

Ridgeback Report



- Have you heard of the [Student Experience Record \(SER\)](#)? SER is a comprehensive record of your involvement in co-curricular experiences throughout your Ridgeback journey. It's used to highlight your diverse university experiences, and showcases your personal involvement and commitment to growing outside of the classroom. As you apply for jobs, future education or volunteer experiences, your SER will be a great tool to showcase soft skills that are important to employers in today's market! The deadline to add positions to your SER is **Monday, May 1**. [Access your SER and learn more](#).

Academic Support



- As we begin a new semester, you may be looking to enhance your understanding of your current course material or develop better study strategies. As such, the [Student Learning Centre](#) is offering [PASS](#)—weekly review sessions available for historically challenging courses. These sessions are led by your peers, who have previously taken these courses and have achieved an **A grade** or higher. They attend the class all over again and go over the difficult concepts with you in an interactive learning environment! View the [PASS schedule](#) to see if your course is being covered this semester.
- Join us **Monday, February 13 from 11 a.m. to noon** for [Love at First Cite: How to Cite Data Resources](#). Learn how data fits into citation management and how to properly cite data resources. This workshop will leave you with comprehensive resources on citing data in multiple citation styles. [Learn more and register](#).
- **What's Love Got to Do With It? What Library Data Resources Can Tell Us About Love.** What can library data resources like [ICPSR](#), [DLI](#), and [odesi](#) reveal about love? See what data the library provides access to and how to search for data, all through the lens of love. [Register](#) to join us on **Wednesday, February 15 from 1 to 2 p.m.**

- Have you ever seen a great presentation of data and thought, “I want to do that!”? Transform your data tables on **Friday, February 17 from noon to 1 p.m.** where we'll look at the **what, why, and how** of data visualization through library resources and open source data visualization tools. [Register](#) to join **Data, We Love to See It: An Brief Introduction to Data Visualization**.
- Google has announced a new storage limit for **Google Workspace for Education**. As the university uses **Google Workspace for Education** to power your **ontariotechu.net** account, the storage limit will affect how much data you can store in your Gmail, Google Drive and Google Photos. For more information, please visit the [Information Technology Services website](#).
- Are you looking for assistance with time management and general study skills? The Student Learning Centre's **STRIDE** program provides workshops and appointments for you to learn strategies, and success tips! [Learn more](#).
- Do you know a fantastic instructor who taught in the 2022 academic year? Celebrate their impact with a **Celebrate Teaching! Award** nomination! Five awards are open to student nominations:
 - [Learning Reimagined Award](#)
 - [Openness in Education Award](#)
 - [Student Choice Award](#)
 - [Teaching Assistant Excellence Award](#)
 - [Tim McTiernan Student Mentorship Award](#)
- Nominations will be accepted until **Monday, February 13 at 4:30 p.m.** Full details of each of the awards, as well as a nomination guide, are available on the [Celebrate Teaching! Awards website](#). Any questions can be directed to teachingandlearning@ontariotechu.ca.

Career Readiness



- **Paid Internship Opportunity:** [Ontario Tech TALENT](#) is proud to partner with Riipen to tackle key issues in the youth employment sector. We are offering students a package, combining access to one of the two micro credentials: Introduction to Business Analytics or CRM Fundamentals. The offer includes a

paid 80 hour virtual internship in either Data Analytics or Salesforce CRM with Riipen's network of employers. To get started, [fill out the intake survey](#).

- The joint Ontario Tech and Durham College Job Fair is on **Thursday, February 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** This is the largest career event on campus where employers are invited to participate in recruitment for full-time, part-time, summer and contract positions. If you're interested in attending, [visit the Job Fair web page](#) for more information.
- Looking for career support? The [Employment Readiness Program](#), running **February 6 to March 27**, is a series of workshops designed to teach students practical job readiness skills and skills for navigating the workplace with success. Students who attend the workshop series will have access to additional one-on-one peer support with an Employment Peer Coach who can help address career-related concerns. [Learn more and register](#).
- The [Career Centre](#) has updated their MyStart activities on Canvas! For new students, or anyone who is looking for resume, interview, or job search help, make sure you check out the new modules. You can participate in a monthly activity challenge to be entered into a draw to win a **gift card**! [Sign into Canvas](#) for all the details.
- **The Career Centre** has a variety of workshops that are designed to help students who are job searching, going to work for the first time, or entering a new workplace. [Learn more and register](#) for a winter workshop today! You can also book an appointment on the [Student Life Portal](#) for any of our [one-on-one](#) supports.

