



Sheridan Course Outline

Diploma of Science

The Sheridan Diploma of Science has been accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) as meeting the standards set by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). Diplomas qualify individuals who apply integrated technical and theoretical concepts in a broad range of contexts to undertake advanced skilled or paraprofessional work, and provide a pathway for further learning.

Diploma of Science Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Diploma of Science you will be able to:

- Demonstrate your theoretical and technical knowledge of specialised learning areas within the field of science.
- Exercise your cognitive skills successfully to identify, analyse, and synthesise information from a range of sources.
- Plan, propose, and evaluate potential solutions to unpredictable problems relating to specialised learning areas within the field of science.
- Communicate your understanding of knowledge and skills relating to specialised learning areas within the field of science to others in various contexts.
- Apply learned technical and creative tools from one or more specialised learning areas within the field of science to interpret and resolve unpredictable problems in a range of scenarios.
- Demonstrate your capacity to seek knowledge and truth with persistence, independence, rigour, and integrity.
- Evaluate the relevance of Christian faith and practice to the pursuit of knowledge in the field of science.
- Model self-discipline, ethical decision-making, servant leadership, and respect for the dignity of individuals and groups in various settings.

Each unit you take in the Diploma of Science program will contribute towards the fulfilment of these broader learning outcomes.

Graduate Attributes

Study does more than equip you with knowledge in a specific academic discipline. It can also have a transformational effect on your own nature. The higher education sector in Australia describes these kinds of outcomes as “Graduate Attributes” (GAs). GAs don't necessarily follow in a direct line from learning outcomes (LOs) but are shaped by the learning process itself. Sheridan GAs, displayed in the following table, are integrated into the assessments and cultivated in all the learning activities. They describe the kind of personal characteristics we hope you will exhibit when you graduate. If in future your referees use these kinds of descriptors when writing about you, we will consider this a sign of a successful higher education.

Sheridan Graduate Attributes (GAs)

VISION STATEMENT		
To offer higher education to those who are seeking to live an extraordinary life. To this end, Sheridan will inspire its students to love truth, seek wisdom, embrace innovation and be instruments of peace in the world.		
	GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES	METHODS OF EVALUATION
	In keeping with this Vision Statement, Sheridan graduates will be...	<i>See unit assessment schedule for alignment with specific assessments.</i>
... love truth...	1. Lovers of truth who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue knowledge, understanding, and insight with persistence, independence, rigour, critical thinking, and academic integrity. Attain a comprehensive understanding of the body of knowledge and professional skills within a specialised learning area or discipline. Can identify and analyse the presuppositions that underpin the relevant theoretical frameworks and perspectives within a specialised learning area or discipline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assignments ▪ Projects ▪ Tests & Exams ▪ Research ▪ Workplace Learning ▪ Academic Integrity Policy
... seek wisdom...	2. Seekers of wisdom who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise the limits of their knowledge and understanding, receiving and evaluating correction or advice with grace and humility. Exercise sound, fair, and ethical judgment in study and workplace learning environments. Carefully consider their life's purpose and make the most of opportunities as they emerge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assignments ▪ Projects ▪ Tests & Exams ▪ Research ▪ Workplace Learning ▪ Academic Integrity Policy ▪ Peer review
... embrace innovation...	3. Innovative thinkers who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify research gaps and make original contributions that extend the body of knowledge, both independently and in collaboration with others. Synthesise, analyse, and interpret information drawn from diverse sources using diverse mechanisms. Adapt effectively to changing circumstances, take appropriate risks, and solve problems in new situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assignments ▪ Projects ▪ Tests & Exams ▪ Research ▪ Workplace Learning ▪ Peer review
... and become instruments of peace in the world.	4. Effective communicators who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly and effectively to a range of audiences and across a range of mediums/technologies. Build classmates and colleagues up according to their needs and for their benefit. Avoid slanderous speech. Promote respect, hospitality, and understanding towards cultures and groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assignments ▪ Projects ▪ Tests & Exams ▪ Research ▪ Workplace Learning ▪ Peer review
	5. Independent learners who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Perform tasks to the best of their own abilities and strive for a high academic standard. Set reasonable goals, determine personal boundaries, and drive set tasks to completion. Take responsibility for their own learning and research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assignments ▪ Projects ▪ Tests & Exams ▪ Research ▪ Workplace Learning
	6. Servant leaders who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Model respectful and ethical behaviour in team environments. Serve the local, national, and global community. Understand and support Australian democratic traditions, including pluralism, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and equality of opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assignments ▪ Projects ▪ Research ▪ Workplace Learning ▪ Peer review ▪ Student-led activities

