



Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Secondary Success Indicators 17–21 Year Old Post-Secondary Applications 2007-8

What It Is

Students applying to post-secondary institutions in Ontario provide applications through the Ontario Universities Applications Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Centre (OCAS). We matched the 2008 applications with information in our Student Information System (SIS) for the 17-21 year old students in the TDSB on March 31, 2008.

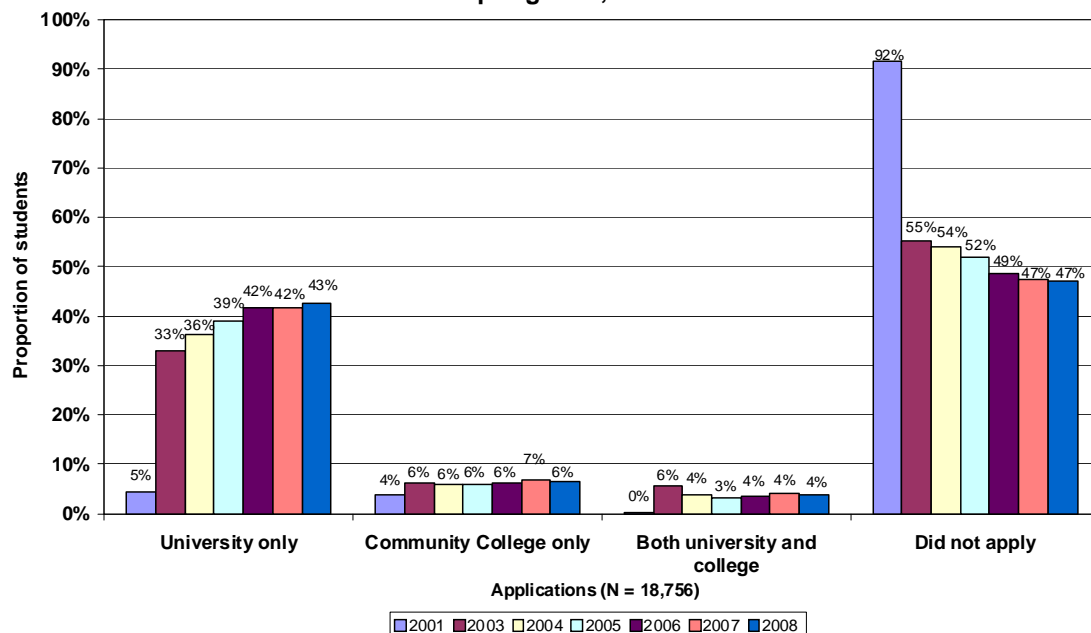
This fact sheet examines students who apply to university only; those who apply to community college only; those who apply to both university and college programs; and those who do not apply. This information is compared to similar TDSB information going back to 2001.

The Trend — Age-Appropriate 17 Year Old Grade 12 Students

Figure 1 shows the TDSB's post-secondary applications of 17 year olds (age appropriate for Grade 12) from 2001 to 2008. There are two key observations:

- 1) The proportion of 17 year olds applying to university only dramatically increased from 5% to 33% in 2003. This was the 'double cohort' year when students under the new curriculum could apply to university after four years rather than five years;
- 2) Canada now has one of the highest rates of post-secondary access in the world, and this can be seen in the increase of post-secondary applications of 17 year olds from 33% when the new curriculum was implemented, to 43% in 2008. *In 2006, 2007, and 2008, the number of 17 year old applicants to post-secondary in the system outnumbered the numbers who did not apply to post-secondary.*

Figure 1: Ontario Post-Secondary Applications of 17 Year Olds TDSB
Spring 2001, 2003-2008





Who Will Get In

We know from previous research that about three quarters of those who apply will attend post-secondary institutions; in addition, many who do not attend during this application cycle will re-apply to post-secondary in the next year (often to different programs and schools from the first year).

