

Auburn Drive High School

Gr 12 Information

Please Note that this document should be used only as a general guide. Each university/college/ private school may have unique application criteria and deadlines. Please check each institution for their pertinent information.

Common Terms – Talking the Talk

Post-Secondary: Any education or training after high school.

University: A post-secondary institution that grants degrees. They may also grant diplomas or certificates.

College: A post-secondary institution that grants diplomas or certificates

Private Institutions: These are institutions that are outside the Department of Education and are run as a private business. They include places like Carpenter Millwright Trades College, Da Vinci College, Eastern College, Maritime Business Academy, Success College and Maritime College of Forest Technology.

Certificate/Diploma: Accreditation given at the end of a 1 or 2 year program – often offered at a community college or a private institution.

Degree: Accreditation given at the end of a university program which is usually 3 to 4 years in length. An undergraduate or 'Bachelors' degree is the first level of degree offered. The next level is Masters then Doctorate.

Bachelor's Degree: These come in many forms and usually require specific entrance requirements (see admission requirements section). Here are a few common ones:

- Bachelor of Arts (BA): may major in history, philosophy, political science, English, international development, psychology, sociology, criminology, etc. May sometimes be referred to as Social Sciences or Humanities
- Bachelor of Science (BSc): may major in chemistry, physics, biology, math, geology, etc.
- Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm): accounting, economics, marketing, etc. May sometimes be referred to as a Business degree.
- Bachelor of Engineering (B. Eng): civil, electrical, mechanical, etc.

Your degree is often determined by the courses you take while at university i.e. you can get a BA with a major in psychology or a BSc. majoring in psychology – dependent on the university math and sciences you take.

Major: A student's primary subject of study – usually not selected until a student's 2nd year of study.

Minor: A student's secondary subject of study – usually not selected until a student's 2nd year of study.

University Calendar: A **very** comprehensive book published annually by each educational institution that lists programs, courses, admission policies, fees, scholarships, etc. These are detailed and may require assistance to use.

View Book: A smaller version of a university calendar that is geared for first time students and is very user friendly.

Credit Hour: A standard unit that universities use to measure course work:

- Full year course = 6 credit hours
- Half year course = 3 credit hours

A typical year in university is 5 full courses or 10 half courses (or some combination) for a total of 30 credit hours. However students may take fewer than 5 courses in a year.

Transcript: A complete record of a student's academic achievement (your marks). Post-secondary institutions want an *official transcript*, which means signed and sealed by us.

Advanced Early Admission: This is acceptance to a university based only on grade 11 marks - usually due in October/November. (Note: Very few institutions offer advanced early admission.)

Early Admission: This is acceptance to a university based on marks in courses taken in the grade 11 year -application usually due sometime in December or earlier. (Note: Not many institutions offer true early admission.)

'Regular' Admission: This is acceptance to a university based on first semester grade 12 marks and a few grade 11 marks – Application is usually due in **February/March**. This is also usually the deadline for students who wish to be considered for **scholarships**. You can apply after this date but you will not receive an entrance scholarship or be guaranteed entrance and/or residence.

Graduating from High School

In the fall and spring, a list of potential grads will be posted outside the Student Services office. These students will graduate providing they pass all the required courses they are currently enrolled in. If your name is not on the list and you feel you should qualify to graduate see your school counsellor IMMEDIATELY. Any grade 12 student who, at any time, drops a course or picks one up through Correspondence Studies, etc. must inform his or her counsellor to ensure this choice doesn't affect his or her ability to graduate.

The Application Process – Walking the Walk

How to Apply in 4 Easy Steps

Step #1 - Your Application: You must send an application. This is usually done online but you can still use the paper & mail route. Some paper applications are available in the guidance office. Please note that some programs may also have supplementary application forms (ex. Music) or portfolio requirements (ex. NSCC / NASCAD).

Important: If you are applying to a **university in Ontario** all applications must go through the Ontario University Application Center (OUAC). See their website at <http://www.ouac.on.ca/>.

Nova Scotia Community College takes applications on a first-come first-qualified basis, so it important to apply early in the fall; you are encouraged to apply while in grade 11.

Step #2 - Your Fee: You must pay a processing fee when you apply in order to be considered for admission. An average application fee is \$50.00. Please note that some post-secondary institutions and/or programs may have supplementary processing fees (Ex. Residence).

Step #3 – Your Transcript: The post-secondary institution will need to receive an official transcript of your marks. This is normally sent as soon as first semester Grade 12 marks are available unless you are applying for early admission.

