

FAQs about Government of Ontario postsecondary funding updates

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The Government of Ontario recently [announced a new \\$6.4 billion investment](#) in postsecondary education along with changes to tuition policy and the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). We know students have questions about what this means for them. We're happy to help explain.

Here are answers to some of the most common questions we've heard:

Q: Why are polytechnics and colleges welcoming this announcement?

A: Polytechnics and colleges across Ontario are encouraged by this announcement because it represents the first long-term commitment in many years.

This funding comes at an important time. Colleges and polytechnics have been under significant financial pressure. This investment will help bring greater stability to the sector and support institutions such as Seneca in continuing to adapt to changing workforce needs, strengthen applied learning and support students as they prepare for their futures.

Q: What will this new funding be used for?

A: In recent years, colleges and polytechnics have faced rising costs, inflation and limited government operating funding, all while working hard to maintain high-quality programs and student services. The new funding model is intended to provide more predictable operating funding and support the expansion of programs across the province.

Q: What does this mean for tuition at Seneca?

A: Ontario will allow publicly assisted colleges and polytechnics to increase domestic tuition by up to two per cent per year for three years, starting in September 2026. Any tuition changes at Seneca will follow provincial policy and will be communicated.

We know affordability matters and Seneca remains committed to supporting access to education while continuing to manage costs responsibly. [Visit our website](#) to see the range of financial supports available to Seneca students.

Q: How will these changes affect my OSAP application?

A: The OSAP application process itself is not changing at this time. Students will still [apply through the provincial OSAP system](#) and be assessed based on financial need, including factors such as income, family situation and program costs. However, beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year, there will be changes to how OSAP funding is provided. While students will continue to be assessed for the same overall level of financial need, the mix of grants and loans is changing. Students are encouraged to review the latest details shared on [the Government of Ontario website](#).

Q: What other financial supports are available to students?

A: Seneca students have access to a wide range of [scholarships, bursaries and awards](#) across programs. Between Fall 2024 and Summer 2025, more than \$12 million was available and helped close to 10,000 students pay for their education. Eligible students are encouraged to explore these opportunities and apply.

Q: Does the government's investment solve the financial challenges facing Ontario's colleges and polytechnics?

A: While this investment is very welcome and will help ease some pressures, all postsecondary schools in Ontario still face ongoing financial challenges. Institutions have worked hard to deliver quality education and student services while managing rising costs within tight budgets. The new funding will help offset some impacts of our higher operating costs and changes in enrolment, but it does not eliminate all challenges. At Seneca, we remain focused on continuing to support our students despite the financial constraints.

Q: When do the changes related to the government announcement take effect?

A: Funding to institutions will begin rolling out over the next four years. Tuition and OSAP changes are slated to start in Fall 2026 (2026-27 academic year).

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