



SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Are you considering continuing your education at either college or university?

Here are some tips and important things to consider when
CHOOSING THE RIGHT SCHOOL AND PROGRAM :

Choosing the right college is something that a lot of high school seniors procrastinate on because they think it's just too hard and they can't seem to make up their mind. After all, there are a lot of factors to consider. However, it doesn't have to be so difficult if you do your research correctly. Here are a few things that you should look for and ask yourself....

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Are you taking the **right courses** in high school (math, english, science, etc....college level, university level, etc.) to meet the admission requirements for your ideal program and school? If you are not sure, ask your Guidance Counsellor, call me - Anne Marie Jones (your Garden River Post-Secondary Counsellor) or you can check online at either the schools specific website or through the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) website or the Ontario University Application Service (OUAS) website for this information: www.ontariocolleges.ca or www.ouac.on.ca. Does your **high school final grades meet or exceed the minimum average** required for your particular school and program? If you've been slacking and not really applying yourself to your full potential, now is the perfect time to change your study habits. Here are some basic and common sense tips to better study habits:

- ✎ Learn to relax.
- ✎ Take **organized notes**.
Underline or highlight the main ideas, concepts and information
- ✎ Write down all assignments and test dates in your organizer or notebook.
- ✎ Take ten minutes after each class to **review your notes**
- ✎ **Avoid any distracting** conduct. Activity such as talking, eating and joking can distract you and your classmates.
- ✎ Find a **quiet private** place by yourself then settle in.
- ✎ If you need music playing in the background while you study or do homework, make sure that it is an old familiar cd so that you are not trying to listen carefully to the new lyrics or music
- ✎ **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE NIGHT BEFORE TO STUDY OR COMPLETE AN ASSIGNMENT** - plan ahead - reread / review a chapter or two each night the week before your test or exam...it will not overload your brain.

SIZE OF THE COLLEGE

So you've grown up in Garden River or another small town? Then perhaps you might want to consider a smaller college/university than a larger one. Teens who grow up in small, rural towns often have a hard time adjusting to big city life. So the size of the college/university should be something you definitely consider.

Both large schools and small ones have their advantages and disadvantages. Small schools allow a more personal feel because you can get to know the professors more. You won't have to worry about having a class with 500 other people. However, there will likely be less courses offered so your educational opportunities won't be as wide. Large colleges/universities offer a wide variety of courses but you sacrifice the "personal" feel of a smaller college/university.

COSTS

Although as a Garden River First Nation member, you are eligible for post-secondary sponsorship, there is a limit to the amount of assistance that you will receive depending on where you decide to go to school. The costs of attending a college/university in a particular city is a very important factor in deciding whether or not to go to someplace like Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver or just to stay in Sault Ste. Marie. The **living expenses like rent, transportation, laundry, and food** will vary greatly depending on where you decide to attend school.

But if your mind is definitely set on a college/university away from home but you're deterred by the “big city” and higher prices, don't sacrifice a great college/university education solely based on the cost. There are always opportunities to pay for your education through **grants, bursaries, scholarships, and work-study programs...you just have to take the time to complete the applications! AND the better your grades are in this final year of high school**, the more opportunities will be available to you....**participate in your classes, study hard, and do your homework.**

RANKINGS

A lot of times, people base their decisions entirely on school rankings. They see a school is ranked highly for a specific field (business, engineering, etc..) and instantly decide to go there. The problem this builds is that the student might not like other aspects of the college such as the campus, location, etc... Avoid this problem by **researching everything** about the school before you make your decision.

LOCATION

So you're tired of living in Garden River and want to get away to anywhere else? Four years in Toronto, Vancouver or Newfoundland might sound great but please give the location some serious thought first. Remember that your first year in college might leave you feeling homesick so being that far away from home might prove to be too much for you. It is not something that you can't overcome with the right support from family and friends but please **be realistic with the location** of the school.

APPLICATION TO COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: (OCAS or OUAS)

While there is no specific deadline for applying to college or university, for programs that start in the fall, you are strongly encouraged to submit your application **to either OCAS by February 1 or OUAC by January 10** for equal consideration in the application process. This is particularly important for programs that are highly competitive, meaning that the colleges receive many more qualified applicants than there are available places. In general, applicants received on or before these dates for programs starting in September are considered on an equal basis. After these dates, applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you are ready to complete your application, you are encouraged to submit your application electronically via their websites. The OCAS application processing fee is \$85; and the OUAC basic application processing fee is \$105.

