

OC Student Awards

Inspire Growth. Empower Potential.
Give the Gift of Education.



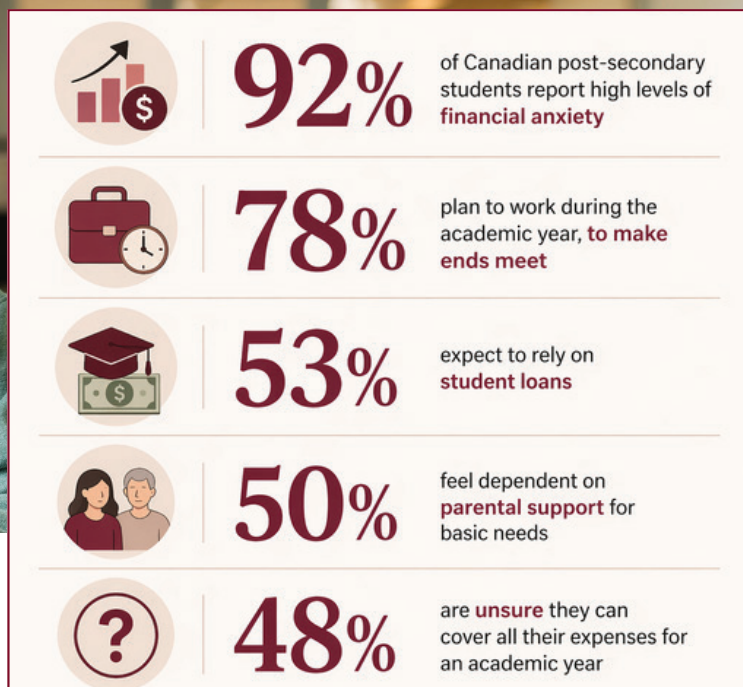
Belief Changes Everything

At Okanagan College (OC), we take great pride in our students. Not only for what they achieve here, but for the impact they go on to make in our communities. They become skilled tradespeople, health professionals, entrepreneurs, engineers, and leaders who strengthen our region and shape its future.

Their journeys begin here, fueled by determination and the support of generous donors who believe in the power of education. For many students, financial support is what makes it possible for them to successfully graduate and begin a new chapter in their lives.

Why Awards Matter

Post-secondary education is not always a straightforward path. Students balance coursework with jobs, family responsibilities, and rising living costs, in some cases while being the first in their family to attend post-secondary. Financial stress is a daily reality, and difficult choices are common.



Sources: Ipsos poll conducted for CIBC (2025);
TD national student survey (2025).

This Is Where You Can Make a Difference

Awards ease financial pressures and allow students to focus on their studies, but the impact goes further. When a student receives an award, they see belief, possibility, and a bright, hopeful future. Your gift to education can be the difference between a student staying in their program or quitting. It's an investment in their self-confidence, showing someone believes in their goals and dreams, and is helping improve both their lives and their family's.

Adam's story reflects the impact behind every award. With a young family at home, he returned to school while working overnight shifts thanks to the flexibility of online classes and driven by a desire to create new opportunities for his future. With the support of donors, he gained not only financial relief but a renewed sense of purpose.



“

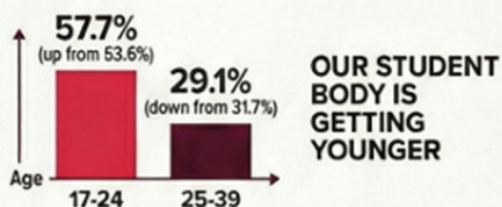
Thanks to the generosity of donors, students like me are reminded that someone believes in what we're doing.”

- Adam Griffin,
Bachelor of Business
Administration student.

Stories like Adam's are made possible through generous donors, empowering learners to overcome barriers and pursue their goals.

