

# What Grade 12 Families Need to Know

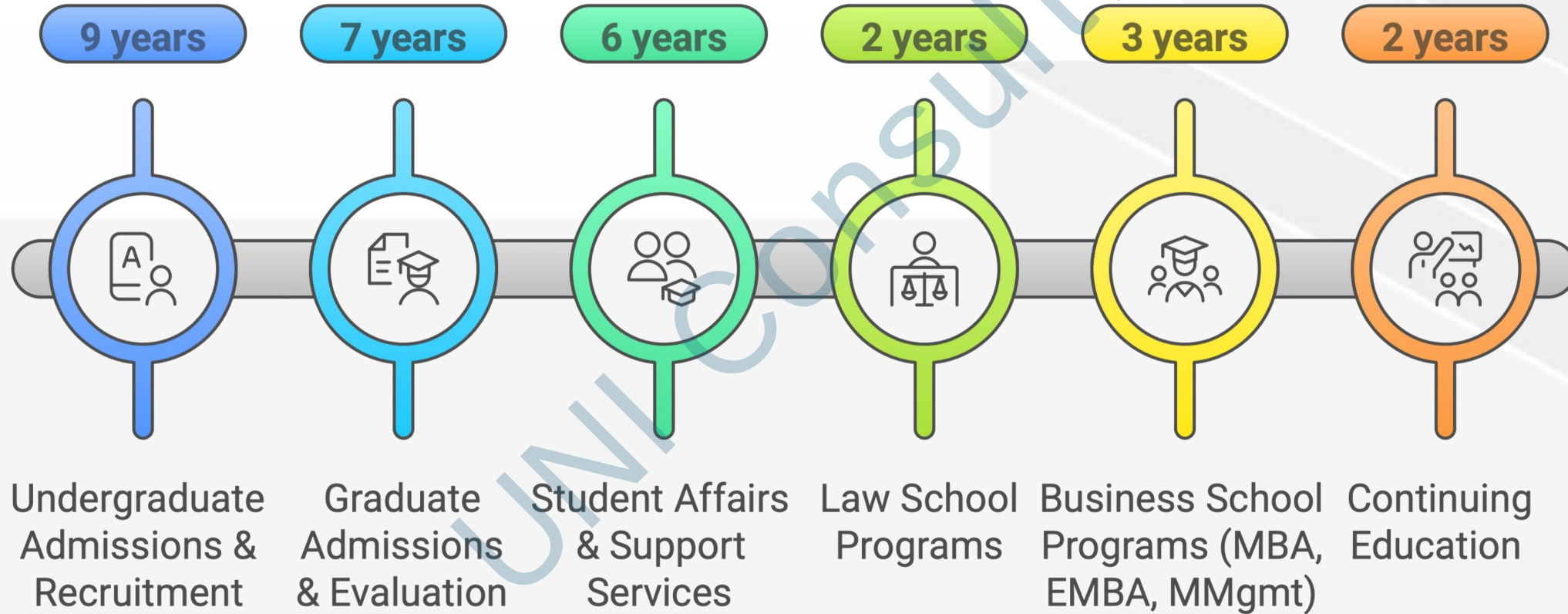
Applying for September 2027 entry

Renee Duan (B.A., M.Ed)

Uni Consulting

[www.ReneeDuan.ca](http://www.ReneeDuan.ca)

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# The year at a glance



*Most of this happens after you hit submit.*

# This is a project. You are the project manager.

## 1 Scope

Which schools, which programs, which components

## 2 Timeline

Open dates, deadlines, and the gaps between them

## 3 Deliverables

Transcript, statement, portfolio, references

## 4 Dependencies

Things other people control — request them first

## 5 Follow-up

Portals, checklists, outstanding documents

## 6 Change

A deadline moves. You adjust. You do not panic.

**PROJECT OWNER: YOU**

## Start with the student

01

### Interest

What work keeps your attention beyond the grade?

02

### Readiness

What do your learning habits and course results show?

03

### Conditions

Where could you learn well, with the support you need?

## Look inside the program

### First-year courses

Read the required course list. Would you want to do this work?

### Entry to the major

Ask when and how students enter their intended specialization.

### Experience

Check how co-op, placements or research opportunities are accessed.

### Future options

Check further study, professional requirements and transfer rules.

## Three different questions about admission

01

### **Eligible?**

Do I have the required courses, grades and other qualifications?

02

### **Competitive?**

How does my application compare in this program's selection process?

03

### **Ready?**

Can I manage the learning demands and conditions of this program?