Most post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia are now part of the MyTranscripts system through the MyNSFuture gateway. This system provides most post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia with transcripts of students when they give their 10 digit student identification number on the post-secondary application. Visit the MyNSFuture-MyTranscripts at <https://www.mynsfuture.ca/mytranscripts>.

If applying outside of Nova Scotia, you must place an order with the guidance secretary for the number of transcripts you will need. You are responsible for mailing transcripts to the post-secondary institutions yourself.

MyTranscripts offers an alternative to the current application process which requires students who apply for admission to Nova Scotia universities and colleges to submit a paper copy of their transcript.

Nova Scotia high school students who are currently enrolled, or who graduated in 2012 or later, will be asked to provide their Provincial Student Number on the application for admission to Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) or Nova Scotia universities of their choice. The institution will create an electronic request for these students' records, and send the request to the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) via secure channels through the MyTranscripts system. EECD will reply through MyTranscripts with the records, and any subsequent updates to the transcript. Students will not need to send a paper copy of their transcript at any point in the application process. For more information, visit MyNSFuture.ca/MyTranscripts

Step #4 – Your Final Transcript: The post-secondary institution which you ultimately plan to attend needs your final marks. You will receive two official copies of your transcript on graduation day. It is your responsibility to send the transcript that is sealed in an envelope, unopened, to the admission office of the post-secondary institution you plan to attend. This is important because even if you are accepted in the spring it is only a **conditional acceptance until they receive your final transcript**.

When to Apply and When Things Start to Happen

September – Send application and transcript to N.S. Community College. You are encouraged to apply while in grade 11.

October - Applications and transcripts must be sent to universities for Advanced Early admissions. You will need to request a transcript from guidance secretary. Again you must send the transcript, the application and the fee.

October – February: Applications and transcripts must be sent for early admission. Check the deadlines as outlined by the particular post-secondary institution's calendar. Again you must send the transcript, the application and the fee.

February: Applications and transcripts must be sent for regular admission and scholarship consideration.

March – June: Final decision is made as to which post-secondary institution you plan to attend. They will require an additional deposit (often around \$100) to secure your spot. Please inform the guidance office of your final choice.

June - The transcript with your final marks will be sent. Once again, you will get an official copy of your transcript in sealed envelope on graduation day. It is your responsibility to send this transcript, unopened, to the admissions office. This is important because even if you are accepted in the spring it is only a **conditional acceptance** until they receive your final transcript.

What Happens Next?

Depending on when you apply, the college or university admissions office will send you one of the 3 following letters:

- conditional acceptance letter – you are accepted providing your final transcript is acceptable.
- letter of deferral – they want to see your mid-semester 2 marks or final marks before deciding.
- rejection letter – you do not have the qualifications to be accepted.

When you are accepted, come down to student services and let us know, that way we can keep track, figure out internal scholarships, and congratulate you on your post-secondary plans.

How Post-Secondary Institutions Decide Who to Accept

University

Universities expect students to have at least 5 university acceptance courses (academic or advanced) at the grade 12 level. The marks in these five courses will be used to determine your *admission average*. Every program has a different set of criteria for admissions. The following are typical for many universities in Atlantic Canada.

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.): You need English 12 and four other academic grade 12 courses.
- Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.): You need English 12, Pre-Cal12, two Science 12s, and one other academic grade 12 course.
- Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm.): You need English 12, Academic Math 12 (or usually Pre-Cal12 outside of N.S.) and three other academic grade 12 courses.
- Bachelor of Engineering (B. Eng.): Need English 12, Pre-cal12, Chemistry 12, Physics 12 and one other academic grade 12 course.

CAUTION! Some universities might require other courses for certain programs, or may not accept some courses that are coded as academic. For example, you must check on courses such as Film and Video 12, Phys. Ed. Leadership 12, Business Technology 12, Co-operative Education 12.

Calculating Admission Averages:

Most admission averages are calculated by university admission offices at the end of the first semester of grade 12. Since most students have completed only 3 grade 12 courses at that time, they supplement these with 2-3 grade 11 marks of their choice. In addition, they often set minimum overall averages and/or minimum marks in certain courses.

Community College

With the exception of a few programs, the entrance requirement for NSCC is a high school graduation diploma. Check admission requirements at <http://www.nsc.ca/Admissions/index.asp> and again, apply early!

How Do I Decide Where to Go?

