

Blyth
ACADEMY

ONLINE

Shaping the world

STUDENT HANDBOOK



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CREDIT GRANTING

Blyth Academy Online (Blyth Academy Online) is an Ontario Ministry inspected private high school. Our MIDENT or BSID is 669675.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

Part-time students are students who are taking any number of Blyth Academy Online courses but belong to another school. This school would be known as their home school and will hold the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR). The home school is required to add any credits earned through Blyth Academy Online to the student's transcript since it is accredited with the Ontario Ministry of Education. Report cards sent by Blyth Academy Online must be kept in the student's OSR.

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Full-time students are students taking courses with Blyth Academy Online and not attending a school anywhere else in Ontario. These students must notify Blyth Academy Online so we can request their OSR and operate as the home school. Students who have never attended an Ontario school will have an OSR created for them. Blyth Academy Online will maintain a full-time student's OSR and keep their transcript up to date. Please note, there is a mandatory one-time \$250 OSR Administration fee associated with becoming a full-time BAO student. This fee must be paid within 30 days of enrollment.

Students in Canada and abroad are able to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) completely online through Blyth Academy Online. In order to obtain an OSSD, students are required to earn a total of 30 credits, complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement (OSSLT or OLC4O), and complete 40 hours of community service.

The following requirements can be completed through Blyth Academy Online:

Completion of 30 Credits

Blyth Academy Online offers over 160 courses and continues to develop new ones each month. All compulsory course requirements are offered, with the exception of cooperative education. Please see our full list of [course offerings](#).

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Ministry of Education has re-instituted the Ontario Secondary School Literacy requirement for all students graduating from an Ontario high school.

Given that Blyth Academy Online is an online, asynchronous school, the Ministry recommends that all full-time Grade 10, 11, and 12 Blyth Academy Online students take the [Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course \(OSSLC\)](#) in place of the test (OSSLT). Please note that you do not need an unsuccessful attempt on the OSSLT to take OLC4O.

Students studying with Blyth Academy Online in a part-time capacity are also eligible to take Blyth Academy Online's OLC4O course.

Community Service Hours

Students are required to complete 40 hours of community service to earn an OSSD, however; students joining from outside of Ontario can be granted equivalent hours in the equivalency process. Students generally complete 10 hours per academic year; for example, a student joining in grade 11 from outside of Ontario would likely be required to complete only 20 hours instead of 40.



STUDENT RECORDS

For students who have previously attended a school in Ontario, their Ontario Student Record (OSR) will be requested from the previous school and Blyth Academy Online will become their home school. As the home school, Blyth Academy Online will maintain all of the student's records and ultimately issue the OSSD. Students (or their parents) should make every effort to inform Blyth Academy Online if they are not attending another school in Ontario as the process to transfer a student's OSR can be lengthy.

An OSR will be created for students who have not previously attended a school in Ontario. Blyth Academy Online will examine previous reports cards and transcripts for prior high school years and perform an equivalency process whereby Ontario credits can be granted for courses completed outside of Ontario; these credits will count toward the student's 30-credit requirement.

Ontario Ministry of Education Resources

[What do you need to graduate](#) | [Grade 9 Curriculum](#) | [Grade 10 Curriculum](#)
[Grade 11 Curriculum](#) | [Grade 12 Curriculum](#)

Please note: Blyth Academy Online does not issue student identification cards.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Blyth Academy Online courses are open to international students around the world, however, as Blyth Academy Online is concerned about, and takes seriously, the integrity of our credits, there is a different reporting process for international students. International students are those who do not hold a Canadian passport or landed immigrant status.


Blyth Academy Online will not send official report cards and/or transcripts to students' home schools located outside of Canada. Instead, students will receive a confirmation letter indicating the successful/unsuccessful completion of the course, along with the grade. The student's official transcript will be held in the Blyth Academy Online office for a period of five years. If a student requires an official transcript to be sent to post-secondary institutions for admissions purposes, Blyth Academy Online will forward the official transcript directly to each post-secondary institution requested.

Students will be required to supply the name and address of their home school in their country of residence, as well as the contact information for the Guidance Counsellor and/or Principal. Blyth Academy Online will communicate the student's enrolment in the course with the school upon registration.

Students will also need to provide an accurate home address on the registration form. Blyth Academy Online may cross-reference the student's IP address used to access the course with the address given to ensure the validity of this information.

An initial assessment will be administered in order to determine a student's English language proficiency (oral, reading, and writing) and literacy development upon enrolment. The initial assessment will take place in the form of an online assessment taken from the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course, and will be proctored by a Blyth Academy Online staff member via Skype or a similar video conferencing application. This will assess reading comprehension and student writing. A structured interview via Skype (or a similar video conferencing application) will also take place in order to assess oral communication skills (listening and speaking). The initial assessment will be used to make the appropriate programming and placement decisions for the student.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) will be completed for students at Blyth Academy's central office by the Chief Academic Officer in regard to credit equivalencies and challenges. The PLAR challenge and equivalency process will assess the knowledge and skills students have acquired prior to joining Blyth Academy Online both in and out of high school.



Students who do not have an Ontario Education Number (OEN) will be assigned one by Blyth Academy Online. A valid source document must be provided by the student in order for an OEN to be assigned.

Students who do not have an OSR will have one created for them by Blyth Academy Online. The OSR will be maintained by Blyth Academy Online until such a date that the OSR is requested by another Ontario school, or upon its retirement. Students who would like to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will be required to meet all OSSD requirements.

All international exams must be written using the built-in proctoring tool, Integrity Advocate. Private proctors are not permitted.

Out Of Province Students

Students attending schools outside of Ontario should contact support@blythacademyonline.com to confirm if and how credits will be transferred.

COURSE TYPES

Blyth Academy Online offers Standard Courses, Accelerated Repeat Courses, and Preparation Courses.

STANDARD COURSES

Most courses offered are known as standard courses. Students have one year to complete these courses, and have access to their teacher via the course communication tool, office hours, and feedback on assessments. Students will earn Ontario credits upon completion of these courses.