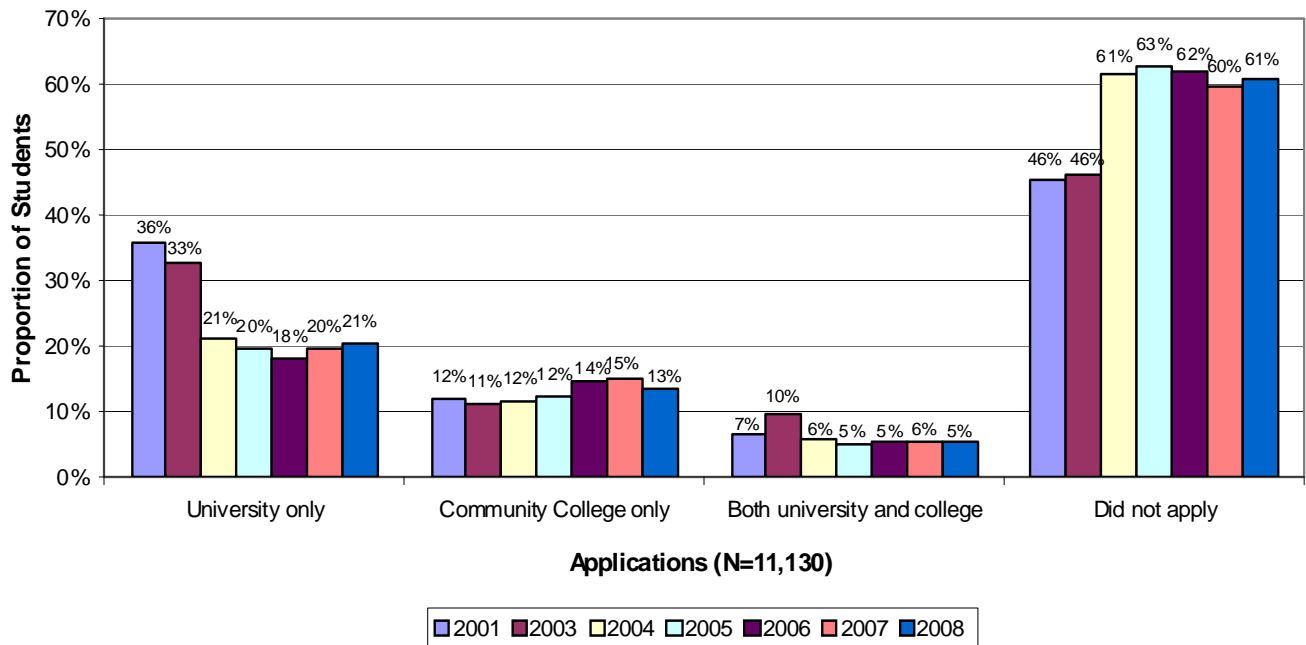
The Pattern — Older (18–21 Year Old) Students

17 year olds now make up the majority (63%) of our Grade 12 population, but 37% are 18-21 years of age (most are 18 years of age).

Since the new curriculum was implemented, the proportion of post-secondary applicants in the older age group has been stable, at 37-40%.

However, we also know that many students who do not go into post-secondary directly from high school will apply as adults. In 2008, the number of community college adult applicants who had *previously* been in the TDSB outnumbered community college applicants *currently* in the TDSB.

Figure 2: Ontario Post-Secondary Applications of 18-21 Year Olds TDSB
Spring 2001, 2003-2008



