sure you don't miss any deadlines.
- You will submit a transcript of your grades. In most cases this will be done through the BC Transcript Service. Your counsellors will provide instructions on this in the fall.