



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Learning and Living in Faith*

# Pathways to Student Success

Discover *Your Pathway*  
to Success



- ✓ College/University
- ✓ Cooperative Education
- ✓ Dual Credit
- ✓ Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
- ✓ Specialist High Skills Majors
- ✓ World of Work

2019–2020



Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) students can access secondary school courses at the following locations:

**All Saints CSS**, 3001 Country Lane, Whitby. Tel: 905-666-7753

**Archbishop Anthony Meagher CCEC**

- Ajax Campus, 458 Fairall Street, Unit 7, Ajax. Tel: 905-683-7713
- Oshawa Campus, 850 King Street West, Unit 26, Oshawa. Tel: 905-438-0570

**Archbishop Denis O'Connor CHS**, 80 Mandrake Street, Ajax. Tel: 905-427-6667

**Father Donald MacLellan CSS**

- Catholic Return Ticket, 250 Bayly Street West, Ajax. Tel: 905-428-7161
- Reconnect, 458 Fairall Street, Unit 7, Ajax. Tel: 905-666-1146
- Centre for Success, Durham College

**Father Leo J. Austin CSS**, 1020 Dryden Boulevard, Whitby. Tel: 905-666-2010

**Monsignor John Pereyema CSS**, 316 Conant Street, Oshawa. Tel: 905-432-8470

**Monsignor Paul Dwyer CHS**, 700 Stevenson Road North, Oshawa. Tel: 905-723-5255

**Notre Dame CSS**, 1375 Harwood Avenue North, Ajax. Tel: 905-686-4300

**St. Mary CSS**, 1918 Whites Road, Pickering. Tel: 905-420-7166

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## Our Vision

Each student in our Catholic learning community embodies excellence and equity by embracing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

- A discerning believer;
- An effective communicator;
- A reflective, creative and holistic thinker;
- A self-directed, responsible lifelong learner;
- A collaborative contributor;
- A caring family member; and
- A responsible citizen.

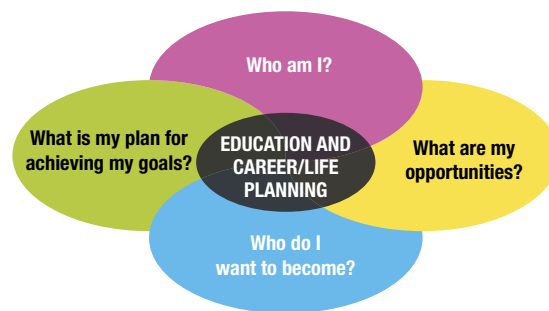
## Our Catholic Values

As a Catholic Learning Community, we value:

- **Faith.** Evangelizing ourselves and others through scripture, sacrament, prayer and action in service with the home, school and parish.
- **Hope.** Giving witness to the belief that we can become who we are called to be.
- **Love.** Being present to others with care, compassion, solidarity, community and joy.
- **Peace.** Creating opportunities for contemplation, spirituality, reconciliation and forgiveness.
- **Wisdom.** Listening and responding to the Holy Spirit.
- **Inclusion.** Ensuring a sense of belonging by promoting the dignity and worth of each human life.
- **Excellence.** Building on God's grace to achieve our earthly and eternal vocations.
- **Creativity.** Celebrating diverse and innovative expressions of God's gifts.
- **Service.** Seeking out and responding to local and global needs with prudence, fortitude, humility and charity.
- **Stewardship.** Shepherding God's creation and resources for the common good.
- **Responsibility.** Demonstrating accountability and fidelity in our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- **Justice.** Acting and serving with integrity in communion with the Gospel and teachings of Jesus.

# Education and Career-Life Planning Process

What is a Pathway? A pathway refers to the individual journey that you will take that includes experiential learning, school and community supports, courses and programs that will help lead you to a successful transition from grade to grade and to your post-secondary destination (apprenticeship, college, community living, university and the workplace).



You are a child of God and you have special gifts. As you grow to understand your God-given talents, take the time to reflect upon your personal strengths and interests as you explore community, career and education options. This is an important process that will help you to establish your own personal goals and plan your individualized pathway to your future.

## Who am I?

**1. Knowing yourself.** To help answer this question, “Who am I?” you can ask yourself:

- What are my God-given gifts and talents?
- What are my learning styles and multiple intelligences?
- What are my accomplishments, values and skills?
- What learning skills and work habits are my strengths?
- What experiences have guided me along my faith journey?
- What areas can I work on?
- How can my skills and strengths help me in my school? In my community? In my parish?

## What are my opportunities?

**2. Exploring opportunities.** Community Service hours, job shadowing, career talks, trips, tours of colleges and universities, cooperative education, work experience, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Specialist High Skills Major, Dual Credits, sports, clubs, school committees are all available to help you explore pathways opportunities and gain experience. **To help answer the question, “What are my opportunities?” you can ask yourself:**

- What are the opportunities for community involvement, education and career exploration at my school?
- How can I develop Catholic leadership?
- What specialized programs can I participate in to help me explore my pathway?
- What do I learn about myself when I participate in recreational, social, leadership, volunteer, experiential learning, and part-time job opportunities?
- What fields of work, occupations or jobs are related to my favourite subject areas, my interests, learning styles or my strengths?
- What is the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) and what are the essential skills that are required in the workplace?
- How can knowledge of the local labour market help me? What are areas of job growth and demand?
- How do I support equity and inclusion in my home, school, parish and community?