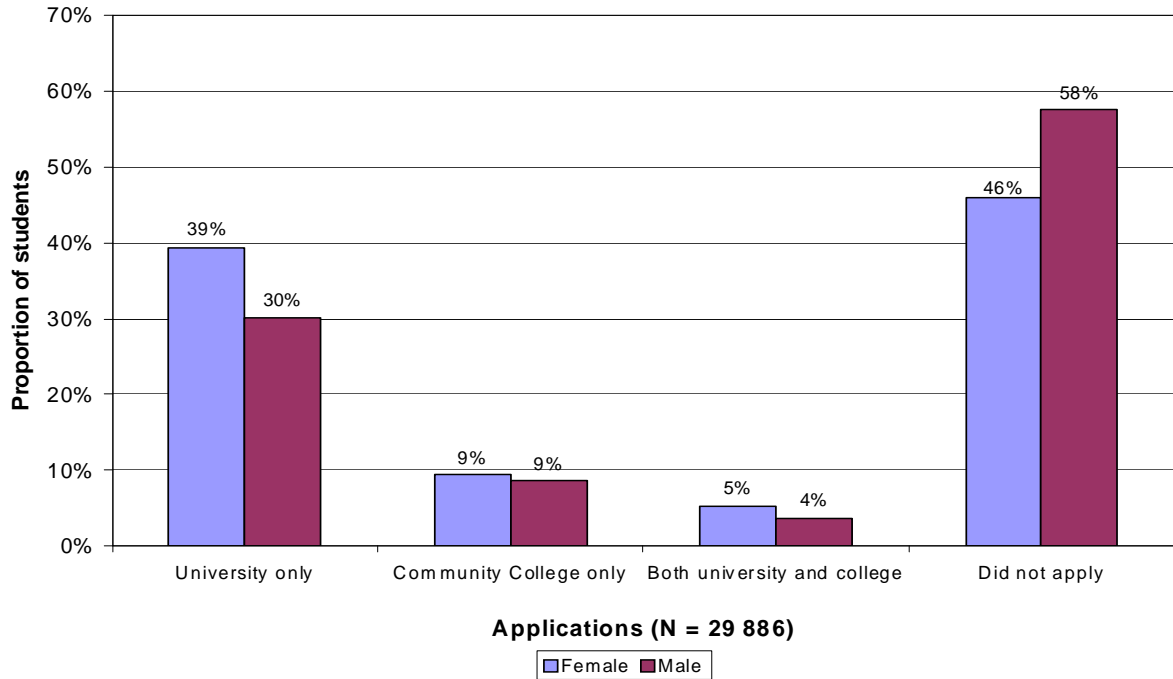


Gender of Post-secondary Applicants

The Pattern

Male students are less likely to apply to post-secondary than female students (43% of Grade 12 male students compared to 53% of Grade 12 female students). The main difference is seen in those who apply to university only (30% of males compared to 39% of females). Whereas there is only a slight difference in those who apply to both university and college (4% of males compared to 5% of females) and no difference among those who apply to community college only (9%).

Figure 3: Ontario Post-Secondary Applications of 17-21 Year Olds TDSB Spring 2008 by Gender





Student Achievement in Mathematics Grades 9-12

What It Is

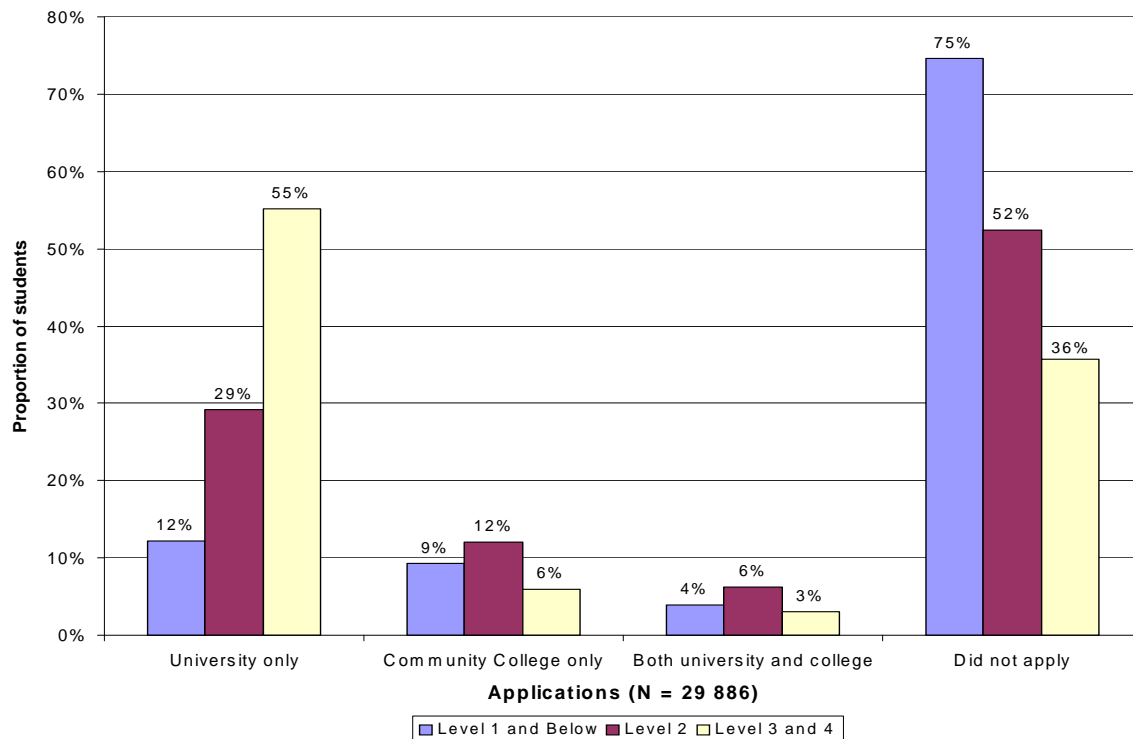
We looked at students' overall Mathematics achievement from Grades 9 to 12 who:
1) had an average mark of 59% or less in their completed Grades 9-12 Mathematics courses (Level 1 and Below); 2) had an average mark of 60-69% in their completed Grades 9-12 Mathematics courses (Level 2); and 3) had an average mark of 70% or higher in their completed Grades 9-12 Mathematics courses (Levels 3 and 4).

