



The Saturday Program 2024

Information Sheet & FAQs

Our Mission

The University of Toronto *Saturday Program* aims to provide tutoring, mentorship, and enrichment to high school students who have demonstrated the desire to explore their potential and achieve their academic goals.

History

The Saturday Program was established in 1996 by University of Toronto (U of T) medical students in partnership with the U of T Faculty of Medicine Office of Student Affairs and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). The pilot program was designed to foster the education of groups predominantly underrepresented in the university system. Specifically, Aboriginal, Black, and Portuguese high school students from designated inner city schools were invited to the university on Saturday mornings to receive tutoring from medical students in math, science, and English and to participate in enrichment activities, at no cost to the students.

The initial pilot program was a great success. Since then, *The Saturday Program* has flourished and it now supports students of all cultural backgrounds who have the potential to succeed but do not have the financial or social support to realize their academic goal. The program has also been continually modified and changed to better suit the needs and interests of culturally diverse groups.

Please note: Recruitment, selection and screening of tutors and volunteers are conducted entirely by the U of T *Saturday Program* Directors, on behalf of the Office of Student Affairs, Medical Sciences Department (U of T), in accordance with all policies that govern volunteerism at the University of Toronto.

Saturday Program 2023-2024

The Saturday Program was traditionally held on Saturday mornings at the University of Toronto St. George Campus. Since 2020, the program has transitioned temporarily to a virtual platform amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic restrictions have been lifted recently, the program will now re-transition back to *in-person* sessions for the 2023-2024 academic year!

Program Format:

1. Tutoring sessions and subsequent workshops will take place exclusively in-person
2. We will provide a light breakfast before every session from 9:00 AM to 9:15 AM
3. Individual tutoring will start at 9:15 AM and finish at 11:00 AM.
4. Interactive workshops will run from 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM and is **mandatory** for all tutees and volunteers to attend. We will then have closing updates, where we will provide new program information.

FAQs

1. **What do the workshops consist of?**

The workshops are designed to introduce students to skills or subject areas that are of interest to them, ranging from professional careers to learning how to use advanced software!

1. **What should we bring to our tutoring sessions?**

Tutees are to come prepared with questions or homework from school that they wish to go over with their tutors. You are welcome to bring up any school subject of interest, but due to the limited time provided, we recommend focusing on only a couple of subjects that you want the most help with. If students do not have any homework with them, we will provide them with worksheets and/or activities to perform instead.

2. **When and where does the Program run?**

The Program runs on 10 select Saturdays from **January 2023 to April 2023**; excluding holidays. Each session is held at the ***Medical Sciences Building*** (MSB) at the University of Toronto St. George Campus located at 1 King's College Circle and is TTC-accessible by Queen's Park Station.

3. **How are the students selected?**

The selection of the student participants for The Saturday Program is organized by the TDSB based on particular educational criteria originally formulated in 1998 by The Saturday Program Directors. In the fall, teachers and guidance counselors are invited to identify students who are likely to benefit from the program. Both students and parents/guardians must agree to participate in the program.

Teachers and guidance counselors are instrumental in identifying students for The Saturday Program. The following criteria are used in guiding student selection - the student should:

- Be enrolled between grade 8-12 in a Toronto-based school
- Require academic support in any subjects, including Math, English, Science, and French

4. **Who are the tutors and volunteers?**

- Primarily University of Toronto students and graduates
- Students from the following health professional disciplines within the Faculty of Medicine: Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Radiation Sciences, Speech Language Pathology
- Students from other professional faculties: Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Engineering, Rotman School of Business, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and Graduate Studies.
- Students from the University of Toronto undergraduate faculties

5. **How are students and tutors matched?**

Each participating student is matched with a tutor with expertise from a discipline corresponding to student skill/subject of interest.

6. **How to sign up?**

This year we will have our applications done electronically. To sign up, please visit: bit.ly/TuteeSP2023

Please visit our website at <https://www.saturday-program.com/> for more details and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/uoftsaturdayprogram> or Instagram: [@saturdayprogram](https://www.instagram.com/saturdayprogram). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions: saturday.program@gmail.com