PROFESSIONAL DEGREES

A professional degree is a program of advanced learning which leads to an occupation governed by a mandatory regulatory body. Professional programs usually require an undergraduate degree as well as a professional degree or designation and are typically run for up to two years. Examples of Canadian professional programs are included below.

*Contact the individual school or academic department directly for the most up-to-date admissions information*

APPLYING TO DENTISTRY

For a full listing of accredited Canadian universities offering Dentistry programs, as well as schools offering Dental Hygiene and Assisting training visit: https://www.cda-adc.ca/cdasweb/en/ (select “search for accredited programs”)

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST (DAT) (required by UofT and UWO)

The DAT is administered by dental schools to help students assess their capacity for a career in dentistry and to assist dental schools with admissions. The DAT is designed to measure manual dexterity, perceptual ability, reading comprehension, as well as science knowledge including biology and chemistry.

For information about the DAT including test dates, visit the Canadian Dental Association’s website: http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/index.asp

USEFUL LINKS

Ontario Dental Association - http://www.ontology.ca
National Dental Examining Board of Canada: https://ndeb.cn/en/index.asp (on becoming a licensed dentist)
To learn about dentistry as a career: http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dentistry/
To learn about related careers: (ie. dental hygienist, technician, assistant):
Visit: https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/services/internationallytrained/terms/

APPLYING TO NURSING

Below is a partial list of Ontario universities offering accelerated nursing degree programs. For a full list of accredited nursing programs visit the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing site: http://www.casn.ca/accreditation/accredited-canadian-nursing-education-programs/

ACCELERATED & SECOND ENTRY NURSING PROGRAMS IN ONTARIO

Accelerated programs are shorter in duration (“compressed or fast tracked”) and applicable to applicants with existing and relevant university level studies (varies by school).
Second entry programs typically run for up to two years and are available to applicants with a completed university degree (requirements vary by school).

McMaster University - https://nursing.mcmaster.ca/programs/undergraduate/bscn-accelerated
Queen’s University - https://nursing.queensu.ca/undergraduate/AST
Ottawa University - http://health.uottawa.ca/nursing/programs/grad-undergrad-studies
Western University - http://www.uwo.ca/hls/nursing/undergrad/bscn_ctf/index.html
Trent University - https://www.trentu.ca/nursing/programs/undergraduate/compressed-program

For additional degree programs as well as diploma programs visit: http://www.ontariocolleges.ca

USEFUL LINKS

To learn about nursing careers including RPN; RN, Nurse Practitioner:
Visit: http://careersinnursing.ca/new-nursing-and-students/career-options/types-nursing

Additional links:
- College of Nurses of Ontario: http://www.cno.org
- Ontario Nurses’ Association: http://www.ona.org
- Registered Nurses Association of Ontario: http://www.rnno.org
- The Canadian Nursing Students’ Association: http://www.cnsa.ca

APPLYING TO PHARMACY

For a full listing of Canadian and International universities offering Pharmacy programs, visit: The Canadian Pharmacists Association: https://www.pharmacists.ca/pharmacy/in-canada/directory-of-pharmacy-organizations/

Prior to applying to international programs, students are encouraged to investigate the licensing requirements of the province/country in which they wish to practice.

APPLYING TO PHARMACY

For a full listing of Canadian and International universities offering Pharmacy programs, visit: The Canadian Pharmacists Association: https://www.pharmacists.ca/pharmacy/in-canada/directory-of-pharmacy-organizations/

Prior to applying to international programs, students are encouraged to investigate the licensing requirements of the province/country in which they wish to practice.
A related career to Pharmacist is a **Pharmacy Technician**. To learn about accredited programs visit: [http://ccapp-accredit.ca/find-an-accredited-program/](http://ccapp-accredit.ca/find-an-accredited-program/)

### APPLYING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational Therapy is "a profession concerned with promoting health and well-being through occupation. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life." (World Federation of Occupational Therapists Council Meeting 2004, [http://www.wfot.org/AboutUs/AboutOccupationalTherapy/DefinitionOfOccupationalTherapy.aspx](http://www.wfot.org/AboutUs/AboutOccupationalTherapy/DefinitionOfOccupationalTherapy.aspx))

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Occupational Therapy

**Application Procedures and Deadlines**: Applications must be submitted through The Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service (ORPAS): [http://www.ouac.on.ca/orpas](http://www.ouac.on.ca/orpas) (typically available in mid-October for admission to the program in the following academic year).

The application deadline is typically early January.

**SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO**

- **University of Toronto**: [http://www.ot.utoronto.ca/](http://www.ot.utoronto.ca/)
- **Western University**: [http://www.uwo.ca/thesis/](http://www.uwo.ca/thesis/)
- **McMaster University**: [http://arc.mcmaster.ca/](http://arc.mcmaster.ca/)
- **Queen’s University**: [http://rehab.queensu.ca/programs](http://rehab.queensu.ca/programs)
- **University of Ottawa** (training is in French only): [http://health.uottawa.ca/](http://health.uottawa.ca/)

For a full listing of Canadian universities offering programs in Occupational Therapy, visit: [Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists](http://www.caot.ca/site/fts/res_for_students?nav=sidebar).

**USEFUL LINKS**

- Canadian Therapy Foundation (COTF): [http://www.cotfcanada.org](http://www.cotfcanada.org)

A related career to Occupational Therapist is an **Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA)**. Read about OTA careers and training programs here: [https://www.caot.ca/site/fts/res_for_students?nav=sidebar](https://www.caot.ca/site/fts/res_for_students?nav=sidebar)

### APPLYING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical Therapy is "a professional health discipline directed towards the prevention or alleviation of movement dysfunction, and towards the enhancement of physical capacity." The ultimate goal of Physical Therapy is to assist the client/patient to achieve the highest possible level of independent function. (Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Toronto, 2009).

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES**

Applications for Ontario schools must be submitted through The Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service (ORPAS): [http://www.ouac.on.ca/orpas](http://www.ouac.on.ca/orpas) (typically available in mid-October for admission to the program in the following academic year). To obtain an application, choose the “Request an Application Package” option. The application deadline is typically early January.

**SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO**

- **McMaster University**: [http://srs.mcmaster.ca/](http://srs.mcmaster.ca/)
- **Queen’s University**: [http://rehab.queensu.ca/programs](http://rehab.queensu.ca/programs)
- **University of Ottawa** (training is in French only): [http://health.uottawa.ca/](http://health.uottawa.ca/)
- **University of Toronto**: [http://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/admissions/](http://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/admissions/)

**USEFUL LINKS**

- College of Physiotherapists of Ontario: [http://www.cpo.org](http://www.cpo.org)
- **Canadian Physiotherapy Association**: [http://www.physiotherapy.ca](http://www.physiotherapy.ca)

A related career to Physiotherapist is a **Physiotherapy Assistant (PTA)**. Read about PTA careers and training programs here: [https://physiotherapy.ca/becoming-pta](https://physiotherapy.ca/becoming-pta)

### APPLYING TO SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY

Speech-language pathology (SLP) "is concerned with the study, assessment, and treatment of disorders of speech and language. Speech-language pathologists assess and treat communication disorders in children and adults." (The Department of Language Pathology at the University of Toronto, [http://www.slp.utoronto.ca/about-us/the-history-of-slp](http://www.slp.utoronto.ca/about-us/the-history-of-slp)). You may also be interested in Audiology which assesses, diagnoses and treats a broad range of hearing and balance disorders. These programs are taught in some of the same
Canadian schools as SLP and are regulated by the same professional bodies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Applications for Ontario schools must be submitted through The Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service (ORPAS): http://www.orpas.on.ca/ (typically available in mid-October for admission to the program in the following academic year). The application deadline is typically early January.

SCHOOLS IN CANADA
For a listing of Canadian universities offering programs in SLP and / or Audiology, visit: Speech Language & Audiology Canada: http://www.sac-oac.ca/students/academic-programs

USEFUL LINKS
• College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario: http://www.caspo.com
• Ontario Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists: http://www.osla.on.ca
• Speech Language Audiology Canada: http://sac-oac.ca

A related career to SLP and Audiology is Communication Health Assistant (CHA). Read about CHA careers and training programs here: https://www.sac-oac.ca/communication-health-assistants/home

APPLYING TO SOCIAL WORK & COUNSELLING PROGRAMS

What is Social Work?
Social work is a profession concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being. It aims to help people develop their skills and their abilities to use their own resources and those of the community to resolve problems. Social work is concerned with individual and personal problems but also with broader social issues.

Education: the minimum educational requirement to become a social worker is a Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree. Agencies that hire social workers may prefer applicants who have earned a master’s degree (M.S.W.) and is generally required to advance to senior positions and perform specialized work such as therapy. College and university teaching positions require a PhD in social work.