The Pattern

Around two thirds of students with an average of 70% or higher (Levels 3 and 4) in high school Mathematics applied to post-secondary (most applied to university); only a quarter of those with an average of 59% or less (Level 1 and Below) applied to post-secondary.

Similar patterns are seen when looking at Grade 9-12 summary information for English and Science.

Figure 4: Ontario Post-secondary Applications of 17-21 Year Olds
Spring 2008 by Mathematics Achievement Grades 9-12





Neighbourhood Income of Post-secondary Applicants

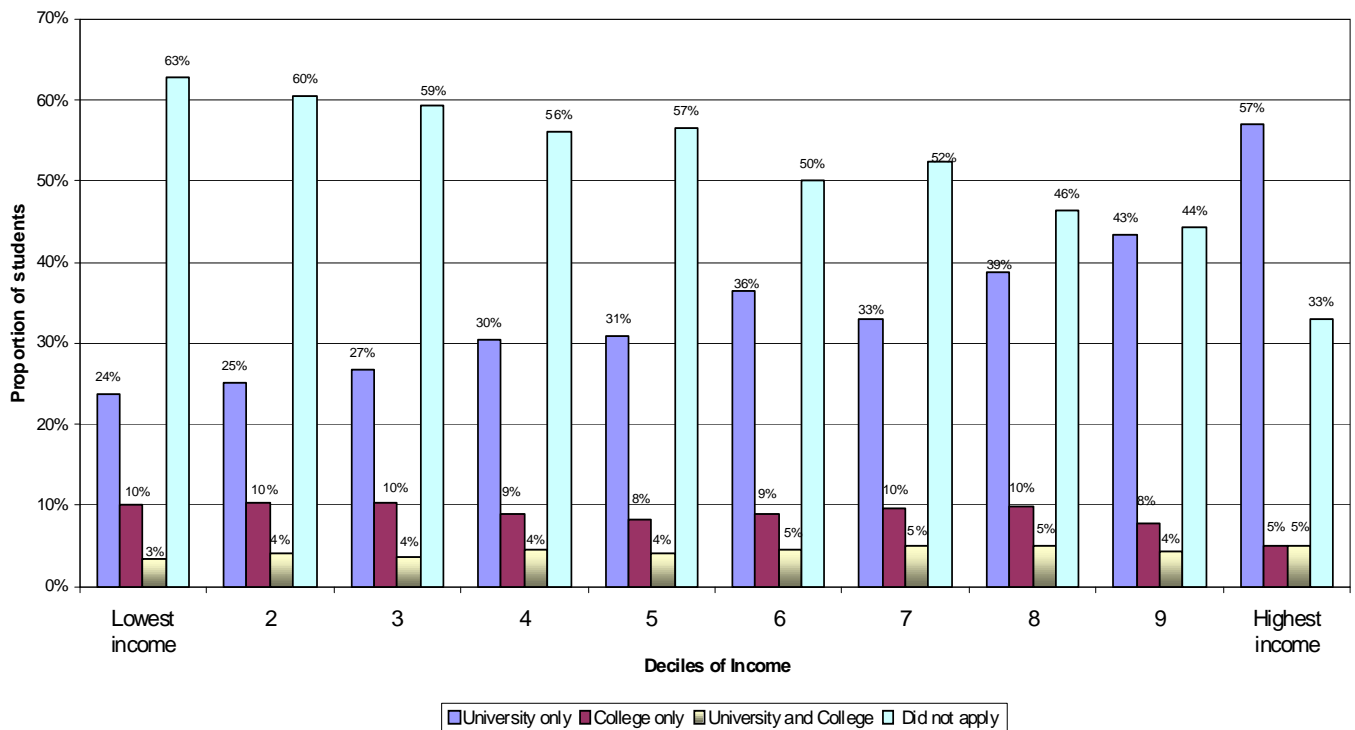
What It Is

Student income was approximated by using the average family income of the neighbourhood of student residence according to the 2006 Statistics Canada census. All students in the TDSB were divided into 10 income groupings, from lowest to highest income.

The Trend

There is a clear relationship of neighbourhood income and applying to post-secondary institutions: while 67% of students from highest-income neighbourhoods applied, 63% of students from the lowest-income neighbourhoods did not apply. However, closer examination shows that the key difference is in students applying to university. There is only a slight difference between neighbourhoods when students apply to community colleges.

Figure 5: Applications to University by Family Income, Spring 2008



Should you require additional information please contact us at 416-394-4929.

Organizational Development/Research and Information Services

1 Civic Centre Court, Ground Floor
Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B3
Tel: (416) 394-4929