

2023-24

# Upper Canada College Profile

PRINCIPAL: Sam McKinney



Upper Canada College was founded in 1829 and is one of Canada's foremost schools. The Preparatory School currently enrolls 430 students from Senior Kindergarten to Year 7, while the Upper School has 778 students from Year 8 through Year 12. The boarding program accommodates 88 students from across Canada and around the world. Graduates of UCC – an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School with one of the broadest programmes in the country – are highly regarded by universities worldwide. Our global network of alumni includes leaders and innovators in science, politics, finance, arts, athletics, media and beyond.



## Our School

As an IB World School, UCC aims to develop well-rounded students with character who respond to challenges with optimism and an open mind, are confident in their own identities, make ethical decisions, join with others in celebrating our common humanity, and are prepared to apply what they learn in real-world, complex, unpredictable situations.

UCC is accredited by both the International Baccalaureate Organization and the Ontario Ministry of Education. It is an active member of the IB Schools of Ontario, the Conference of Independent Schools of Ontario, the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, the International Boys' Schools Coalition, and the Association of Boarding Schools. University counsellors belong to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the International Association for College Admission Counseling, the Canadian Independent School Counsellors, and the Ontario School Counsellors Association.

## Our Campuses

UCC is located on 35 acres in the heart of Toronto, the largest city in Canada and one of the world's most multicultural urban centres. The extensive facilities include a double-pad arena with NHL- and Olympic-size rinks, a fitness complex, tennis courts, swimming pool, recital hall, theatre, film, design and computer labs, music studios with professional recording equipment, and state-of-the-art science labs. A rural campus of 450 acres about an hour northwest of the city has five full-time faculty and is used extensively for outdoor education.

## Our Education

The IB Diploma Programme combines a rigorous liberal arts education with a commitment to a global perspective and active engagement in creativity, activity and service. UCC provides transformational learning experiences that foster the development of head, heart and humanity and inspire each student to make a lasting positive impact on their world.

### University Counselling Office Contact Information:

If you would like to discuss the possibility of scheduling a school visit, please contact Elia Lopez, Administrative Assistant, by phone at 416-488-1125, ext. 2306 or by email at [elopez@ucc.on.ca](mailto:elopez@ucc.on.ca)

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## Our Students

UCC admits talented students who stand out from the crowd in a variety of ways – through academic performance, achievement in a wide range of co-curricular activities, and commitment to service. Students at the Upper School hail from 26 countries. Twenty per cent of students from Year 5 and up receive financial assistance.

At the Upper School, the student body is divided into 10 houses that foster school spirit, host intramural athletics and initiate many service activities. Each house is headed by a Steward who is assisted in their duties by four Prefects. The Heads of Houses form the core of the Board of Stewards, UCC's elected student government. They are joined by six Portfolio Stewards who are responsible for organizing specific aspects of student life. The board is chaired by the Head Steward.

There are activities to suit every student's interests. Recently, students can choose to participate on athletic teams in 19 different sports. The award-winning music program boasts jazz, wind, string and choral ensembles. Our students regularly place well in national and international debating and Model UN as well as business, creative writing, language, science and mathematics competitions. Students can select from more than 106 clubs. Our students organize and host the World Affairs Conference, one of North America's oldest and largest student-run conferences, each February. Service opportunities abound and include international service trips and Horizons, our own inter-school outreach program. Many of our students participate in one of the three levels of the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh program.

## Our Faculty

Our faculty members are pioneers and world leaders in education with access to a wealth of resources. Many hold advanced degrees and are IB examiners or workshop leaders. Teachers draw on best practices as they challenge students to be open-minded, reflective learners who demonstrate courage, citizenship and good character. With a student-teacher ratio of 8:1 and an average class size of 20, faculty develop a close relationship with their students through classroom instruction, house advising and the supervision of co-curricular activities.

## Our Curriculum

In their first three years at the Upper School, students are enrolled in the equivalent of eight full-year courses, running from September to June, and based on the curriculum expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education. In our high school program, most students are completing courses a year earlier than their age cohort at other Ontario schools. From Year 8 to Year 10, students are required to study English, a second language, a social science, a science, mathematics and physical education.

They are also expected to complete at least two credits in fine arts and design. All Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) candidates must earn a minimum of 30 credits (18 of which are compulsory), pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test and fulfil 40 hours of community service.

In their last two years at UCC, all students are enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP), while concurrently finishing the requirements for their OSSD. Each DP course requires two years to complete. Evaluation is cumulative over this entire period and final grades for both DP and Ontario courses are awarded only at the end of the full programme. The challenging nature of this combined DP/OSSD programme, with its emphasis on critical thinking and development of higher order writing and research skills, means that UCC students are exceptionally well prepared for post-secondary study.

Students choose six disciplines in the DP, five of which are based on distribution requirements that ensure academic breadth (English, a second language, a social science, an experimental science and mathematics). Students also complete one elective course. Three subjects are taken at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL). Instruction in HL courses is based on 240 teaching hours over two years; SL courses involve 150 classroom hours. In addition, students complete a course in the theory of knowledge, write an extended essay (an independent research paper of 4,000 words), and participate in a Creativity, Activity and Service program. A student's final standing in the DP is based on achievement in a variety of externally assessed papers, commentaries, portfolios, labs, and oral and written examinations.

