



Maranatha/Edvance OYAP: **Frequently Asked Questions**

How does the OYAP option differ from regular co-op?

OYAP is a specialization of cooperative education with a focus on providing co-op students with work experience placements in the skilled trades. Students in a skilled trade placement fall under the OYAP option of co-operative education.

Who are the best candidates for the OYAP option?

Grade 12 students who demonstrate a career interest in a skilled trade, can learn effectively in a workplace based experiential learning placement, and have an aptitude in the skilled trades.

How does a student enroll in the OYAP option?

Students interested in OYAP are required to enroll in cooperative education. This can be done during course selection or at any point afterwards via the Guidance Department. Students will then receive an application package from the Cooperative Education Teacher.

When are students registered as apprentices?

Students can be officially registered as apprentices at any time during their OYAP work experience placement. Once they demonstrate an interest and aptitude for a skilled trade, and the employer is agreeable, students can be registered with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development. It is advantageous to register students as apprentices while they are in high school. Province wide, approximately 1 in 4 of students enrolled in the OYAP option register as apprentices. Registration is not automatic.

Why register students as apprentices while they are in high school?

It is not easy for young people to find apprenticeship opportunities without a support system. Students who wait until they have graduated from high school often experience difficulty finding apprenticeship opportunities. They may not be familiar with the process, where to go and who to approach. With the support system in place through OYAP, high school students who are suited for an apprenticeship receive the direction and support they need to begin an apprenticeship while they are in high school.

How does a student get signed on as an apprentice?

Co-op teachers and employers are vital in supporting OYAP and in identifying students who are suitable candidates for apprenticeship registration. Once the co-op teacher has identified students as apprenticeship ready, arrangements are made with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, employer and the student to sign Ministry documents. These documents consist of an Application for Apprenticeship Training, Training Agreement and Sponsor Agreement. Currently, apprentices must also register with the Ontario College of Trades. However, this may change in the near future.

Students under the age of 18 must have these documents signed by a parent or guardian.

Will the apprenticeship continue once the student graduates from high school?

The intent of OYAP is to provide students with a stepping-stone towards an apprenticeship with the hope of continuation. However, continuation largely depends on the circumstances of the employer. Students who do well in their OYAP placement have a distinct advantage over those who have not taken the OYAP option. To support continuation, a number of government subsidies are available for employers who wish to retain the apprentice after high school graduation.

What is the credit value of an OYAP work experience placement?

Students can take a two-credit co-op, which is a half day work experience placement. Summer co-op is available through the GECDSB and allows students who are registered as apprentices to continue to accumulate hours and skills toward their trade.

Is additional support available for students in the OYAP option?

The Edvance OYAP program provides vocational information for students interested in pursuing the skilled trades. This may include support in completing the registration process, information and events promoting awareness of careers in the skilled trades, a recognition when completing the program, and assistance with employment resources upon graduation.

What are the main advantages of participating in the OYAP option?

OYAP students have a definite advantage. Students are provided with enriched work experience placements and resources that can help them begin a career in the skilled trades as an apprentice. Many students secure part-time jobs after school hours, during the weekends, or during the summer months. While working, registered apprentices continue to develop skills and accumulate hours toward a skilled trade.

Specifically, the OYAP option allows students to officially register as apprentices while they are in high school, resulting in a considerable acceleration toward journeyman status at a younger age. The average age of an apprentice in Ontario is between 26 – 28 years, while the average age of an OYAP apprentice is 18. Assuming they continue their apprenticeship after high school graduation, students who are signed on as apprentices while in high school, may become a qualified journeyman eight to ten years ahead of their peers. Many co-op students in the OYAP option become qualified journeymen by age 23.

Must apprentices complete a college or other post secondary program?

Students who take the apprenticeship route through OYAP are not required to complete a college post-secondary diploma program. Registered apprentices are provided with the opportunity to attend in-school training at a college (trade school) or approved training delivery agent after graduation. This is available as either a day release or a block release program. In-school training is subsidized by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

What is in-school training?

In-school training is the theoretical component of an apprenticeship program and usually takes place after high school graduation. The average financial value of in-school training is approximately \$3,000 per apprentice per level, a portion of which is paid by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

The apprentice is required to pay \$400 – \$600 for each level of in-school training. Since apprentices earn while they learn, subsidized in-school training is cost effective in comparison to paying regular college tuition/fees. Depending on the trade, in-school training is often available to OYAP apprentices at a local Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology.

How does a Training Standard benefit a co-op student in the OYAP option?

Registered apprentices in the OYAP option are provided with a Training Standard related to their trade. Apprentices refer to the Training Standard during their co-op placements, and some of the Training Standards are included in the Students Cooperative Education Learning Plan. The employer “signs off” or verifies accomplishment of specific skill sets once the apprentice can demonstrate proficiency.

What if a student in the OYAP option wants to enroll in a college post-secondary program?

No doors are closed. If they are registered as apprentices while in high school and they wish to attend a community college to get a post-secondary school diploma after graduation, students can put their apprenticeship on hold. Once they graduate from college, they can resume their apprenticeship.

Is it acceptable to place a student in the OYAP option with their parents or relatives during work experience placements?

Yes, it is acceptable to place students with a parent or relative under the OYAP option if the parent or relative is a qualified journeyman. This arrangement can also serve to support succession planning, in situations where the parent or relative owns the business.

Can students in the OYAP option receive pay during school hours?

Yes, students receiving co-op credits in the OYAP option can receive pay during school hours in addition to co-op credits. However, the employer must assume WSIB responsibility if they are paying the student.

If a student wishes to take the OYAP option but this poses a timetable conflict, can the school accommodate the student?

Students are assessed on an individual basis and will be accommodated where possible and in the best interest of the student.

What level of education is required to go into the skilled trades?

A majority of the skilled trades require a Grade 12 diploma. The OYAP program enables high school students to begin their apprenticeship training while working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. This is an agreement with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

What level of math, English and science is required to pursue an apprenticeship?

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development's main focus is with the completion of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or working towards the completion of an OSSD. In addition to the OSSD graduation requirements, completion of at least one Grade 12 math and science are also recommended.

What is the cost associated with OYAP?

Students pay \$200+HST for participation in OYAP. This fee covers insurance through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), safety training provided by the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) (CPR/First Aid, WHMIS, Working at Heights, Power Elevated Work Platforms), administration and registration with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, and all Employment Ontario Information System – Apprenticeship reporting.

RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Starting an Apprenticeship

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/start-apprenticeship>

Employer Subsidies for Apprenticeships

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/hire-apprentice#section-3>