## ■ Who do I want to become?

**3. Making decisions and setting goals.** Explore experiential learning, career options and education programs and then relate your interests, skills and aptitudes to your education, career and life goals so that you can make informed choices about the pathway that complements your unique talents. **To help answer the question, “Who do I want to become?” you can ask yourself:**

- What is God calling me to?
- What kind of person do I want to become?
- What post-secondary education and training programs are available to help me pursue my career of interest?
- What connections am I making from my learning?
- What are my personal and interpersonal goals?
- What are my career goals?
- What are my education goals?
- What are my life goals?
- How can I demonstrate my Catholic character?

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## ■ What is my plan for achieving my goals?

**4. Achieving goals and making transitions.** Choose experiences, courses and programs that will help you pursue your pathway to apprenticeship, college, community living, university or the workplace. **To help answer the question “What is my plan for achieving my goals?” you can ask yourself:**

- What are the steps required to achieve my goals?
- What resources do I need to implement my pathways plan?
- What programs or experiences can I participate in to help me plan my pathway?
- What courses do I need to build my pathway toward my preferred destination?
- What are the challenges that I have with my plan and how can my faith support me in challenging times?
- Who can I ask to help guide me as I plan my pathway?

# myBlueprint

Creating an Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) can help you plan your future. At Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), we use the myBlueprint online tool. This resource is available to all students in Grades 7-12 and their families to support education and career/life planning. This program allows students to explore the four inquiry-based questions: Who am I? What are my opportunities? Who do I want to become? What is my plan for achieving my goals?

myBlueprint allows students to plan high school courses, complete the IPP, research post-secondary opportunities and occupations, build a resume or cover letter, as well as discover interests and learning styles and lots more!

## Students

Getting Started: You can access your account by visiting the Launch Pad Learning Portal found on your school website, or view [myblueprint.ca/durhamcatholic](http://myblueprint.ca/durhamcatholic) and clicking the 'School Account Log In' button. Links to myBlueprint are also available on your school's website and at [dcdsb.ca](http://dcdsb.ca).



Students can also invite their parents and guardians to create an account. To do this, the student will click their name in the top right corner of their account > click My Links > select Family/Advisor, and enter a name and email address.

For more information about the Family Account, please visit [myblueprint.ca/support/videos/education-planner](http://myblueprint.ca/support/videos/education-planner)

Your Family Account allows parents and guardians to:

- View a summary of the work your child is doing in their account;
- Track your child's high school course selections, and progress towards graduation;
- View occupations and post-secondary pathways of interest to your child;
- Provide feedback and/or comments in your child's portfolio(s);
- Receive messages from your child's teacher and Guidance Counsellor; and
- Explore your very own myBlueprint account to learn more about career and education options for yourself across Canada.

For more information about myBlueprint, speak with your Guidance Counsellor or visit [myblueprint.ca/support](http://myblueprint.ca/support) for video tutorials.

## Parents

With the family account, parents and guardians can stay on top of their child's progress, 24/7, anywhere they have access to a device.

Getting Started: Visit [myblueprint.ca/durhamcatholic](http://myblueprint.ca/durhamcatholic) and click Sign Up. From the bottom of the page, select your child's school to create a Family Account.



## Learning Skills

The development of learning skills and work habits needed to succeed in school and in life begins early in a child's schooling. As students progress through school, they develop and then consolidate their learning skills and work habits in preparation for post-secondary education and the world of work.



### Responsibility

- Fulfill responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment.
- Complete tasks and submit work according to agreed upon time lines.
- Take responsibility for and manage your behaviour.

### Organization

- Create and follow a plan to manage your time and resources.
- Establish priorities to help you manage your time in order to complete tasks and achieve goals.
- Identify, gather, evaluate and use information, technology and resources to complete tasks.

### Independent Work

- Independently monitor, assess and revise plans to complete tasks and meet goals.
- Use time appropriately to complete tasks.
- Work carefully and follow instructions with minimal supervision.

### Collaboration

- Accept various roles and an equitable share of the work in a group.
- Respond positively to the ideas, opinions, values and traditions of others.
- Build healthy peer-to-peer relationships through personal and media-assisted interactions.
- Work with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals.
- Share information, resources and expertise, and promote critical thinking to solve problems and make decisions.

### Initiative

- Look for and act on new ideas and opportunities for learning.
- Demonstrate the capacity for innovation and willingness to take risks.
- Demonstrate curiosity and interest in learning.
- Approach new tasks with a positive attitude.
- Recognize and advocate appropriately for the rights of self and others.

### Self-Regulation

- Set individual goals and monitor progress towards achieving them.
- Seek clarification or assistance when needed.
- Assess and reflect critically on strengths, needs and interests.
- Identify learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals.
- Persevere and make an effort when responding to challenges.