ACCELERATED REPEAT COURSES

Blyth Academy Online offers students the opportunity to make up high school credits by repeating any high school course to help upgrade their marks. Dedicated students can generally complete accelerated repeat courses more quickly than standard courses, depending on how much time they are able to devote to them each day.

Repeat courses are tailored to provide students with more practice in the areas they struggled with during their first attempt at the course. Students still have access to all the course content available in the standard course, but have the opportunity to do fewer assessments and focus on problem areas.

Students are only eligible to enroll in a repeat course if they have previously completed the course and attained a mark of at least 40%.

Upon completion of a repeat course, the lower of the two grades will show on the student's transcript with an 'R' for repeated in the notes column. The higher of the two grades will show with a credit indicator of 1.0 in the credit value column. Repeated courses are generally treated the same as standard courses in terms of university admissions, however, some universities may have rules regarding using repeated courses for calculated averages when it comes to scholarships. It is recommended students research the repeated course policy of each university they are applying to.

PREPARATION COURSES

Blyth Academy Online also offers Advanced Placement and SA T preparation courses. These are non-credit courses that serve mainly to prepare students for the AP and SA T exams run by the College Board. Students must sit the official College Board exams, whereby they will earn credits with them. Students are expected to research exam dates and register themselves for these exams. For more information on the College Board, please visit their [website](#).

OSSD COURSE TYPES

The courses leading to the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) are developed in compliance with the requirements set out in the curriculum documents provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education. At Blyth Academy Online, these courses may be offered at the Academic (D), Applied (P) or Open (O) level in Grades 9 and 10 and at the University Preparation (U), University/College Preparation (M), College Preparation (C), Open (O) level in Grades 11 and 12.

All courses provide opportunities for enrichment in keeping with our desire to produce university and life ready graduates.

GRADES 9 AND 10

Academic courses emphasize theory and abstract problem solving. These courses focus on knowledge acquisition and the development of analytical skills emphasizing theoretical and abstract application of essential concepts. Applied courses focus on practical applications and concrete examples. Open courses prepare students for further study in certain subjects and enrich education generally.

GRADE 11 AND 12

University preparation courses prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the entrance requirements for university programs. University/college preparation courses prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the entrance requirements for specific programs offered at universities and colleges.

College preparation courses prepare students with the knowledge and skills required to meet the entrance requirements for most college programs or apprenticeships and other training programs. Open courses broaden knowledge and skills in a subject.

Open courses are not designed for specific requirements of universities, colleges, or the workplace.

THE COURSE CODING SYSTEM - HOW TO READ THE CODE

All courses are identified by three letters followed by a number and a letter. For example, "ENG2P" means English for Grade 10 students, at the applied level. The first character indicates the subject area:

A Arts	B Business	C Canadian and World Studies	D Cooperative Education
E English	F French	G Guidance and Career Education	H Social Sciences and the Humanities
I Computer Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies	L Classical and International Languages	M Mathematics	N First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies
P Healthy Active Living Education	S Science	T Technological Studies	

The next two characters differentiate between subjects within the subject area: CGC means Issues in Canadian Geography while CHC means Canadian History Since World War I. The first number indicates the grade level of the course:

- 1) Grade 9
- 2) Grade 10
- 3) Grade 11
- 4) Grade 12

The letter following the first number indicates the nature of the course or the level of difficulty:

D Academic	O Open	P Applied
C College	U University Preparation	M College/University Preparation.

TEXTBOOKS/EBOOKS

A small number of Blyth Academy Online courses require the use of an ebook; these are generally for Math and Science courses. Upon enrolment in a course packaged with an ebook, the instructions to access it, along with an ebook code, will be sent to the student via email.

Important to note: ebooks and print textbooks, even of the same title and publisher, do not necessarily follow the same order. For example, the print version of Principles of Mathematics 9 published by Nelson is different than the Principles of Mathematics 9 ebook by Nelson. Students trying to follow a course using a print textbook will run into difficulty when trying to locate references from the course. eBooks will be provided to students at no cost, however, the ebook registration expires after one year.

PREREQUISITE DOCUMENTATION

If a student begins a course for which they do not have a prerequisite, they will be unable to continue the course and will not receive a credit. If it is determined the student does not have the correct prerequisite, they will be notified and removed from the course without credit or refund (the opportunity to switch to another course may be offered).

Proof of prerequisites must be uploaded to the student/parent portal (Genius) in the form of a final report card, transcript, or credit counselling summary. Screenshots of Career Cruising, My Blueprint, OUAC, etc., will not be accepted. Prerequisite documentation must clearly show the student's legal name, Ontario Education Number (OEN), course code, and final grade. Please consult the [Genius Resource](#) page for instructions on how to upload documents.

To ensure students are not enrolled in courses they will not be able to complete, it is important to provide Blyth Academy Online with the academic documentation requested as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the student and their parents to ensure they have the correct prerequisite(s) for the course(s) in which they are enrolling. Visit the [course offerings](#) section of our website to confirm required prerequisites. Refunds will not be provided in cases where students do not have the correct prerequisites.

Students will only have access to the first unit of content until their prerequisites have been received and approved. Upon receipt, students will be issued the Prerequisite Approved award in their course, which will automatically open up the remaining content for them. Students will also have no access to assignments, quizzes/tests, or discussion forums until the Prerequisite Approved award has been issued.

If a parent or mature student (a student who is eighteen years of age or older) requests a prerequisite be waived, the principal will determine whether or not the prerequisite should be waived. The principal may also initiate consideration of whether a prerequisite should be waived. The principal will make a decision in consultation with the parent or the mature student and appropriate school staff. If the principal waives a prerequisite because it is in the best academic interest of the student, it will be documented in the student's Ontario Student Record.

Students are also required to upload a valid piece of government issued photo identification or student identification (showing the student's face) to the student/parent portal (Genius) upon enrollment. Students who fail to submit identification within two weeks of registration may have their enrollment suspended.



INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEPS)

Students seeking accommodations must upload a valid IEP (or equivalent) to the student/parent portal (Genius) each time they enroll in a course. Students should consult the Genius Resource page for instructions on how to upload documents.