Representative Visits

University and other post-secondary representatives will be visiting our school during the school year to meet with students. AARAO (Atlantic Association of Registrars and Admissions Officers) Career Fair is in the fall, but representatives from institutions come to visit the school often—watch the web site and listen for announcements. The dates, locations and times of these meetings will be announced on the P.A., with sign up in the Student Services office. Students are required to sign up for presentations in advance in Student Services. Due to COVID-19, the visits will not be in person, but done virtually.

These presentations provide an excellent opportunity for everyone to have their questions answered. Most of the institutions are here only once so don't miss out!

Open Houses:

Watch the bulletin boards in Student Services and check the website! Attending an open house at an institution allows you to get a feel for the campus in a way you never can by just reading about it. On-the-spot admissions can sometimes be possible at open houses, so be prepared with a completed application and current in-progress transcript. If you attend an open house during a school day, please bring confirmation of your attendance back to school so your absence can be recorded as a "School Based Activity".

Universities in the United States

Those students considering applying to universities in the United States should check with Student Services regarding the writing of the S.A.T. and/or ACT Test. These tests run at different times throughout the year and require registration approximately 6 weeks in advance. The tests can be applied for online and are written at Dalhousie University.

How to Pay for It All (Or at Least Part of It)

Scholarships/Awards

Scholarships/Awards are usually available from 3 main sources:

Post-Secondary Institutions

These scholarships are specific to the school, i.e. you have to attend there to get them. They usually have well laid out criteria. Many are just marks-based and may not require a special application, while others have broader criteria involving leadership, community

involvement, etc. which often do require a separate application. Some of these scholarships have an application while others are automatic, so ask the specific institution about their process. There are also a number of 'in-course' scholarships for students beyond their first year of study. Don't forget to ask about those once you are there!

Companies, Organization, Groups and Individuals

Various organizations and companies provide these scholarships and the awards are usually not affiliated with any particular post-secondary institution. They each have specific criteria – some combination of marks, leadership, community, involvement, financial need, or other. Students must apply for these awards individually. Parents, please check with your employer—there may be scholarships/bursaries to access.

The Awards Committee of Auburn Drive High School also gives out scholarship/award money. This money comes from various individuals or groups in the community who have asked us to oversee the selection of suitable candidates. The criteria for these awards vary greatly and we can't stress enough that **THEY ARE NOT JUST FOR STUDENTS WITH HIGH MARKS!!** In order to be considered for these awards graduating students must fill out an application form on-line; the application is usually available in April. We encourage all grade 12 students to fill out this form to ensure they are considered!

Bursaries

Bursaries are monies available from institutions that are based on financial need. Like scholarships, they do not have to be repaid.

Student Assistance (Student Loans)

Student loans are provided by the Federal/Provincial Government and usually provide funding for students in financial need. The applications do not come out until late in the year (usually early May) and you must apply online. Unlike the free money of scholarships and bursaries, you do have to pay back student loans (plus interest) after your post-secondary studies. If you don't qualify for a student loan based on your family income, see your bank about getting a student line of credit. Check out the Nova Scotia Student Assistance site: <https://novascotia.ca/studentassistance/>

ROTP (Regular Officer Training Plan of the Canadian Armed Forces)

Student must apply to be accepted and go through a stringent selection process, directed by a recruitment officer. The costs of tuition, uniforms, books, instruments and other essential fees are paid for by the Department of National Defence for the duration of a candidate's education. Check <https://www.rmc-cmr.ca/en/registrars-office/regular-officer-training-plan-rotp> for details on benefits and eligibility requirements

Department of Education & Culture African Canadian Awards & Scholarships

Students must apply for these awards/scholarships in May. Some are based upon acceptance at university or community college; others require achievement of a specific average of grade 12 marks.

Resources

Go to: <https://abn.hrce.ca/> and look under Our School> For Students> Scholarships list; this list is older, so you have to check for recent information on-line.

Other Scholarship websites to check out:

www.scholarshipscanada.com

www.myopportunities.ca

www.novascotiascholarships.ca

www.studentawards.com

www.universityreportcard.com

www.scholartree.com

www.schoolfinder.com

www.canlearn.ca

For more information about careers and post-secondary education, use the following website: myBlueprint at <https://app.myblueprint.ca/register?sdid=halifax>. You can use your "gnspes.ca" user information to set up an account and explore the site. Parents/guardians may also use the site after creating an account.

*Ultimately, it is your life and the onus is on you to 'seize the day' and make the most of it!
We are here to help and cheer you on.*

**Lindsay Munroe and Jeanne Buffett, Counsellors for Students with Surnames A – L
Janet Rose, Counsellor for Students with Surnames M– Z**