## Pathways Planning

As part of pathways planning, students are encouraged to ask themselves the following questions:

- Who am I?
- What are my opportunities?
- Who do I want to become?
- What is my plan for achieving my goals?

Returning to these questions and re-evaluating one's goals will help students make informed decisions regarding their education and career choices, while becoming confident, independent and effective planners. This journey will transition from grade to grade and after high school to one of the following post-secondary destinations: apprenticeship, college, community living, university or the workplace.



### Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is an educational pathway that combines on-the-job training, work experience and technical training that leads to certification in over 150 trades. Apprenticeship is a hands-on training program for people who enjoy learning by doing and earning while learning.

Apprenticeship quick facts:

- The training provides access to well-paying jobs that demand a high level of skills, judgement and creativity.
- Employers provide about 90 percent of apprenticeship training in the workplace. The remaining 10 percent involves classroom instruction on theory which is delivered at an approved community college or training delivery agent.

- Upon successful completion of the practical and in-school components, an apprentice has an opportunity to write the provincial/interprovincial exam to become a certified journeyman in a skilled trade.

Visit [oyap.com](http://oyap.com), [collegeoftrades.ca](http://collegeoftrades.ca) or [careersintrades.ca](http://careersintrades.ca) for more information.





## College

Colleges offer a variety of diploma, certificate and applied degree programs. The basic admission requirement for post-secondary programs in the Ontario college system is one of the following:

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent
- Any lesser minimum admission requirement as established by a college on a program specific basis

Programs are career-oriented and geared toward marketable skills. Find out about programs, arrange a campus tour or talk to college staff who can answer your specific questions.

Visit [ontariocolleges.ca](http://ontariocolleges.ca) for more information and college specific requirements.



## Community Living

Transition planning is about looking ahead to the future and preparing for adulthood. It is a partnership involving student, parent, teachers, friends, community and adult service providers, and any other individual with a vested interest in your child. Consideration must be given to such things as:

- living arrangements
- community programs

- employment opportunities
- further education opportunities
- recreation and social activities
- health care

Visit [dcdsb.ca](http://dcdsb.ca) and [dsontario.ca](http://dsontario.ca) for more information.



## University

To attend an Ontario university, students must attain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and successfully complete six Grade 12 courses at the university (U) or university/college (M) level. Each university may establish additional requirements for the programs that they offer. Universities offer three and four year undergraduate degrees and professional programs in a variety of fields.

For specific information about programs, please check [electronicinfo.ca](http://electronicinfo.ca) and [ouac.on.ca](http://ouac.on.ca).



## Workplace

The goal of all students is to find employment that is fulfilling and of service to society. There are many ways to get to the world of work and one of the ways is through an entry-level job. Students will find information regarding the availability of entry-level jobs in their Guidance Office. A number of organizations exist in Durham Region that help assist students to find employment after

high school. An important organization is Employment Ontario.

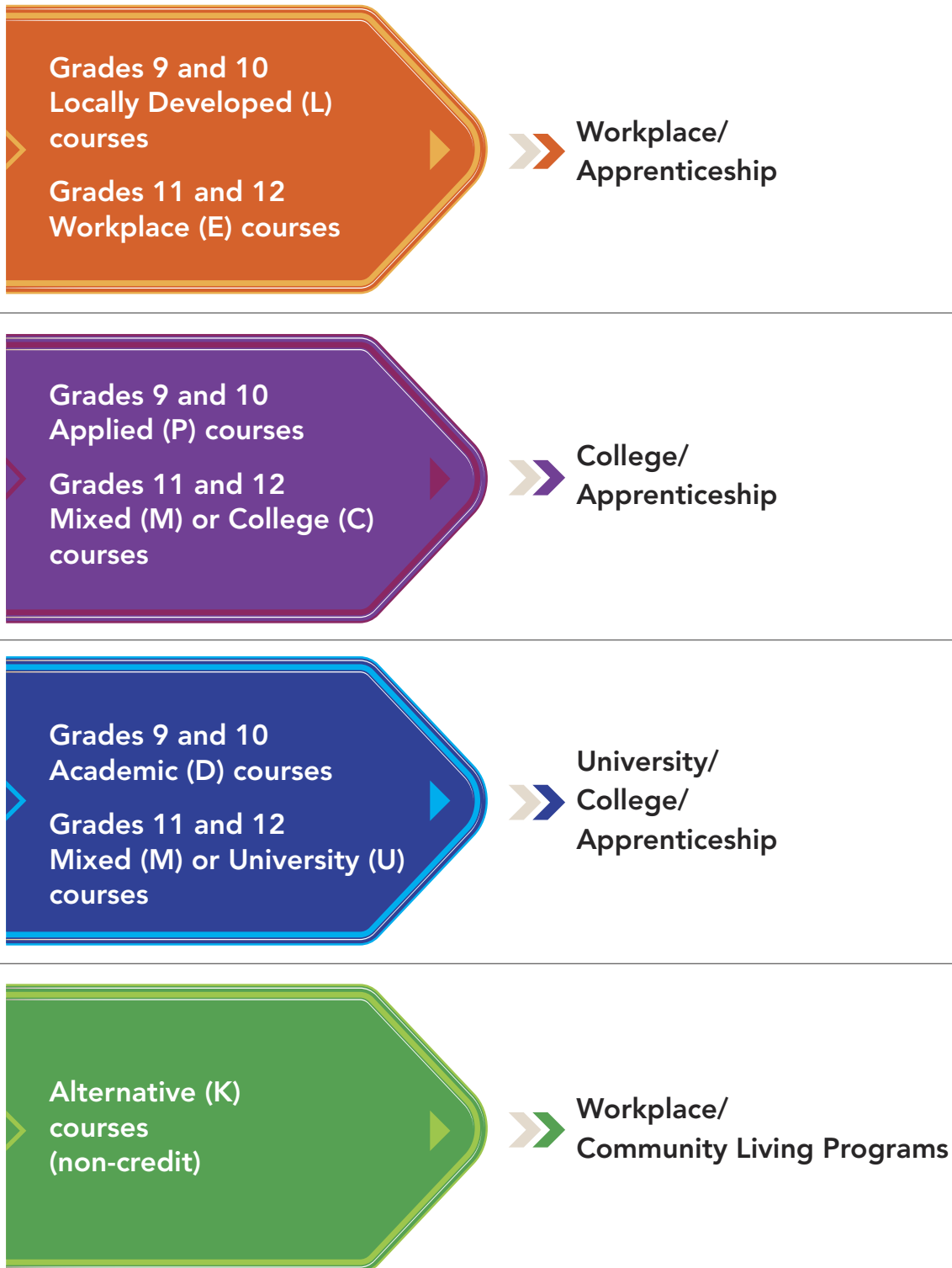
Visit [ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario](http://ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario) for more information.