Blyth Academy Online will accommodate additional time, a teacher-approved memory aid, and/or assistive technology when they are listed in the student's IEP. IEPs that state "extra time" will result in the student receiving 1.5x the baseline time. Students will only be given double the baseline time if the IEP explicitly states so. BAO's asynchronous online learning environment may not meet every learner's needs. Students seeking any other accommodations should email support@blythacademyonline.com to schedule a time to speak with a member of the guidance department before enrolling.

Please note that even when the IEP was previously submitted, all students (including Blyth Academy campus and online students) must upload their IEP each time they enroll in a BAO course. Students who complete assessments before their IEP is reviewed will not have the opportunity to re-attempt them.

COURSE START/DURATION

Students will have access to the student/parent portal (Genius) immediately upon paying for their course. Students or parents must fill out the application within Genius to complete the process. Once completed, students are free to start their course immediately. See the [Getting Started Guide](#) for more details. Once in their course, students must read all pages in the introduction unit in detail for vital information on how their course works.

Students have 12 months to complete their course from the date of registration. The student's enrollment automatically expires at this time and the student will lose access to the course. Students have 3 months from the expiration date to purchase an extension before the course is permanently dropped.

A six-month extension can be purchased for \$200. Extensions are issued based on the original expiration date, rather than the date payment is received. The course extension fee can be paid via the student/parent portal (Genius). Click on *Extend Course* and follow the payment prompts.

Once a course has been expired for 3 months (15 months from the registration date), the course will be considered dropped and the student will be unable to purchase an extension or request a transfer. Students will need to repurchase the full course if they wish to start the course again. Courses cannot be extended beyond one additional year (two extensions), therefore the maximum amount of time a student can remain in a course is two years. If a student extends their course by one year, they will be automatically removed at the end of the second year and will not be able to extend the course again or be reinstated; the course will be considered permanently dropped.

Average course completion times vary from student to student. The time it takes to finish one online course depends on the student's comfort level with the subject as well as the amount of time they have each day to work on it. Each course is designed to be 110 hours of instruction, just like any course in a bricks-and-mortar school. Students are free to work through their courses as quickly as they like, provided they complete all of the course requirements. There are no due dates in the course other than the one year course duration.

Students will lose access to their course upon the release of their final report card.

TEACHER CONTACT

Blyth Academy Online course teachers are available to students via the online platform. There is a built-in communication tool within the learning environment students must use; students and teachers should not communicate via external email addresses. Any emails sent to teachers externally **will not** be received and could result in miscommunication.

Students can easily identify their teacher in a few different ways:

There is a page called *Teacher's Welcome* under the *Welcome to Your Course* submodule within the course introduction unit with more information about the teacher .

Once inside the course, students can click on the *Contact Teacher* button. This button will display the teacher's last name. For example, if Mr. Bishop is their teacher, they would see the following:

✉ Contact Course Teacher: T.
Bishop


Your teacher will respond within 24
hours.

After clicking the button, the teacher's name will appear on the next page. Clicking their name will automatically compose a new email to them.

Students are welcome to send internal communications to their teacher at any time, however, the teacher will respond within 24 hours (Monday to Friday). During peak times and/or holidays, teachers may take slightly longer to respond. Students experiencing a lack of teacher response should contact support@blythacademyonline.com to report the issue.

If students require more immediate assistance with their course work, they should utilize the Tutoring and Essay Support platform and connect with a support teacher. The different use cases for course teachers vs. support teachers are outlined below in the [Tutoring and Essay Support](#) section (page 21).

The course communication tool is an internal tool only, meaning it will only work inside the system (Brightspace) and cannot communicate with email addresses outside of it. For example, you cannot email t.bishop@blyth.brightspace.com from a Gmail account (all @blyth.brightspace.com email addresses are internal only).



Teachers also hold one office hour per week. During this time, students can count on their teacher being online. Students are able to book appointments during this time to meet with the teacher via video conference. These appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, so students should schedule appointments with teachers well in advance to ensure availability. These appointments are scheduled directly with the teacher through the internal communication tool. We recommend students utilize the office hours when they have numerous questions or need in-depth assistance. If a student is sending a multitude of questions to the teacher, they may recommend meeting during office hours.

Please note: teachers work remotely and are not located on-site in the main Blyth Academy Online office. Teachers will not connect with students by phone; all communication should be performed online.

Teachers will also grade work submitted to the course and leave detailed feedback. This feedback is found directly within the assignment or quiz. In some cases, teachers may send additional feedback via the course communication tool. Teachers will return graded work with feedback within four days, however, during peak times and/or holidays, this could take an additional one-to-two days. If a student is in need of feedback more quickly or needs the work to be graded in order to complete the course by a deadline, this should be arranged directly with the teacher. Teachers may or may not be able to accommodate this special request, depending on their current workload.

Once the final exam is written, teachers have five days to finish grading all of the course work and submit the final grade to the Blyth Academy Online office. In cases where students submit a large portion of work right before writing the final exam, this time could be longer.

LOGIN/ACTIVITY EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE/LOGINS

Students are expected to complete their course within 365 days of registration, but are free to work at a faster pace. Students should log in regularly* depending on their completion plans. It is recommended all students log into their course at least once every five days to ensure important announcements are not missed.

Full-time students are expected to log into course(s) daily excluding non-school days (weekends, holidays, etc.). A single school day where a student has not logged in is considered an absence. Please note: Blyth Academy Online is required to report any full-time students under the age of 18 who have been absent for 15 consecutive school days to the Ontario Ministry of Education. Students are considered full-time if Blyth Academy Online is the holder of their OSR and the student is not attending a day school in Ontario.

Part-time students are not expected to log in daily but should not go more than five school days without logging in.

**Students should communicate their planned completion time with their teacher at the beginning of the course. The teacher will use their judgment in determining what constitutes regular activity based on that completion timeline.*



HOURS SPENT ON ACTIVITIES

All Blyth Academy Online credit courses, with the exception of half credits, are designed to be 110 hours of planned instruction. Each course unit is given an hour value, and all units combined add up to 110 hours. Students are expected to come close to the planned hours of instruction timing within reason. Activity completion time will vary depending on the student's comfort level with that particular subject matter.