There is an opportunity to meet with representatives from most Colleges and Universities at either a **College Information Program (CIP) or the University Information Program (UIP)**. This is a fantastic opportunity to find out about numerous schools in one place. Ontario's colleges and 20 universities travel across Ontario together during the Fall, offering fair style events in cities and towns in most regions. These events provide a 'one stop shop' for you to hear about what the different schools have to offer, talk individually to a school representatives and collect publications from the schools you are interested in.

- The **College University Information Program travels to Sault Ste. Marie every year - usually in October** - watch for ads at your school or in the local paper. Your high school may already have arrangements to bring you to the early session. The evening session is open for everyone. You do not need an appointment....just show up early so that you can visit with all of your potential schools' representatives.
- The **University Information Program travels to Sault Ste. Marie every year - usually in October** - watch for ads at your school or in the local paper. Again, you do not need an appointment....just show up early so that you can visit with all of your potential schools' representatives.

Websites to visit:

www.ontariocolleges.ca

www.ouac.on.ca

www.electronicinfo.ca for an electronic copy of the OUAS eINFO Magazine. There are many excellent resources available at your fingertips...like admission requirements, degree locator, residence info, scholarships and bursaries, etc.....

APPLICATION FOR SPONSORSHIP FROM GARDEN RIVER

At the same time that you are completing and submitting your application to either OCAS or OUAS, you need to be completing the Garden River Application for Post-Secondary Educational Assistance. This is what you must submit in order to be considered for sponsorship. When you are ready to complete your GR Application for Post-Secondary Educational Assistance, please let Phil (your GR Secondary School Liaison Worker) know and/or call me directly at the office to make an appointment.

Once I have your Garden River application and you have your receipt, I will be able to reimburse you for the fees that you paid to submit your application to OCAS or OUAS.

The **deadlines to submit your GRFN application for FULL-TIME and PART-TIME SPONSORSHIP** are always as follows:

- Spring/Summer starts: April 15th
- Fall starts : June 15th
- Winter is October 15th

All applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the deadline for which you applied.

OFFER OF ADMISSION

If you had submitted your OCAS or OUAS application before their suggested deadlines, you will be given first consideration for an Offer of Admission from the schools that you applied to. Depending on your personal academic history, you may receive a "conditional offer" or a "final offer". If you receive a conditional offer of admission, the school needs more information from you. Please make sure that you **read each letter carefully**....there will be invitations to attend **information sessions, to get a tour** of their facilities or they will **need more information** from you before they can make their admission decisions...and **there will be deadlines to respond by**.

Each school will be trying to convince you that their school is the best....do your homework -- **research your choices to ensure that your time at college/university will be both an enjoyable AND rewarding experience for you.** As I am sure most of you know, each school has a reputation for certain types of programs - make sure you check out the program credentials along with the school credentials. Ask about or look for information on the availability of things like support services, campus life/activities, student residences for new students, accessibility by public transportation, etc., etc.....(visit the school web-sites for e-tours and basic information).

VISIT YOUR POTENTIAL COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

This is very important...visit the campus before you decide to go there. Throughout the year, colleges/universities offer campus tours so you can get a feel of the school. I suggest if your potential schools are not local, that you take advantage of the assistance available for post-secondary students to **visit one prospective college/university** (page 3 GRFN Post-Secondary Operating Guidelines: Section - School Orientation Trip). Once you have received invitations to visit the schools that you applied to, and according to the GRFN Post-Secondary Operating Guidelines and as a new post-secondary applicant/student, **you are eligible for one trip** to a prospective college or university to **help you finalize your decision.** Once you have decided which school you would like to visit, **you must submit a copy of the official "Campus Visit" invitation and itinerary.** According to the length of the pre-arranged visit, you will **receive financial assistance to visit one school. This will include return bus fare, as well as student rates for meals and accommodations.** Remember, this is an excellent opportunity to help you make an informed decision about your new school. In order to receive this assistance, you must complete your **GRFN Application for Post-Secondary Educational Assistance.** Once this process is done, naturally, each school will be requiring you to respond to their **"offer of admission"** and **make your final decisions!**

ALWAYS make sure to check for:

- deadlines to respond by?
- do they require a "confirmation fee" to hold your seat? If so, by when?
- do you have to send more information by a certain date?
- are there any types of entrance tests that must be completed?

NOTE: I do not receive any documentation from the school during the application process. **You are responsible** for making sure that I am kept informed at all times.

If there are any fees due to hold your seat, it is your responsibility to bring a copy of your information to my office immediately so that we can process and mail the payment before the deadline. Please be advised that this office is not responsible for payment of any late fees or loss of seat due to late payments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the office, (705) 946-3933 ext. 202 or email me at amjones@gardenriver.ca.

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION FOR YOUR FUTURE!