

# Most Frequently Asked Questions about the Selection Process for Limited Enrolment Programs

## What does limited enrolment mean?

Limited enrolment means that we have more demand for a program than spaces available. Other terms used for this are oversubscribed or competitive. In limited enrolment programs, applicants are compared to one another. If a program is not limited, then it is considered an open (non-competitive) program, and applicants are not compared to other applicants, only to the entrance requirements. Open programs can still become wait listed after February 1.

## What criteria are used in the selection process?

Unless specifically stated, grades are the ONLY tool used to compare students to one another. No admissions testing, resumes, or interviews are considered.

## Do you use mid-term grades from the second semester?

As all of our decisions are made well before second semester mid-term grades are available, we do not use mid-term grades. Unless there is a case for a student working on a non-traditional schedule (e.g., night school, non-semestered), we will only note the fact that a student is in progress with a prerequisite.

## Do you use an overall high school average?

Cambrian uses only the courses that are considered prerequisites for the program in question. For example, a student applying for Dental Hygiene will be considered only on his/her biology, chemistry, and English marks. Geography or history grades do not help nor hurt the applicant's chance to get into the program.

## Are college and university students given a preferential standing in the selection process?

No; all students are grouped separately (high school, college/university, upgrading) to begin with, so we can compare students with similar backgrounds. We then take the best candidates from all groups. Once we have established the benchmark for admission, we then compare all students together to compile our waitlist.

## What happens when students aren't taking prerequisite courses until second semester?

Cambrian requires that students complete at least 50% of the prerequisite courses in order to be considered for limited enrolment programs. Using the example of Dental Hygiene, we would need 2 final grades in any of the 3 prerequisite subjects (English, chemistry, biology) to be considered. A final grade in only one course would not be enough. Applicants currently attending a semestered secondary school are strongly encouraged to complete, in the first semester of their final year or in their 3rd year of studies, the subject-specific requirements for the programs to which they are applying in order that final marks for these courses may be used in the selection.

## What kind of marks do students need?

Cut-off grades vary somewhat from one year to the next, depending on the pool of applicants.

The following will give you some idea of what the cut-off grades were for fall 2009 in limited enrolment programs. These grades relate to high school applicants only and represent the prerequisite averages.

## BENCHMARKS

The following table includes the benchmarks, or cut-offs, for successful admission to Cambrian College's limited enrolment programs in 2009-10. The averages displayed represent only final grades (not mid-terms) in the prerequisite courses for a particular program.

PROGRAM	# APPLICANTS	# SEATS	MINIMUM GRADE	MINIMUM AVERAGE
Medical Radiation Technology	485	35	80% or A	86%
Powerline Technician	194	24	70% or B	80%
Dental Hygiene	310	40	70% or B	77%
Power Engineering Techniques	146	40	70% or B	73%
Paramedic	289	40	70% or B	70%
Medical Laboratory Technology	200	45	70% or B	70%
B.Sc. Nursing	310	77	60% or C	68%
Practical Nursing	289	48	60% or C	67%

Wait lists for these programs were established with the strongest candidates who did not receive an offer of admission.



If you need further information, please contact the Liaison Office by phone at (705) 524-7303 or 1-800-461-7145, extension 7303 or by email at [info@cambriancollege.ca](mailto:info@cambriancollege.ca).