A Snapshot of OC Students and Awards Distribution

THE CHANGING STUDENT PROFILE



GEN Z RISES AS MILLENNIAL SHARE DECLINES



GEN Z
(59%, up from 54%)



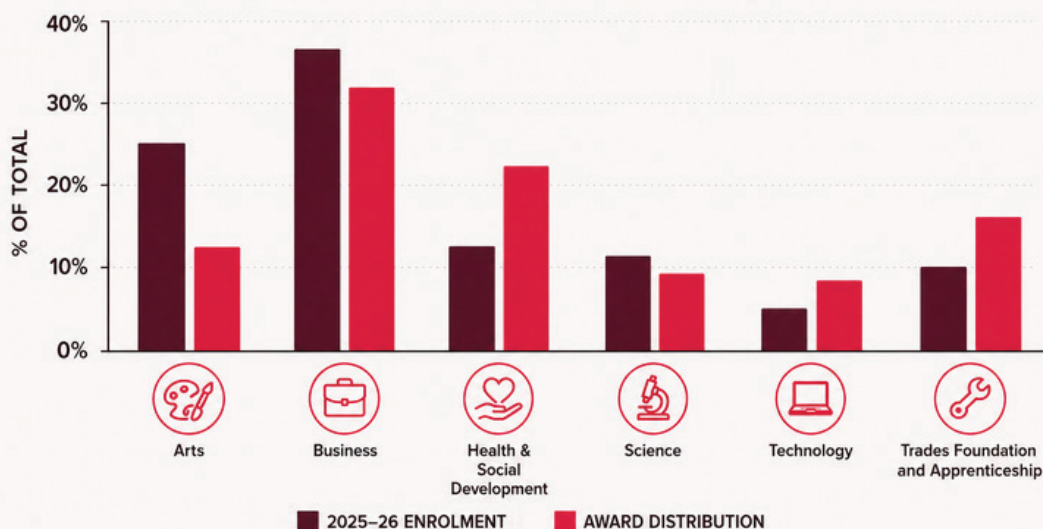
MILLENNIALS
(40%, down from 42%)

ENROLMENT BY CAMPUS LOCATION



Graphic captures headcount by location. Students attending multiple campuses are counted at each campus.

STUDENT ENROLMENT & AWARD DISTRIBUTION BY PORTFOLIO



Supporting Student Success, Together

Our Shared Commitment

When each of us plays our part, students thrive and communities grow.



1

Okanagan College Foundation

- Uses funds in alignment with donor intent and the institution's mission, values, and legal requirements
- Expresses appreciation and recognition to donors
- Provides clear and timely reporting on the impact of gifts
- Facilitates donor–recipient connections only when mutually agreed upon



2

Donors

- Make gifts that align with the institution's mission and policies
- Understand their relationship is with the institution, not the recipient
- Recognize that any interaction with recipients is voluntary and coordinated by the institution
- Support recipients in a way that empowers, rather than obligates, them
- Donors cannot be involved in the recipient selection, ensuring fairness, avoiding potential conflicts of interest, and compliance with CRA charitable rules



3

Award Recipients

- Use awards (received in the form of a cheque) to support their educational journey, whether on tuition, textbooks, tools, groceries, rent, or other costs
- Voluntarily participate in impact reporting or storytelling opportunities when comfortable and appropriate
- Understand that participation in any engagement events with donors is optional and voluntary
- Recognize that being awarded does not come with obligations



4

Together



By respecting these roles and commitments, we ensure that philanthropy remains meaningful, ethical, and impactful—today and for future generations.

How the OC Awards Program Works

For over 20 years, Okanagan College Foundation has connected generous donors to students across programs, campuses, and learning modalities (in-person, online, hybrid).

1. Donors Shape Criteria

With a gift that meets the minimum commitment to establish a named award, we will work together to define an award criteria that reflects the impact you want to make.

Considerations for shaping award criteria include:

- Portfolio, program, department, year of study, academic achievement, financial need, community involvement.
- Candidate pool – is there a large enough pool that meets the award criteria?

2. Recipient Selection

- Students complete an online application, sharing financial need, academic achievements, community involvement, and career goals.
- Recipients are selected through a meticulous process led by the Okanagan College Financial Aid & Award department to ensure fairness, transparency, and alignment with the award criteria. The selection is conducted solely by OC employees.
- Awards are given to students year-round and are made available based on the program schedule and award type.

3. Staying Connected to Your Impact

Award donors receive:

- Confirmation of the awarded recipient
- Student thank-you messages (when available)
- Annual financial report on your unique fund
- Opportunities to connect with award supporters and OC students



Design Your Award Criteria

Each award represents a deeply personal and intentional investment in student success. Designing your award allows you to reflect your values and priorities while making a real impact on students' lives.

