



St. Thomas More Collegiate

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# Grad '25 Parent Meeting

October 17



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# Navigating Grade 12 & Post Secondary Application Process

- Mr. Hank Bouwman – Sr. Academic Counselor
- John Spanjers and Yvonne DeWith

# Please note:

- These slides will be made available to you through the STMC website.
- All this information is review for your sons and daughters
  - Career Life Connections Class
  - Post-Secondary Information Google Classroom
  - Reviewed in Religion 12

# Easing the Stress!



The process can be quite daunting for you as, parents and, of course for your sons and daughters.

**While you may be new to the process, we are not.**  
***Trust the process.***

- Unless there are very unusual circumstances, **all our students graduate.**
- Mr. Bouwman teaches **all the grade 12's in Religion 12.** This gives opportunities to connect and help students with their plans.
- In addition, our teachers are excellent and will prepare and support your sons and daughters well!
- We meet with all our grade 12's in **Career Life Connections class biweekly** and give them related tasks.



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## Career Life Connections Explained

This is a mandatory course required for graduation!

We meet 16 times during the year. The course is designed to take the students through the steps required as they transition to their post secondary lives.

We help them ....

- Register on and use the Student Transcript Service
- Find and prepare to apply for scholarships
- Practice writing Personal Profiles
- Do Career Search by bringing in alumni
- Do research on Post Secondary Programs by bringing in grads and schools

**The students themselves must be proactive!!**

# Application Process

## 1. Shopping Mode

- a. Attend information sessions
- b. Narrow down your choices to 3-4
  - i. Select faculty and programs that interest you

## 2. Applications

- a. Create a Student Transcript Services account
- b. Create an Education Planner account
- c. Complete the application as indicated

## 3. Scholarships

- a. Review the financial aid tabs on the institutions websites
- b. Browse through the resources posted in the Postsecondary Google Classroom
- c. Browse external sites
- d. Pay attention to deadlines

# Support THROUGH the Stress!

- Pray for and with your child
- Students seem to sweat over every mark and test. Encourage them to do their best on a consistent basis and things will work out! This is a stressful time for them and they may need an extra dose of your love and support.
- Allow them the opportunities to face tough challenges (*ex. 2 tests in one day*). *Grow these skills within the safety of STMC!*
  - Builds resilience & confidence
  - Fosters time management skills & study skills
- Tuck an encouraging note in their lunch but **don't take away the opportunity for growth**. (*avoid the temptation to email teachers and complain that they shouldn't have two tests in one day*). These are real situations that they will face next year.



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# Shopping Mode



# Shopping Mode

*All schools are offering **info sessions** over the next few months.*

For the most part, there is **no** real advantage to applying early.  
(except for a few specialized circumstances  
identified later in these slides)

Admission is based on GPA **and** personal profile questions,  
not your date of application.

You do not need grade 12 marks to apply.

When applying, schools simply want:

- your demographic info
- your intended major
- your money



# Shopping Mode: Info Sessions

Study and Go Abroad Fair: October 26: Vancouver Convention Centre

Douglas College: October 29th (preregister)

PSIBC Information Event (Post-Secondary Night @STMC):  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 7-8:30PM**

SFU Info sessions and tours

*SFU Beedie School of Business will be coming for a visit to STMC Wednesday, Nov. 27 9:30-10:30 am.*

UBC Info sessions and tours

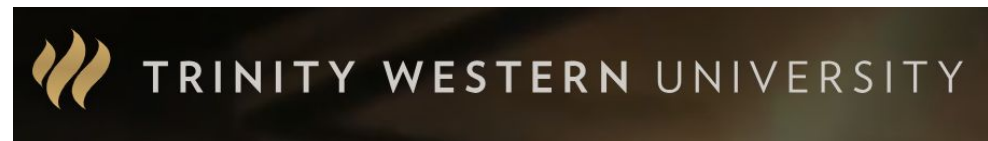
Most post secondary institutions host information sessions. Look up their websites!

Canadian Universities website hub



# Shopping Mode: *How many schools?*

Narrow down to 3-4 **legitimate options** and always have a fail-safe back up plan!



# Shopping Mode: *What Faculty? Program?*

Choosing intended majors can be strategic and involve some planning: choose two faculties or programs.

REMEMBER WHEN STUDENTS CHOOSE A FACULTY,  
THEY ARE NOT LOCKED IN FOR LIFE!

