



Ontario  
College of  
Teachers  
Think About  
Becoming a  
Teacher!

**“When you walk in that door, you’re the kids’ world. You’re the one that’s going to make a difference.”**

**– Geoffrey Winship, Elementary Teacher**

## **Ontario needs teachers!**

Ontario’s education system needs thousands of new teachers – men and women, in elementary and secondary schools, particularly in mathematics, chemistry, physics, computer studies, French and technological education.

Ontario-trained teachers enjoy great success. Over 90 per cent of the teacher education graduates in 2003 found jobs teaching the year after graduating.

If you’re seeking security or career portability, looking to settle in a community or keen to travel and experience different cultures, teaching’s the way to go.





**Be unique.  
Be a mentor.  
Be an influence.  
Be a teacher!**

## 5 Steps to Becoming a Teacher

### Step 1

Get a well-rounded high school education, including good marks in mathematics, science and the liberal arts.

### Step 2

Gather experience working with children.

### Step 3

Decide what level and subject you'd like to teach. Explore the university and faculty programs to see which ones suit you.

### Step 4

Earn a postsecondary degree and a BEd or equivalent. To teach Grades 7 to 10 you need to qualify as an expert in one subject. To teach Grades 11 and 12, you must be qualified to teach two subjects.

### Step 5

Apply to become a member of the Ontario College of Teachers. Your registration with the College is your licence to teach in publicly funded schools in Ontario.

### Learning is life!

Today's teachers know and demonstrate it.

They couple their own enjoyment for learning with a willingness to share. They're motivated by making a difference in the lives of students and by building society – one student at a time.

Teachers are continually exposed to new people, situations and opportunities for professional growth and leadership. They are accomplished students themselves, curious by nature and dedicated to helping others grow and thrive.

If you're organized, flexible, thoughtful and caring...if you're looking for challenge, excitement and personal reward...if you're inspired to learn as you teach and teach what you love – then a career in teaching may be just for you.

### Getting There: The Paths to Becoming a Teacher

Today's teachers wear many hats and perform different roles.

They are communicators, counselors, classroom managers and role models, combining the right blend of knowledge, skill and temperament to succeed.

Good teachers collaborate with colleagues, parents, other professionals and community partners to improve student learning. They know their subject matter and use a variety of teaching methods and resources, including a range of computer programs and Internet resources. They track student progress and change and refine their teaching practices through reflection and career-long professional development.

The best preparation for teaching is a well-rounded high school education, including a strong grounding in the liberal arts, mathematics and science. If you're not sure whether you want to teach elementary or high school students, take a variety of courses. You can specialize later in university or your post-secondary studies.



# The more you learn, the better it gets!

**Do you love learning and love sharing what you know? Do you feel a sense of accomplishment from helping others succeed? Do you revel in situations that are new, varied and challenging?**

## What you need to do...

### ...to teach elementary school

In an elementary school, you may be asked to teach everything. Keep all your options open in high school by pursuing math, science, geography, history and English credits at the Grade 12 level. In university, you can specialize in one or two subjects from the elementary curriculum such as English, history, science or math. A course in psychology, child development or sociology of the family will also help prepare you for the classroom. A generalist background will help when you apply to a faculty of education or for your first teaching position.

### ...to teach secondary school

You will need to complete a post-secondary degree and a teacher education program – whether you teach in an elementary or secondary school.

However, as a high school academic teacher, you need to qualify to teach two subjects. At university, you may wish to take English and history, or music and mathematics, or mathematics and science. Take an honours degree if you think you might like to become a subject specialist, the head of a department, or a school administrator (vice-principal or principal).

### Volunteering

Tutoring or working as a volunteer with children or young people in school, community, camping or religious programs helps towards becoming a teacher. You will discover whether you like working with children and whether you have the temperament and personality to succeed.

Volunteer experience will also help you gain admission to a faculty of education. Most teacher education faculties consider applicants' experience as well as their university grades.

### Entry to faculties and to the profession

You will need good marks to enter an Ontario faculty of education. But marks alone aren't enough to gain admission. Universities will also consider your personal experience. Some also conduct interviews.

Ontario's teacher education program graduates are respected the world over. Schools across the province and around the globe seek Ontario graduates from Bachelor of Education (BEd) programs.

To teach Kindergarten to Grade 6, you need to complete a postsecondary degree and your BEd or equivalent. For Grades 7 to 10, you need to be qualified as an expert in one subject. To teach Grades 11 and 12, you must be qualified to teach two subjects.

**“It’s an amazing time to become a teacher. Education is a field where there is always growth.”**

**– Barbara Taylor, Principal**

### **Certification and the Ontario College of Teachers**

To become licensed to teach in Ontario’s publicly funded schools, you must become a member of the Ontario College of Teachers and pass a Ministry of Education assessment.

The College licenses, governs and regulates the profession of teaching in the public interest. It sets standards of practice and ethical standards, accredits teacher education programs and conducts disciplinary hearings.

To find out more about the College, visit [www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca), call the Membership Services Department at 416-961-8800 or toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222, or send an e-mail to [info@oct.ca](mailto:info@oct.ca).

### **Training to Become a Teacher**

Ontario’s faculties of education offer a variety of programs for teacher trainees. Please contact the faculties directly for admission requirements and more information. For a complete list, please visit [www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca).

### **Teacher training outside the province or country**

The Ontario College of Teachers evaluates the credentials of teachers trained outside the province. The College advises teachers whose qualifications do not meet Ontario standards how to acquire the necessary qualifications, usually at an Ontario faculty of education. For more information, visit the College’s web site at [www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca).

### **View the video series!**

To hear from Ontario’s fine educators first hand and to learn about teaching opportunities and rewards, visit our web site at [www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca) and view our “Be A Teacher” video series.



### **...to teach secondary school technological subjects**

You do not need to have a post-secondary degree to teach technological subjects – communications, construction, hospitality services, manufacturing, personal services, design or transportation. However, experience and proven competence in your field are musts.

You will need a high school diploma, five years of work experience in the technology subject area and the one-year teacher training program. You may also enter the teacher training program with less work experience if you have a combination of experience and field-related postsecondary education from either a university or a college of applied arts and technology.

“Mathematics, history, science —  
all these subjects come to life with  
teachers. Teachers give us skills to  
reach our goals and they can help  
shape our future to what we desire.”

— Kyle Sorensen, age 13



Ontario  
College of  
Teachers

Ordre des  
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