# Choosing Courses — Transitioning to Post-Secondary Pathways

When choosing courses, remember that all post-secondary pathways lead to the same destination, the world of work!

Reminder: Students have the opportunity to change levels between Grade 9 and 10 (Academic (D) to Applied (P) or vice versa).



# Graduation Requirements

Students must earn the following to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

- 18 compulsory credits (list below)
- 1 credit from Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3 (lists below)
- 12 optional credits<sup>†</sup>
- 40 hours of community involvement activities
- the provincial literacy requirement

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## 18 compulsory credits

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)*            | 1 credit in the arts                      |
| 3 credits in mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12) | 1 credit in health and physical education |
| 2 credits in science                                  | 1 credit in French as a second language   |
| 1 credit in Canadian history                          | 0.5 credit in career studies              |
| 1 credit in Canadian geography                        | 0.5 credit in civics                      |

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## Group 1

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English or French as a second language**</li><li>• a Native language</li><li>• a classical or international language</li><li>• social sciences and the humanities</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canadian and world studies</li><li>• guidance and career education</li><li>• cooperative education***</li></ul> |
|---|---|

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## Group 2

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• health and physical education</li><li>• the arts</li><li>• business studies</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• French as a second language**</li><li>• cooperative education***</li></ul> |
|---|--|

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## Group 3

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• science (Grade 11 or 12)</li><li>• technological education</li><li>• French as a second language**</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• computer studies</li><li>• cooperative education***</li></ul> |
|--|---|

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\* A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

\*\* In groups 1, 2 and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3.

\*\*\* A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education can count as compulsory credits.

† The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit courses.

## Community Service

The Ontario Ministry of Education mandates that every Ontario secondary student must complete 40 hours of Community Service in order to graduate. This expectation is consistent with our belief that through involvement with their community, students build empathy and social awareness, grow in faith, boost self-esteem, and develop a sense of civic responsibility.

Grade 8 students are able to start earning Community Service hours in the summer before they enter Grade 9. This is an exciting opportunity for students to begin building links in their communities! Please contact your Guidance Office for clarification and approval before beginning your Community Service activity.

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### Student's Role

- Talk to your parent/guardian about Community Service.
- Consult your school for eligible and non-eligible activities.
- Select an activity.
- When you complete each activity, have the supervisor sign the Community Service Record to verify the date and your hours completed.
- Keep the documentation in a safe place. In the fall, you can provide your Guidance Counsellor with a copy of your record of service.
- Your 40 hours of Community Service must be completed by the spring of Grade 12. The sooner you begin, the more rewarding the experience will be.

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### Parent/Guardian's Role

- Assist your child in selecting appropriate, safe and eligible community service activities.
- Monitor the completion, hours and safety of your child.
- Be prepared to communicate with your child's community service organization about questions or concerns.

### Ineligible Community Service Activities

According to the Ministry of Education, the following activities are ineligible for Community Service hours:

- An activity that is required as part of a school course.
- Activities taking place as part of your instructional day.
- An activity that replaces a paid worker.
- An activity where you would usually be paid (e.g., babysitting).
- A duty performed in the home (e.g., daily chores) or personal recreational activities.
- Requiring the knowledge of a provincially regulated tradesperson.
- Playing on a sports team.
- A court ordered program involving a community service expectation.
- An activity that involves operating a vehicle, power tools or scaffolding.
- Administering medication or a medical procedure, or involves handling "designated substances" as classified by the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Activities that involve banking, securities or other valuables.
- If under 16, a logging environment.
- If under 15, a factory environment.
- If under 14, any workplace besides health and residential care, unless accompanied by an adult.

