

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. Our team is dedicated to your success! Faculty 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

Orientation for the veterinary technician program is mandatory and all students are expected to attend. This is a great opportunity to get information about the program, pick up your scrubs and books, meet some of our second-year students and pick up your kit. All of this was designed to help you feel prepared and ready to start learning in September. Program orientation will be taking place IN PERSON at Sheridan College (Davis campus; Brampton) on **August 30, 2023, from 12:30 pm: pm-4:30 pm.** Here is what we have planned for you on August 30.

Our Agenda

Fall 2023-August 30, 2023

SCRUBS & Books Pick Up

12:30-1:30 Bookstore (a special vet tech slot has been arranged for you)

Program Session

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm; B213

Here about the program and meet your AWESOME faculty

Meet Our Second Years, Tutors & Kit Pick Up

B121, B123, B197, B198 (kit pick up location)

3:30-4:30 pm

Our second years are AMAZING and can't wait to welcome you to the program!

You will receive an email from the Sheridan College First Year Experience Team with more details. We recommended that you have access to a day planner/notebook and pen for the orientation session because you will be provided with a lot of information!

PROGRAM QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE

Got questions...we are here to help! Please feel free to contact us with your questions, but remember, emails should only be sent from your Sheridan Central account. We are unable to open emails from generic mail services (ex. Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) for security reasons.

- **Program Coordinator** -For general program questions
Sheela Iyer, MEd, BSc, RVT, RLATg (*she/her*)
Office: H150
Email: sheela.iyer@sheridancollege.ca
- **Academic Advisor**- For questions related to your progress, program plan, course challenges, conflicts, or decisions about core courses (add/drop/swap).
Dr. Roberta Veitch, HBSc, DVM, BEd (*she/her*)
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<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/OneononemeetingswithDrRobertaVeitch@sheridanc.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
- **Field Placement Coordinator** – For all field placement questions
Ruth Sultana, RVT, DCHM (*she/her*)
Office: H150
Email: ruth.sultana@sheridancollege.ca

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

The veterinary technician program is very excited to have program academic supports for students. For the fall 2023 term, Rachel Vowels and Emma Youmans (Class of 2023) will be available to provide help for students in first year courses. Plan to attend your 1-hour MATH10688 workshop on **Tuesday, September 5th, 2023** (see your schedule) where you will have an AMAZING opportunity to meet Rachel and Emma.

LEARN WELL

We understand that the transition to post secondary can be difficult and we want to help you on this journey. We highly recommend that you use the time before classes begin to review the Learn Well modules posted on the Vet Tech 2023 Graduating Class virtual community on SLATE (see section below). Whether you have recently graduated from high school, are starting your journey towards a second career, or have university experience, we believe that the Learn Well modules can help make your transition to Sheridan and the veterinary technician program easier.

FALL 2023 DELIVERY MODE AND VACATIONS

The fall 2023 term is 14-weeks in duration, and it is expected that students attend all scheduled lectures and labs. ALL classes AND labs in the veterinary technician program are face-to-face and on-site at Sheridan College's Davis campus (Steeles & McLaughlin Road in Brampton). We hit the ground running week 1, therefore we DO hold classes the first week of the semester. Please come to your classes ON TIME and be prepared to work. To help create a safe learning space for all students, the program does not record lectures and labs.

Vacations during the academic term-The program DOES NOT recommend that you book a personal vacation during the semester. Due to the practical nature of the program, we WILL NOT be able to reschedule exams (lecture or lab) to accommodate personal vacations taken during teaching weeks. Please plan accordingly.

2025 GRADUATING CLASS VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

A virtual community, **Vet Tech 2025 Graduating Class** has been set up on SLATE for your class (**1128470_VC**). This virtual community will contain important information for the start of your program and will be available to you **AFTER** the orientation session. You can access the virtual community by logging onto SLATE, then click on the virtual community tab at the top of the page.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR

Important dates for the 2023/24 academic year can be found on Sheridan's academic calendar. Familiarize yourself with the calendar so that you know important dates such as the term start, add/drop/swap, reading break. You can access the calendar using this link: <https://www.sheridancollege.ca/admissions/academic-calendar>

PROGRAM WEBSITE: <https://www.sheridancollege.ca/programs/veterinary-technician>

PLACEMENT & VACCINATIONS – VERY IMPORTANT – READ CAREFULLY!

