The College System

A distinguishing feature of York University is the college system that uniquely bridges the large multi-Faculty university to smaller units for a closer relationship between faculty members and students. York Colleges are small interdisciplinary communities, with distinctive characters and mandates, that offer a welcoming, innovative and convivial environment supportive of students successful adjustment to the university and the successful completion of their degree requirements. Each undergraduate student entering York University for the first time is placed in a college. The seven colleges serving day students -- Calumet, Founders, McLaughlin, Norman Bethune, Stong, Vanier and Winters -- provide a wide range of academic and extra-curricular activities to complement the instructional programmes of the various Faculties and to enrich the experience of the York student. College facilities include common rooms, dining halls, coffee shops, study areas, computer rooms, seminar and small lecture rooms, in addition to recreational rooms. Colleges accommodate about 260 out-of-town students, about 10 percent of the total college enrolment, in well-equipped residences adjacent to college buildings. (For further information, please consult the University Services section in this calendar.)

The college is self-governed in its day-to-day activities by both faculty members and students. Each college is administered by a Master, Academic Advisor, and Residence Tutor, and by Don in the Residence. Each college also has its College Council, elected by students, which plans and finances a full range of social, cultural and athletic programmes. Advising, especially for first-year students in each college, is conducted by Fellows, who are valued members of the College and the York community, and by specially trained upper-level students. Subject to University regulations students may transfer colleges and, after the first year, may opt out of college affiliation.

Two other colleges are also constituent Faculties and offer their own degree programmes. Glendon College offers daytime bilingual (French and English) undergraduate programmes on a separate campus; please consult the Glendon section of this calendar for further information. Atkinson College, which publishes its own calendar, offers evening and summer degree programmes; for further information, write: The Admissions Enquiry Service, York University, 150 Atkinson College, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3. Telephone (416) 736-5000.

College Academic Programmes

The College Academic Programmes involve co-curricular and extra-curricular events and activities as well as Foundations Courses. The format and content of credit courses vary according to the Faculty that colleges are affiliated with. Participation in a college academic programme provides an excellent way of becoming involved in the life of a college. The five Faculty of Arts colleges -- Calumet, Founders, McLaughlin, Stong and Vanier -- offer a wide range of courses through the Faculty of Arts new Foundations Programme. Foundations Courses connect a college and its students with the Divisions of Humanities and Social Science; Foundations Course directors are normally Fellows of the Colleges with which the course is associated. These courses are intended to reflect the special focus -- known as the academic mandate -- of each college, and stresses critical skills development, introduction to interdisciplinary study and the particular expertise of faculty associated with the two Divisions. Norman Bethune College offers a Faculty of Arts Foundations course as well as a special series of first-year courses (FYUS: First Year University Seminar) linked to the Faculties of Pure and Applied Science and Environmental Studies. Winters College academic offerings are linked to the Faculty of Fine Arts Cultural Studies Programme.

Calumet College

Calumet College was founded in 1970, sixth of the seven undergraduate colleges. We were initially housed in the Steacie Library and later at Atkinson College. Had there not been the first round of government cutbacks to higher education in the mid-seventies, our college and residence buildings would likely have been much like those of Bethune and Stong. The unique character of Calumet College life and governance developed during the many years in Atkinson when Calumet served only commuter students. Master Eric Winter opened the college's first computer lab and introduced computer-related college courses. In 1991, through the leadership of Master Peggy Keall, Calumet College and Calumet Residence buildings were opened. Calumet is affiliated with the Faculty of Arts; we also house the "Business History and Ethics" course in the BBA programme of the Schulich School of Business.

As do all colleges, Calumet aims to provide services, facilities and opportunities for students in all aspects of university life: academic, social, cultural, and recreational. All members of the Calumet community, students, Fellows, alumni, alumnae, and administration are encouraged to participate.

Behind all of Calumet’s activities there is a fundamental point of view, a theme, which celebrates the individual. We cherish the differences among us; we seek to demonstrate the role of lively discussion and eventual consensus through mutual tolerance and understanding. Calumet College Council (CCC) and Calumet Residence Council provide an opportunity to get more involved in College life. CCC publishes the college paper, Calumetro, its name suggestive of our commuter roots; CCC organizes workshops, symposiums, seminar series, social events and recreational sports. Beyond the college compound are many campus-wide organizations that offer opportunities to pursue extracurricular interests. There are many student clubs linking students in an academic department or programme, or to others from the same ethnic or religious background. Many students have positions as student senators, as elected representatives to the York Federation of Students, as members of various Student Centre committees, and in other university roles. We encourage students with all interests and origins to join Calumet.