**A published minimum is not a promise of an offer.**

# Same grades. Different admission rules.

How Grade 11 and Grade 12 marks are assessed for Alberta high school applicants

## McMaster University

Grade 12 results required for an offer

### GRADE 11 MARKS

May inform a preliminary review when Grade 12 marks are missing; Grade 11 marks alone will not cause a refusal.

### WHEN AN OFFER CAN BE MADE

At least 3 Grade 12 courses with interim or final marks, plus registration in remaining required courses.

### GRADE 12 MARKS

Grade 12 performance drives offer decisions; updated results and required prerequisites must be supplied.

## University of Alberta

Grade 11 can support earlier offers

### GRADE 11 MARKS

Final Grade 11 equivalent marks are used where final Grade 12 marks are not yet available.

### WHEN AN OFFER CAN BE MADE

Exceptionally competitive students may receive an offer using Grade 11 marks alone; most need some final Grade 12 marks.

### GRADE 12 MARKS

New final Grade 12 marks update the admission average. Applicants may be reassessed and must meet offer conditions.

### PLANNING IMPLICATION

Strong Grade 11 results can accelerate UAlberta review; McMaster applicants need strong, timely Grade 12 evidence.

# Fall 2025 Admission Averages for Finalizing Offers of Admission

| Faculty/Program                                   | High School Average         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Arts                                              | (%)                         |
| Dance, Bachelor of Music, Visual Studies*         | 79                          |
| Economics                                         | 81                          |
| Law and Society                                   | 81                          |
| Political Science                                 | 82                          |
| Psychology                                        | 92                          |
| All other programs                                | 79                          |
| Cummings School of Medicine                       |                             |
| Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation              | 78                          |
| Bachelor of Health Sciences*                      | 87                          |
| Haskayne School of Business                       |                             |
| Bachelor of Commerce                              | 84                          |
| Kinesiology                                       |                             |
| Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Kinesiology       | 87.4                        |
| Biomechanics                                      | 87.4 (92.4 without Math 31) |
| Nursing                                           |                             |
| Bachelor of Nursing                               | 91                          |
| School of Architecture Planning and Landscape     |                             |
| Bachelor of Design in City Innovation             | 83                          |
| Schulich School of Engineering                    |                             |
| Bachelor of Engineering                           | 90 (95 without Math 31)     |
| Combined BSc Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce | 90                          |
| Science                                           |                             |
| Biochemistry                                      | 93.2                        |
| Biological Sciences, Plant Biology, Zoology       | 88.6                        |
| Cellular, Molecular & Microbial Biology           | 92                          |
| Chemistry, Environmental Science, Natural Science | 84.5                        |
| Computer Science                                  | 85.5                        |
| Data Science                                      | 82                          |
| Neuroscience                                      | 96.1                        |
| All other programs                                | 84                          |

| Faculty/Program                                                      | High School Average |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Werklund School of Education                                         | (%)                 |
| On campus, 4 and 5-Year Concurrent Bachelor of Education             |                     |
| Drama, Fine Arts, Music, Visual Arts (Elementary)                    | 86                  |
| Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts (Secondary)                         | 85                  |
| Early Childhood Education (Elementary)                               | 90                  |
| English Language Learners (Elementary)                               | 86                  |
| English Language Arts (Elementary and Secondary)                     | 90                  |
| French (Elementary and Secondary)                                    | 81.4                |
| Inclusive Education (Elementary)                                     | 85                  |
| Math (Elementary and Secondary)                                      | 84                  |
| Physical Education (Elementary and Secondary)                        | 86                  |
| Second Languages (Elementary)                                        | 84                  |
| Science (Elementary)                                                 | 88                  |
| Science - Biology (Secondary)                                        | 90                  |
| Science - Chemistry (Secondary)                                      | 83                  |
| Science - Physics (Secondary)                                        | 83                  |
| Social Studies (Elementary and Secondary)                            | 86                  |
| Social Studies - Revitalization of Indigenous Languages (Elementary) | 81                  |
| 4-Year Bachelor of Education (Community-Based)                       |                     |
| Early Childhood Education (K-12)                                     | 75                  |
| English Language Arts (K-12)                                         | 75                  |
| Mathematics (K-12)                                                   | 75                  |
| Science (K-12)                                                       | 75                  |
| Social Studies (K-12)                                                | 75                  |
| Social Studies - Revitalization of Indigenous Languages (K-12)       | 75                  |

**DISCLAIMER:** These averages are specific to the fall 2025 intake for students to finalize their offer of admission. Students applying for a future intake should consult the [admission requirements page](#) as these averages listed here are not predictive of the required averages for future years. To [finalize admission](#), students must complete all [30-level course requirements](#) (or equivalent), ensure their final average has not fallen more than 3-5% (program dependent) below the admission average for finalizing offers of admission.

