

Teaching

What does it take to become a teacher in Ontario?

"Teachers communicate, counsel, model and manage, using a wide array of methods and resources to guide students. They use a mix of traditional and technological approaches to spur student achievement, tracking student progress and refining their practices as they go.

"Teachers listen to and work with other teachers, parents, professionals and community partners to build an atmosphere of respect and collaboration necessary for academic achievement and character development."

From *Thinking about teaching?* www.oct.ca

Qualifications you need to teach in Ontario include:

- Teaching degree from an accredited institution
- Professional certification through the Ontario College of Teachers (to teach in publicly-funded schools)

What program should I take?

There are 3 educational qualifications for this registered profession:

- **Master of Teaching (MT) or Master of Arts (MA) in Education:** Such 2-year programs combine theoretical study as well as elementary or secondary teaching certification.
- **Consecutive** program: Complete an undergraduate degree then apply to an Initial Teacher Education Program. As of September 2015, all are 2-year programs in Ontario.
- **Concurrent** program: Usually entered from high school, Education courses are completed concurrently with Arts, Sciences or Business courses over 5 years. You receive your HBA, HBSc or BBA and your BEd at the same convocation.

When you apply to a teaching program, you will choose one from the following streams:

- **Primary/Junior:** Junior Kindergarten through Grade 4
- **Junior/Intermediate:** Grade 4 through Grade 10
- **Intermediate/Senior:** Grade 7 through Grade 12
- **Technological Education:** Intermediate/Senior only

What are the common academic requirements for teaching

- Completed undergraduate degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA* (for Consecutive and Master of Teaching programs)
- Two distinct and verifiable teaching related experiences
- Undergraduate courses in areas of teaching interests (these requirements vary considerably by program and institution)
- Writing sample (Master's level programs)
- Proficiency in English

Start Early!

Teaching programs require a minimum B average in your last 2 years/10 credits or your best 10 credits.*

There are often minimum averages for your 'teachable' subjects as well. All programs look for experience working with children or youth.

Improve your GPA:

Visit the AA&CC and the Centre for Teaching & Learning to improve your academic skills.

Cultivate References:

Get to know a few professors. Their research is interesting! Professors who know you fairly well are able to write strong reference letters for you.

Get Involved:

Join volunteer and co-curricular activities that demonstrate your skills and ongoing interest in teaching.

Looking for Related Experience?

Review the *Volunteering and Internships tip sheets*, attend a *Work Search Strategies* workshop or book an appointment with a Career Counsellor or Career Strategist.

Where can I study Teaching?

There are 13 publicly-funded OCT-accredited institutions in Ontario that offer initial teacher education:

- Brock University
- Lakehead University
- Laurentian University
- Nipissing University
- Queen's University
- Trent University
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)
- University of Ottawa
- Western University
- University of Windsor
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- York University
- OISE/University of Toronto

Apply to these schools via OUAC's TEAS or UofT's SGS (see below).

There are 4 private OCT-accredited institutions in Ontario that offer initial teacher education:

- Charles Sturt
- Niagara University
- Redeemer University College
- Tyndale University

Applications to these schools will be submitted directly to each school.

You can find all accredited teacher education provider websites on the [OCT website](#).

How do I Apply?

Begin the application process one year before your desired Fall start:

1. Create your TEAS online profile (for OISE use the SGS site, for private schools follow their instructions) in October.
2. Complete the TEAS and other applications by their deadlines, typically in the first week of December.

What supporting documents may be required?

- Online and/or printed application form
- Two or three letters of reference (one must be academic)
- Experience profile and/or personal statement
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary education
- Vulnerable Sector Police Screening (after admission)

Where can I find more information and resources?

Ontario College of Teachers

www.oct.ca

Ontario Teacher Education Application Service (TEAS)

www.ouac.on.ca/teas

School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto (OISE)

www.sgs.utoronto.ca

Application & Personal Statement Resources

- Effective Admission Letters (U of T Writing Centre): www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/admission-letters
- Purdue University Online Writing Lab: owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/
- CTL's Graduate School Application and Personal Statement Assignment Calculator: ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/assignmentcal



Paying for Initial Teacher Education

Annual tuition for Ontario students ranges \$6,500-\$8,500.

Remember to ask about scholarships and bursaries! You might also find financial support via tools like www.esdc.gc.ca/en/stud_ent_financial_aid/scholarships.page

Future teachers are typically interested in the [labour market](#).

Admission decisions are sent to applicants beginning in April.

Is an interview required?

For a few schools, an interview is required. You will be invited in Jan/Feb. Most schools do not require an interview.

The AA&CC can help!

Attend the Graduate & Professional Schools Fair (October), go to a *Preparing for Professional & Graduate School* workshop, meet professionals in the field through Extern, or speak with a Career team member to learn how to get relevant experience!

Please note: While this tip sheet aims to ensure accuracy, requirements do change. Consider it a starting point for your further research. Visit individual Faculties of Education for detailed, up-to-date information about admission requirements and application procedures.