STUDENT LEARNING LOGS

In order to help students self-monitor progress, interaction, assessment, and achievement, they will complete and submit learning logs at two points in each course. Work completed outside of the course, such as research, preparation, studying, etc. is not counted in the planned 110 hours. Students should complete the learning logs on a regular basis, relative to their desired time to be spent in the course.

For example, students hoping to finish the course within 12 weeks should fill out learning logs every two weeks, whereas a student aiming to finish in 24 weeks should fill them out every four weeks. Students are free to utilize the learning logs more frequently but should aim for a total number of at least six entries. Students will submit their learning logs to the course at two points: at midterm and at the end of the course. They will upload the document to the "Learning Logs Dropbox".

TIMELINES FOR COMPLETION

Course completion time varies greatly depending on a number of factors, including reading speed, comfort level with online learning tools, understanding of the subject matter, and more. Generally, students studying online full-time are focusing on one course at a time should complete a course within four-six weeks. Part-time students with full course loads take 12-16 weeks on average to complete a course, but may take longer.

Students are welcome to complete courses in a shorter time-frame, but must complete all required components of the course. Courses have been designed in a manner where students who complete all course components will generally meet or exceed 110 hours of planned instruction.

Blyth Academy Online recommends students make a plan to complete their course(s), and decide on a target date for completion from the outset. Students should look at the breakdown of the units in the course and spread them over their available time. Students should account for other commitments and periods when they will be able to spend more time on the online course, and times when they will be busy with other aspects of life.

Blyth Academy Online also recommends students share this plan with parents and teachers to keep them accountable to their completion goals.

COURSE UPDATES

In order to ensure and maintain the highest quality of course design, Blyth Academy Online will periodically update course outlines/syllabi, gradebook weightings, lessons, assessments, rubrics, etc. Due to the asynchronous nature of the program, these changes may be made during a student's journey through a course. The overall learning outcomes and curriculum expectations will not be impacted by such changes; these changes will often be very minor.

Students will be notified within their course of any such changes. Students are subject to the latest course updates.



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Cheating in an online learning environment is unethical and a violation of Blyth Academy Online's Academic Integrity Policy. Blyth Academy Online defines cheating as:

- engaging in plagiarism of any form;
- obtaining answers or solutions from external sources or services during assignments, quizzes, tests, or exams;
- unauthorized assistance or sharing of information during an assignment, test, or exam;
- impersonating another student or allowing someone else to impersonate you in any aspect of the course;
- logging into a test or exam from more than one IP address;
- using translators when completing weighted assessments;
- using technology not allowed by the school, such as unauthorized software or devices, during tests and exams.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. Furthermore, Blyth Academy Online reserves the right to update this policy at any time.

Blyth Academy Online commits to having policies for assessments that minimize the risk of cheating. Students must adhere to the following principles of academic integrity when completing Blyth Academy Online assessments:

- Complete weighted assessments and exams alone without the assistance of friends, parents, tutors, or any other person or third party (including Artificial Intelligence software such as ChatGPT).
- When completing tests and exams, students are not permitted to access any outside material, including coursework and/or notes, except the course provided formula sheet.
- Students must demonstrate an understanding of the curriculum expectations of the course and are not permitted to use concepts from a higher grade or more advanced course.
- All timed assessments must be completed within the given time limit.
- Teachers are not permitted to accept work for assessments over email; assignments must be submitted to the appropriate drop box and all work for tests and exams must be uploaded directly to the assessment.
- All assessments with a video component must include a video.

PENALTIES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

In the event of incidents of academic dishonesty, the student and Principal will be notified of the occurrence, of the consequence, and of the potential consequences of subsequent incidents.

The following is a list of academic violations along with their respective consequences:

PLAGIARISM

IMPROPER CITATION

The student fails to utilize a citation method in the piece. Teachers will generally specify which citation method is required, however, should this guidance not be given, students are expected to follow either MLA, CMS, or APA formatting.

Grades 9 and 10

First Instance: A warning and an opportunity to redo the piece.

Subsequent Instance: A warning and an opportunity to redo the piece.

Grades 11 and 12

First Instance: A warning and an opportunity to redo the piece.

Subsequent Instance: An opportunity to redo the piece to a maximum grade of 75%.

UNACCREDITED PARAPHRASING

The student uses an idea (in different wording) from a source and portrays it as their own without a citation. To be safe, students should use a citation when in doubt.

Grades 9 and 10

First Instance: A warning and an opportunity to redo the piece.

Subsequent Instance: An opportunity to redo the piece to a maximum grade of 75%.

Grades 11 and 12

First Instance: An opportunity to redo the piece to a maximum grade of 75%.

Subsequent Instance: An opportunity to redo the piece to a maximum grade of 50%.

UNACCREDITED VERBATIM

The student uses an idea that is word-for-word from a source and portrays it as their own without a citation. This includes AI generated content.

Grades 9 and 10

First Instance: An opportunity to redo the piece to a maximum grade of 75%.

Subsequent Instance: An opportunity to redo the piece to a maximum grade of 50%.

Grades 11 and 12

First Instance: An opportunity to redo the piece to a maximum grade of 50%.

Subsequent Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit.

FULL PLAGIARISM

The student uses a piece written by someone else and attempts to pass it off as their own work. This includes AI generated content.

Grades 9 and 10

First Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit.

Subsequent Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit.

Grades 11 and 12

First Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit.

Subsequent Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit. Student may be removed from course.

ANY VIOLATION OTHER THAN PLAGIARISM FROM THE AFOREMENTIOED LIST

Grades 9 and 10

First Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit.

Subsequent Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit.

Grades 11 and 12

First Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit.

Subsequent Instance: A grade of zero. No opportunity to resubmit. Student may be removed from course.



MIDPOINT EVALUATION & CHECK-IN

Each course contains either a Midpoint Evaluation or Midpoint Check-In at the halfway point, depending on the course. The Midpoint Evaluation is mandatory and counts toward the student's final grade. The Midpoint Check-In is not mandatory and does not count towards the final grade, however, completion is strongly encouraged.