# Fall 2026 Admission Averages for Finalizing Offers of Admission

| FACULTY/PROGRAM                                                                      | HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGE     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ARTS                                                                                 | (%)                     |
| Dance; Bachelor of Music; Visual Studies*                                            | 79.5                    |
| Economics                                                                            | 85                      |
| Law and Society; Political Science                                                   | 82                      |
| Psychology                                                                           | 88.8                    |
| Sociology                                                                            | 79                      |
| All other programs                                                                   | 79.5                    |
| CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE                                                          |                         |
| Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation                                                 | 83                      |
| Bachelor of Health Sciences*                                                         | 87                      |
| HASKAYNE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS                                                          |                         |
| Bachelor of Commerce                                                                 | 88.5                    |
| KINESIOLOGY                                                                          |                         |
| Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Kinesiology                                      | 90                      |
| Bachelor of Science in Biomechanics                                                  | 90 (95 without Math 31) |
| NURSING                                                                              |                         |
| Bachelor of Nursing                                                                  | 82                      |
| Bachelor of Nursing: Community Route, Indigenous Community Route                     | 70                      |
| SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE                                        |                         |
| Bachelor of Design in City Innovation                                                | 86                      |
| SCHULICH SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING                                                       |                         |
| Bachelor of Engineering                                                              | 92 (97 without Math 31) |
| Combined BSc Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce                                    | 93 (98 without Math 31) |
| SCIENCE                                                                              |                         |
| Biochemistry                                                                         | 95                      |
| Biological Sciences; Cellular, Molecular & Microbial Biology; Plant Biology; Zoology | 92                      |
| Chemistry; Natural Science                                                           | 89                      |
| Computer Science                                                                     | 79.6                    |
| Data Science                                                                         | 81.8                    |
| Energy Science                                                                       | 86                      |
| Environmental Science                                                                | 84                      |
| Neuroscience                                                                         | 96                      |
| All other programs                                                                   | 86.8                    |
| SOCIAL WORK                                                                          |                         |
| Bachelor of Social Work*                                                             | 80                      |