Up to 70% of students will change their major at the  
post-secondary level.

For career options, go to sites like this one offered by SFU.

[What can I do with a degree in?](#)

or

[UBC Program Offerings](#)



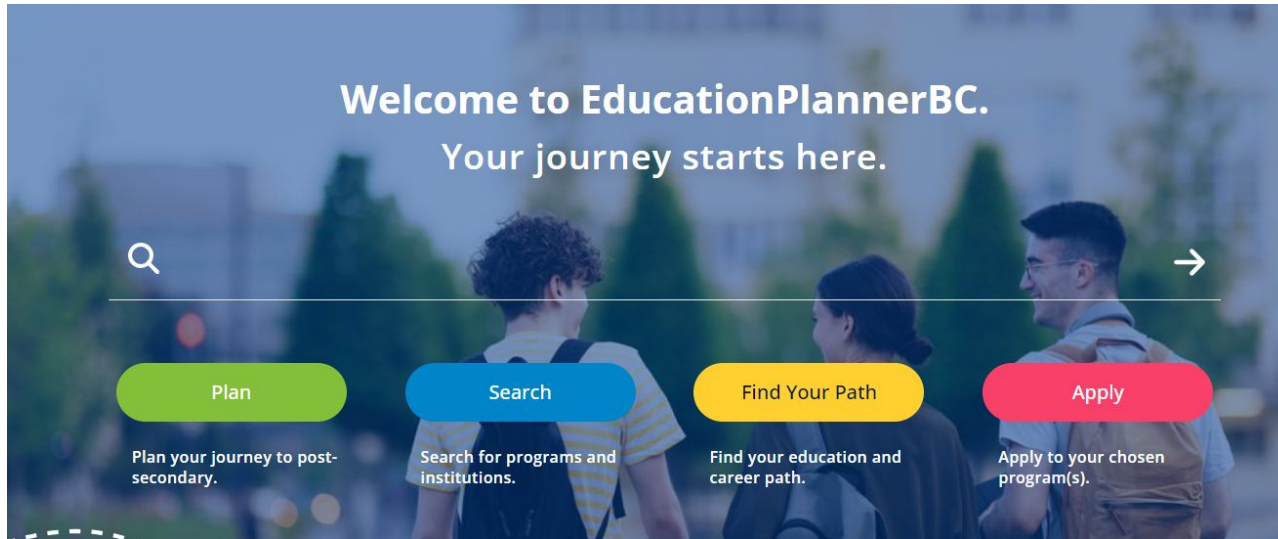
# Find the best fit

School	#	Location	School	#	Location
Acadia	2	Nova Scotia	NYU	1	New York
BCIT	11	Burnaby	Queen's	6	Toronto
Blanche MacDonald	1	Vancouver	SFU	34	Burnaby
Cap	3	North Vancouver	Toronto Film	1	Toronto
Corpus Christi	1	Vancouver	Metropolitan	3	Toronto
Douglas	5	New Westminster	UBC	39	Vancouver
Emily Carr	3	Vancouver	UBC-O	3	Kelowna
Fashion Institute	1	New York	U of A	1	Edmonton
GAP	4		Lancashire U	1	England
Kiski Prep	1	Pennsylvania	U of Toronto	5	Toronto
Kwantlen	1	Richmond	Waterloo	1	Ontario
Langara	4	Vancouver	Western	1	London
McGill	1	Montreal	UVIC	3	Victoria
McMaster	1	Hamilton	Vassar College	1	New York
Mount St. Mary's	1	Maryland			

2024 Grads

**(Remember! DIRECT ENTRY INTO UBC OR SFU IS NOT THE BEST FIT FOR EVERYONE)**

# Shopping Mode: *Resources*



**Education Planner** is a centralized resource that helps learners plan, search and apply for admission to post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. This is the site where your child will begin their application process.

This site has excellent resources to help you browse through various programs and institutions as well as ways to support your son/daughter through the application process. (*financial resources, tips for parents, career explorations etc...*)



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# Applications

# Key Dates: The Outliers

[Langara College Applications](#) open on October 1, 2024 For Fall 2025. Course selection dates can be influenced by the date you applied.

[Douglas College Academic Foundations for Potential Nursing Applicants](#) Applications opened on October 1. There is an advantage to applying early.

**BCIT:** Students can apply at any time during the year. If a student knows which program they want, it is wise to apply early as many programs have waiting lists.