The students' level of understanding of the course material (based on their current grade) will be compared to their ability to demonstrate their understanding during the Midpoint Evaluation or Check-In. Should there be a severe discrepancy, teachers may investigate the situation further by engaging in further conversation with the student. In courses where there is a mandatory Midpoint Evaluation, all assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. in the units after the Midpoint Evaluation (second half of the course) will be hidden until the Midpoint Evaluation has been completed. In courses where there is a Midpoint Check-In, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. will become available once the student has reached midterm, i.e. the first half of the assessments have been completed and a Midterm Grade is showing in the Grades section of the course.

Students will have access to the course content (lessons) for the remainder of the course, but will not be able to submit any assessments. It is extremely important that students complete the Midpoint Evaluation or Check-In before moving on to the second half of the course.

If students would like to know how many assessments are in the course in total before they are visible, they can find this information by looking at the Grades section of their course or by clicking Content, Introduction Unit, Welcome to Your Course, Overall Expectations and Assessments Breakdown.

ASSIGNMENT RESUBMISSIONS

Blyth Academy Online allows the re-submission of assignments under certain circumstances, however, the decision to do so rests on the teacher's professional judgment. Typically students will be most interested in the re-submission of weighted assignments, however, the policy below pertains to non-weighted assignments as well.

In general, teachers will only allow assignment re-submissions from students who have completed all of the non-weighted (assessment for and as learning) items leading up to the assignment in question. The purpose of the non-weighted items is to give students the opportunity to get feedback on various pieces and apply this to the submission of the weighted assignment. Students are strongly encouraged to complete all of the non-weighted work in their course in addition to the weighted work; this is essential to their learning and success in the course.

If a student requests the opportunity to re-submit a weighted assignment, teachers will deny this request if the student has not completed the prior work. Students will be asked to go back and complete the non-weighted pieces leading up to the assignment in question, pay close attention to the feedback given on these items, then re-submit the weighted piece. Students will need to leave time after the submission of the non-weighted item(s) before attempting the weighted one in order to allow the teacher to grade it and give feedback; the maximum turnaround time for this should be four days.

Weighted quizzes, tests, course summatives, and the final exam are not eligible for re-submission or second opportunities.

Teachers may allow up to two re-submissions throughout the duration of the course, however, such scenarios will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis depending on the teacher's professional judgment and the student's unique situation. Re-submissions will be graded to a maximum of 90%. Students will only be permitted to re-submit an assignment once (pending approval); multiple re-submissions or re-submissions after the exam has been written are not allowed.



QUIZZES, TESTS, AND EXAMS

Students must write quizzes, tests, and exams alone without the assistance of friends, parents, tutors, or any other person or third party (including AI software such as ChatGPT). Students are not to access any outside material, including coursework and/or notes with the exception of formula sheets in certain assessments where it has been indicated as permitted by the teacher and in the assessment details. Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or similar documents may be permitted to utilize outside material upon approval from the Blyth Academy Online office.

Students that copy information from their course, their notes, or any other source and present them as their own answers will be given a grade of zero on the entire assessment. Answers that are very similar to those given in the course content will be investigated to determine whether they could be committed to memory or not within reason.

Any violation of the aforementioned is considered a serious academic offence and a grade of zero will be applied to the entire assessment and students may be removed from the course without credit.

Completion of the final exam is a requirement for earning the credit for a course at Blyth Academy Online. Students with health concerns or concussions will still be required to write their final exams, however, accommodations will be made to assist them. Please contact the Blyth Academy Online office at support@blythacademyonline.com to discuss further as these scenarios are handled on a case-by-case basis.

A student's performance on the final exam will be compared to their overall performance in the course. If there is a major discrepancy between coursework and the final exam performance, Blyth Academy Online reserves the right to investigate the situation, which may or may not include re-writing of unit tests, re-submission of assignments, and a web conference discussion surrounding the contents of the final exam. Blyth Academy Online also reserves the right to remove students from a course without earning a credit in cases where severe levels of academic dishonesty have been found.

MANDATORY VIDEO ASSESSMENTS

Many courses have mandatory video assessments. Whether these are weighted or not, they are a requirement for completion of the course. Students will not be permitted to write their final exams until all mandatory video assessments have been completed to the teacher's satisfaction.

Blyth Academy Online will also compare a student's prerequisite grade to their current course grade to monitor any inconsistencies. Blyth Academy Online reserves the right to investigate a student's course should there be a significant discrepancy between the current grade and prerequisite grade, as well as any discrepancy between submitted written work and work obtained via video.

In the event that the academic integrity policy is violated, a student's grade may be calculated and reported as a combination of the authentic assessments collected, as deemed appropriate in the professional judgement of the teacher, principal, and head of department.



EXAM PROCTORING

ARRANGING THE FINAL EXAM

Students must have finished and submitted all coursework before taking the final exam. Once the exam is written, any outstanding coursework will be given a grade of zero. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have submitted all coursework before writing the final exam.

[Integrity Advocate Proctoring Service](#)

Once all required work has been submitted (and the exam fee has been paid), the final exam will become visible to students (within the Quizzes section of the course) and they will be able to launch it. There is only one attempt permitted for the final exam, so students should not open it until they are ready to sit the entire exam. The exam is not password protected and thus the student does not need to schedule it in advance; students simply open up the exam and complete it when they are ready.

Integrity Advocate will perform a brief, five-minute authentication session with the student to verify their identity; students will need to provide government-issued photo identification at this stage. Once the authentication process has completed, students will be able to start their exam. Students will have the opportunity to test out the authentication process in a practice quiz within their course prior to the final exam to ensure they are comfortable with the process. If the identity verification procedure is invalid, the exam will be flagged and placed under review by the Blyth Academy Online team. No additional software or program is required for the use of Integrity Advocate.

Further information regarding Integrity Advocate can be found [here](#).

Students should email exams@blythacademyonline.com with any questions surrounding the exam process.

EXAM FEES

The final exam service costs \$30. If the course does not contain a final exam, no fee will be collected. We strongly encourage students to pay the exam fee well in advance of their exam to avoid any unforeseen technical delays. The exam fee can be paid by clicking the *Pay Exam Fee* option while logged into the student/parent portal (Genius.) Details can also be found on the [Genius Resource](#) page.