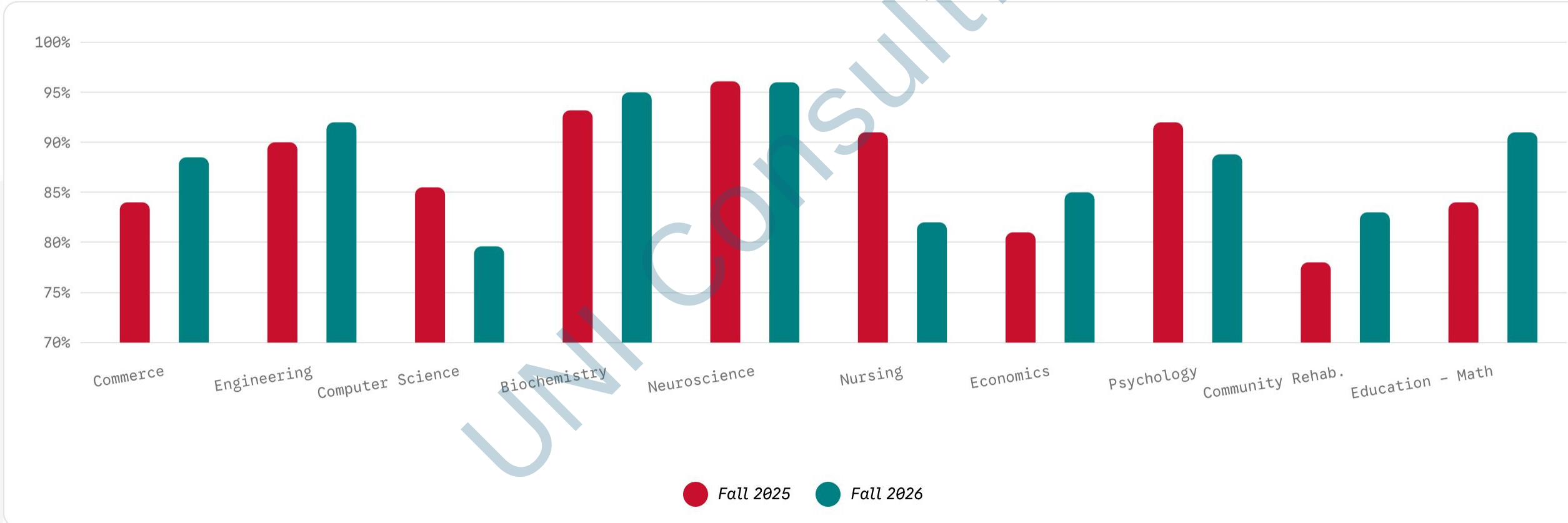
| FACULTY/PROGRAM                                                      | HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| WERKLUND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION                                         | (%)                 |
| On campus, 4 and 5-Year Concurrent Bachelor of Education             |                     |
| Drama; Fine Arts; Music; Visual Arts (Elementary)                    | 89                  |
| Dance; Drama; Music (Secondary)                                      | 90                  |
| Early Childhood Education (Elementary)                               | 92                  |
| English Language Learners (Elementary)                               | 86                  |
| English Language Arts (Elementary and Secondary)                     | 94                  |
| French (Elementary)                                                  | 87                  |
| French (Secondary)                                                   | 83                  |
| Inclusive Education (Elementary)                                     | 90                  |
| Math (Elementary and Secondary)                                      | 91                  |
| Physical Education (Elementary and Secondary)                        | 89                  |
| Second Languages (Elementary)                                        | 90                  |
| Science (Elementary)                                                 | 90                  |
| Science - Biology (Secondary)                                        | 92                  |
| Science - Chemistry (Secondary)                                      | 92                  |
| Science - Physics (Secondary)                                        | 90                  |
| Social Studies (Elementary and Secondary)                            | 90                  |
| Social Studies - Revitalization of Indigenous Languages (Elementary) | 81                  |
| Visual Arts (Secondary)                                              | 89                  |
| 4-Year Bachelor of Education (Community-Based)                       |                     |
| Early Childhood Education (K-12)                                     | 75                  |
| English Language Arts (K-12)                                         | 75                  |
| Mathematics (K-12)                                                   | 75                  |
| Science (K-12)                                                       | 75                  |
| Social Studies (K-12)                                                | 75                  |
| Social Studies - Revitalization of Indigenous Languages (K-12)       | 75                  |

**DISCLAIMER:** The admission averages listed are specific to the fall 2026 intake for students admitted through the early admission or standard admission processes for the purpose of finalizing an offer of admission. Students applying for a future intake should consult the [admission requirements page](#) as the averages listed here are not predictive of the required averages for future years. To [finalize admission](#), students must successfully complete all [30-level course requirements](#) (or equivalent), ensure their final average does not drop more than 3-5% (program dependent) below the admission average listed for finalizing offers of admission and obtain their Alberta Grade 12 Graduation (or equivalent) by the end of June.

# UCalgary Admission Averages (Finalized Offers)

Fall 2025 vs. Fall 2026 High School Cut-Off Comparison

- All Programs
- STEM & Business
- Arts & Medicine
- Education



# UBC Vancouver Entering Program Averages for 2026

| Degree Program          | Mean Average | Minimum Average | Degree Program              | Mean Average | Minimum Average |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Pharmaceutical Sciences | 94           | 85              | Music                       | 90           | 70              |
| Engineering             | 97           | 89              | International Economics     | 94           | 87              |
| Commerce                | 96           | 86              | Fine Arts                   | 89           | 74              |
| Kinesiology             | 95           | 89              | Media Studies               | 90           | 78              |
| Science                 | 96           | 85              | Design                      | 94           | 90              |
| Applied Biology         | 92           | 85              | Arts                        | 92           | 85              |
| Food & Nutrition        | 92           | 85              | Dental Hygiene              | 92           | 87              |
| Urban Forestry          | 88           | 78              | Indigenous Land Stewardship | 81           | 70              |
| Natural Resources       | 90           | 82              | Food and Resource Economics | 89           | 85              |

# How seats get released

## ROLLING

Files reviewed as they become complete. Decisions flow from late fall through spring.

*Early = genuinely better odds*

## ROUNDS

Everything held to a cut-off date, then ranked together.

*Early = scholarships and sanity*

## FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Limited seats. When capacity fills, the program closes.

*Late = the seat is gone*

## CAPPED POOL

A fixed number of seats. The line moves with who applies.

*Cut-offs are history, not promises*

*There is no scenario in which applying late helps you.*

## STRATEGY

# Right now the power is theirs. Your job is to get it back.

### REACH

Below the typical admitted range, or capped and unpredictable.  
Apply anyway — on purpose.