1. Define a Program Area:

You may choose to support students in a specific portfolio or program. Explore OC's full list of programs at okanagacollege.ca/program-search

2. Choose an Award Type:

- **Bursary (Financial Need)**

- ◇ Supports students who demonstrate financial need and are in good academic standing.

- **Scholarship (Academic Achievement)**

- ◇ Recognizes students for academic excellence (e.g., highest grade in program or minimum GPA of 75%).

- **Award (Hybrid)**

- ◇ May combine academic achievement, financial need, community involvement, or other criteria that are meaningful to you.

3. Name Your Award:

Naming your award is an opportunity to celebrate the memory of a loved one, honour a mentor, recognize a company's commitment to community, or create a legacy for yourself or your family to live on through student success.

4. Student's Journey Phase:

You may also direct your award to students entering, continuing, or completing their program.

- **Entrance***: Students starting their program at OC
- **Returning**: Students continuing into an additional year of study
- **Completion**: Students who have fulfilled the graduation requirements of their program

**Note: Entrance students only qualify for bursaries as we may not have access to prior academic records.*



Ways to Fund Your Award

OC Foundation is immensely thankful for your investment in education, helping to transform lives and communities through inspiring giving.

There are flexible fund options to help you create an award that reflects your goals and level of investment. Our team will work closely with you to determine the fund type that best aligns with your goals, with the criteria and terms clearly outlined in a Deed of Gift.

Annual Fund

- The minimum commitment to create an annual award is \$1,500 for 5 years, or a one-time donation of \$7,500.
- This option offers immediate impact and flexibility to renew or adjust your commitment over time.

Endowment Fund

An endowment fund is a financial asset that creates a lasting impact. The gift is invested for long-term stewardship or for a set term, and earnings (and in some cases portions of the capital) are used annually to support students.

Endowed funds require one fiscal year before the first award is distributed, allowing the fund time to generate earnings. If desired, donors may make an additional contribution to begin supporting students immediately.

There are two types of Endowment Funds:

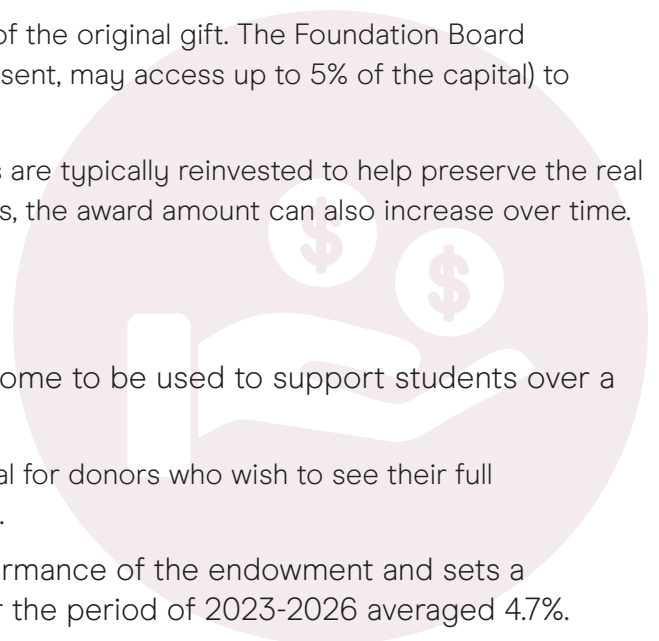
• **Restricted Endowment Fund**

- ◇ The minimum commitment is \$30,000.
- ◇ This fund is established for long-term stewardship of the original gift. The Foundation Board distributes earnings each year (and, with donor consent, may access up to 5% of the capital) to support students.
- ◇ After awards are distributed, undistributed earnings are typically reinvested to help preserve the real value of the fund against inflation. As the fund grows, the award amount can also increase over time.

• **Expendable Endowment Fund**

- ◇ The minimum commitment is \$15,000.
- ◇ Allows both the original gift and investment income to be used to support students over a defined period of time (for example, ten years).
- ◇ This option provides meaningful support and is ideal for donors who wish to see their full contribution distributed within a specific timeframe.

Each year, the OC Foundation Board reviews the performance of the endowment and sets a distribution rate. We aim for a minimum of 4% and over the period of 2023-2026 averaged 4.7%.



Ways to Give

Every gift reflects a commitment to student success and a thriving community. We are deeply grateful for the many ways our community chooses to support education at OC.

