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Ridgeback Report



- Celebrate National Hot Chocolate day with us! On **Wednesday, January 31** stop by **Shawenjigewining Hall, Atrium and the Science and Information Technology building** for a mid-day sweet treat courtesy of the Blue Crew! Hot chocolate will be served from **11:30 a.m. until supplies last**. Don't miss out!

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



- Join us for the annual Job Fair on **Thursday, February 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre Gyms 3, 4 and 5**. 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.](#)
- 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.](#)

- **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



- 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



- **#WeGetConsent Week** is coming up **February 12 to 16!** Join us 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](#).
- 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



- 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. 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.

Other News



Ontario Tech Ucard:

- Have questions about activating your U-Pass? Watch this [one-minute video](#) for details on how to easily add, activate and use it on Presto's E-tickets app. If you have any issues with your U-Pass, contact connect@ontariotechu.ca.
- 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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