Students in the veterinary technician program are required to find their own placement in a regular small animal veterinary hospital/clinic starting in semester 1. Your placement supervisor must be an RVT or DVM. **The clinic you choose for your placement cannot be your place of employment.** Confidential documents required for field placement are reviewed by Synergy Gateway, a 3rd party company for document verification. The cost to use Synergy is approximately **\$50.00/year** and is payable at the time when you upload your documents. **More information will be provided during orientation and in your first SCIE10123 lab.**

Prophylactic vaccination against the rabies virus is MANDATORY for all students entering the Veterinary Technician program. The Veterinary Technician program in collaboration with the Davis campus Health Center team is requesting information to help prepare you for your Rabies vaccination. A letter containing a link to a Microsoft Form has been emailed to you. Please take a few minutes to complete the form.

Instructions for how to get your first vaccine at Sheridan College will be provided by the Davis Health Center team during the program orientation on August 30. The **approximate** cost is **\$182.00 PER DOSE** and students **require 3 doses**. After completion of the rabies vaccination series, a blood sample is collected to check immunological response (i.e., titre) at no cost by the Davis Health Centre nurses and/or physicians. Students who are already vaccinated against the rabies virus can get a rabies titre (covered by OHIP) done after July 1 through their regular physician or the Davis Health Centre. This will ensure that your titre results are valid throughout the placement duration. Rabies vaccines can also be obtained through some family doctors and travel clinics, but they may be more expensive.

ATTIRE

Sheridan specified coloured scrubs and name tag are **MANDATORY** attire for ALL laboratory sessions/classes and off campus excursions. A special pick-up time for all vet tech students has been arranged at the bookstore on Orientation Day (August 30, 2023) from 12:30-1:30 pm. 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 **Onecard** to the Bookstore to pick-up your sets. A sizing chart has been provided with this letter.

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 AFTER orientation in one of your classes.

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 that placement facilities reserve the right to enforce dress code requirements that meet their professional expectations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedules in the veterinary technician program are pre-set; however, if you wish to alter your schedule, **and** there is room in the lab 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 the second week in August (approximately) on Sheridan Central under the myOTR tab.

You will be required to select General Education courses in your 1st, 3rd, and 4th semesters. It is highly recommended that you select courses that are offered online, due to current program map requirements to accommodate field placement. You will be required to select and enroll in your General Education course. 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. Based on your Grade 12 or postsecondary English score, or the English Language Proficiency score in your application, you will be placed in Communication Foundations (COMM 19997) or Essential Communication Skills (COMM 19999) in your first semester. 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 contact the Office of Registrar for assistance. You cannot graduate without having completed COMM19999.

If you wish to apply for Advanced Standing for your general education requirement(s), 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. All core veterinary technician program 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. Information about advanced standing can be found on the Sheridan Central website.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES & ACTIVITIES

Reasonable additional duties may be assigned on a course-by-course basis, which may include 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 (i.e., for labs conducted at Brampton Animal Shelter). Most sessions take place in the Brampton/Mississauga area and are accessible by public transportation. Attendance is mandatory.

BOOKS & SUPPLIES

A booklist has been provided. You may also 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>. Consider using their online portal to order your books which you can then pick up on August 30 (12:30-1:30 pm) when you are at Sheridan for Orientation. Supplies for labs will be provided to you in your student kits and during classes. 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 a calculator during classes and/or quizzes, tests, or exams.

ONECARD – campus access card

New incoming full-time students are required to upload a photo for their **Onecard**. Once enrolled at Sheridan you will automatically receive a link to your Sheridan email account to upload a photo. If the link is broken or expired, you can visit <https://onecardphoto.sheridancollege.ca/> and use your Sheridan email to request that a new link be sent to you. <https://central.sheridancollege.ca/onecard-students>

LOCKER RENTAL & PARKING

Personal belongings such as back packs, purses, food, and beverages are not permitted into many of our labs, especially B197 (Biosciences lab). Based on this, it is strongly suggested that you consider renting a locker at the college, where you can store your personal belongings when you are in lab. Information on locker rentals and parking can be found on Sheridan Central.

<https://central.sheridancollege.ca/locker-rentals>

<https://central.sheridancollege.ca/parking-services>

Accessible parking: <https://central.sheridancollege.ca/accessible-parking>

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING

Sheridan's Accessible Learning (AL) team is "responsible for providing academic accommodation planning for students with disabilities to ensure barrier-free access to education." Students who feel they may require academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Sheridan's AL team as soon as possible. Information about Accessible Learning at Sheridan can be found at <https://www.sheridancollege.ca/student-life/student-services/accessible-learning-services>

PERSONAL WELLNESS

We care about your personal health and 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, consider reducing out of school employment 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 do not hesitate to contact your program coordinator or academic advisor for guidance! On behalf of the Veterinary Technician team welcome to an amazing, exciting, and action-packed program! We are so very excited to meet you at the program orientation on September 1.

Welcome to Vet Tech!

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