Our association with the Faculty of Arts is focused around our mandate or theme: Technology and the Arts. The college has a curriculum that emphasizes computer applications and the social impact of technology. We have ties with programmes in Mass Communications, Urban Studies, Environmental Studies, Creative Literature, Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Small Business Administration. Student with particular interests or academic majors in the following areas are encouraged to join Calumet: Computer Science, Economics, Geography, Mass Communications, Mathematics, and Urban Studies.

Calumet supports several microcomputer facilities. Bootstrap is a 24-hour drop-in computer lab housing new Apple Macintosh computers with a course-support classroom with fast PCs. Associated with the Urban Studies and Mass Communications programmes are two smaller labs with interactive media hardware using some of the latest advances in technology. Both the College and Residence buildings are networked and connected to the fibre optic backbone of the campus-wide computer facilities. Software support includes word processing, spreadsheets, e-mail (electronic mail), data base management, desk top publishing, graphics, and bulletin boards.

Recreational activities of the college are extensive. Calumet teams play in a wide range of intramural sports: hockey, broom ball, water polo, softball, and soccer to name a few. In some sports there are men’s and women’s teams, while others are co-ed. Usually there are separate teams for highly competitive and for recreational athletes. All students with a desire to play are encouraged to participate.

On The Edge is a student owned-pub and coffee shop located adjacent to the Common Room. It is a focal point for college members and assists in the provision of some of the college’s social programmes: dances, movie nights, darts, and pool tournaments, etc. In addition, the food is excellent, nutritious, and often the lowest priced on campus.

The Calumet Residence consists of 43 six-person co-educational suites. Suites normally have four single bedrooms and one double. Each suite also includes a lounge area, a kitchenette and two washrooms. The suites are grouped into seven houses, each with a Don: the entire residence is overseen by a Residence Tutor. Suite members are responsible for cleaning their own rooms, and the cleaning of the common spaces, such as kitchens, lounges, entrances and stairwells, is shared by all suite members. Network drops in each room allow “res” students with their own computers to join the Calumet computer network and enjoy high quality access to e-mail, university library catalogues, and the Internet.
Throughout the year, students spend time organizing a variety of social activities including dances, pub nights, gala dinners, dart tournaments, and other events. Much of the activity is formed around the interests of involved students.

The student government (CCG) of the College is entrusted with the monies collected from the student body and the disbursement of those funds on activities and services for the benefit of all students. Elections for positions on CCG occur in March, and shortly after that planning is initiated for the activities for the next school year. The student government holds monthly open meetings (Calumet Open Forum, COF) at which all members of the community are welcome and encouraged to participate.

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Founders College

Founders College was the first college established on the York Campus and it’s proud of the part which its Fellows and students have played in the development of York University. The theme of Founders College is “Self, Culture and Society”, which reflects the special interests of the college in the disciplines of Anthropology, French Studies, History and Psychology, as well as its strong commitment to internationalism and contemporary issues. Founders College also supports and houses African Studies, East Asian Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Women’s Studies programmes. The Institute on Achievement and Motivation, which guides and counsels students, is also associated with the college and has its home in its academic building.

The College's academic program consists of a roster of first and second year “Foundation” courses affiliated with the Divisions of Humanities and Social Science, taught by Founders Fellows and associates. These courses relate to the academic themes of the College, and are designed to equip students with critical skills, as part if York’s General Education program. Fellows of the College are active in many ways, especially in fostering their academic interests in an interdisciplinary environment, and in participating in the strong advising program for student members of the College, under the direction of an Academic Advisor.

The following program affiliated groups are associated with the college: History Students Association, the African Students Association, the East Asian Studies Students Association at York, the Caribbean Students Association, the Anthropology Students Association, the Women's Studies Student Collective, and the Irish Students Association. All of these student run organizations provide the College with an exciting array of academic and co-curricular activities. Founders College also houses the East Asian Studies Jerome Ch'en Reading Room, the Nellie Langford Rowell Women's Studies Library, the Development Studies Resources Centre, the Institute for Achievement and Motivation, the Elia Chair in Italo-Canadian Studies and the Office for India Studies. There is a series of lectures featuring outstanding women co-sponsored by the college and the Women’s Studies programme. The college also organizes and supports a variety of activities related to the arts, including art exhibitions in the Arthur Haberman Art Gallery. There is also a fine browsing library and the Brian Cragg Cinema. An annual festival of the arts, Poiesis, involves students and Fellows in a competition including painting, sculpture, photography, poetry and music. Lectures and colloquia are regularly offered in a wide variety of academic and cultural areas associated with the college.

