

# Why College?



**APPLY TODAY.  
CHANGE  
TOMORROW.**

# WHY CHOOSE COLLEGE ?

Maybe it's because you have a goal you want to achieve. Or because you don't want your education to feel one-size-fits-all. Or it could just be that you want freedom to grow while also developing first-class skills that will lead you into a successful career.

Ontario's colleges make sense for all these reasons. And for 10 more.





# TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE ONTARIO'S COLLEGES



## 1. INNOVATIVE AND GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMS

Ten years ago, many of the most exciting careers out there didn't even exist. With over 480 industry partners advising on curriculum, and over 300 courses now offering innovation and entrepreneurial components, Ontario college programs are continuously evolving to prepare students not only for the cutting-edge careers of today, but also those of tomorrow.

## 2. EXPLORER-FRIENDLY

Not sure what you want to do for the rest of your life? You're not alone. That's why Ontario's colleges offer programs specifically designed for explorers. Whether you choose one that exposes you to a variety of areas of study, or one that helps you build foundations in a single area, you'll earn valuable credits while you decide what your future holds.

## 3. SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

5000-plus programs across 200-plus areas of study? There's definitely one that's right for you. Whether you're business-minded or creative, good with numbers or good with your hands, like working with people or like working with technology, there's a college program that will help you turn the things you're good at into a successful career.

## 4. CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

One-year certificate programs that help you get working fast. Two and three-year diploma programs that prepare you for the career you've dreamed about. Graduate certificate programs that build on the education you already have. Over 200 degree programs that give you not only the credential you want, but valuable practical experience. Ontario's colleges offer them all, and with more than 800,000 transfer opportunities that recognize your existing credits, there are more pathways than ever for customizing your postsecondary experience.

## 5. IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

Are you worried it's too late to go back to school? Worry not. College classrooms are full of individuals at different phases in their lives, from workers looking to upgrade their skills, young parents or empty-nesters looking to re-enter the workforce, adults training for new careers and so many more. Wherever you are in your life, it's never too late to build your skills and knowledge through a college education.

**40% of all new jobs created within the next decade will be in skilled trades and technology.**

## **6. REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE BEFORE YOU GRADUATE**

College programs are known for their unique blend of academic learning and practical skills training. Led by instructors with professional experience, you'll benefit from hands-on training, real-world projects, co-op and work study options, and industry partnerships and professional relationships that lead to jobs after graduation.

**83% of recent college graduates found employment within six months of graduation.**

Source: Colleges Ontario

## **7. NO STEREOTYPES, JUST ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT**

There is no typical college student. Ontario college campuses are known for diversity, and are dedicated to creating environments and programs that support every student. Just a sample of these include academic and career counselling, mental health and wellness services, disability services, day care programs, international student advising, Aboriginal resources, LGBTQ communities and so much more.

## **8. CLASSROOMS THAT CONNECT**

With class sizes that average around 30 rather than 130 (or more), your courses will challenge you to ask questions, share ideas, work hands-on and get more out of your time in the classroom than you ever thought possible. Led by instructors with industry experience, many of whom still actively work in the area they're

teaching, you can also count on the latest information, trends and technologies to be part of your curriculum.

## **9. LOCATIONS THAT WORK FOR YOU**

Can't wait to ditch your hometown and start somewhere new? Or maybe you want to stay close to friends and family as you start a new chapter in your life? Whatever your geographical preferences, Ontario's colleges can accommodate – with over 130 campuses in small towns and big cities all over the province, there's one that's perfect for you to call home.

## **10. GRADUATE WITH LESS DEBT**

No one wants to graduate with a mountain of debt. Ontario college programs have significantly lower tuition costs than other postsecondary options, and have thousands of dollars available through scholarships, bursaries and grants to help lessen the financial burden even further. They also help get you into the workforce faster, so you can be earning money rather than spending it.

**The number of university grads enrolled in colleges has increased by more than 40% over five years.**

Source: Globe and Mail