Our Durham Catholic District School Board secondary students share how Community Service is a meaningful experience.

### Student Voice

"I enjoy singing and playing the violin and thought singing in my parish's choir would be a great fit. I love giving back to my parish community and meeting all the people while volunteering."



**Mateya**, Grade 11 student at Monsignor Paul Dwyer CHS

### Student Voice

"I volunteered at a soccer camp as a coach. It helped me to develop leadership and communication skills. I recommend that students try to get their volunteer hours done during one block of time for example over the summer."



**Carlos**, Grade 11 student at Archbishop Denis O'Connor CHS

### Student Voice

"I wanted to volunteer where I had an opportunity to use my French language in the community. Volunteering as a French Reading Buddy at the library was perfect because I got to help children improve their French reading skills."



**Kersten**, Grade 12 student at Father Leo J. Austin CSS

### Student Voice

"I volunteered at a church's summer sports camp. The camp focused on Bible stories in the morning and in the afternoon we shared the messages taught in the Bible through sports."



**Bryce**, Grade 10 student at Notre Dame CSS

## Cooperative Education

Cooperative Education is a program that provides students with an opportunity to earn secondary school credits, while completing a work placement in the community. Cooperative Education allows students to participate in valuable learning experiences that help prepare them for the next stage of their lives, whether in apprenticeship training, college, community living, university or the workplace.

All Cooperative Education placements are arranged for the students by their school when the student applies to the program. This generally happens during course selection time and applications can be accessed through myBlueprint or found in the Guidance Office.

If you are interested in applying to Cooperative Education, speak to your Cooperative Education teacher or Guidance Counsellor to learn more.

### How does Cooperative Education benefit students?

Students who complete a Cooperative Education placement:

- Make connections between school and work, while discovering if they like a career of interest before finalizing plans for post-secondary education, training or employment.
- See the relevance of their classroom learning in a work setting.
- Develop the essential skills and work habits required in the workplace and acquire a direct understanding of employer and workplace expectations.
- Gain valuable work experience to help build their resume for post-secondary programs and future employment experience, as well as authentic and purposeful learning outside a traditional classroom setting.

### Student Voice

"I love my placement at Enterprise Air in Oshawa. The experience has made me a better problem solver and has opened me up to a world of opportunities in the industry. I also feel that I have become more independent due to my Cooperative Education experience."



Marcus, Cooperative Education Student at Monsignor Paul Dwyer CHS

## Student Voice

"My placement allowed me to improve my communication skills by talking to patients in a tactful and respectful way. My efficiency with finishing tasks and problem-solving skills also increased as I feel confident in completing my work. I am required to critically analyze patients' charts and teeth to determine what treatment is needed for them."



Vanessa, Cooperative Education Student at St. Mary CSS

## Student Voice

"I completed my Cooperative Education placement at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences because I am interested in pursuing a career in Medicine. My placement exposed me to a variety of careers in health care, as well as a professional working environment. I recommend the Cooperative Education program to any student as it teaches you how to take initiative and how to be successful in any field, while helping you to network with others and have confidence in your work."



Cameron, Cooperative Education Student at All Saints CSS

# Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program



The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a Ministry funded school to work program that opens the door for students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations starting in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program. Students have an opportunity to become registered apprentices and work towards becoming certified journeypersons in a skilled trade, while completing their secondary school diplomas. Contact your Guidance Office or visit [oyap.com](http://oyap.com) for more information.

## Level 1 OYAP

Grade 12 students also have the opportunity to participate in Level 1 OYAP, during their final semester. Students in this program are registered apprentices that work towards achieving their Level 1 training in their respective trade, while completing their final four Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) credits.

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### How to apply?

If you are interested in applying to a Level 1 OYAP, please speak to your Cooperative Education Teacher or Guidance Counsellor to receive an application form.

The Durham Catholic District School Board partners with four other school boards to offer Level 1 OYAP.

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### What Level 1 OYAP programs are available?

The programs available are:

- Automotive Service Technician;
- Cook;
- Electrician;
- General Carpenter;
- Hairstylist;
- Industrial Mechanic Millwright;
- Plumber; and
- Welder.

### Program Goals

- Provide students with the opportunity to start training in a skilled trade, while completing the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- Enable students to make the school to work transition by direct entry into apprenticeship training.
- Provide employers with the opportunity to train the skilled workers they require.
- Address the problem of skilled trade people shortages.

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### Exit Pathway

Upon graduation from secondary school, students may:

- Continue an apprenticeship in order to earn a Certificate of Qualification.
- Begin a career that would provide them with skills to work anywhere in the world.
- Pursue skilled trade education and training.
- Own their own business.





"I had no idea what I wanted to do. I knew I wanted to work with my hands, I knew I didn't want to sit behind a desk. Everything connected for me in OYAP. The college works so well with the placement. The hands-on work in the college directly relates to what I'm doing at work, because I learned at the college first-where I was comfortable with my friends beside me who I asked for help. This gave me confidence to then go to my placement/my job and I wasn't powerless. I've seen the work before and now I can do it for my employer."