Community



- Thinking about visiting, studying, doing research or working in the United States? Join the **U.S. Visa Information Session** on **Tuesday, February 28 at 2 p.m.** to learn more about the application processes. [Register on the Student Life Portal](#).
- Your modes of transportation are important to us! Fill out the [Transportation and Mobility survey](#) to help us improve your commute in Durham Region. Participants can win a **\$25 gift card** of their choice! The last day to complete the survey is **Tuesday, February 28**.
- The **Ambassador program** is looking for you to get involved, positively contribute to the campus community and become leaders on our campus!

[Register](#) for Level 1 Ambassador training to become an Ambassador, Peer Leader or Ridgeback Mentor. To register for training and see what dates are available, visit the [Ambassador web page](#).

- [The Visiting Elder program](#) is back the week of **February 6 to 10** with Sylvia Maracle in person! Sylvia is an in-demand consultant, speaker, social activist and cultural-based practitioner, she is actively involved in diverse initiatives supporting the well-being of Indigenous peoples across Canada. Sylvia was awarded an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2017. [Register for a session](#) with Sylvia today!
- **Conversation Cafe** runs on **Thursday's from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** in Shawenjigewining Hall, **SHA 223**. This is an opportunity to meet international students and learn about other cultures as well as a chance to practice English speaking and listening skills. Visit the [Student Life Portal](#) to view the schedule, register in advance if possible, or sign in before you join.
- **Student Mental Health Services** continues to offer a range of groups, workshops and events to support your mental health. If you would like to participate in one or more groups you can [register](#) now.
- **Student Mental Health Services** has partnered with [The LivingRoom Community Art Studio](#) to give students a creative break and enjoy some self-care. The Creative Wellness Hive is a chance for students to make and share art for free! If you see the blue bus on campus, stop by for some fun and learn more about campus supports and services. To view upcoming dates, [visit the Mental Health workshops and events web page](#).

Equity and Inclusion



- Student Life and the International Office are recruiting the 2023 to 2024 Student Leadership Positions. Applications close on **Sunday, February 5**. Visit the [Leadership positions website](#) for more information including the volunteer descriptions and to submit your application.
- On **Wednesday, February 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.**, join Student Engagement and Equity for **Breaking Barriers: The BIPOC Academic Demands Experience**. This workshop will discuss the impact of culture, society and your identity on your academic experiences and explore the impacts of perfectionism, burn out and more. To register, [visit the Student Life Portal](#).

- The free, online [Including Disability Global Summit \(IDGS\)](#) is taking place this year from **April 25 to 27**. The theme for the 2023 summit is **HopePunk: preserving, building community and chasing hope**—what can we do now so that the future is far better than the present for people with disabilities? Registration for the summit will be released soon; in the interim, [join the IDGS listserv](#) and receive pertinent updates. IDGS is also enlisting the help of [summit volunteers](#).
- **#Let'sTalk Sex Workshop Series:** In response to student feedback provided to the Student Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Committee, Student Life has invited the AIDS Committee of Durham Region to deliver some [workshops](#) to provide education and destigmatization around topics of sex and sexuality. [View the schedule and register.](#)
- **RISE** (Respecting Individuals, Supporting Equity) sessions are scheduled throughout the winter semester. The RISE Program is a suite of workshops that provide training and education on what participants can do on an individual level to foster a safer and more inclusive community at Ontario Tech. [Learn more and register.](#)
- **Student Centred Spaces** are running throughout the winter term. Learn about equity topics in open discussion groups or discuss your experiences with those who may share them in a closed Student Centred Space. [View the available groups and register for sessions.](#)
- **Afternoons with SEE** run weekly on **Tuesday's from 2 to 4 p.m.** in Shawenjigewining Hall, **SHA 210**. All students are welcome to drop in and join the Student Engagement and Equity team to hang out, play games, meet others and enjoy refreshments.