REPORT CARDS, TRANSCRIPTS, AND HOME SCHOOLS

Blyth Academy Online will produce an official report card once students have reached the midterm and final points of their course(s). Should the student have any specific questions in regards to achieving the midterm point of their course, they must contact their teacher. A copy of the midterm and final reports will be emailed to the student's current day school, where they will reside in the OSR. The day school will then be responsible for updating the Ontario Student Transcript to reflect the course completion once the final report card has been obtained.

An official digital copy of the report card will be made available to the student and their parent (if they are under the age of 18) via the student/parent portal (Genius). Students and parents will be emailed to notify them that a report card is ready for download. See the [Genius Resource](#) page for instructions on how to access your report card. If the student requires an electronic copy of a report card to be sent to their day school or anywhere else (such as a university or college), this request must be sent to documents@blythacademyonline.com. A midterm and final report card will only be released if a student has provided appropriate prerequisite evidence for their course. If prerequisite evidence has not been provided, reports will be held and the credit will not be issued.

Teachers will submit midterm and final report card information to the BAO office within 5 business days of the student reaching the midterm point or completing the course. Once the teacher has submitted this information, it will be generated and processed by the Records Department within 5 business days. Students can expect report cards to be available within **10 business days** of reaching midterm or completing their course. Documents will be emailed to home schools; if a hard copy is required, a courier can be arranged at a cost of \$50 for domestic and \$150 for international. To schedule the courier, the student must reach out to support@blythacademyonline.com.

For any Grade 11 or 12 student applying to post-secondary institutions, students must adhere to the post-secondary instructions outlined in the Brightspace Announcements widget. At the time of enrolment, midterm, and final, Blyth Academy Online will communicate to the desired universities and colleges, or OUAC/OCAS, granted the request form was submitted. Please note: for OUAC 101 applicants, Blyth Academy Online will generally only send the course updates to OUAC via email. If the desired post-secondary institution is requesting an official report be mailed directly to them (i.e. Ryerson University), the student must notify the office. Upon releasing the midterm or final report card to the student's current day school and home address, Blyth Academy Online will also send out a report to the requested post-secondary institutions for those who have filled out and completed all applicable post-secondary fields in their Genius account.

Transcripts are often confused with report cards. A transcript is a document outlining a student's permanent academic record, illustrating all courses taken in high school along with the grades received and any certificate conferred. A report card is a document outlining the course completed, the grade, the learning skills, and the comment from the teacher. Only the home school of a student can generate a transcript. A student who is not full-time with Blyth Academy Online cannot request a transcript from Blyth Academy Online. For students who are full-time with Blyth Academy Online, an Ontario Student Transcript (OST) can be generated. In general, transcripts are only needed when applying to post-secondary institutions.

The student's official transcript will be held in the Blyth Academy Online office for a period of five years. If a student requires an official transcript to be sent to post-secondary institutions for admissions purposes, Blyth Academy Online will forward the official transcript directly to each post-secondary institution requested. This request must be communicated to the office.

The process for sending grades to the [Ontario University Application Centre \(OUAC\)](#) is different for certain types of students. Please note: the majority of students are known as 101 applicants, however, some students are known as 105 applicants. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the differences between 101 and 105 applicants.

For 101 and 105 applicants, students will need to communicate their university application information to Blyth Academy Online by completing all relevant post-secondary fields on their Genius profile.

Student information will not be sent to OUAC or any university unless this form has been submitted to documents@blythacademyonline.com.

101 APPLICANTS

Generally, students attending a physical high school who have yet to graduate are considered 101 applicants.


An OUAC number is composed of 10 digits beginning with the current school year, followed by six digits. For example, for the 2018-19 school year, the OUAC number would be in the following format: 2019-012345. Each student has a unique OUAC number. In most cases, if the first digit after 2019- is a zero, the student is a 101 applicant.

Students' home school guidance counsellors are responsible for registering them for OUAC in their grade 12 year. Toward the end of November, students will receive their Application Access Code Letter from their school, which includes their PIN. The PIN allows students to set up their OUAC profile, but is not actually their OUAC reference number. The OUAC reference number is given to the student by OUAC once the student has selected and applied to their university programs and paid the application fees. Once completed, students will receive a reference number in the following format: 2019-012345.

Students attending Blyth Academy Online full-time should contact the Guidance department for information regarding their OUAC account.

As the school year progresses, there are a number of submission deadlines students must meet. These deadlines for receipt of grades is set by OUAC but Blyth Academy Online sets its own deadlines in order to ensure adequate processing time for grades. The updated list of those dates and deadlines is located [here](#).

Blyth Academy Online can only report three stages within a student's course. This will only be communicated once prerequisite evidence has been provided. When a student is enrolled, the registration is sent to OUAC whereby the course code is listed with a 'C' for 'Current' (provided the OUAC reference number has been sent in). This tells the universities the student is currently taking this



course. Once the student reaches the midterm point in the course (this point is clearly laid out within the online course breakdown) and the midterm report has been issued, Blyth Academy Online will send the updated midterm grade to OUAC. The course will then be assigned an 'M' for midterm, along with the midterm grade. Please note: midterm grades are NOT collected by OUAC for first semester courses (this means they will not accept midterm grades until late-January). Once the final exam and all required course components have been completed and the final report has been issued, Blyth Academy Online will send the updated final grade to OUAC. The course will then be assigned an 'F' for final, along with the final grade.

Students may also see a 'P' listed next to the course they are taking with Blyth Academy Online; this indicates the course was completed at a private school. This has no bearing on how the course is treated by university admissions departments.


Please note: OUAC can take as long as 10 business days to upload a grade once it has been sent to them, so it is vital students pay attention to the [deadlines](#) set out by Blyth Academy Online in order to allow for enough processing time. If students miss these deadlines, Blyth Academy Online will continue to send in grades daily however, there is no guarantee they will be showing by the university/OUAC target dates. This could result in the student being passed over for an admission offer.

