



## OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) FACTS

Recent changes to the laws governing apprenticeship in Ontario, have made Grade 12 graduation the minimum educational requirement for an Apprenticeship. The construction trades are the exception to this. However, even in the construction trades you will be hard pressed to find an employer or trade union that will sign you for the apprenticeship without at least Grade 12 graduation.

**OYAP** is the exception to the Grade 12-graduation rule. OYAP allows secondary students to begin their apprenticeships while still in secondary school although the apprenticeship won't become official until proof of graduation is confirmed.

Apprenticeship is a form of post secondary education controlled by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In an Apprenticeship 15% of the learning will take place, as outlined in the Curriculum Standards, at an approved PDA (Program Delivery Agent), usually a local community college or an approved private training facility.

In Halton we have a few secondary schools that have been approved by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities to be PDA's and deliver the apprenticeship curriculum to secondary school students. Students in these programs (**Concentrated OYAP** programs) have the opportunity to earn not only high school credits but at the same time they may earn pre-apprenticeship certification and with a mark of 80% or above they will be allowed to write an exam that can give them advanced standing in their apprenticeship by granting them exemption from the first level of "in-school" apprenticeship training.

In an apprenticeship the other 85% of the learning will take place on the job as outlined in the Training Standards supervised and taught by a certified journey person. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities set both the curriculum and training standards in conjunction with Industry Advisor Committees.

**OYAP** is a School to Career program specifically developed to help prepare high school students to make a smooth transition from high school directly into their post secondary apprenticeship program. In Halton we have two types of OYAP:

- **OYAP Coop** helps students prepare for apprenticeship by helping them gain work experience through coop education. It helps them get their foot in the door with a potential sponsor / employer that may be willing to sign or sponsor the student for their apprenticeship, if they can prove themselves during their coop placement. If signed for their apprenticeship, students will be sent to take the apprenticeship courses usually at a local community college for a minimal fee.
- **Concentrated OYAP** helps students have the advantage of earning advanced standing in the first apprenticeship credit while still in secondary school. Concentrated OYAP students increase their chances of being signed for apprenticeship by overcoming previous barriers to secondary school students finding apprenticeship. As for OYAP coop students, the cost of apprenticeship training is reduced while you gain work experience through coop education but in addition as a Concentrated OYAP student you can demonstrate to employers that you are worth investing in as you have the academic skills necessary to successfully complete the apprenticeship courses. In addition employers prefer Concentrated OYAP students because they are well prepared to work safely. They earn Young Worker Awareness, Standard First Aid, CPR, WHMIS training and certification, as well as Trade specific safety training as outlined in the Ministry's Curriculum and Training Standards.

Students must apply for the opportunity to participate in Concentrated OYAP programs. Priority in the selection process will be given to students who:

- apply in first semester for programs beginning the following year.
- show us that they are serious candidates by completing all the steps in the process, see Guidance for help.
- bring all their assignments, completed, to the interview.
- have read these pages and the brochure and make sure they understand the program.

The expectations of students in the program are high: they can expect 1 – 2 hours of homework per night, they must be committed to excellent attendance while in the program and make a commitment to safety. A mark of 50% will earn secondary school credits, higher marks are required to write the apprenticeship exemption exam.



## OYAP Educational Requirements and Pathways

Note grade 12 is the minimum educational requirement for apprenticeship. This could be with workplace, college, university / college or University Destination courses.

Often employers are prefer to hire apprentices which have taken math all the way through secondary school and in some trades Physics and or Chemistry would provide a good background.

High School students that have problems in these academic areas may have an EARAT assessment (Evaluation of Academic Readiness for Apprenticeship Training). This assessment will identify any weak areas in Communications, Math, and Science that you may have. Then you can be given study sheets for the weak areas that you can work on to prepare yourself for Academic Success in the apprenticeship courses.

Some employers set their standards even higher and will only hire those that have completed an **approved pre-apprenticeship program**.

This could be done at:

- a local community college for approx \$2,000 and would require college or university destination courses
- a private Training facility for approx \$4,000 and would be open to any destination
- a **Concentrated OYAP site** for approx \$ 0 and would be open to any destination

Please note the costs listed above are approximate and do not include text books, uniforms, safety equipment or additional training and certification costs.

Still other employers hire only graduates of College Technician or Technologist programs. To enter these programs you would have to check the Ontario College Guide and the college web site to see if college destination or college/university destination programs would best prepare you. Some students decide to go to university before entering apprenticeship. Concentrated OYAP programs are great preparation for Technician programs related to apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship is open to students taking high school courses at any destination. Considering apprenticeship as an alternative does not have to close any doors it may actually open a few. Since many colleges programs lead to apprenticeship, secondary school students could benefit from being involved in OYAP while in secondary school. Students could shorten the time it will take to become a certified trades person after college by working on Certification both at the college and in the Apprenticeship at the same time thus earning a college diploma and earning Certificates of Apprenticeship and Certificates of Qualification in the Apprenticeship at the same time.

In Halton students have the added opportunity through Regional Technology programs and Concentrated OYAP to prepare them selves for these college level programs. In addition if students can be signed for apprenticeship while still in high school they will have the choice of combining College and apprenticeship or simply beginning their apprenticeship full time and be sent to the apprenticeship courses at college for a minimal fee.

**Note:** Many College (1 yr.) Certificate, Techniques programs, (2 yr.) Technician and (3 yr.) Technologist programs are designed to help prepare people for an apprenticeship. These college courses are built around both the Apprenticeship Curriculum and Training Standards.

**Concentrated OYAP** can also help prepare students for apprenticeship related Technician / Technologist programs at college.



\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name



## OYAP Fact Sheet Assignment

Read the OYAP Facts sheet found in your OYAP folder or download it from the internet @ <http://www.schooltocareer.ca/oyap/oyaprocess.shtml> and then answer the following questions and add them to your OYAP folder.

1. The minimum educational requirement for most apprenticeships is grade \_\_\_\_\_
2. The only exception to this law is a secondary school student taking part in \_\_\_\_\_
3. Apprenticeship as a combination of in school education \_\_\_\_\_% and \_\_\_\_\_% training
4. The Apprenticeship curriculum standards outline the learning that takes place at a \_\_\_\_\_
5. A PDA (Program Delivery Agent) is traditionally a Community College. (True or False)
6. Name 2 more PDA's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Apprenticeship training standards outline the learning that takes place \_\_\_\_\_
8. Purpose of OYAP is to help secondary school students make a smooth transition into an \_\_\_\_\_
9. An OYAP coop is a co-op placement that has the potential to become an \_\_\_\_\_
10. Concentrated OYAP not only gives you an OYAP Co-op placement, it also gives you the opportunity to earn additional certifications that will make you more employable. You may also have the opportunity to earn an exemption from the \_\_\_\_\_ level of apprenticeship training usually taught at a college.
11. Successful OYAP students are expected to do \_\_\_\_\_ hours of homework every night.
12. Successful OYAP students are expected to be in class \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
13. Successful OYAP students are expected to have \_\_\_\_\_ attendance in the program.