

# Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)

Version 40

Published 10/19/2023 by [Nadezda Tsygankova](#) Last updated 2/6/2026 8:47 PM by [Kathrina Lalog](#)

## Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)

A Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) is required for individuals who will be working or volunteering with vulnerable people. A vulnerable person is someone under 18, or an individual who may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by people in a position of authority or someone they trust.

You should apply at least two months prior to your semester starting. As processing times may fluctuate due to volume and time of year, do not delay (**can take up to 10 weeks to process**).

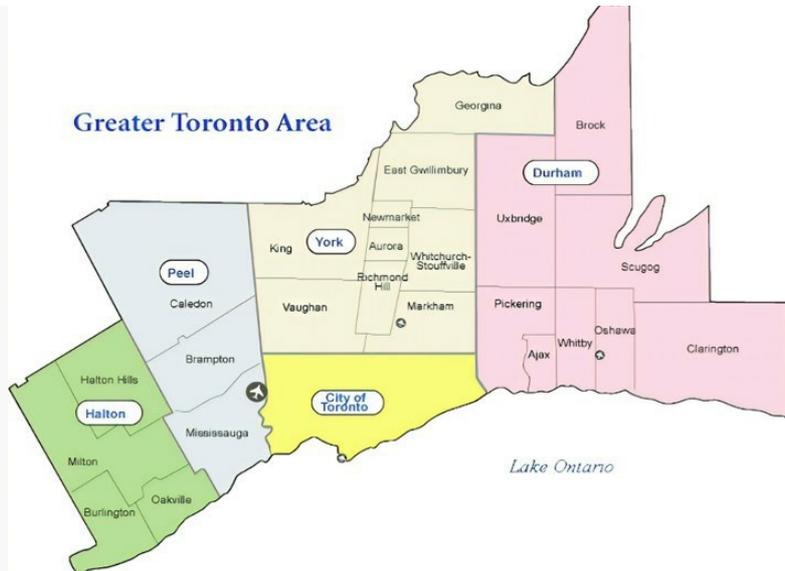
**VSC are considered valid for six months from the date of issuance and must also be valid for the duration of the field placement semester.**

For <b>Winter 2026</b> field placement	For <b>Summer 2026</b> field placement	For <b>Fall 2026</b> field placement
Must apply for the VSC by: <b>Friday September 26, 2025</b> to be eligible for a Winter field placement.	Must apply for the VSC by: <b>Friday February 6, 2026</b> to be eligible for a Summer field placement.	Must apply for the VSC by: <b>Friday June 5, 2026</b> to be eligible for a Fall field placement.

## How to apply for the Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)

Please select the correct link based on your home municipality and review any additional information.

If you live in a region that is not listed, please visit your local police website for details on how to apply for a Vulnerable Sector Check. If a Seneca support letter is required by your local police, please request for this by completing the [Student Request Form for Seneca Letter](#).



**Toronto** (East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York, Toronto)

This is an online application. You will need a Seneca authentication code to process your application. Student may retrieve the Seneca authentication code from the field placement BlackBoard course site under the Field Placement Materials and Resources folder. Please read the details in applying for a Vulnerable Sector Check with the [Toronto Police Services](#).

**York Region** (Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Aurora, Stouffville, Georgina, East Gwillimbury, King City)

This is an online application.

**Durham Region** (Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa Clarington, Brock, Scugog, Uxbridge)

This is an online application. You will need a Seneca letter to include with your application. Please request for this by completing the [Student Request Form for Seneca Letter](#).

**Peel Region** (Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon)

This is an online application. You will also need to create an account (if your first time applying) [Vulnerable Sector Check Account](#) and include the following information about Seneca:  
Reason for Request: *School Requirement*  
Name of Employer/Organization/School/Other requesting Vulnerable Sector Check: *Seneca Polytechnic*  
Job Title/Position/Program Name: *Early Childhood Education Program*  
Check box of Vulnerable Person(s) you will be responsible for the well-being of: *Children*

**Halton Region** (Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Halton Hills)

Applicants are required to provide a volunteer letter, on agency letterhead, indicating the position/duties you will be volunteering for. To receive your free record check, you can apply online (subject to a \$9.95 convenience fee) or attend Headquarters, located at 2485 North Service Road, Oakville (no charge). You will need a Seneca letter to include with your application. Please request for this by completing the [Student Request Form for Seneca Letter](#).

**South Simcoe** (Innisfil, Bradford)

This is an online application. You will need a Seneca letter to include with your application. Please request for this by completing the [Student Request Form for Seneca Letter](#).

**All Other Regions:**

If you live in a region that is not listed, please visit your local police website for details on how to apply for a Vulnerable Sector Check. If a Seneca support letter is required by your local police, please request for this by completing the [Student Request Form for Seneca Letter](#).

**Students Under 18 Years Old**

Seneca's School of Early Childhood Education program requires all students to present a cleared Police Reference Check with Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) prior to beginning a field placement. According to the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, criminal reference checks are required for all students and volunteers having direct contact with children. The VSC must be dated within six (6) months of the start of field placement. However, student under 18 years of age are exempted according to the Child Care Licensing Manual pages 128-129.

Students under 18 years of age by complete the [Seneca Polytechnic - Student Waiver for Police Reference Check - Under 18yrs](#) document. By signing document, students must present a clear Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) within one month after turning 18 years old.