Generally there is an application deadline in mid-January. Following that, the first target date to receive grades will be mid-February. At this stage, universities will be looking at student OUAC profiles, expecting to see final grades for semester one courses, or midterm grades for full-year courses. Since Blyth Academy Online courses are neither semestered nor full-year, OUAC generally sees them as semestered. At this point in the year, students who are in a two-semester school will have three final grades for grade 12 U/M level courses. Students in full-year school will have six midterm grades for grade 12 U/M level courses. Depending on the student's school structure, they may need to aim to be finished their course or just at midterm by this collection period.

In order to guarantee the student's grade is showing by this deadline, Blyth Academy Online requires students to complete coursework three-to-four weeks prior to this deadline. For example, in the 2019-20 school year, the deadline for universities to see semester one final grades is February 13. Blyth Academy Online requires students to complete courses by January 17 to have final grades included for this collection period. Blyth Academy Online's deadlines are earlier due to slow processing times in the OUAC office. At peak times, it can take OUAC 10 business days or more to upload grades that have been sent in. The only way to upload grades directly to OUAC in real-time is to have the student's home school guidance counsellor upload them directly; Blyth Academy Online does not have direct access to student profiles, unless the student is a full-time Blyth Academy student. Many home schools are not willing to upload Blyth Academy Online grades directly for students, however, it is recommended students ask, as this gives them a significant amount of extra time to complete their course.

By mid-January, all students should have their OUAC reference numbers and provided them to Blyth Academy Online via Genius. It is recommended students check their online OUAC profiles to ensure the course(s) they are enrolled in are showing as current enrolments. From time to time, OUAC makes errors and accidentally removes courses added by Blyth Academy Online, so it is wise for students to check their OUAC profiles frequently.

Note: it is important for students to check their OUAC profiles regularly to ensure the courses they are enrolled in are showing – particularly during the month of February. Blyth Academy Online is able to send enrolment and final grades to OUAC at any given time, however, the guidelines are different for midterm grades. Blyth Academy Online is not able to send semester one midterm grades to OUAC prior to January. In the early weeks of February each year, OUAC will remove courses without a midterm or final grade from OUAC profiles if a grade has yet to be posted. If a student's OUAC profile shows they are currently enrolled in a course, rather than showing a midterm or final grade, this course will likely be removed from the student's profile in mid-February.



This is a regular occurrence that happens year after year; students are encouraged not to panic in this situation. If students notice there are courses missing from their OUAC profile, they should contact support@blythacademyonline.com and their enrolment information will be re-sent to OUAC immediately.

By late April, universities are expecting to see semester two midterm grades on student profiles. Generally this is the time of year when universities send out the majority of their admissions offers. The majority of students are in two-semester schools, therefore, they will generally have three final grades and three midterm grades at this point in the year for grade 12 U/M level courses. Students should note they will likely not receive an offer of admission if they do not have ENG4U at least listed as a current course at this time. A grade 12 English course is a requirement for earning the OSSD, so universities will assume students who are not at least enrolled in this course will not be graduating, which is a requirement to enter university. Similarly, students who are applying to programs with specific course requirements should also ensure these courses are listed as current by this time of year. For example, the University of Waterloo may require SPH4U and MHF4U for a particular program; they will not offer admission to any student who is not at least enrolled in these courses.

In mid-July, universities are expecting to see all remaining final grades. At this point in the year, most students will have 6 final grades for their grade 12 U/M level courses. If students have already been offered admission prior to this date, they may not be required to meet this deadline. The conditions for admission vary from university to university, so students should read their offer of admission carefully and adhere to any deadlines given from their university. Dates and deadlines given by the university directly generally override any dates listed by OUAC.


Students should note that their graduation status needs to be updated on OUAC as part of the admission requirements for university; this can only be updated by the student's home school or school board. This can be problematic for students who complete courses required for graduation once their home school has closed for the summer. Blyth Academy Online will send the final grade for these courses to OUAC where they will be posted. The report card will also be mailed to the student's home school, however, if they are closed for the summer, they will not be able to process it and update the student's graduation status until they open again in late August. Many university admission offers require that the graduation status is updated on OUAC well before the end of August, so it is the student's responsibility to contact their home school or school board in order to facilitate this process.

105 APPLICANTS

Generally students who are not attending a physical high school or have already graduated are 105 applicants. Their OUAC number will look like this: 2020-123456. In most cases, if the first digit after 2020- is a 1, the student is a 105 applicant.

105 applicants are treated differently than 101s. For 105s, universities require report cards and transcripts to be sent directly to them. 105 applicants will still need to register, apply to their selected universities, and pay the application fees on OUAC. Students should register as a 105 applicant at the beginning of the school year and communicate their OUAC reference number and the information for their selected universities to Blyth Academy Online via Genius as soon as the OUAC application has been completed.

When students first apply, each university will need a copy of the student's transcript. A transcript, not to be confused with a report card, shows all credits completed by a student since grade 9. This can only be issued by the student's home school. Students should contact the school they last attended full-time and have an official transcript sent to each university they have applied to. Note: universities will only accept transcripts and report cards directly from the issuing institution(s).



Throughout the year, Blyth Academy Online will send updates to each university regarding the student's enrolment in a new course, their midterm report, and their final report. Generally 105s should follow the same target dates as 101s outlined [here](#).

Universities may communicate different deadlines to 105 applicants; in these cases, students should adhere to those deadlines rather than those listed by OUAC. Students should keep in mind that to meet a final grade deadline, they should write their final exam at least 10 days prior to that date to allow for marking, processing, and postage time. Report cards are sent via standard mail, however, students can arrange for them to be couriered overnight at their own expense via Purolator. Please contact the Blyth Academy Online office for those details.

For students who have transcripts from a school other than Blyth Academy Online, the universities will look at their transcript from their last school in conjunction with the report card(s) from Blyth Academy Online. In some cases, home schools are willing to accept these report cards, add them to the transcript, and then send an updated version of the transcript. However, most schools are not willing to add any courses to a student's transcript once they have graduated.

ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE

Students should apply via the [OCAS website](#). Once students have obtained their OCAS applicant number (found in the following format: 20-123-4567), they must include this information on their Genius profile.

Students must make the following changes to their OCAS profile in order to grant Blyth Academy Online access to their OCAS portal:


Under the Education tab, the student must indicate they are currently enrolled in a Blyth Academy Online course. Under the Basis of Admission tab, the student must indicate they are currently in a high school course.

