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Ridgeback Report



- Student Life and the International Office are recruiting for the 2024-2025 Student Leadership Positions. Applications close on **Sunday, February 4**. [Visit the Leadership positions website](#) for more information and to submit your application.

Academic Support



- Software for the winter semester will be available on **Monday, January 1, 2024**. [Download and install](#) your course-specific software via the Software Portal.
- 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 **Wednesday, May 1**. [Access your SER and learn more](#).

Career Readiness



- The [Career Carnival](#) is in person this year in the Shawenjigewining Hall, Atrium on **January 23 and 25!** This is your opportunity to stop by for some fun interactive games and activities that will help you with cover letter and resumé writing, practicing your networking and interview skills, and get career guidance. If you're looking for graduate employment, part-time jobs or co-op and internship opportunities, the Career Carnival is the place for you!
- Embrace digital wellness with [Wavemakers!](#) Wavemakers is a free virtual career building program that gives you a head start to your career. Sharpen your skills, build your network and meet with top Canadian employers. Each student that participates has the chance to win a \$2000 scholarship. Don't miss out on this great opportunity and [apply today!](#)

Community



- Are you new on campus? Have questions or need help finding your way around? Stop by one of our AskMe information booths at the north Oshawa campus location and in Charles Hall at our downtown Oshawa campus location. Our volunteers will be there from **January 8 to 10** to help you! We are also available to [live chat](#) during the week of **January 8 to 12**.
- **Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) elections** — The OTSU's General Elections—open to all full-time Ontario Tech students—runs **Thursday, January 25 to Friday, February 16, 2024**. Students can run for OTSU President, VP Downtown, VP Student Affairs, VP Student Life or Board Director.

The nomination period begins **Monday, January 15**. More info can be found at otsu.ca/elections.

- 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](#).
- Do you know a fantastic instructor or Teaching Assistant who taught in the 2023 academic year? Recognize their impact with a [Celebrate Teaching Award](#) nomination! Nominations are open until **Friday, February 23, 2024**. Full award details and nomination instructions are available in the [nomination guide](#). You must be logged into your ontariotechu.net account for access.

Student Leadership Awards

- Nominations for the [Student Leadership Awards](#) are now open. 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 Awards
- The deadline for nominations is **Friday, January 19**.

Equity and Inclusion



- There are no updates at this time.

Athletics and Wellness



- Join us at the [Carriage Cup](#) on **Thursday, January 11 at 7 p.m.** as the Ridgebacks take over the **Tribute Community Centre!** Cheer on the men's hockey team as they face-off against the York Lions. Proceeds from the event will help raise financial support for the Ontario Tech Student Relief Fund. [Get your tickets now!](#) For more information and details about the pre-party at Charles Hall, [visit the website](#).
- Are you feeling sad, isolated, unmotivated or living with extended periods of low mood? You are not alone. [Register](#) for the Depression Support Group, running **Mondays from January 15 to March 4**, to connect with other students who share these struggles and to learn coping strategies for improving your mood and quality of life.
- Join us for Wellness Week **January 22 to 26!** In collaboration with the Ontario Tech Student Union, Athletics and Recreation, Health Promotions and Student

Mental Health Services, learn about the supports and services available to guide you on your own wellness journey and for the chance to win some great prizes! [Visit the Health Promotions events and workshops web page for more information.](#)

- Join Holistic Nutritionist Sylvia Emmorey for nutrition sessions! Sylvia will provide practical tips for optimizing your nutritional consumption while on a tight budget. [Visit the Health Promotions events and workshops web page to register.](#)
- [The LivingRoom Community Art Studio](#) has partnered with the university to give you a creative break and enjoy some self-care. The Creative Wellness Hive is a chance for you to make and share art for free! If you see the blue bus on campus, stop by for some well-deserved fun and to learn more about our campus supports and services. [Visit the mental health events web page for more information.](#)

Money Matters



Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

- [Apply to OSAP](#), if you haven't done so already for this academic year.
- Ensure that your winter semester course load (number of classes) matches with your OSAP application. If it does not, this will delay the release of your winter funding in **January**.
- 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](#).
- Check [MyOntarioTech](#) for winter term payment deadlines and your tuition account balance.

Other News



Ontario Tech Ucard:

- If you have not submitted your photo for use in your digital Ucard, visit our [Ontario Tech Ucard web page](#) for instructions. Follow our [photo upload requirements](#) to avoid having your photo rejected.
- Without a photo, your digital Ucard is invalid and **will not** be considered an acceptable ID for exams, tests, etc.
- To access your digital Ucard, download and sign into the [Ontario Tech Mobile app](#).

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, 2024**, 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 the [U-Pass web page](#).

Durham Region Transit (DRT) Service Changes:

- Beginning **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**, DRT is making updates to their services. For more information, [visit the Durham Region Transit website](#) to check available [route maps](#) or contact their Customer Service Centre at 1.866.247.0055.



Tech

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