

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Fall Term

May 22, 2020

Dear Sheridan Community,

It's hard to believe that it has been two months since we pivoted to become a virtual campus. Notwithstanding how much has happened since March, I'm reminded daily that we remain in the early stages of a global health pandemic, the long-term consequences of which remain unknown. In the continuing face of this volatility and uncertainty... everyone is reasonably searching for points of certainty or stability.

In that spirit, I'm writing today to provide you with as much clarity as I can about what to expect for our Fall Term. Specifically, this update covers:

- Academic Calendar and Delivery of the Fall Term
- Financial Assistance
- Protecting your Safety

Academic Calendar and Delivery of the Fall Term

We are running a full suite of academic programming this fall. All programs that can be delivered remotely will continue in that format. On-campus instruction will be reserved for courses with academic outcomes that cannot be measured or achieved virtually. You will receive a separate email from Sheridan prior to the end of May regarding your specific program and whether it will be offered solely through remote delivery, or through a blend of remote and on-campus instruction.

You can rest assured that any on-campus activity will be delivered in ways that safeguard people's health and safety.

I think it's really important to note that Sheridan's commitment to teaching excellence means that remote learning goes far beyond playing a recorded PowerPoint presentation or the exclusive use of videoconferencing. While each program and course will approach alternate delivery differently, I've been privy to examples of professors planning for the use of visualization, gamification, and virtual whiteboards. Others are discussing ideas for championing interactivity, dialogue, and guided projects to help you build and maintain meaningful connections with your peers.

This work is groundbreaking, and squarely focused on giving you an exceptional learning experience. Simply put: regardless of how our programs are delivered, the value proposition of attending Sheridan remains crystal clear; our commitment to academic quality and student success is unwavering, even in the face of a global pandemic.

To live up to that promise and afford the people who deliver and support our academic programs with additional time to prepare, the start of Fall Term will be delayed by one week, **beginning on Monday, September 14**. We will preserve our fall reading week, and run a 13-week term, ending on December 18, 2020.

Financial Assistance

Payment Plan

We recognize the ongoing financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sheridan is offering a payment plan to new and returning domestic students as well as returning international students who are studying either full-time or part-time in the Spring/Summer term. Unfortunately -- due to immigration rules -- new international students must pay their fees in full before beginning their program and are not eligible for the payment plan.

Specific deadlines will vary depending on whether you are enrolled in a standard or compressed term. A standard plan, however, will allow for a first payment of 50% with the balance due in two additional payments later in the term. The payment plan option is now available for Spring/Summer students on [myStudent Centre](#). To learn more, please visit [MyOTR](#).

A similar payment plan has been approved for the Fall term. If you are interested in the payment plan, you will have the option to select this when you access myStudent Centre after registering for the Fall term. If you opt-in, you will pay 50% of your fees by Day 10 of the semester, with the remaining balance to be paid in two installments in the weeks following.

financial demands of your postsecondary studies.

Ancillary and Program Fees

Ancillary fees cover costs to support services and activities which complement your academic program and student experience. In light of the potential changes in access to facilities and delivery services, Sheridan is considering adjustments to several of these ancillary fees. A refund, where applicable, will be provided where payment has already been made for the Fall fees.

Depending on your program of study, you may also see reductions in program fees associated with materials or access to production, studio or laboratory space as we move to provide your learning experience through alternative formats.

Decrease in Enrolment Deposit

In an effort to provide you with additional financial relief, the enrolment deposit for the Fall 2020 term has been reduced from \$500 to \$250 for full-time students, and from \$340 to \$170 for part-time students. Please note that this reduction is only applicable to new and returning domestic students and to returning international students.

Applying for OSAP

Earlier this week, the Government of Ontario announced that the process to apply for a loan through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP program for the 2020-2021 academic year is now open for full-time students. I understand that students need this knowledge to make informed choices about their plans for postsecondary studies. To learn more or to apply, please visit the [OSAP website](#).

Protecting Your Safety

Like many of you, my mind is turning to what Sheridan will look and feel like when we are allowed to return to campus. Rest assured that our Emergency Operations Centre – which includes key leaders from areas of the college including Security, Health and Safety, Facilities, Ancillary Services and more – are actively planning for your return. Included in their deliberations are efforts to:

- Determine the flow of people through buildings to avoid congestion.
- Order reusable masks for students and employees.
- Implement a schedule for enhanced cleaning and disinfection.
- Limit the use of shared objects and enforce a plan for cleaning between uses.
- Install signage that promotes measures to protect oneself and others.
- Be stringent on occupancy limits.
- Create well-defined plans for safety within and beyond classrooms, studios, labs and open spaces.

I know how personally and financially challenging this time is. Please know that Sheridan will be ready to continue delivering programs this fall that stretch your thinking, build your skills, advance your knowledge and immerse you in the joy of learning. The delivery model will be different, but I assure you -- it will be of the highest quality, because that is Sheridan's hallmark and legacy. If you have additional questions, please check our [FAQs](#) on the Sheridan website, call our [Contact Centre](#) or email info@sheridan@sheridancollege.ca.

Warmly,

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President and Vice Chancellor

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