Blyth Academy Online will not be able to access the student account until the above steps have been completed. Once the above has been completed and a report has been submitted to the Blyth Academy Online office, the student's OCAS Portal will be updated within two business days.

There are no general deadlines for OCAS, rather, each individual college lists its own. Students are responsible for ensuring they are aware of the different deadlines at each college they have applied to.

REFUNDS, CREDITS, AND TRANSFERS

Course fees are non-refundable under any circumstance. Students who would like to drop their course must log into the student/parent portal (Genius) and select the *Drop a Course* menu option. More details can be found on the [Genius Resource](#) page. Students who drop the course within 30 days of registration and have not completed any activities in the course may be eligible to transfer into another Blyth Academy Online course at no charge. Student will only be eligible for **one** transfer at no charge during this window. If students in the scenario listed above do not wish to take another online course, they may be eligible to use the credit toward another Blyth Academy program. This must be requested via email to admissions@blythacademyonline.com within 30 days of registration; any differences in price must be paid by the student.



Students who request a transfer after 30 days of registration, or would like to transfer for a second time, will be charged an administrative fee of \$200.00 whether they have accessed the course or not. Students are not able to transfer courses after 90 days from their registration date; at this point, students only have the option to continue the course or drop it.

Students can transfer courses by logging into the student/parent portal (Genius) and selecting the *Transfer Course* menu option. More details can be found on the [Genius Resource](#) page.

Transfers and credits must be submitted in writing prior to the student reaching the midterm point in the course. Students are not able to transfer or receive credit for a course if the midterm point has been met. At this point, students only have the option of dropping or continuing the course. Since all Blyth Academy Online courses expire one year from registration, students who transfer to another online course will carry over the same expiration date, i.e. the one year will start from the date of the original registration rather than the date of the transfer .

WITHDRAWALS

In Grades 11 and 12, all attempts, withdrawals, and repeats of courses are recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript (OST).

If students in Grade 11 or 12 courses withdraw within five instructional days* following the release of the midterm report card, the withdrawal is not recorded on the OST.

If a student withdraws after five instructional days following the release of the midterm report card, the withdrawal is recorded on the OST by entering a “W” in the “Credit” column. The percentage grade at the time of the withdrawal is recorded in the “Grade” column.

Withdrawal from Grade 9 or 10 courses is not recorded on the OST.

**An instructional day is considered any day, Monday-Friday, while the student is enrolled in the course regardless of whether they log in or not. This includes the summer as well.*

PARENT PORTAL (GENIUS)

One parent for each student will have a Genius account set up for them (this is usually the parent who completed the registration process. Additional parents can be requested by emailing support@blythacademyonline.com.

When logged into the student/parent portal (Genius), parents can click on the *Gradebook* option to show the courses their child is in. Clicking *View Details* next the desired course will show the student's gradebook synced directly from their course (please note these grades update every hour on the hour). Parents can see the name of the teacher, the start/end dates of the course, the current grade, the number of assessments completed, the number of assessments that remain, and a record of all grades received to date.

If parents would like to see further details about the course itself, it is recommended that they ask their child to log into their course on Brightspace and show them.

TUTORING AND ESSAY SUPPORT

All Blyth Academy Online students will have access to Tutoring or Essay Support (in addition to the usual course teacher support) at no additional cost should they require it. This support varies from course to course, however in all cases, it provides students with fast access to teacher support in addition to what is already offered by their course teacher. This support is available to all students. Reasonable usage limits will apply.

There are three distinct types of additional support:

Students in **Math and Science** courses have access to on-demand live tutoring every day from Ontario teachers. The tutoring platform, which contains saved sessions, notes, etc. is available 24/7. Tutoring takes place via an external platform and is facilitated via interactive shared whiteboards, text chat, and voice chat (students and teachers will not appear on webcam). Students can keep a recording of their sessions for future reference.

Students in courses with a **significant writing component**, such as English or History courses, have access to asynchronous essay support. Students can submit a written piece of any length to the writing support platform and receive a returned copy with feedback for improvement within 24 hours from Ontario teachers.

Students in **specialty courses** that do not fall into one of the two categories above will have 90 minutes of support to be used on-demand or via scheduling through the tutoring platform. Students can log in and request a teacher 24/7; the most relevant and available teacher will be displayed and students can elect to start a session right away or schedule one later. The tools available for these sessions are similar to those given for Math and Science courses, with the addition of video functionality (students can turn off video if they prefer).

Tutoring and Essay Support is not provided by the course teacher. Students are paired with an available teacher to allow for a quick connection on the tutoring/support platform. This means that students will usually work with different teachers every time they access the tutoring/support platform. **Students will always have the same course teacher for their online course.** The course teacher completes all of the student's grading and feedback, responds to emails within 24 hours (Monday to Friday), and completes the student's report card. The course teacher is akin to the student's traditional teacher they would have in any other school. The support teacher is there to support the student with quick questions they have while working through their course material in order to help the student progress more quickly. For example, a student would contact their course teacher for questions about how to prepare for their final exam. As another example, the same student might click into the tutoring platform and ask a support teacher for assistance on how to solve a specific math problem as they work through their homework.

Students can access Tutoring and Essay Support by clicking the relevant button in their course. Students will see one of two access buttons:

[Access Tutoring Now!](#)

[Access Essay Support Now!](#)

HARDWARE/SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Students should have the following minimum requirements to participate in Blyth Academy Online programs:

Hardware

- A PC running Windows 8 or higher or
- A Mac running OS
- 2GB of RAM
- High speed internet connection
- A sound card with speakers or headphones
- A functional webcam and microphone
- A laptop is required for final exams written at Blyth campuses

In some cases, a scanner or phone/camera may be required to submit handwritten assignments.

Software

- Adobe Reader
- A typical Office Suite including a word processor application, equation editor and spreadsheets (Google Docs will also suffice)

Browser

- Mozilla Firefox 80 or higher or
- Safari 12 or higher or
- Google Chrome 85 or higher or
- Chromium-based Microsoft Edge