**Ben, Graduate of Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and Father Leo J. Austin CSS**

## Dual Credit Program

The Dual Credit program is designed to assist secondary students in the completion of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), while offering students a successful transition to college and apprenticeship programs. Students enrol in a first-year college course and upon successful completion, will earn both a college credit and a high school credit.

Through the Dual Credit program, students increase their awareness of college and apprenticeship programs which helps in the transition to post-secondary education, participate in a tour of a college campus while in high school and, best of all, earn their first college credit.

To learn more about Dual Credit courses available, speak to your Guidance Counsellor.

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### Delivery of Dual Credit Courses

Dual Credits are offered in two delivery models: Team-Taught and College-Delivered Dual Credits.

#### Team-Taught Dual Credits

In this model, the college professor and the secondary school teacher both provide the students with instruction. The college professor teaches the first-year college course, while the secondary school teacher teaches the high school course. There is significant overlap in the curriculum expectations in the two courses. The expectations are aligned and both teachers determine the sequence of instruction, assessment and evaluation practices. If successful, students earn both a high school credit and a college credit.

Examples of Team-Taught Dual Credit Courses:

Secondary School Course	College Course
Construction Technology (TCJ3C)	Basic Carpentry
Culinary Arts (TFJ3C/TFR3C)	Introductions to Global Cuisine
Families in Canada (HHS4C)	Introduction to Sociology
Green Industries (THJ3M)	Landscape Planning and Management
Hairstyling and Aesthetics (TXJ3E/4E)	Manicure and Nail Technology
Marketing (BMI3C)	Marketing 1
Native Studies (NDA3M)	FNMI in Canada
Transportation Technology (TTJ3C)	Automotive 1
Yearbook/Communications Technology/Photography	Digital Photography

## College-Delivered Dual Credits

Students travel to the college and complete a college course on campus. Students can complete this delivery model in two ways:

### 1. Centre for Success

The Centre for Success is a Dual Credit program located on the campus of Durham College. This program offers selected students the opportunity to complete their high school graduation requirements while also taking a college course.

### 2. Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Durham College offers Level 1 Apprenticeship Training in a variety of skilled trades such as: Automotive Service Technician, Cook, Electrician, Industrial Mechanic Millwright, Plumber or Welder.

## Student Voice

"I was really excited when I saw the Dual Credit Photography course on my timetable. Having a real college instructor in my high school classroom was a unique and rewarding experience. Before the course, I understood the basic controls of a digital camera, but wanted to learn more advanced features and options. We did that and more! We learned how to manipulate lighting, backgrounds and the camera itself. Our class, along with my high school teacher toured the Durham College Oshawa Campus for a day where I was able to see and experience college life, first hand. This tour solidified my pathway and gave me the confidence I need to apply."



Nathan, Dual Credit Student at Monsignor John Pereyema CSS

## Specialist High Skills Major



Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a Ministry funded specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector, while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). SHSM also helps students in their transition from secondary school to post-secondary programs or the workplace.

The Specialist High Skills Major program enables students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in the context of engaging, career-related learning environments and helps them focus on graduation and pursuing their post-secondary goals.

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**Since the introduction of Specialist High Skills Major programs, the number of Ontario students enrolled has grown from 600 in 2006-2007 to 54,000 in 2018-2019.**

### What is required for a SHSM?

Every SHSM must include the following four components:

- A bundle of 8-10 Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits that includes:
  - Four major credits that provide sector-specific knowledge and skills.
  - Two to four required credits from the Ontario curriculum, in which some expectations are met through learning activities contextualized to the sector.
  - Two Cooperative Education credits that provide authentic learning experiences in a workplace setting, enabling students to refine, extend and practice sector-specific knowledge and skills.
- Sector-recognized certifications and/or training courses.
- Experiential learning and career exploration activities within the sector.
- “Reach Ahead” experiences connected with the student’s chosen post-secondary pathway.

### Advantages of a SHSM

Pursuing a SHSM enables students to:

- Discover the relationship between school and careers.
- Customize their secondary school education to suit specific interests and talents.
- Hear and see first hand what a career in the sector feels and looks like.
- Develop specialized knowledge and skills that are valued by the sector and post-secondary educational institutions.
- Earn credits that are recognized by the sector and post-secondary educational institutions.
- Gain sector-specific, industry-recognized and career-relevant certifications and training.
- Develop essential skills and work habits that are valued by the sector and recorded using the tools in the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP).
- Identify, explore and refine career goals and make informed decisions about their post-secondary destinations.
- Remain flexible with the options to shift between pathways, should goals change.
- Network with post-secondary institutions, local industries and businesses.
- Gain confidence in their ability to succeed.
- Open doors for summer jobs and future employment opportunities.

## How is SHSM Recognized?

Students who successfully complete a SHSM receive:

- An Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) with an embossed red seal indicating “Specialist High Skills Major.”
- A SHSM record card documenting his/her achievement.
- Formal recognition on his/her Ontario Student Transcript.

## Applying for a SHSM

Please contact your Guidance Office to learn how to apply to SHSM. For more information, visit [ontario.ca/shsm](http://ontario.ca/shsm).

