

**TITLE: Student At Risk and Intervention (SARIT) Policy**

**Date of Approval: January 13, 2015; May 17, 2018**

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**Mandatory Review  
Date: June 2023**

**Approved By:**

- ☐ Board of Governors  
☒ President's  
Executive Committee  
☐ Senate

SARIT does not respond directly to emergencies. If any member of the Sheridan community is reporting an emergency situation, such as imminent risk of suicide, immediate risk to the safety of others, weapons, violent behaviour or medical emergencies, please immediately contact Campus Security and/or call 911.

## 1. PURPOSE

Sheridan's Student at Risk and Intervention Team (SARIT) may also be referred to as "The Student Care Team". SARIT is a non-punitive team designed to support Students (as defined below) experiencing mental health, emotional difficulties, and/or other factors which may result in issues of risk as outlined below.

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a framework for the identification of Students at Risk and the coordination of early preventative intervention(s) and support(s). The Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning ("Sheridan") is committed to fostering the success and safety of its Students. Sheridan will take all reasonable steps to ensure individual needs are taken into consideration, and periods of crisis and/or distress do not hinder a Student's academic progress.

## 2. SCOPE

This Policy is applicable to all Sheridan Students while on campus. This Policy may also apply to Students while off campus if the concern in question affects the safety, integrity, and/or other interests of the Sheridan community or any of its members.

This Policy outlines behaviours which may suggest a Student is at risk, including but not limited to the following:

- i. Students whose behaviour is putting themselves at risk or any Student behaviour which has the potential to and/or threatens to put themselves and/or the learning and living environment of Sheridan at risk;

- ii. Students who indicate suicidal thoughts in any manner and/or who threaten to, or carry out an act of self-harm;
- iii. Students whose behaviour and/or academics have undergone a significant change and there is a concern for their well-being;
- iv. Students who have been absent from class for a significant time without explanation which is brought to the attention of Sheridan;
- v. Students who have recently been hospitalized for risk related behaviour and may require support and intervention to return to campus;
- vi. Any distressed or worrisome Student behaviour which causes concern.

For greater certainty, the Threat Assessment Policy shall deal with behaviour which may cause concern for the community.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

**“Accessible Learning”** facilitates equitable access for eligible Students with disabilities by coordinating reasonable academic accommodations and support services.

**“Accommodations”** are adjustments and/or modifications to Sheridan’s educational processes tailored to correspond with the needs of each Student.

**“Intervention”** means strategies (including interim and continuing) to address the concerns posed by a Student at Risk (as defined below) and intended to manage the immediate and/or continuing risk of harm posed by the Student.

**“Involuntary Withdrawal”** means removal of a Student from campus, academic programming and/or Sheridan Residence for a period of time as a result of the at risk behaviour. An Involuntary Withdrawal is a non-punitive measure.

**“Student”** means any individual who is admitted, enrolled or registered for study at Sheridan. Individuals who are active in a program, but not enrolled in classes for a particular term (e.g. on a vacation, or coop term) are considered to have a continuing Student relationship and are included in the definition of a Student.

**“Student at Risk”** is defined as a Student whose mental health, emotional state and/or other factors are such that their behaviour may or has demonstrated a risk to themselves

(i.e. self-harm), the educational processes, and/or whose distressed or worrisome behaviour causes concern for the Sheridan community.

**“Student at Risk and Intervention Team [SARIT]”** or “The Student Care Team” is a non-punitive team designed to support Students experiencing, mental health, and/or emotional difficulties which may result in issues of risk. SARIT is a multi-disciplinary group of professionals that will provide a coordinated response and meet on a regular or as-needed basis to facilitate the identification and management of Students at risk while encouraging access to supports and resources.

#### **4. POLICY STATEMENT**

This Policy supports SARIT by establishing a framework that provides a caring and coordinated response for at risk behaviour. In an effort to promote wellness and prevent crisis, SARIT recommends interventions by identifying a risk level using structured risk assessment tools and by consulting with internal and external partners as required.

##### **I. Overarching Principles**

- i. Any Accommodations and/or Interventions will be determined and administered consistent with Sheridan’s obligations under the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- ii. Where appropriate, Sheridan will respond to at risk behaviour that may impact a Student and/or the Sheridan community in a non-punitive manner.
- iii. Sheridan will support Students in working towards their educational and developmental achievements, in a manner that balances institutional goals and individual rights.
- iv. Whenever possible, Sheridan will encourage and support Students to continue their education by making reasonable Accommodations and Interventions without compromising the academic integrity of Sheridan.
- v. Whenever necessary, faculty and/or employees will be engaged for consultation by SARIT.
- vi. Sheridan is committed to the success of all Students and will:
  - Provide appropriate support and referrals in an effort to increase Student success;
  - Address at risk behaviours when behaviours may adversely impact the Sheridan community or any of its members;
  - Acknowledge, but not stigmatize mental health issues;
  - Encourage Students to seek help or treatment which may be needed; and

- Ensure that personal information is kept confidential as stipulated by privacy legislation and as per Sheridan policies.

## **II. Accommodations and Interventions**

SARIT may implement a range of preventative and/or supportive interventions in response to a Student at Risk. These interventions may include but are not limited to:

- Accommodations;
- Interventions (including interim) to manage the immediate risk of harm to the Student and/or to minimize the detrimental impacts on the Sheridan community; and/or
- Continuing Interventions to address the ongoing risk of harm.

Every identified Student engaged with SARIT will be assessed and accommodated individually. Where possible, Accommodations and Interventions will be designed to enable the Student to remain enrolled and meet academic obligations.

Counselling Services and/or Health Services are available to Students. Sheridan's services may not be sufficient depending on the circumstances, and Students may require a referral to external resources, when Sheridan deems appropriate.

In all cases, preserving Sheridan's relationship with the Student at Risk will be paramount.

## **III. Withdrawal**

In some circumstances when there is significant risk that cannot be managed through reasonable Accommodations and Interventions, Sheridan may make a recommendation for Involuntary Withdrawal to the Dean of Students, as per the associated SARIT Procedure. An Involuntary Withdrawal is not a punitive measure.

## **IV. Appeal**

SARIT decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Sheridan reserves the discretion to pursue behaviour managed by this Policy, in addition to other Sheridan policies and/or procedures as applicable to Students.

## **V. Authority**

The responsible office that shall have authority to interpret and administer this Policy and/or approve any associated procedures shall be the Student Rights and Responsibilities Office under the direction of the Dean of Students.

## **6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION**

[Student at Risk and Intervention \(SARIT\) Procedure](#)  
[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Student Code of Conduct - Adjudication Process and Appeals Procedure](#)  
[Residence Community Living Standards](#)  
[Health and Safety - Occupational Health And Safety Policy](#)  
[Threat Assessment Policy](#)  
[Social Media Policy](#)  
[Academic Standing Policy](#)  
[Admission Policy](#)  
[Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence Policy](#)  
[Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#)  
[Ontario Human Rights Code](#)