

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Admission Processes Explained

If students wish to attend Saskatchewan Polytechnic or similar technical schools, the admission process is important to understand, particularly because they can apply for some programs as early as grade 10 or 11, or Sept. 1 of their grade 12 year. It's important to apply for those programs if students are even remotely considering them, because they fill up quickly, and in some cases their marks don't matter.

A. Competitive Admissions Process:

1. Competitive programs are based entirely on marks or on marks and some other things that students must do, such as a career investigation, and other work. Currently, the competitive programs are: Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Medical Lab Technology, Combined Lab and X-Ray Technology and Medical Radiologic Technology. These programs typically take applications from Oct. 1 to Feb. 15 each year. The students with the highest marks are accepted until the seats in each program are filled.
2. Registered Nursing and Practical Nursing are based entirely on marks. The other ones have a two-phase process for admission. Phase 1 is marks. If your marks are high enough, you get into Phase 2, which requires a variety of assignments and assessments to ensure you are aware of the requirements of the program. An essay, an online test like CASPer and TakeAltus, or a questionnaire are common. Your average from Phase 1 is combined with the points assigned in the activities you completed in Phase 2. Admission is based on those combined points. Check the program page for specifics.

B: First Qualified, First Admitted (FQFA) Process:

1. FQFA means that the on the first day that you take the course(s) required for admission, you can apply and be accepted. Some examples:
 - a. Auto Body Technician: grade 10. Just pass grade 10.
 - b. Power Engineering: foundations or pre-calculus 30 and a min. 65% overall average.
 - c. Agriculture Machinery Technician: grade 11 and a 20-level math.

As indicated, some programs have a minimum of grade 12 as a requirement and some that require a grade 11 or grade 10. In those cases, you can apply on Sept. 1 of your grade 11 year or grade 10 year, respectively. Your name would then wait in the queue until you finish grade 12. That is the best chance of getting into the program of your choice.

2. Sept. 1 of your qualifying year is the first date that you can apply for Sask. Polytechnic, but you may apply at any time throughout the year. This may be beneficial, depending on when you wish to attend. If you are going to be on a waitlist, it may be good to apply as soon as you decide to attend, regardless of the time of year.
3. After you apply, you will receive access to the Sask. Polytechnic portal. This is the ONLY way they will correspond with you. If you don't look at it, you will never know whether you are accepted.
4. If you check that portal, and you find you've been accepted, you have 30 days from the time you have been accepted to send them a seat deposit of \$600. This is not an additional cost, but a credit toward your tuition.
5. If you don't check that address, or you don't pay the \$600 seat deposit, they will give your seat away to the next person on the waitlist.

What if you're waitlisted? How does the waitlist work?

Many programs, particularly trades, have 20-25 seats. Students in the top 5 or so on the waitlist have a reasonable chance of being accepted, but there are no guarantees. If you are well down on the waitlist (10 or more), you are not likely going to be accepted, but that is dependent on the number of seats in particular programs. Depending on the number of intakes there are per year (some programs have multiple intakes), you may have to wait a year to get in. The good thing is that you will be given the chance to reapply, and you will keep your original application date. Here is an example of how it may look.

- Martha will graduate in June of 2000. On Sept. 30, 1999, she applies for a program that begins in the fall of 2000. The program was filled on Sept. 15, 1999. She is #15 on the waitlist. She will not start in the fall of 2000.
- Around Oct. 1, 2000 (one month after the program start date), she will receive an email, inviting her to reapply and pay the \$100 application fee again.
- She decides to reapply on Oct. 2, 2000, which is within the 30-day reapplication timeframe. BUT, the positive for her is that she gets to keep her original date of application, (Sept. 30, 1999). She will be added in date order for the next intake of Sept 2001. Because her original application date was Sept. 30, 1999, she is ahead of all people who applied after that date. There were 14 other people ahead of her on the waitlist. Some of them will go on to do other things, and some stay on the waitlist, but usually, the chances of getting in after that year is quite good.
- If she does not reapply within the timeframe provided, her seat will be given to someone else. She won't get another chance to reapply, and her original date doesn't matter. Martha can then choose to start the process over if she missed the deadline.

RECOMMENDATION: AVOID THE WAITLIST ENTIRELY!

Sask. Poly takes admissions all year round. If you are in your qualifying year (met the minimum requirements of being in grade 10, 11, or 12), you can apply any time. The benefit of applying at any time is that your application date stays with you if the class is full, and you end up on the waitlist. See below.

1. **If you are in grade 12, apply for Sask. Polytechnic programs on Sept. 1 of your grade 12 year.** Waiting could result in your not being accepted in the fall of your graduation year. If there is a 5% chance you want to take a Sask. Poly FQFA program, apply and figure it out later. You can always say you're not attending, but if you're too late, you need to come up with a different plan.
2. **If you are in grade 11 or 10, and you think you want to take a Sask. Polytechnic program that has a minimum requirement of grade 11 or 10, apply before grade 12.** You don't have to wait until you are in grade 12, and if you wait too long, you may not be accepted in the fall after your graduation. Again, if there is a 5% chance you want to take a Sask. Poly FQFA program, apply and figure it out later. You can always say you're not attending, but if you're too late, you need to come up with a different plan.
3. **Try other options.** There are seven regional colleges that offer many Sask. Polytech programs. You can always check these for availability, as they don't always fill up as quickly. You may not be in your preferred location, but the chances of getting accepted may be better.