### MATCH

Comfortably inside the typical admitted range. Most of your list lives here.

### SAFETY

You clearly exceed the requirements and the program has capacity — including pathway and transfer routes.

### Where the power sits

#### Sept – March

They decide. You are asking.

#### April – June

You decide — but only if more than one school said yes.

*A dream school is not a strategy. A city is not a program.*

APPLYING

# Set up your infrastructure tonight

☐

## One tracking sheet

School, program, portal URL, student ID, username, deadlines, documents, status

☐

## Not your school email

It disappears when you graduate — and takes your offers with it

☐

## Junk folder, twice a week

Portal and interview invitations land there constantly

☐

## One email address

Personal, professional-looking, checked daily

☐

## The same password

Wherever the school allows it

☐

## Calendar reminders

Every deadline, set one week early

## Find every supplementary requirement

01

### Written work

Personal profile, short answers or other program-specific forms.

02

### Live or timed tasks

Interview, audition, test or recorded response, where required.

03

### Evidence

Portfolio, references or other requested supporting material.

# BEYOND GRADES: WHEN UNIVERSITIES ASK FOR MORE



Selected Canadian undergraduate programs | Fall 2027 entry

| UNIVERSITY | PROGRAM EXAMPLES                                      | SUPPLEMENTAL COMPONENT                          |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| UBC        | Most high-school applicants; Sauder Commerce          | Personal Profile; Commerce video response       |
| UCalgary   | Health Sciences; Dance, Music, Visual Studies         | Written questions; auditions or portfolios      |
| UAlberta   | Design; BFA Art/Drama; Music                          | Portfolios; auditions or interviews (by route)  |
| U of T     | Rotman; Engineering; CS; Architecture; Kinesiology    | Written/video responses; statements; auditions  |
| Western    | Ivey AEO; Engineering; Music; Visual Arts             | AEO application; Casper; auditions or portfolio |
| Queen's    | Commerce; on-campus Health Sciences; Nursing          | Written response and recorded video             |
| uOttawa    | Fine Arts; Music; Theatre                             | Portfolio or audition (depending on program)    |
| McGill     | Global Engineering; Population & Global Health; Music | Personal statement; essays; audition            |
| McMaster   | Engineering; CS; Health Sci; Arts & Sci; Nursing      | Written/video supplements; Casper (Nursing)     |

**TAKEAWAY** | Requirements vary by program—not university ranking. McMaster Business supplement is optional.

# What they actually ask you to write

UBC, 2025-2026 Application Question:

*Tell us about who you are. How would your family, friends, and/or members of your community describe you? If possible, please include something about yourself that you are most proud of and why. (maximum 1500 characters)*

# Before/after example

***Before:** My mother would describe me as her miniature self: sharp, passionate, and wired. Like her, I earnestly throw myself into the things that matter most to me, whether it's competing on the rugby field or guiding those younger than me in their development.*

**After:** My mother would say I am passionate, the kind who earnestly throws her hands and head into her craft. My friends would attest to my dynamism, which serves for a good laugh, unless quiet consolation demands. My rugby coach would call me sharp—swift to the breakdown: the ruck is ours.

TECHNIQUE

# What they ask you on camera

## MOTIVATION

“Why this program, and why now?”

## BEHAVIOURAL

“Tell us about a time you worked with someone difficult.”

## FAILURE

“Describe a time you didn’t succeed. What did you take from it?”

## SITUATIONAL

“A group member hasn’t contributed and the deadline is tomorrow. What do you do?”

## VALUES

“What does integrity look like in a team?”

## CURVEBALL

“Teach me something in sixty seconds.”

*All six are one question: how do you behave when it’s hard?*

## AI in the application process

01

### RESEARCH + ORGANIZE

Use it to generate questions or organize public information. Open the official source and verify every requirement.

02

### CHECK THE RULES FIRST

Writing, editing and interview uses may be restricted. Follow the institution's current instructions.

03

### KEEP OWNERSHIP

Your experiences, decisions and final answers must be accurate and yours. Protect personal information.

Waterloo's AIF uses human + AI review; its rules still require the student's own work.