The college is governed by the Master, the Academic Advisor, and the Residence Tutor, assisted by a variety of committees involving Fellows and students. A student council, Founders College Student Council (FCSC), administers an important budget derived from an annual operating grant, organizes a variety of programmes and manages services and enterprises in the college, including an excellent gymnasium and sauna, a games room and a pub.

A four-story residence (without elevators) for 250 undergraduate students is composed of seven houses, each named for a painter of the Group of Seven. Five of these houses are co-ed. We try to maintain a fine balance between a lively environment and one conducive to serious study. The residence is governed by a Residence Tutor, Dons, and students forming a Residence Council.

The college encourages active participation by students and academic excellence through a system of honour awards, book prizes, and at least on full tuition scholarship. Founders College tries to remain faithful to what is best in the collegial tradition -- hard study, stimulating interaction between Fellows and students, and a lively community spirit.

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McLaughlin College

Founded in 1968, McLaughlin College was named in honour of the late Colonel R.S. McLaughlin, business pioneer and philanthropist. The college is dedicated to fostering knowledge and critical attitudes about public policy. Special attention is given to improvement of our society -- the local community, the province, Canada, and the global commons. Public policy is the academic mandate of the college. Excellence in the political, social and economic arenas however, is never enough. Our late founding Master, George Tatham, insisted that the college must contribute to developing “The Whole Person”. The Arts, Music, Poetry and Athletics all have a prominent place in life at McLaughlin College. A full range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities fills the College Public Policy Programme: panel discussions, lectures and noon-hour seminars on issues of the day. Public Policy concerns that are either national or international in scope are included in the annual symposia. The College is part of the Faculty of Arts’ Foundations Course programme. McLaughlin offers first and second-year courses which are affiliated with the Divisions of Humanities and Social Science. Most of the instructors who teach McLaughlin College foundations courses are Fellows of the College. The College also features an annual public policy address by a person of distinction in the field of public policy. Two-hour tutorials of not more than thirty students are held in the college, and are an integral part of each McLaughlin Foundations course. McLaughlin Foundations courses cover a wide variety of public policy concerns and stress the learning of critical skills. Each year McLaughlin jointly plans and sponsors with Vanier College a day-long seminar, “Encounter Canada”, on an important issue of the day. Other forums on matters important to student life -- gender concerns, alcohol awareness and responsibility -- enhance the varied co-curricular programme. A full social and cultural programme includes trips to special musical and theatre events in Toronto. McLaughlin College Council maintains a high profile in college activities. Its athletic programme is oriented to winning the York Torch. Social activities include talent nights, special Halloween and Valentine's Day dances, Christmas and year-end dinner formals and regular Thursday dances.

A well-equipped weight room, Dyna-Macs, is available to students on a membership basis. Locker rooms with a shower are adjacent. The College also has a screening room to show videos and movies, and an area for table-tennis.

Through our affiliation with the Faculty of Arts, student associations representing majors in Economics, Health and Society, Law and Society, Labour Studies, Political Science, Public Policy and Administration, International Relations, and Sociology are invited to make McLaughlin College their base of activities.

These groups work with the Master and with McLaughlin College Council to develop co-curricular programmes for students majoring in those fields and for the wider community.

McLaughlin College offers a newly renovated Computer Lab which is located in Room 107. This lab contains PCs and Macintoshs and is available for use by McLaughlin students. Our study hall is located in Room 016 near the Junior Common Room. The college provides offices for Fellows from a wide variety of York’s Faculties, divisions and departments. Fellows are available to students for advice about courses and careers.

McLaughlin College serves both non-residential and residential students. McLaughlin's 13 storey Tatham Hall offers single and double-room accommodation in six houses for men and women. Each house has a common recreation room. The Residence Tutor and Dons work closely with House Presidents and an active residence council. A full calendar of residence events provides a rounded social and cultural life on campus. The Master of McLaughlin, the Academic Advisor, and their administrative
Norman Bethune College

Norman Bethune College is named in honour of the famous Canadian physician and social activist who became a Chinese folk hero, Bethune College is dedicated to the theme of "Science and Society".

Bethune College is affiliated with the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science, the Faculty of Environmental Studies, and the Science, Technology, Culture and Society programme within the Faculty of Arts. We welcome students from these disciplines as well as any York student who is interested in Science and Society, in our clubs and facilities, our intramural sports teams, or our academic courses.

