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Ridgeback Report



- **Ontario Tech Student Union General Elections start today!** This is your change to make a profound impact on improving students' lives at Ontario Tech and earn invaluable work and life experience. Any full-time student can run for an executive or board position. [Complete the candidate profile to get started.](#)

Academic Support



- **Attention Student Accessibility Services (SAS) students:** The SAS portal will be unavailable to access for approximately two hours on **Friday, January 26 between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.** If you have any questions or concerns please contact studentaccessibility@ontariotechu.ca.
- The [Student Learning Centre](#) offers services throughout the winter semester, including peer tutoring, math, science and writing support. You can book an appointment on the [Student Life Portal](#) or visit the website to find drop-in times.
- 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 coming up on **January 23 and 25** in the **Shawenjigewining Hall, Atrium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**! 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!
- Join the [Career Centre](#) at the [Get Experience Fair](#) on **Wednesday, January 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the downtown Oshawa campus location. Connect with community organizations that are looking to recruit for current volunteer opportunities in the Durham Region and Greater Toronto Area. [View the guidebook](#) to learn more about the organizations that are attending.
- Join us for the annual Job Fair on **Thursday, February 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Employers are invited to campus to participate in recruitment for full-time, contract, summer, part-time and co-op positions. [Visit the Job Fair website](#) to view the full list of organizations attending and for resumé prep before the event.
- Explore your employment identity with our Dungeons and Dragons Employment workshops! This five-week workshop—**on Wednesdays from February 6 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.](#)

- 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



- 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. The deadline to submit your nominations is **Friday, January 19**.
- The Brilliant Catalyst and the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science are offering the [Smart Cities Innovation Challenge](#) **Thursday, January 25 to Tuesday, February 13**. Teams will compete in a final pitch for a total \$5000 in cash prizes! Engage with experts, develop solutions for smart city challenges, and pitch your ideas for a chance to win. [Sign up](#) by **Friday, January 19** to transform your vision into a reality and be a part of this inspiring journey.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- [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



- **#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



- 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.](#)
- The Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) and Health Promotions team are looking for period product donations during the week of **January 29**. You can donate any period products (pads, tampons, menstrual cups, menstrual discs, etc.) in sealed, original packaging; we will accept pads and tampons in boxes/bags or singles that are individually wrapped. There will be donation boxes set up outside OTSU offices at both campus locations as well as donation booths at the men and women's Ridgeback home games on **February 2 and 3**.

- Curious about cannabis, but want to prioritize your health and make responsible choices? Join us for an information session on **Thursday, February 8 from 4 to 5 p.m. in Shawenjigewining Hall, Room 024**. The session will be led by registered nurse Hiral Mistryand, and will discuss the physical and social impacts of cannabis, and how to navigate it responsibly. [Learn more on the Health Promotions website.](#)
- 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.](#)
- **Recovery College** is a collaboration between Ontario Tech University and Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. Three 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.](#)
- **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)

- [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.
- 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

- 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](#).
- Check [MyOntarioTech](#) for winter term payment deadlines and your tuition account balance.

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.

Other News



Important dates:

Friday, January 19

- Winter semester fees are due in full.

- Last day to add courses in the winter semester.
- Last day to drop winter semester courses for a **full** refund.

Friday, February 2

- Last day to withdraw from winter semester classes without receiving a grade. Courses dropped after this date will be recorded with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.
- Last day to drop courses for a **50 per cent** refund of tuition fees.
- Check out our [resources web page](#) for helpful tips, tricks and answers to your common registration questions.

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

Ontario Tech University
2000 Simcoe Street North
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 0C5
Canada