## Programs available

Contact your Guidance Office for a current list of SHSM programs available at your school. The following programs are available as of November 2019.

Name of Secondary School	SHSM Programs Available
All Saints Catholic Secondary School	Arts and Culture Business Health and Wellness
Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School	Arts and Culture Business Hospitality and Tourism Transportation
Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School	Construction Health and Wellness Non-Profit
Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School	Construction Health and Wellness Hospitality and Tourism
Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School	Arts and Culture Construction Hospitality and Tourism Non-Profit Sports Transportation
Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School	Arts and Culture Business Non-Profit Sports
St. Mary Catholic Secondary School	Arts and Culture Business Non-Profit Transportation

## Advanced Placement

Through Advanced Placement (AP) courses, students are open to a realm of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in secondary school. By taking AP exams, the opportunity exists to earn a credit or advance standing at many Canadian and American Universities.

AP courses assist in gaining a “head start” in university preparation by improving skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving. Necessary study habits are also developed in order to be successful with the rigorous course work.

AP subjects are studied in greater depth and detail. As a result, students develop responsibility for their own learning and develop greater reasoning and analytical skills.

Students who consider applying to AP programs have the following characteristics: high level of academic achievement (Level 4 or 80%+) in a broad array of subjects, independent, self-directed learners, ability to process information quickly, intellectual curiosity and responsibility for their own learning.

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### AP Courses available

Note: AP courses will run provided that there is sufficient enrollment.

Program	Grades	School
Biology	Grades 11-12	All Saints Catholic Secondary School Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School
Chemistry	Grades 11-12	Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School
English	Grades 11-12 Grade 12 Grades 10-12	All Saints Catholic Secondary School Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School St. Mary Catholic Secondary School
French	Grade 12	Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School
History	Grades 11-12	All Saints Catholic Secondary School
Mathematics	Grades 10-12	Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School St. Mary Catholic Secondary School
Physics	Grades 11-12	Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School
Science	Grade 10	Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School
Studio Art	Grade 12	All Saints Catholic Secondary School

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### e-Learning

e-Learning courses are online and provides students with a differentiated learning opportunity that does not require them to be in a physical classroom.

Our board offers Grade 12 e-Learning courses during the school year and a wide selection of e-Learning courses for students in Grades 10-12 during the summer. For a list of courses offered, check with your Guidance Office and/or visit [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca).

# Homework Help

Students can access homework help and resources by visiting the Launch Pad Learning Portal found on your school website. Sign in using your @dclive.ca email address and password. This information is available from your homeroom teacher.

## Student Resources



### Math Homework Help

TVO Mathify is a free online Math tutoring service available to students in Grades 7 to 10. The tutors are Math teachers located across Ontario. You can access this online resource at [tvomathify.com/students](http://tvomathify.com/students).

Students can ask questions and obtain Math help on Sunday to Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Other resources such as tutorials, listen and learn, calculator, locker and glossary are available 24/7.

To access, students must register online with their Ontario Education Number (OEN) and date of birth. Your OEN is found on your report card. Parents and guardians can also register as guests.

For questions, email [mathify@tvo.org](mailto:mathify@tvo.org) or speak to your Math teacher.

### Research links

Our secondary schools' websites provide online resources and links to help students with homework. Visit your school's website and click on Students, Homework Help or visit the Learning Commons webpage for research links.

### French Resources

Students taking French in Grades 9 to 12 can access French resources at [dcdsb.ca/French](http://dcdsb.ca/French). Students who continue to study Core French or French Immersion in Grade 12 are also invited to complete the DELF internationally recognized French proficiency exam. Resources for the DELF exam are available on [dcdsb.ca/DELF](http://dcdsb.ca/DELF).

## Alternative Education

Father Donald MacLellan Catholic Secondary School is home to our Alternative Education Program. This program provides students who require an alternate setting, program and teaching strategy with opportunities to prepare for transition to and from secondary and/or post-secondary schools, while creating a sense of community and belonging. Students who attend one of our Alternative Education sites have:

- Small pupil/teacher ratios;
- Technology support;
- Outreach opportunities;
- Non-academic supports; and
- Flexible schedules.

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### Programs

The following programs are available as part of our Alternative Education program.

- **Catholic Return Ticket**  
Primary site for Grades 7 to 12 academic and non-academic programming for students receiving a long-term suspension or expulsion. For more information, call 905-428-7161.
- **Reconnect – Learning to 18**  
Our Reconnect Program provides students aged 16 to 18 who are at risk of graduating access to teacher-led classes, Dual Credit courses at Durham College, outreach and credit recovery. Students can connect to support services such as Social Worker, Child and Youth Counsellor, Special Education and Guidance teacher and Psychological Services. Students are referred to Reconnect by their home school. The Reconnect Program is located at 458 Fairall Street, Unit 7, Ajax.
- **Centre for Success**  
The Centre for Success program gives students the opportunity to complete the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma while on the campus of Durham College. Students in the program come from all of our secondary schools to

earn both a secondary credit and college credit. The Centre for Success is part of the Dual Credit program funded and supported by the Ministry of Education's Student Success branch.

