

Veterinary Technician Program (PVETT):

Essential Start-Up Information for NEW Students

Welcome to an exciting program in veterinary medical care at Sheridan College! The Veterinary Technician program is a highly demanding and highly rewarding pursuit of education and career. Your professors/instructors are dedicated to your success, are experts in their field, and will ensure that you receive the most up-to-date information and skills. We look forward to meeting you, and are excited to be guiding you through this journey!

ORIENTATION

Program and Laboratory orientation will be taking place on **Wednesday, August 21, 2019, from 9:00am-5:00pm** (starting location: Davis Campus Gymnasium).

This **Orientation session is MANDATORY** for all Veterinary Technician students. An invitation from Student Advisement will follow, which will provide more details about campus orientation, which takes place the same day, and the room location for our program specific orientation.

It is recommended that you bring a day planner/notebook and pen, and also bring a lock so you can secure a locker on that day, close to the one of the labs.

During Orientation you will be registered for your dosimeter which will be distributed by Health Canada's National Dosimetry Service (NDS). This is a mandatory safety element for all individuals that will be working with radiography (x-rays) and you will not be permitted to attend field placement without one.

Please ensure you have the following with you when you come to Orientation:

1. Social Insurance card or number (SIN),
2. your birth date, and
3. town and country in which you were born.

You cannot be registered with NDS until this information is received, which will impact your studies and involvement in the program. If you are an International Student, you will not have a SIN, so please indicate "International" on the registration sheet when you receive it at Orientation.

PROGRAM QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE

Program Coordinator & program specific Academic Advisor:

Prof. Amanda Maknyik

Office: H150

Fall 2019 Office Hours: Monday 12:00-3:00
 Wednesday 12:00-3:00
 Friday 12:00-3:00

Telephone ext: 5338

Email: amanda.maknyik@sheridancollege.ca (this is the VERY best option to reach me to reach me quickly and consistently).

**Emails should only be sent from your Access Sheridan account. Emails from generic mail services (ex. Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) will not be opened due to virus concerns.

Please see your Program Coordinator/Academic Advisor for questions related to your progress, program plan, course challenges, conflicts, or decisions about core courses (add/drop/swap).

VACCINATIONS – VERY IMPORTANT – READ CAREFULLY!

**** Prophylactic vaccination against the rabies virus is MANDATORY for all students entering the Veterinary Technician program.**

The series of 3 vaccinations take approximately 3 weeks to complete, and must be started by (or before) the beginning of September, prior to contact with any program related animals. A titre must be taken 1 month following your final vaccination, and the titre report must be provided to the *Introduction to Veterinary Technology* (SCIE10123) instructor. Your titre report must be submitted no later than Monday, November 11, so be sure to plan your vaccination schedule accordingly. This titre can be submitted via email or in hard copy. Students are encouraged to begin their vaccination series during the summer months in order to meet placement timelines.

Please contact the Sheridan Health Centre at 905-459-7533 ext 5153 to schedule an appointment during the summer months. Be sure to indicate that you are an incoming student for the Veterinary Technician program. Beginning in September, the student Health Center will schedule designated vaccination clinics for the Veterinary Technician students – sign-up will be available at Orientation. The Health Center is located on the 2nd floor of the C-Building (C210).

Students that are not vaccinated against rabies will not be permitted to attend Field Placement, or other live-animal related activities.

Vaccination is available at a discounted rate of approximately \$169.00 per vaccination. Students can apply for reimbursement of the vaccine cost (in part or in full) through their Sheridan Student Union or their own private insurance plans if they have one. The vaccine being administered is Imovax Rabies.

At Your Appointment:

- Bring your health card or GuardMe card
- Bring your OneCard, *loaded with the cost of the vaccine*
- Be prepared to wait at the Health Centre for at least 15 minutes after your appointment.

If you are already vaccinated against Rabies, please visit the Health Centre to obtain a valid rabies titre. If you are unable to receive this vaccine due to a pre-existing medical condition, please arrange to meet with your Program Coordinator to discuss your options.

It is also recommended that students have an up-to-date Tetanus vaccination. This can be received at the Campus Health Centre for no charge.

POLICE CHECK

All students in the Veterinary Technician program will be required to submit a standard Criminal Record Check (*NOT a Vulnerable Sector Check*) prior to beginning any placement work off campus. You can apply for your police check at any time PRIOR to the start of the semester (they can take 6-8 weeks to return), and it has to be requested from the Police Force in which you reside on a regular basis – your home address. For example, if you live in Toronto, you have to apply to the Toronto Police; if you live in Oshawa, you have to apply to the Durham Police. Visit the website of your relevant police force for information on how to apply and the associated cost.

It is important to note that your Program Coordinator or Field Placement Coordinator will NOT see what is on your report, simply confirm that it was processed and the date on which it was processed; however, you may be asked to provide your police check to your placement site upon their request.

More information about this and the opportunity for questions will be provided at Orientation, and can be found in your Field Placement Manual which you will receive in your Introduction to Veterinary Technology course.

ATTIRE

Sheridan specified coloured scrubs and name tag are MANDATORY attire for ALL laboratory sessions/classes and off campus excursions. Scrubs must be Royal Blue in colour and can be picked up in the Sheridan Bookstore with your student ID. Each student will receive 2 sets of scrubs, the cost of which is already included in your kit fees. Please take your One Card to the Bookstore to pick-up your sets. A Sheridan nametag will be issued to you to identify you as a Veterinary Technician student, and you will receive a high quality stethoscope as part of your program kit. Your kit also contains items you will require for certain classes. Your instructors will let you know what you are required to bring to their class. Kits will be distributed at Orientation.

