

Ridgeback Report



- Student Engagement and Equity's **#WeGetConsent Awareness Week** campaign is coming up **February 13 to 17**. Look out for pop-up booths on campus, Instagram trivia on [@otstudentlife](#), and important information about Ontario Tech's gender-based and sexual violence policy, supports, and consent education.

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.
- **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**.
- 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](#).

- 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.](#)
- 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](#).

Career Readiness



- In need of a new headshot? On **Thursday, February 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** drop by the **Durham College** campus in room **A144** to get free professional headshots and video resumés! [Register to secure your spot.](#)
- 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 and Devant have joined together to provide career supports for international students. [Check it out, and register](#) for all the great workshops that are happening in February.
- The [Career Centre](#) has updated their MyStart activities on Canvas! For new students, or anyone who is looking for resumé, 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



- **Ontario Tech Student Union Elections:** Voting is open **February 13 to 15**. Vote online at [ca/elections](#) or in person at voting booths stationed at the North and Downtown campuses. Make sure your voice is represented. [Make a plan to vote](#).
- Nominations are open for the [Student Leadership Awards](#). These awards acknowledge and celebrate students for their achievements and contributions, and for demonstrating excellence in leadership practices within the Ontario Tech community. You can nominate a student for a **Student Leadership Award** in one or more of the following award categories:
 - Accountability (Ethics)
 - Community Building
 - Innovation
 - Respect
- Or nominate a student for a **President's Award of Excellence in Student Leadership**:
 - The Undergraduate President's Award
 - The Graduate President's Award
- Nominations close on **Monday, February 20**.
- 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 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](#).
- 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](#).
- **Conversation Café** runs on **Thursday's from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** in Shawenjigewining Hall, **Room 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



- **Breaking Barriers: The Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) Experience:**
 - On **Tuesday, February 14 from 2:30 to 4 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](#).

- **#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, **Room 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](#).
- 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)

- The deadline to apply for [OSAP](#) for the winter semester is **Wednesday, February 22**.
- 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, 2023** and can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#).
- Are you returning to full time studies in the Spring/Summer term? Watch for details on how to extend your **OSAP** funding on [MyOntarioTech](#) in the month of April.
- Continually monitor the status of your OSAP application and remember to make all necessary updates with the [Student Awards and Financial Aid office](#).

Student Awards

- Bursary information can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#), on the student awards and financial aid tab within the current students section.
- 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.

- **The Ontario eSports Scholarship** is an award provided to Ontario postsecondary students in video-gaming and related programs at participating institutions. This scholarship offers financial assistance to high-achieving students with financial needs enrolled in programs related to the video-gaming industry. The application deadline is **Monday, February 20**. Learn more and apply on [MyOntarioTech](#).

Other News



- The Hive Café has permanently closed in an effort to reallocate resources to offer longer operating hours throughout Ontario Tech food services. Check out our other food services open at the North Oshawa campus:
 - Hunter's Kitchen is open **Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday's 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
 - Tim Hortons in Shawenjigewining Hall is open **Monday to Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m and Friday's from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
 - The Smoothie Bar is open **Monday to Friday 11 a.m.to 8 p.m. and Saturday's from noon to 6 p.m.**
- **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](#).



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