Students in this program attend classes taught by Durham Catholic District School Board teachers at the Oshawa Campus of Durham College. This unique program helps students make a successful transition from secondary school to college.





# Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre

## Empowering You to Succeed

Our Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre provides programming for infants to adults. Secondary students can access the following programs to earn high school credits:

- **Interdisciplinary Course for Athletes**  
This course is designed for elite student athletes who are participating in an athletic endeavor and wish to obtain an NCAA scholarship. Students will earn an Interdisciplinary credit IDP301 or IDP401 preparing them for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT). Call 905-438-0570 for more details.
- **Night School**  
Secondary students interested in completing a night school credit must speak to their Guidance Counsellor to register. Cooperative Education is also available through night school. For a list of courses being offered each semester, visit [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca).
- **Summer School**  
Our Continuing Education Centre offers accelerated courses and credit recovery classes during the month of July. These credit courses are available in class at a select number of Durham Catholic secondary schools or via e-Learning. Cooperative Education is also available in the summer. For more information, visit [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca) and speak to your Guidance Counsellor regarding registration.
- **e-Learning**  
Students can obtain a secondary credit by completing a course online through e-Learning. e-Learning courses are offered throughout the school year and during the summer. Students are asked to speak to their

Guidance Counsellor to learn more about courses available and how to register.

- **International Languages**  
Students in Grades 9 to 12 can take credit courses in International Languages through our Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre. Languages offered vary each semester. Students must see their Guidance Counsellor to register for the courses. Visit [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca) for more information.
- **Employment Training Programs**  
Our Continuing Education Centre offers employment training programs for students who are 18 years of age or older and have finished secondary school. Training programs include Personal Support Worker, Child Care Assistant and Custodial Services. Visit [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca) for more information.

For more information about programs and classes offered at Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre, visit [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca) or call the Ajax Campus at 905-683-7713 and Oshawa Campus at 905-438-0570.



# Planning for Post-Secondary

It is never too early to start planning your post-secondary pathways. Students can visit their Guidance Office or myBlueprint to access resources and online tools to research post-secondary schools, programs and apprenticeship options. If you are interested in college or university plan to attend their Open House events to visit the campus, as well as to learn more about their programs and application process.



## Website Links

To learn more about post-secondary fairs and to help plan your options, visit:

- **Ontario colleges**  
[ontario.ca/page/ontario-colleges](http://ontario.ca/page/ontario-colleges)
- **Ontario universities**  
[ontario.ca/page/ontario-universities](http://ontario.ca/page/ontario-universities)
- **University and College Fairs**  
[ontariouniversitiesfair.ca](http://ontariouniversitiesfair.ca)  
[ontariocolleges.ca/en/news/cip](http://ontariocolleges.ca/en/news/cip)
- **Study and Go Abroad Fairs**  
[studyandgoabroad.com](http://studyandgoabroad.com)
- **Student Life Expo**  
[studentlifeexpo.com](http://studentlifeexpo.com)
- **myBlueprint**  
[myBlueprint.ca/durhamcatholic](http://myBlueprint.ca/durhamcatholic)



## Financial Assistance

If you are looking for help to pay for your post-secondary education and training, we encourage you to apply to a number of loans, grants, scholarships, awards and bursaries.

### 1. Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

The Ontario Student Assistance Program is funded by the Ontario and Federal government for post-secondary students who maintain at least 60% course load. Check out the OSAP Aid Estimator feature that can be used as a guide to a possible assessment. Grade 12 students can apply online in the spring at [oasp.ca](http://oasp.ca).

OSAP offers funding through grants and loans. A grant is money you don't have to pay back and a student loan is money you need to repay once you have completed your degree or diploma.

OSAP can help you pay for:

- Tuition;
- Books, equipment and supplies;
- Mandatory student fees a school may charge;
- Living expenses (full-time students only);
- Child care expenses (for students with children).

The amount of money you receive depends on your:

- **Education expenses.** The amount of money you need for tuition, books, child care, personal living expenses, supplies and equipment.

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- **Course load.** Whether you are a full-time or part-time student.
  - **Personal financial situation.** Based on you and your family's income, family size, dependents and other factors.

## 2. Scholarships

A scholarship is an award based on a prescribed set of criteria. They are not always based on marks or for students going to university. Students are encouraged to begin researching scholarships well before their Grade 12 year. Scholarships are available from a number of institutions:

- Graduation awards from secondary school.
- Searchable scholarship databases at [ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca](http://ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca)
- University and College scholarships. Search individual school websites.
- Company awards. Ask your family!
- Ontario School Counsellors' Association [osca.ca/students/2013-11-07-18-12-28/scholarships-financial-aid.html](http://osca.ca/students/2013-11-07-18-12-28/scholarships-financial-aid.html)
- Yconic Resources [yconic.com](http://yconic.com)
- Scholarships Canada [scholarshipscanada.com](http://scholarshipscanada.com)

## 3. Bursaries

A bursary is financial aid that does not need to be repaid. The primary criteria for bursaries are financial need. When students are accepted to a program, they should contact the financial office of the post-secondary school they are attending to initiate a bursary application.





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