# Key Dates

- **December 1: UBC Early Admission deadline** to be considered for the [Presidential Scholars Awards](#) and [UBC Centennial Scholars Entrance Awards](#) OR to be considered for a [first-round offer of admission](#). If you do not get in during the first round of admissions, your application is still active but you may not find out your status until mid-March.  
[UBC's Application Site](#)                      [Personal Profile Resources](#)
- **November 7: University of Toronto Early Admission deadline**  
Other Non-BC Schools vary by school and faculty. Look them up!
- **December 15: SFU Early Admission deadline** to be considered for the [Entrance Awards](#), [Uggle Family Scholarship](#) OR to be considered for a first-round offer of admission. [SFU APPLICATION SITE](#)
- **January 15: UBC Final application deadline**
- **January 15: UofT Final application deadline**
- **January 31: SFU Final application deadline**

***All postsecondary institutions have their own deadlines.  
It is the students' responsibility to look these up!***



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# Scholarships

# The Scholarship Hunt

- Looking for scholarships involves work. Typically the scholarships awarded in the fall are very competitive, but as the year unfolds numerous smaller scholarships become available. Below is a link to External Scholarships that our students have won over the years. [External Scholarship List](#)

Note: It is early so a number of these scholarships have not yet been updated.

- Internal STMC Scholarships: Application deadline is in May 2025.  
[STMC INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2024 NO APPLICATION REQUIRED](#)

[STMC INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2024 APPLICATION REQUIRED](#)

Note: These scholarships have not yet been updated.

- One thing that students should do to keep themselves informed is to register on a scholarship search site called like YCONIC (<https://yconic.com/>) , STUDENT AWARDS <https://studentawards.com/> or Scholar Tree (<https://scholartree.ca/>). These are reputable sites.

**HINT: Keep a spreadsheet to keep track of scholarship applications (deadlines, requirements, notes...)**



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# Reference letter protocol and details

- Do NOT immediately ask teachers for reference letters at this point unless the scholarship or school application specifically requires a letter. (most applications just ask for a contact name and email; not a letter!)
- Always obtain permission before including anyone's name as a reference.
- Choose a referee who knows you well and can comment on the criteria specified in the scholarship application. Asking in person is a better strategy than sending an email.
- Applicants should provide the STMC reference letter request form to the referee **two weeks prior to the deadline.**
- A thank you note with a reminder of the deadline should be sent to references who agree to write a letter.

[STMC Reference Letter Request Form](#)



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# Additional Resources

# STMC Website

## Post-Secondary Information

The process of transitioning to life after graduation can seem daunting. As the Academic Counselling Team, however, it is our goal to help students explore their gifts, talents and callings and as they plan for possible career paths. STMC is proud of the graduates who leave our communities.

## Grad Parent Info

This section will be used to update parents about info related to the transition to post-secondary life. All this information plus more will be shared on our Google Classroom site and through Academic Assemblies.

2023/10/04 – **Grad of '24 – Parent Meeting**

2022/10/11 – **Grad Committee Announcement**

## External Scholarship Opportunities For Graduating

Here, we will post scholarships as they come up during the year. However students should also make sure they are registered with **Tree, Yconic** and **Scholarships Canada**.

# Grad Events

## Grad News and Events

Could you update the school website with the following information please:

We have an exciting year ahead creating memories and marking momentous occasions for our 2025 grads. We have a volunteer grad committee led by our two co-chairs Anne & Marita. Our aim as a committee is to organize various grad events throughout the year, and these special events and foster a fun environment for all.

We'll be able to stay connected and keep you up to date with grad events for this year with the following modes of communication listed below:

- Parents Association Social Media Accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
- What's App Group Message: please send an email for link to group chat
- Email: [grad@my.stmc.bc.ca](mailto:grad@my.stmc.bc.ca)

We look forward to an exciting fun filled year for the grads! Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

### Grad Committee:

Anne Fok / Marita Deza – Co -Chairperson

Jessie Yang – Treasurer

Natalie Castro – STMC Staff Liaison

Grace Haffner – Grad Student Representatives

Hayden Tang – Grad Student Representatives

Lucas Rodrigues – Grad Student Representatives

Thea Lee – Grad Student Representatives

Theron Lou – Grad Student Representative

Victoria Pasin – Grad Student Representatives