## APPLYING

# Applying $\neq$ your grades arrived

|                                                                                     |                                            |                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <b>Ontario school → Ontario university</b> | Automatic. Your school sends the data file.                       |
|    | <b>Alberta school → Alberta university</b> | Shared through ApplyAlberta after you apply.                      |
|    | <b>Alberta school → anywhere else</b>      | You request it. You pay for it. You confirm it arrived.           |
|  | <b>BC school → anywhere</b>                | StudentTranscripts Service, plus your provincial student number.  |
|  | <b>Any school, many portals</b>            | Self-reported grades entered by hand — your typo is your problem. |

*Check that it was received — not that you sent it.*

# Two kinds of money — and only one finds you

## AUTOMATIC

Everyone who qualifies is considered

- Entrance awards tied to your admission average
- No separate form — applying to the school is the application
- Assessed on the same marks used for admission
- Often has a cut-off date to be considered at all
- Your average is doing two jobs at once

## YOU MUST APPLY

Nobody will come and find you

- Major institutional and leadership awards
- National external awards
- Community, employer and faith-group bursaries
- Separate essays, separate references, separate deadlines
- Many are less competitive than students assume

*Applying to the university is not applying for the money.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

# The deadlines are much earlier than you think

*Illustrative pattern — confirm every date on the awarding body's own page.*



## Submitted is only the beginning

APPLICATION → APPLICANT PORTAL → COMPLETED FILE → FOLLOW-UP

**1**

### Apply + pay

Check the program, campus and entry term.

**2**

### Open the portal

Activate the account and read the checklist.

**3**

### Complete the file

Send required documents and supplements.

**4**

### Confirm + monitor

Check receipt, messages and new tasks.

## HOW ADMISSIONS WORKS

# Five things an offer can be



**CONDITIONAL**

Yours if you meet the stated conditions



**FINAL / UNCONDITIONAL**

Conditions met — seat confirmed



**DEFERRED**

No decision yet — they want more grades



**WAITLIST**

Qualified, but no room right now



**REVOKED**

You had it. You lost it.

## Read the offer as a set of instructions

### CHECK THE PLACE

Program • campus • entry term

### CHECK THE CONDITIONS

Required courses • grades • completion • documents

### CHECK THE COMMITMENT

Acceptance date • deposit • separate housing steps

Use your offer and applicant portal; ask if any condition is unclear.

## Give students ownership—with support

### **STUDENT**

- Read instructions
- Track tasks and messages
- Write and submit own work
- Ask for clarification

### **PARENT / SUPPORTER**

- Discuss costs and practical needs
- Ask questions without taking over
- Agree on a check-in routine
- Help when a problem is identified

## Know where to take the question

**School counsellor**

Course planning, graduation requirements and school records.

**Admissions office**

Eligibility, documents, deadlines and offer conditions.

**Program / faculty**

Curriculum, major entry and program-specific opportunities.

**Specialist service**

Financial aid, housing, accessibility or international advising.

# How do we choose between offers?

## Academic fit

Which required courses and learning environment suit the student?

## Access to opportunities

What are the entry conditions for the intended major, co-op or placement?

## Financial and practical fit

Can the family manage the cost, housing, travel and daily routine?

## Support and flexibility

What help is available, and what options exist if interests change?

**Discuss the trade-offs and record why the chosen option fits.**

# 2027 application timeline & checklist

For September 2027 entry • Planning windows, not universal deadlines

SEP–OCT 2026



**Plan & prepare**

- ☐ Check prerequisites and admission rules
- ☐ Build a balanced list, including a Plan B
- ☐ Track deadlines, including scholarships

NOV–DEC 2026



**Apply & develop**

- ☐ Submit applications and pay fees
- ☐ Prepare written work and portfolios
- ☐ Ask referees early; apply for awards

JAN–MAR 2027



**Complete & track**

- ☐ Submit all required supplements on time
- ☐ Complete interviews / timed assessments
- ☐ Update grades; verify document receipt

APR–MAY 2027



**Compare & respond**

- ☐ Compare fit, costs and offer conditions
- ☐ Accept offer and pay deposit by deadline
- ☐ Apply for housing; retain a backup option

JUN–AUG 2027



**Confirm & enrol**

- ☐ Meet final grades and offer conditions
- ☐ Send final transcripts; confirm receipt
- ☐ Register for courses; arrange housing / funds

**EVERY WEEK**

Check email, spam and applicant portals. Track missing items and new deadlines.

Start earlier when required. Scholarships, supplements, residence and offers have separate deadlines. Verify every date on the official program page and in your applicant portal.



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Website: [www.ReneeDuan.ca](http://www.ReneeDuan.ca)

Email: [Contact.UniConsulting@gmail.com](mailto:Contact.UniConsulting@gmail.com)



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