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Ridgeback Report



- **#WeGetConsent week** is this week! Join us **February 12 to 16** as we spread awareness about consent and sexual violence prevention in our campus community. Follow along our Instagram [@otstudentlife](#), stop by our Valentines Day booth, or attend one of the #WeGetConsent themed equity events. [View the event schedule.](#)

Academic Support



- Curious about generative artificial intelligence? Attend our [ChatGPT workshop](#) to learn more about the common uses, how to navigate its pros and cons and how it can benefit your academic writing. [Learn more and register.](#)
- The [Student Learning Centre](#) offers services throughout the winter semester, including peer tutoring, math and science support. You can book an appointment on the [Student Life Portal](#) or visit the website to find drop-in times.
- Looking for writing support? The [Student Learning Centre](#) has one-on-one consultations, peer tutoring, same-day appointments and workshops. We can help with essays, final projects, literature reviews, referencing, thesis statements and more! Book an appointment by visiting the [Student Life 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



- Explore your employment identity with our Dungeons and Dragons Employment workshops! This five-week workshop—**on Wednesdays from February 7 to March 13**—gives you the opportunity to build your own Dungeons and Dragons character and journey through quests that explore skills related to employment and employment identity. [Learn more and register on the Student Life Portal.](#)
- The [Employment Readiness Program](#), running **Tuesdays from February 6 to March 26**, 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.](#)
- Join us on **Tuesday, March 19 from 6 to 8 p.m.** for **Exploring Careers in Education**, a virtual workshop open to all students. By attending, you'll have the opportunity to explore career options in the field of education, beyond traditional kindergarten to grade 12 teaching roles. [Register.](#)

- 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!](#)
- **The Career Centre** has a variety of workshops that are designed to help you with job searching, going to work for the first time, or entering a new workplace. [Learn more and register](#) for a 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 (OTSU) General Elections voting is this week from February 12 to 14!** [Cast your ballot online](#) or at polling stations in common areas around both campus locations. [Visit the OTSU website](#) to view the candidates.
- Bannock and Books is back with a new book—**Our Voice of Fire: A Memoir of a Warrior Rising** by Brandi Morin. [Register](#) to join us for the Sharing Circle on **Wednesday, February 14 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.**
- Student Life is recruiting Orientation Leaders for the 2024-2025 term. [Visit the Leadership positions website](#) for more information including the volunteer descriptions and to submit your application.
- 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**. Full award details

and nomination instructions are available in the [nomination guide](#). You must be logged into your ontariotechu.net account for access.

- Join this year's Level 4 Leadership Ambassadors as they present their workshop, **We Before Me—Nurturing Leaders with the Power of Community**. Enhance your team leadership skills by learning effective communication, encouragement, and conflict resolution, and discover the art of knowing when to lead and when to step back for optimal team success. The workshop will be held on **Thursday, March 14 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in Shawenjigewining Hall, Room 024**. Register on the [Student Life Portal](#).
- [Conversation Café](#) runs on **Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 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.
- **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 Peer Mentor. To register for training and see what dates are available, visit the [Ambassador web page](#).

Equity and Inclusion



- Afternoons with SEE run weekly on **Tuesdays 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.

- **#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.](#)

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.](#)
- Join Holistic Nutritionist Sylvia Emmorey for nutrition sessions, where she'll provide practical tips for managing stress through your diet and teach you how to incorporate healthy snacks. [Learn more by visiting the Health Promotions events and workshops page.](#)
- Do you experience distress around eating and want to heal your relationship with food? Join **One Meal at a Time**—a weekly meal support group held **virtually on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** [Learn more and register on the Mental Health Groups web page.](#)
- **Recovery College** is a collaboration between Ontario Tech University and Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. Two courses will be held

over the winter semester and will provide education about mental health and wellness, and help people to discover or rediscover passion, hope and meaning. To view the course descriptions and register, [visit the Health Promotions web page](#).

- [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](#).
- **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.
- **Campus Connected** is a workshop for students, staff and faculty to learn how to engage with others with an attitude of caring and kindness, as well as listen with empathy and without judgement. [Learn more and register for a workshop](#).

Money Matters



Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

- **Wednesday, February 21** is the last day to apply for [OSAP](#) for the winter semester.
- 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.

- 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

The General Bursary application is now open!

- The application can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#) within the [student awards and financial aid box](#) under the current students tab.
- Check [MyOntarioTech](#) for winter term payment deadlines and your tuition account balance.
- 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



International Love Data Week:

The Campus Library is hosting a series of online workshops open to all students:

- **Monday, February 12 from 1:10 to 2 p.m.** | [Love at First Cite: How to Cite Data Resources](#).
- **Monday, February 12 from 2 to 3 p.m.** | [What's Love Got to Do With It? What Library Data Resources Can Tell Us About Love](#)

- **Friday, February 16 from 11:10 a.m. to noon** | [RDM: What's the Deal with Data Management?](#)
- **Friday, February 16 from 12:10 to 1 p.m.** | [Data, We Love to See It: A Brief Introduction to Data Visualization](#)

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** 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.



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