Closed-toe shoes with a non-slip sole are MANDATORY (Crocs or similar footwear are not permitted), long necklaces and dangly earrings are not permitted, and long hair must be tied back. You will not be permitted to participate in a lab if you are not appropriately attired. This includes exams and assessments. Individual instructors may also have additional requirements for their specific courses, which must be adhered to.

Students are expected to maintain a clean, tidy professional image while on campus and while out on placement. Please note: placement facilities reserve the right to enforce dress code requirements that meet their professional expectations, which may mean requiring you to cover tattoos and/or remove piercings, and/or request natural make-up (ex. no black lipstick).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weekly timetables will be visible Tuesday, August 15. Your schedule is pre-set; however, if you wish to alter your schedule, and there is room in the target section, you may be able to swap your lab sections (there is only 1 lecture section for each course, therefore you cannot swap lecture times), but please note that lab sections have a maximum capacity. You can attempt to swap sections beginning on August 15. Instructions for this process may be found at: <http://myotr.sheridaninstitute.ca/add-drop-swap.html>.

Final day to add or swap a course is Monday, September 9. *Please note: you cannot add/drop/swap your Field Placement classes (code: FLPL) on your own. This must be done through your Program Coordinator and the OTR. Please contact your Program Coordinator for an appointment to do so.*

You will be required to select General Education courses in your 1st, 3rd and 4th semesters. These courses MUST be offered online (due to current program map requirements). You will be required to select and **enroll in your General Education course on August 15.** Registration opens at 7:00am. Instructions for enrolling in General Education courses can be found at: <http://myotr.sheridaninstitute.ca/electives.html>. Please email generaleducation@sheridancollege.ca if you have questions about the courses or how to obtain advanced standing for prior credits from another educational institution.

You will also be enrolled in an English Communications class – either COMM19999 or COMM19997. The results of your language assessment will determine which course you are enrolled in. If you are enrolled in COMM19997 you will be required to take COMM19999 in your second semester. If you do not see either of these courses on your schedule, please confirm that you have completed the language assessment and then go to the OTR to have it added. You cannot graduate without having completed COMM19999.

If you wish to apply for Advanced Standing, you must have your application submitted within the first 2 weeks of the semester, although it is encouraged to begin the process prior to the start of the semester. A course submitted for Advanced Standing must have a passing grade of 60% or higher, have been taken within 5 years, and is at least 80% equivalent in curricular content and programmed hours to the Sheridan course. You can find instructions to complete the process here:

http://myotr.sheridaninstitute.ca/advanced_standing_guide.html.

The final day to withdraw from a course, or the program, with a partial refund (in some cases) is Monday, September 16, and the final day to withdraw without academic penalty is Friday November 22. It is strongly recommended that you see your Academic Advisor or Program Coordinator prior to dropping a course, as this may significantly impact your progression in the program as this may significantly impact your progression in the program. This will allow mapping of your program in order to determine the best course of action.

You can link to the complete 2019-20 Academic Calendar here:

<https://www.sheridancollege.ca/admissions/academic-calendar/2019-2020-academic-calendar>

First Classes of Fall 2019: We hit the ground running, therefore we DO hold classes the first week of the semester. Please come to your classes ON TIME and prepared to work. Do not presume the classes will be cut short that week, so please plan on attending for your full schedule – as outlined.

FIELD PLACEMENT

Field Placement is an integral element of your program at Sheridan College. During your first semester, you will be required to complete a volunteer placement at a veterinary medical facility of your choice, where your focus will be on animal husbandry tasks. It is recommended that you begin your search for this placement during the first couple of weeks of classes. More detailed information and documentation will be provided at Orientation.

Students will participate in full day placement beginning in 2nd semester. You will spend one day each week in a veterinary clinic/hospital, as part of the veterinary medical team in that facility, as well as for 2 weeks (full-time) at the end of the semester. Students are required to locate their own placement, and in many cases are able to complete their placement in their place of employment if they are currently employed in a veterinary facility. This approval will be granted at the discretion of the Field Placement instructor. More information will be provided at Orientation, and throughout 1st semester.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES & ACTIVITIES

Reasonable additional duties may be assigned on a course-by-course basis, which may include Animal Center duty, lab monitors, and lab set-up/take down, and students will be expected to complete and manage these duties as an integral part of their education.

Students will participate in off campus activities and/or laboratory sessions, and will be responsible for their own transportation to and from these sites. Most sessions take place in the Brampton/Mississauga area, and are accessible by public transportation. Attendance is mandatory.

BOOKS & SUPPLIES

A booklist will be provided at Orientation or you may contact the Campus Bookstore for assistance.

You can also search for your texts through their website:

<http://www.bkstr.com/sheridandavisstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials>. Some of the textbooks have been packaged into a bundle, which you can purchase in either hard copy or as digital e-books, for a discounted cost. Speak with the desk in the bookstore for assistance in finding and/or purchasing this bundle.

Supplies for labs will be provided to you in your student kits and during classes; however, additional supplies may have to be purchased on your own.

While a laptop computer is not required for this program it is highly recommended.

You will require a basic (non-programmable) calculator for a number of your courses, beginning with MATH10688. Cell phones, tablets, and smart watches are not permitted to be used as calculators during classes and/or quizzes, tests, or exams.

PERSONAL WELLNESS

The Veterinary Technician program is highly demanding in both time and energy; therefore, looking after your personal health and wellness is of utmost importance. Time management, establishing work/study groups, and taking care of yourself are your keys to success in the program. Be sure you eat well, get lots of sleep, reduce your work hours, and take time out for yourself and your hobbies/interests each day. Should you feel overwhelmed at any time, there are wonderful support services available for you here at the college. Please don't hesitate to come see me for guidance!

Again, welcome to an amazing, exciting and action packed program! I look forward to meeting you and learning together!

Amanda

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