Ontario Faculties of Social Work (offering both Bachelor & Master’s degree programs – B.S.W. & M.S.W.)
• Carleton University – http://www.carleton.ca/ssw
• Lakehead University – https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/social-work
• McMaster University – http://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/social-work
• York University – http://swk.taps.yorku.ca/
• University of Western Ontario, King’s University College www.kings.uwo.ca/academics/school-of-social-work/
• University of Windsor – http://www.uwindsor.ca/socialwork/
• Renison University College (affiliated with University of Waterloo): https://uwaterloo.ca/school-of-social-work/
• Ryerson / Waterloo University: http://www.ryerson.ca/socialwork/
• University of Toronto: http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/ (* M.S.W & PhD only *)

For a full listing of Canadian universities offering BSW / MSW / PhD programs in Social Work, visit: Canadian Association for Social Work Education: https://caswe-actfs.ca/commission-on-accreditation/list-of-accredited-programs/

USEFUL LINKS
• Canadian Association of Social Work Education: http://caswe-actfs.ca/about-us/mission/
• Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers: http://www.ocswsw.org
• Ontario Association of Social Workers: http://www.oasw.org
• Canadian Association of Social Workers: http://www.casw.org

A related career to Social Work is Social Service Worker (SSW). Read about SSW careers and training programs here: https://www.osswa.ca/socialservicework/

What is Counselling / Psychotherapy?
Counselling is a highly interpersonal process that focuses on enabling human change. Counselling addresses areas such as personal growth, career development, wellness, relationships, mental health, and psychological illness or distress. As you research this field you will likely come across the term “psychotherapy”. While there is no clear distinction in activity between both areas of practice, the differences relate more to one’s training, interests and chosen work setting. For example, a psychotherapist working in a hospital will likely focus on specific and severe psychological disorders in contrast to the wider range of challenges encountered in practice by a counsellor.

Credentiaing (ie registration with a regulatory college) takes place after completing a counselling program and enables one to work and practice in the field. Credentiaing is a provincial responsibility in Canada and is increasingly becoming the norm country-wide. Many employers will look for certified counsellors or psychotherapists as this will show that they are professionals that are bound by a code of ethics, a standard of practice, a disciplinary procedure and who are required to maintain their certification through regular professional development.


USEFUL LINKS:
o Canadian Counselling & Psychotherapy Association: https://www.ccpa-accp.ca/
**APPLYING TO ENGINEERING**

Engineering is a section of technology and science that focuses on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of structures, machines, materials, software, devices, systems, processes and organizations. Engineering consists of many areas of practice (i.e. astronomical; chemical and robotics engineering).

To work as a professional engineer in Canada, you are required by law to be licensed (which represents the highest standard of proficiency in the field and is in place to assure that quality and safety standards are met to protect the general public).


**USEFUL LINKS:**

To explore different fields within engineering (including engineering technology careers) visit the following sites:

https://tryengineering.org/students/engineering-computing-and-technology-fields/
https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-engineering-careers#engineering

For engineering degree programs across Canada visit:
https://engineerscanada.ca/accreditation/accredited-programs

To learn about professional licensing (by province) visit: provincial and territorial engineering regulators.

**ADMISSION TESTS** (in addition to those previously mentioned)

Admission tests are required by numerous professional faculties and graduate schools. Typically, they are prepared and administered by American agencies, although there are numerous testing centres across Canada. Some good books on admission tests are available for use at the UTM Career Centre. To access admission test preparation e-books, visit:
http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=373504&p=2526368

For further information about any of the tests, visit the web sites below or contact the administering agency by phone or e-mail. On-line registration is also possible for most tests via their web sites.

- **GMAT** (Graduate Management Admission Test) http://www.mba.com/global/the-gmat-exam.aspx
- **MCAT** (Medical College Admissions Test) https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/
- **LSAT** (Law Schools Admissions Test) http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/about
- **GRE** (Graduate Records Examination): http://www.ets.org/gre
- **TOEFL** (Test of English as a Foreign Language): http://www.ets.org/toefl

**CASPer Test:** Computer-Based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics, used in professional programs including some nursing and medical training programs. Check each school’s admission page for testing information. CASPer is an online selection test designed to measure key personal and professional characteristics (eg. professionalism, empathy, compassion and cultural sensitivity. Consult individual schools for test requirements. For test information visit: takecasper.com

**CAREER CENTRE EVENTS & RESOURCES**

Graduate & Professional Schools Fair: Annually in September (see utm Career Centre events calendar on our website for details: https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/events/events-calendar)

Get Experience Fair: Annually in September (see above link for details)

Professional and Graduate School Workshops: Attend workshops such as: The Road to Graduate School, Applying to Teacher’s College, and Law School and Medical School Information Sessions, offered fall and winter terms (see above link for details)

Resources & Links for Further Education (including Teaching, Law and Medicine among others): https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/further-education-0

Extern Job Shadowing Program & In the Field: Learn about various professions first-hand from individuals in the field. visit: https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/career-planning/career-exploration

Career Resource Library: See occupational binders and various career books at the Career Centre

Assistance with Graduate School Applications: Schedule an appointment with a Career Counsellor to have your CV or resume and personal statement reviewed with feedback

Individual Appointments:
Discuss questions about your career, further education, and professional school choices with a Career Counsellor. Call 905.828.5451 to book an appointment.

Please note that this information is subject to change. It is best to refer to the original sources for the most up to date information. (Updated May 2019)