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The DP at UCC offers students an unusually wide range of subject choices. Within our regular timetable, these subjects are available:

### GROUP 1

HL and SL English Literature, HL and SL English Language and Literature, HL French Language and Literature, SL Chinese Language and Literature, SL Spanish Language and Literature

### GROUP 2

HL and SL French, HL and SL Chinese, SL Latin, SL Spanish, SL Spanish ab initio

### GROUP 3

HL and SL Economics, SL Environmental Systems and Societies, HL and SL Geography, HL and SL History, HL and SL Philosophy, HL and SL Global Politics →

### GROUP 4

HL and SL Biology, HL and SL Chemistry, HL and SL Computer Science, SL Environmental Systems and Societies, HL and SL Physics, SL Sports, Exercise and Health Science

## GROUP 5

HL and SL Mathematics: analysis and approaches,  
HL and SL Mathematics: applications and interpretation

## GROUP 6

HL and SL Film, HL and SL Music, HL and SL Theatre,  
HL and SL Visual Arts

A small number of students enrol in Group 1 or Group 2 courses taught outside the regular timetable; these have included Arabic, Cantonese, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian and Russian.

## Evaluation Standards

Grading practices in the IB evaluate student achievement on a scale of one to seven. In order to earn the diploma, students must achieve a minimum of 24 points (out of a maximum score of 45) and satisfactorily complete the theory of knowledge course and extended essay (both of which are graded on a scale from A to E and contribute a maximum of three points to their overall IB score).

As mandated by the Ontario Ministry of Education, student achievement in all OSSD courses is reported in terms of percentage grades, with a maximum score of 100 and a passing grade set at 50. UCC provides an interim transcript showing both IB and Ontario grades in support of university applications. These are issued at the end of Year 11 (junior year) and then in late January and mid-April of Year 12 (senior year). These interim transcripts are cumulative (i.e. each set of grades reflects a student's achievement from the start of their IB programme). The International Baccalaureate Organization sends final grades to universities in mid-July. At the same time, UCC issues the final version of each graduate's performance in the OSSD as recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript. As is the case at other selective schools, we do not report class rank.

FOUR-YEAR SUMMARY OF OVERALL IB RESULTS AT UCC				
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Point Total (UCC)	33	34	36	33
Average Point Total (World)	30	32	33	30
Average Course Score (UCC)	5.22	5.4	5.78	5.26
Average Course Score (World)	4.71	5.01	5.25	5.0
Full Diploma Awarded (UCC)	95%	98%	100%	94%
Full Diploma Awarded (World)	79%	86%	89%	79%
Overall Pass Rate in Individual Subjects (UCC)	100%	100%	100%	100%
Students Scoring 40 Points or Higher (UCC)	12%	16%	27%	10%
Students Scoring 40 Points or Higher (World)	8%	14%	21%	9%

## Post-Secondary Destinations

The University Counselling Office is committed to supporting our students as they identify and develop their individual passions and strengths and explore how these will shape their post-secondary studies and future careers. Our graduates attend a wide assortment of post-secondary institutions in Canada and around the world.

## Ontario Secondary School Grading Scale:

IB Diploma scores are awarded from 1-7 with 7 being the highest score. Students receive a grade for each DP course attempted. In addition, students receive grades for the OSSD courses as per the table.

GRADE	NUMERIC GRADE
A	80-100
B	70-79
C	60-69
D	50-59
F	0-49

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A full list of the institutions at which UCC students have matriculated over the past five years appears here.

#### CANADIAN

Bishop's University  
Carleton University  
Concordia University  
Dalhousie University  
Huron University College  
King's University College  
McGill University  
McMaster University  
Memorial University  
Queen's University  
Royal Military College of Canada  
St. Francis Xavier University  
Toronto Metropolitan University  
Trent University  
Université de Montréal  
Université Laval  
University of British Columbia  
University of British Columbia,  
Okanagan  
University of Guelph  
University of King's College  
University of Ottawa  
University of Toronto  
University of Victoria  
University of Waterloo  
Western University  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
York University

#### U.S.A.

American University  
Babson College  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brown University  
California Polytechnic State University  
Colgate University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College

Duke University  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Emerson College  
Emory University  
The George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology Harvard  
University  
Indiana University-Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kenyon College  
Lafayette College  
Marian University  
Middlebury College  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University  
Pomona College  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Savannah College of Art and  
Design  
St. John's University  
St. Lawrence University  
Stanford University  
Syracuse University  
Tufts University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois, Urbana-  
Champaign  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
The University of North Carolina,  
Chapel Hill  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Southern California  
University of Vermont

Wake Forest University  
Washington and Lee University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wesleyan University  
Williams College  
Yale University

#### INTERNATIONAL

Brighton and Sussex Medical School  
IE University (ES)  
King's College London (U.K.)  
London School of Economics and  
Political Science  
New York University Abu Dhabi (UAE)  
Newcastle University (U.K.)  
Sciences Po (FR)  
Technologico de Monterrey (MX)  
University College Dublin (IRE)  
University College London (U.K.)  
University of Bristol (U.K.)  
University of Cambridge (U.K.)  
The University of Edinburgh (U.K.)  
University of Leeds (U.K.)  
The University of Nottingham (U.K.)  
University of Oxford (U.K.)  
University of Southampton (U.K.)  
University of St. Andrews (U.K.)  
University of Western Australia  
University of York  
Yale NUS College (SG)