On the social side, the College houses student clubs, including the Chemistry Club, Biology Club, the Outing Club, the Astronomy and Physics Club, the Taiwanese Students' Association, B.E.S.S.T. (Bachelor of Environmental Studies Students Together), etc. The Bethune Athletic Council sponsors intramural teams in a number of sports competing with the other colleges for the York Torch. The Bethune College Council is a communal blend of elected and appointed students and representatives from the College's alumni, Fellows, and the Master's Office. The council receives a portion of your student activity fees and uses it to fund social events, the college newspaper -- LEXICON, concerts, orientation events, a computer lab, a video games room, a piano room, a weight-training room, and a variety of worthwhile campus activities. We welcome and encourage student participation.

Bethune College also provides friendly and accessible student academic support and co-curricular opportunities -- for example, our programs that help you identify potential careers and professional paths. The College hosts a comprehensive 4 day Academic Orientation for new students. All Bethune students are served by the S.O.S. (Student Ombuds Services), a walk-in office and resource centre, staffed by knowledgeable upper-year students who can assist you in all manner of academic and personal issues. The Bethune Writing Centre provides one-on-one tutorial support, by appointment, to help you develop university-level critical writing skills. The Bethune Computer Lab is staffed by helpful monitors; we also hold workshops on how to use e-mail and the Internet. Bethune College's Fellows (faculty, staff and community members) are a diverse group who provide a wide range of skills and interests, knowledge and wisdom. Many have connections outside of Canada to groups in Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and China.

Bethune College offers academic (for-credit) elective courses, including First Year University Seminars in Science, and upper-year science writing courses. In the Arts Foundations programme, Bethune offers both first and second year courses, including a first year course in Science and the Humanities. In addition to courses, Bethune offers a rich mix of seminars, speakers, discussion groups and special programs of interest to students and faculty alike.

Bethune residence has a mix of single and double rooms and apartment-style suites. Most floors are co-ed but one floor is for women only. An in-house cafeteria offers a full menu of healthy and varied fare. Bethune is serviced by its own pub and coffee shop - JAGS.

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Stong College

Stong College, established in 1969 as York's fifth residential-academic sub-community, is named for the Stong family, pioneers who came to this area from Pennsylvania in 1800 and farmed the lands upon which York University is built. Stong takes pride in its roots in a pioneer heritage, which finds its modern counterpart in the immigrants of today.

Four major themes characterize Stong College, although, like all of the other colleges of York University, we welcome diversity of thought, experience, and academic specialization. The first theme includes English language and literature, both past and present, and critical thinking and writing, all of which are seen to be related under the general heading of the arts of discourse. The second principal interest of the college is in other languages, literatures, and cultures. The scholarly pursuit of these subjects has given our college a multicultural flavour. Our pride in the rich multiculturalism of Stong College, York University, Metropolitan Toronto, and Canada goes well with a third major theme of the college: our strong social commitment. Through programmes with a neighbouring school and other projects, we are pleased to acknowledge our inseparable relationship with the society around us and our debt to it. Finally, Stong College has shown a marked interest in physical education and sport. The college houses three of the School of Physical Education's specialized certificate programmes: Coaching, Sport Administration, and Sport Therapy. Our students have, moreover, participated enthusiastically and successfully in Recreation York's Inter-College Sports Programs.

As a college concerned and involved in all aspects of student life, Stong has a wide variety of facilities and programs that reflect the diversity of life at Stong. The Samuel J. Zacks Art Gallery, whose mandate is to feature student art, has a number of showings throughout the year that also feature the work of traditional and native, international and professional artists. The student newspaper, The Walrus, and the student pub and coffee shop, The Orange Snail, provide many opportunities for discussion, debate and celebration of life at Stong and York.

Stong has a rich tradition of supporting the financial needs of its students through a wide and varied bursary and scholarship program. Funded in large part by an active and involved alumni, these awards reflect the caring side of our college and provide evidence that our students' commitment and involvement with Stong continues beyond graduation.

Other important student resources include a darkroom, a music room, the Allen C. Koretsky Computer Lab and the Academic Resource Centre, which not only serves as a centre for our Peer Advising program, but also as a nerve centre for student support resources on campus. Furthermore, the Academic Advisor (Gail Vanstone), the Residence Tutor (Lara Ubaldi), the staff of the Master's Office (Astra Aven, Val Toole and Cecilia Abrusci) and a long list of Fellows from a variety of disciplines are available and enthusiastic resource people intent on helping you gain the most from your university career.

