

Universities Are Transforming to Meet Student and Community Needs

Ontario's universities are continually transforming to meet the needs of students, employers, our communities and the province. Below are just a few examples:

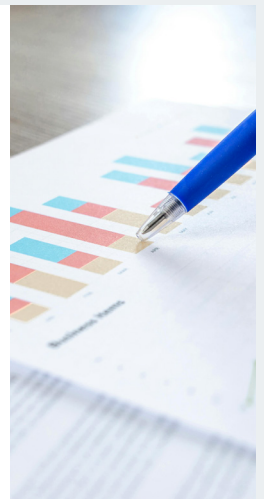


Universities continue to ensure every willing and qualified student can access a university education by providing more than **\$1.4 billion** annually in scholarships, bursaries and grants (Council of Ontario Finance Officers data).



In fact, did you know Ontario's universities are investing more in student financial support than the province of Ontario is investing in the entire OSAP budget for colleges and universities?

Universities have put forward a **Financial Health and Transparency Framework Plan**, as well as leading practices in university board governance to ensure strong fiduciary oversight and open and transparent decision-making, highlighting a commitment to strong financial management, transparency and accountability.



As housing demands increase, universities have added more than **6,400** new residence spaces over the past five years. There are currently a total of **72,000** residence and off-campus spaces.

Universities are adapting and evolving to better serve students and find even more innovative ways to drive greater efficiencies, as outlined in the sector's efficiency update. In fact, universities now rank **second lowest** (instead of third) in the country after Alberta, while spending **50% more** on student services, and more than double on scholarships and bursaries per student FTE than Alberta.





By acting responsibly in **enrolling international students with modest growth rates** and offering student supports, including leading practices, universities are helping ensure international students studying at an Ontario university have the best possible experience. Universities provide them with the supports and resources they need to succeed – including following rigorous recruitment processes, adhering to strong and transparent admissions practices and providing wraparound student supports, such as helping students find housing.



In 2021-22, Ontario universities spent nearly **\$1.6 billion** on student services such as counselling, career guidance and placement, student health, athletics and more. Overall, spending on student services has increased by **27%** over the past five years with universities spending an average of **14%** of their operating funds on student services.



By making educational data transparent and accessible through the Open Data Platform, **Ontario's universities are leading the way in transparency**. This centralized data hub, which provides public access to critical education data, recently won the 2024 Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) Transparency Challenge in recognition of its work to support transparency and accountability across the province's universities.



The above examples are just a few of the ways Ontario's universities are supporting student and community needs, while also ensuring that education is accessible to all. However, while universities have remained efficient, without

increased government funding, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain this level of support. The time for the provincial government to properly fund universities is now. Ontario's students and universities cannot afford to wait.