Course Structure

A total of 8 units must be taken to complete the diploma. Each unit is worth three credit points for a total of 24 credit points.

Core Units (Select seven)

- SC101 Essential Academic Skills for the Sciences
- BL101 Biology: The Unity and Diversity of Life
- CH101 Foundations of Chemistry
- MA101 Linear Algebra and Calculus
- PH101 Foundations of Physics
- GG100 Fundamentals of Physical Geography
- IS101 Principles of Information Systems
- CP101 Fundamentals of Computing
- CP120 Data Communication and Networking

Common Core Subjects (two units)

- CS100 Introduction to Christianity
- RS191 Academic and Professional Communication Skills

There are no Electives

Academic Calendar

The Diploma of Science is a one-year program. Units are delivered in trimesters. Trimesters generally comprise 12 weeks of teaching, two non-teaching study weeks, and an examination week (NB: Trimester 2 has just one non-teaching study week).

Trimesters 1 and 3 are dedicated coursework trimesters. If you are enrolled full time, you will take 3-4 core units during this trimester.

Trimester 2 is a dedicated research trimester. Whether you are enrolled full time or part time, your only formal study during Trimester 2 will be a single, research-related unit relevant to your field of study. The schedule provides a focused opportunity to acquire valuable research skills, and to practise applying those skills under the direction of the Sheridan faculty.

The Trimester 2 schedule also offers you some freedom to pursue personal, professional, and learning goals outside of your formal coursework. Sheridan provides a range of informal, extra-curricular programs during this trimester for you to gain life experience and enhance your employability. A description of these programs can be found on the Sheridan website at <http://sheridan.edu.au/index.php/home/academic-calendar>

Seminars

You will meet with the instructors for one three-hour session each week. Please arrive with a willingness to learn, reflect, and contribute to class discussions. It is essential that you prepare thoroughly for each class by reading the assigned chapters and/or journal articles.

Private Study Expectations

For each unit you have enrolled in you should expect to spend an additional nine hours per week of private study, immersing yourself in the course material and completing the assessment requirements.

Reading and preparation should be done prior to each seminar. You may choose to keep a journal of insights and questions to contribute during the week's discussion.

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) used at Sheridan. You must log on at regular intervals to access the resources there and be kept up to date with the latest announcements. Canvas allows you to view your courses, communicate with staff and other students, access assessment scores, participate in online discussions, and much more.

Consultation

At Sheridan, instructors make themselves available during office hours for individual consultations for a minimum of 25% of the total time spent teaching the unit. Be sure to email your instructor ahead of time to book an appointment.

IT Resources

The Internet is an extraordinary resource for students and using it effectively contributes to the nurturing of Sheridan's graduate attributes in each student. We encourage you to bring your electronic devices (Sheridan-supplied or personal tablets, mobile phones, laptops) into the class as a learning resource. As a courtesy to your classmates, please keep these learning devices on "silent" and do not take phone calls during class hours.

Wireless Internet access will be available for all students at the Aberdeen Street campus if you wish to meet there in study groups or for private study. You can also access printers, scanners, and photocopiers on campus.

