

Ontario Educational System

Basic secondary education in Ontario is composed of four years which are Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Students usually start at 13 or 14 years old and finish at 17 or 18 years old.

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) is granted to students who earned a total of 30 credits, completed 40 hours of community involvement activities, and passed the provincial secondary school literacy test. Each credit or subject requires 110 hours of studies, satisfactory attendance, successful completion of term work, assignments and passing tests and exams.

The 30 credits are divided into two categories: 18 obligatory credits (a certain number of courses in each subject area), and 12 elective credits. It takes a minimum of four years to complete the obligatory credits or subjects.

The optional credits are those chosen by the student in relation to his/her interests, and depending on what he/she wants to study in the future. Students choose the subjects that they want to take each year with a minimum of seven and a maximum of eight subjects.

Once students achieve the 30 credits, they may obtain a graduation diploma. Students who want to continue on to university should contact a specific university for admission requirements.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING SYSTEM

Each school can choose what scheduling system their students follow in order to take their subjects, i.e., semesters or annual. In the semester system, students study intensively up to four subjects each five-month semester which they complete in that period. On the other hand, if the system chosen is annual with three terms, students take eight subjects distributed throughout the year, and they split the total hours of each credit throughout the year. Most schools operate on semesters with the option of entering the school in early September or late January. Schools in Ontario have two holiday periods, one during Christmas, which is from approximately December 20 to January 3 or 4, and the second one in February or March and lasts for about one to two weeks.

Education in Ontario

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/>