Stong College is a happy and vibrant college that values and honours diversity, academic endeavours and achievement. We encourage initiative and provide numerous opportunities for fulfillment and invite you to embrace the Stong "way" through a lifestyle of active participation in the rich mosaic of cultural, social and athletic life here in Stong.

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Vanier College

Vanier College is proudly named after Georges Vanier, a Governor General and one of the most distinguished and socially conscientious Canadians of the Twentieth Century. The College is a complex of buildings, and a congregation of residents, Fellows and students who have chosen to participate in the Academic and social life of Vanier.

Vanier is affiliated with the Division of Humanities whose Offices are in the College, the Faculty of Education and the departments of Philosophy and Psychology. The Centre for Jewish Studies is located in the College which is also home to Creative Writing, Classical Studies and Religious Studies. The buildings, especially Vanier Hall and the tall tower of Vanier Residence, provide flexible space for the many activities in the academic and social life of the College. The Fellows who have come to associate with Vanier are from all over the academic campus and from the community. They are scientists, distinguished researchers, social activists and artists, women and men who have agreed to share their academic and social lives with and within the Vanier Community.
Vanier provides a physical and social space for all kinds of interactions. There are lecture series linked to Vanier Courses. Vanier College Productions sponsors a full year of musical, dramatic, and often original productions. Vanier and McLaughlin present "Encounter Canada", a yearly symposium on current Canadian moral and ethical issues; Bethune and Vanier together sponsor a Science Symposium. In addition Vanier offers an annual "Women's Writers" series and opportunities for students to read or perform their own prose and poetry.

Among the people of Vanier are the Master, the College Staff, and the Fellows of the College who are available to all Vanier's students. Members of York's Faculties from Humanities, from Classical and Jewish Studies, from Religious Studies, Creative Writing and Philosophy have Offices in the College. Many students in these areas have formed clubs housed in Vanier and offer a wide range of social as well as academic activities. The students elected to Vanier's College Council are also at the core of College activities, from organizing formal dances to coordinating activities of other students' organizations in the College.

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Along with Vanier Hall, which is at the ceremonial heart of the College from Orientation to Graduation, and the Vanier Playhouse, Vanier provides space for clubs, a computer room, The Rosner-Siegel Library, Vanier Hall itself and the Junior Common Room as spaces for studying, and the Open End, Vanier's Pub. The College is proud about the voluntary commitment of Vanier Fellows, students and staff to participate in events and projects that are outside the work of courses. The College most of all thrives on the variety and the diversity of its people who provide crucial links to one another and to the wider academic and real communities in which we live. The College sponsors two principle publications, Existere, the College's literary journal, and The Vandoo, Vanier's paper.

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Winters College

Sharing a common academic goal with the Faculty of Fine Arts, Winters College provides a congenial and inspiring home base for all students from all faculties interested in having arts, culture and creativity as part of their daily campus life. Founded in 1967, Winters College is named in honour of York University's first Chair of the Board of Governors, the late Robert Winters.

Winters College has merged its academic offerings with the Fine Arts Cultural Studies Programme housed in the College. In doing so, we are able to offer a wider variety of courses dealing with all the Fine Arts and combinations of them. As well, this programme includes cultures from around the world, theoretical methods for analyzing the Fine Arts and courses in interactive media, taking us into the electronic future. Winters College augments its academic offerings by hosting lectures and readings, concerts and performances, exhibitions and conferences connected with the Fine Arts. The College supports students by hosting trips to plays and operas off campus. Social life and activities are not ignored, many of these originating with the Winters College Council or one of the many student groups housed in Winters.

The York University Association of Mature Students (YAMS) welcomes students who are coming to university after some life experience, with the natural nervousness that accompanies such ventures. There are four other student-related groups with offices in Winters College: York University Portuguese Association (YUPA); York Music Students Association (YUMSA), and Fine Arts Cultural Studies Student Association (FACSSA). We also have W'bijazzin, our own student formed, student led jazz choir.

Winters College seeks to serve commuter and residence students, providing activities, study space and a home away from home. The college council is composed of elected students from all academic disciplines. The residence, as well as the college, is made up of students from all faculties to ensure the balance and variety necessary to foster interaction between disciplines. Winters College students have access to our own computer centre, art gallery, music practice rooms and the Absinthe Pub for food and more relaxing times. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the programme of intramural sports with the other York colleges, as with any other activity that might interest you, within the University, or originating within the College.

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