



Five Steps to U.S. Study

Undergraduate Admissions

GRADES 9 TO 11 / SECONDAIRE 3 TO CEGEP 1

Step 0: Prepare for U.S. Admissions

- Commit to extracurriculars you care about
 - Take on leadership roles in clubs or sports
 - Develop work or volunteer experience
 - Feed your intellectual curiosity
- Take challenging, but achievable, coursework (**AP** or **IB** classes when offered)
 - Work with Guidance Counselor to meet pre-requisite requirements
- Prepare for and take the **SAT** or **ACT** (Grade 11)
 - Register for an upcoming test date (see Test Websites box)
 - Create a study plan
 - Sign-up for free practice resources (like **Khan Academy**)
- (Non-native English speakers) Take a **TOEFL**, **IELTS**, **Duolingo**, or **Pearson test**

Contact your adviser

Eastern Canada:
ottawa@educationusa.org
Western Canada:
vancouver@educationusa.org

Step 1: Narrow your Search

- Use the **EducationUSA website** to begin your search
- Schedule a free **EducationUSA advising session**
- Follow EducationUSA on social media
- Attend education fairs, **events**, and webinars
- Determine your priorities with **College Match exercises**
- Use **College Board Big Future** to search for good fit institutions
- Explore college websites and take virtual campus tours
- Schedule on-campus tours (if possible)

Test Websites

SAT: collegeboard.org
ACT: actstudent.org
TOEFL: etscanada.ca
IELTS: ieltscanada.ca
Duolingo:
englishtest.duolingo.com
Pearson: pearsonpte.com

Step 2: Finance your Studies

- Create a budget using a **college cost calculator**
- Review EducationUSA "**Finance your Studies**" document
- Consider **provincial loans and scholarships**
- Understand deadlines and eligibility requirements of university scholarships and financial aid

Follow EducationUSA

EducationUSACanada.ca
Instagram: @edusa_canada
X and Facebook: @edusacanada
YouTube: @EducationUSACanada

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE - GRADE 12 / CEGEP 2

Step 3: Complete your Applications

August-October

- Finalize your list of 8-10 universities
- Open and work on applications
- Ask recommenders to write letters
- Work on your personal and supplemental essays
- Take or retake standardized tests (if not completed in Grade 11)

Mid-October-December

- Early Action and Early Decision applications due (optional)
- Early admissions decisions released
- Some Regular or priority admissions due

January-February

- Most Regular admissions due (Jan 1)
- [CSS profile](#) for needs-based financial aid due (regular admissions)

March-April

- Regular admissions decisions released

May 1

- Select your university; deposit required to secure your attendance

Application Requirements (varies by institution)

- Application
- Application fee
- Official transcripts
- Standardized test scores
- Personal essays
- Letter(s) of recommendation
- Translations of non-English documents
- Art portfolio
- Interview
- Credit evaluation
- Proof of financial support

PREPARE FOR YOUR DEPARTURE

Step 4: Apply for a Visa?

- Receive I-20 from your university and pay [SEVIS fee](#) online
- [Canadian citizens](#) do not need to apply for a student visa
- Non-Canadian citizens, [apply for an F1 visa](#)

Step 5: Prepare to Depart

- [Watch](#) or attend an EducationUSA Pre-Departure orientation
- Know your [work options](#)

International students can work up to 20 hours per week on-campus

[Optional Practical Training](#) available for 12 months or 36 months ([STEM fields](#))

Crossing the Border

- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Proof of SEVIS payment
- Driver's License
- University contact info
- Your new address