Sheridan Library Resources

To borrow books from the Sheridan library you will need to scan the barcode on your Student Card and on the selected item/s. You can search for books available in the library via the Online Catalogue, and request item/s from the Librarian using this link <http://library.sheridan.edu.au>

You also have direct access through this Library login <http://sheridan.edu.au/index.php/extensions-14/library-logins> to major academic database collection providers, granting you direct onsite (IP) and remote access. Contact the Sheridan Librarian to set up remote or offsite access to each of these databases.

Reserve Collection

A growing physical reserve library of books will be maintained at Sheridan for resources specifically chosen by lecturers for individual units. These resources will be nominated by the lecturers and purchased if there are no online options available.

Other Libraries

You are encouraged to join your local public library and make use of their free resources and services. You will have signed up with the State Library of WA (SLWA) and the National Library of Australia (NLA) when you enrolled at Sheridan. The e-resources of SLWA and NLA are available online for library members (free to members of the public with an Australian residential address), including thousands of peer-reviewed journals across the full range of academic disciplines. You may also borrow materials from Notre Dame University Library at no charge <https://library.nd.edu.au/borrow/reciprocal>

Inter-Library Loans (ILLs)

Sheridan Library offers inter-library loans for staff and students (one a month per person). Contact the librarian for more details.

Community Memberships

Community memberships are available at Perth higher education institutions. Research students wishing to join the libraries of Perth's universities will be fully reimbursed by Sheridan for their membership costs. Details about community memberships are available on the Sheridan website.

Community members who wish to access online resources at some of these institutions may only be able to access those resources while logging in from a terminal within the library itself. However, the resources of Vose Seminary are fully available to community members.

Other Free Resources

Access to free full-text journals can also be found through the following sites, among many others:

- Google Scholar
- VOCEDplus
- Stanford University's Highwire site
- Directory of Open Access Journals

Learning Support

Any student who feels they may need special provisions for any type of disability should see an instructor during regular office hours or contact the Director of Student Services who will help you make any necessary accommodations for academic support.

Explanation of Assessments

Sheridan assessments are designed both to measure your successful demonstration of the full range of learning outcomes for the unit and to cultivate the Sheridan graduate attributes.

You must submit all assessments in order to satisfy the unit requirements.

Guidelines for Written Assignments

These general guidelines will assist you in preparing and writing your assignments. Your instructor will discuss these in greater detail before you commence your assignment. If you have any questions, please ask your instructor to assist you. Do not ask other students as they may not give you the correct information.

Presentation

Your assignment should be grammatically correct and well punctuated. A high standard of written English is expected and your assignments should be clear, concise, neatly presented, and easy to read. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a significant loss of marks.

Academic Integrity

Your assignment must be your own original piece of work, not that of another student or previously submitted work for another subject. There are serious penalties for plagiarism, that is, work that has been copied from another source. This is considered a form of cheating. For more details refer to Sheridan Academic Integrity Policy on the Sheridan website.

You are expected to acknowledge the source of your ideas and expressions used in your written work. Students at Sheridan are required to use the APA Referencing style. Refer to this link of the Sheridan website http://sheridan.edu.au/files/APA_References_v_4.pdf

As a general guideline it is recommended at undergraduate level at least one (1) source (in-text cited references) be used per 300 words.

Submission

Your assignment should be submitted to your instructor by the date specified.

Your instructor will confirm the specifics of how to make the submission (generally through Canvas and generally using Turnitin).

Late submissions incur a penalty of 5% deduction per day of the maximum mark possible.

Students may receive a score of 0 if work is submitted more than one week late.

If you require an extension of time you must submit an Application for Extension form prior to the due date. The form should be available on Canvas. The lecturer will determine if an extension is warranted.

You must keep a copy of the completed assignment when you submit the original document for marking.

Assessment Moderation

Your major assessment may also be marked by an external examiner, in addition to your instructor. This is common practice in higher education and is designed to ensure that your marks are equivalent to students being assessed at comparable higher education institutions.