

Applied  
DEGREES

Sheridan College offers an intense four-year Bachelor of Applied Arts - Illustration program that includes all types of illustration from painting and drawing to digital technologies such as web design and motion graphics.

— Sheridan College photos

# Winning formula

Programs combine practice, theory and co-op placements

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Special to QMI Agency

In a hurry to become so job-ready in your chosen profession that you'll likely walk straight into a good job after graduating?

Consider pursuing an Applied Bachelor's degree at one of the Ontario colleges that have offered them since 2003. That's when the province first introduced the "applied" concept.

Basically, these degree programs combine practice and theory, with the lion's share of class time being hands-on work. Another key part of the equation are semesters devoted to precisely targeted co-op work placements.

This winning formula is being enhanced at two Toronto-area colleges — Sheridan and Humber — with ample opportunities for students to showcase their best class projects to potential employers and industry insiders.

Humber College offers two major opportunities to Industrial Design students: the annual Chair Show, which presents chairs designed by teams of students, and the Thesis Show, at which the major projects of senior students are exhibited.

Sheridan College offers a high-profile annual event where graduating students mingle with professionals from related fields. At this year's event on April 18, dubbed Illustrationism, six students were commissioned on the spot by clients. As well, the college hosts an open website which includes work by all fourth-year students: [www.sheridanillustration.com](http://www.sheridanillustration.com).

For two students graduating this spring, the applied route has turned out to be a ticket in exactly the direction they were dreaming of. Each one spent an intense four years earning her BAA, and each has already been snapped up by just the type of employer she was hoping to work for.

Sabrina Smelko, who earned her degree in Illustration at Sheridan, is working at an advertising agency called The Hive. And this was only one of several job offers she received while still studying at Sheridan, thanks to her stellar achievements, says Joe Morse, co-ordinator of the college's Illustration program.

He explains that Smelko's innovative illustrations won various competitions, including a spot in the prestigious annual show by the Society of Illustrators

in New York City. And along the way, she launched a blog and self-published a graphic novel titled VOA, which she's currently selling online (visit [www.sabrinasmelko.com](http://www.sabrinasmelko.com)).

Humber College BAA graduate Tanya Nazywalskyj is also an ideal exemplar of how applied degrees pay off, says Susan Krausz, associate dean of the college's School of Applied Technologies.

Primarily attracted to industrial design focused on making children's lives better, Nazywalskyj says the project she showcased before graduating was a wheelchair-accessible playground called ISO Play, where children can interact regardless of their physical abilities. Its modular components include ramps and slides that accommodate wheelchairs and a unique monkey-bar system with bungee cords to allow paraplegic children to play with able-bodied children.

Nazywalskyj says she landed an industrial design position at a company that manufactures medical equipment for hospitals. "They hired me at an open house at Humber after seeing an earlier thesis project I did, which was a hospital bassinets for infants."

## Applied Bachelor's degrees

Sheridan College  
Faculty of Animation, Arts and Design  
Bachelor of Applied Arts - Illustration  
<http://bit.ly/wgBaya>  
4-year program

Includes all types of illustration from painting and drawing to digital technologies such as web design and motion graphics.

Jobs qualified for after graduation include: advertising, web design, entertainment, computer games, film, animation, gallery artist, art teacher.

Humber College  
School of Applied Technologies  
Industrial Design - Bachelor of Applied Technology  
[www.humber.ca/appliedtechnology](http://www.humber.ca/appliedtechnology)  
4-year program

Industrial design students study together with interior design students frequently to create synergies that mimic real-world practices.

Jobs qualified for after graduation include: furniture designer, space planner, CAD operator, draftsman, construction project co-ordinator, specification writer, design consultant.



— Humber College

Humber College's new Design Centre is home to students in Architectural Technology, Design Foundation, Industrial Design, Interior Design and Interior Decorating.