

All Students – April 3

Subject: Student Survey and Spring Term Delivery

Dear Sheridan Community,

Happy Friday! We appreciate that the adjustment to alternate delivery has demanded time and energy while you have been simultaneously balancing the demands of caring for yourself and others. Please take a moment to pause and recognize this achievement. Few of us have experienced a prolonged, global pandemic. I hope that you can find time this weekend to rest and recharge; for all of us, this is a key to mental and physical wellbeing.

Further to that point, I empathize with how much information you're receiving from Sheridan and others across multiple platforms. In an effort to be mindful and responsive, I'll be sending updates only twice per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) starting next Tuesday, April 7, 2020. I'll continue to limit my updates to information I think you'll find necessary, helpful and worthy of your time.

### **COVID-19 Student Survey**

Yesterday, Sheridan sent a survey to all students asking about your access to technology, current levels of satisfaction, perceptions regarding safety and well-being during the pandemic, and the future of learning.

Your feedback will help Sheridan assess how you're coping and what more can be done to assist you during this difficult time. Thank you to the 7,000 learners who have responded so far. Please note that the survey takes about five minutes and responses will be kept confidential. Once completed, your name will be entered into a draw for one of 10 pre-paid VISA cards of \$100. Check your email for an invitation to complete the survey, if you have not done so already.

### **Winter Term Grading – “Pass” Grade**

In light of the pandemic, Sheridan is trying to be as flexible as possible with regards to grading this term. That said, there are two significant issues with affording the option of a “pass” grade as some have requested. First, many of the regulatory and accreditation bodies associated with our programs do not permit substitute letter grades. This could be an obstacle to licensure or certification. Of equal concern, graduate school admissions requirements often take into account the entire academic record, including GPA and grades in specific areas. For these reasons, we are not allowing a “Pass” grade option for Winter 2020 courses.

I appreciate that, given the circumstances and shift to alternate delivery, you are concerned about your academic performance. Please take comfort from knowing that our faculty are working hard to maximize opportunities for you to perform at your best. More broadly, Sheridan is committed to providing as many resources as possible to help you adjust to remote learning.

### **Spring and Summer Term Delivery**

Given the continued uncertainty regarding when we may be able to physically return to campus – which will rely on guidance from federal, provincial and municipal health authorities -- Sheridan has made the

decision to adjust curriculum to support alternate (remote) course delivery for the entire Spring/Summer semester.

Details regarding which courses and programs will be offered are being finalized. That information and details regarding the registration period will be available late next week. As soon as possible thereafter, they will be posted online and a 'start of term' notice will be sent to students' Sheridan email accounts. As previously shared, Spring/Summer 2020 classes will begin on Tuesday, May 19.

### **In-Person Events**

To respect Ontario's state of emergency directive and calls for physical distancing, all in-person events organized or sanctioned by Sheridan will be cancelled until at least June 30, 2020.

### **Bursary Deadline**

The **deadline to apply** for Sheridan's COVID-19 Emergency Financial Aid Bursary is **Monday, April 6, 2020**.

As a reminder, the bursary can help cover basic needs and unexpected costs related to the pandemic. This fund is available to both domestic and international students enrolled full time in the winter term.

Students are eligible to receive up to \$1,500.00 to assist with immediate needs, including:

- Food and housing security
- Study continuity costs (e.g., to secure internet access)
- Return home travel expenses
- Other essential needs occurring as a result of the pandemic

If you haven't done so already, you can [apply](#) for the bursary now.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. Please rest assured that everyone at Sheridan remains fully committed to providing you with a positive and meaningful learning experience. Admittedly, it just looks a little different than any of us had previously imagined.

Sincerely,

Janet Morrison  
President and Vice Chancellor