- **Cheque** – Payable to **Okanagan College Foundation**, include your area of support in the Memo Line, and mail to:

Okanagan College Foundation
1000 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC V1Y 4X8
- **Online** – Give a gift of any size and instantly receive your charitable donation receipt. Visit our webpage and choose “Give Today”: okanagan.bc.ca/donate
- **Electronic Funds Transfer** – For details, please email foundation@okanagan.bc.ca.
- **Gift of Securities** – A transfer of shares and mutual funds is eligible for tax credits. For details, please email foundation@okanagan.bc.ca or visit okanagan.bc.ca/donate.
- **Phone** – Please call 250-862-5630, ext. 1 to pay by credit card.
- **Gift in Wills** – Leaving a gift in your estate can benefit generations and ensure your belief in education continues to help our community for years to come. Learn more by contacting Sasha Carter, Manager of Development, at SCarter@okanagan.bc.ca.

Rick and Debbie Boyd are passionate about supporting our community's most vulnerable. As volunteers at the local women's shelter and advocates for those experiencing homelessness, they understand the transformative power of education.

The couple established an annual bursary for OC's Human Service Work program, expanding opportunities for students and empowering graduates to serve others in meaningful ways.

They have also committed to a gift in their will, ensuring students continue to thrive and the community is better equipped to support those in need for generations to come.



“Our current bursary is a way to effect change right away, and our legacy gift is a long-term investment in the wellbeing of our community.”

- Rick and Debbie Boyd

Other Ways to Support Students

If establishing a named award is not the right fit at this time, there are other meaningful ways you can make a difference.

You can contribute to an existing pooled fund dedicated to a specific program or student group. By contributing to one of our pooled funds, you join a community of donors who believe in expanding opportunities for students across programs. Together, these collective investments create flexible, responsive support where it is needed most.

OC Student Competition Support Fund

Experiential learning comes to life when students test their skills beyond the classroom. This fund provides grants to students representing OC in regional, national, or international competitions to help offset travel, registration, and participation costs.

Our Students, Your Health Bursaries

This fund supports students enrolled in any Health and Social Development program who demonstrate financial need. Support future health and social development professionals as they prepare to care for our communities.

OC Food Security Fund

No student should have to choose between groceries and textbooks. This fund helps ensure students have reliable access to food while they pursue their studies by supporting on-campus food banks and meal programs.

Program Support Funds

Help strengthen the students' learning experience, support innovative spaces, and prepare students for success. Funds can be directed to a specific portfolio or program.

Area of Greatest Need

Provides flexible support to respond to the most pressing student and program needs.



The 2026 Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (I.C.B.C.) was a defining moment for OC students. Hosted by Queen's University and widely recognized as one of North America's premier business case competitions, the event brought together top university teams from across Canada, the U.S., and beyond.

Amid that elite field, Okanagan College stood out as the only college competing, delivering exceptional results and earning more podium finishes than any other school, including a national championship in finance. The achievement reflects not only the students' skill, preparation, and teamwork, but also the mentorship of faculty and the strength of a learning environment designed to help students excel beyond the classroom.

Experiences like this are made possible through initiatives such as the **OC Student Competition Support Fund**, which supports students from any program in pursuing regional, national, and international competitions. With donor support helping remove financial barriers, students gain access to opportunities that expand their confidence, sharpen their abilities, and prepare them for what comes next.

“

Thanks to the OC Student Competition Support Fund, I could join 10 fellow students to represent the College in the Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (I.C.B.C.) against top Universities from around the globe. We achieved huge success, earning more podium placements than any other competing school. Thank you, donors, for making this possible.”

- Kjell Kjemhus,
Bachelor of Business Administration student, and recipient of the OC Student Competition Award.



Join us in transforming lives through the power of education.

For more information, please contact:



Samantha Blandon

Development Officer,
Annual Giving

250-762-5445 ext. 4836

SBlandon@okanagan.bc.ca



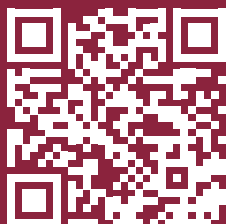
Morgan McCarthy

Development & Stewardship
Coordinator

250-762-5445 ext. 4196

MMccarthy@okanagan.bc.ca

Scan to visit our
website:



okanagacollegefoundation.ca

OC OKANAGAN COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