Athletics and Wellness



- Get moving, get grounded and get lifted! **Wellness Walks** is a free and fun opportunity that promotes physical and mental health by getting mindful walking breaks during the busy school, and workday. [Learn more.](#)
- Ontario Tech fan appreciation day is on **Saturday, February 11** as the Ridgebacks host four basketball and hockey games on campus. Show your support and cheer on the Ridgebacks! [View the Ridgeback calendar.](#)

- **OUA** playoffs are coming up! Stay up to date with the Ridgebacks by following them on [Instagram](#).
- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to cycle through an arctic snowstorm, under the scorching Sahara sun, and along a breezy Caribbean coast? You can during the **Ridgebacks Extreme Challenge—Spin Through the Seasons** event on **Saturday, March 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** All proceeds go towards the Adopt-a-Ridgeback Fund. If you're up for the challenge or want to donate, [learn more and register](#).
- **The Active Living and Engagement Challenge** for winter 2023 has begun! Whether you're working out at the [FLEX](#), taking part in intramurals, going for a walk at home or participating in one of our Campus Recreation events, fill out ballots at the [FLEX](#) or [Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre](#) front desk for your chance to win weekly and grand prizes including a hybrid bicycle and prizes that are over **\$1000** in value! The challenge will run until **Thursday, February 16**. We encourage all staff and students to stay active and have an opportunity to win some cool prizes. [Learn more](#).
- Free food and a chance to win Raptors tickets? At every Ridgeback basketball and hockey home game this semester, fans can win free food and be selected as the Hardest Working Fan. Cheer on the Ridgebacks and be entered into our season ending draw for a night in Toronto and Raptors tickets! [View the Ridgeback calendar](#).
- As part of **Health Promotions programming**, there are a number of events and workshops that you can attend to learn skills and tips on how to improve your health and well-being. [Learn more and register on the Health Promotions events and workshops web page](#).

Money Matters



Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

- [Apply to OSAP](#), if you haven't done so already for this school year. The last day to apply for OSAP for the winter semester is **Wednesday, February 22**.
- Continually monitor the status of your OSAP application and remember to make all necessary updates with the [SAFA office](#).
- Don't forget to check [MyOntarioTech](#) for important payment deadlines for the winter semester and to review your tuition balance.

Student Awards

- Bursary information can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#), on the student awards and financial aid tab within the current students section.
- If you require additional financial assistance to help fund your education, winter bursary applications are now open. Applications must be received by **Thursday, February 23** and can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#).
- Are you a returning full-time undergraduate student interested in employment on campus this upcoming summer? If so, look for the summer University Works program application coming soon to your [MyOntarioTech](#) account within the student awards and financial aid section.

Other News



- Are you craving a refreshing drink? **The Smoothie Bar**, located in the **Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre**, is now officially open to quench your thirst! Stop by anytime from **11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays!**
- [Returning students](#) can access their digital **Ucard** through the Ontario Tech mobile app.
- [New students](#): Submit your photo online to apply for your **Ontario Tech Ucard**. To avoid having your photo rejected, make sure you follow the [photo upload requirements](#). If you haven't downloaded the app, search for Ontario Tech Mobile in your mobile devices app store.
- Check out our [resources web page](#) for helpful tips, tricks and answers to your commonly asked registration questions.
- **Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass)**: The U-Pass fee will be charged each semester to eligible, full-time students. The winter U-Pass is valid from **January 1 to April 30**, and accessible through the [PRESTO E-Tickets app](#). Once distributed, an email will be sent to eligible students' **ontariotechu.net** email account. For more information, visit our [U-Pass web page](#).
- Did you purchase, upgrade, or receive a new cell phone over the holiday season? If so, consider donating your old cell phone to CNIB's [Phone It Forward program](#)! The program provides smartphones to Canadians with sight loss. [Learn more and donate.](#)



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