

# Ridgeback Report



## October is Cybersecurity Month!

Join IT Services in raising awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and ensuring we all have the resources we need to be safer, and more secure online.

This year, we are focusing on four themes which will be released every Monday on Twitter ([@OT\\_ITServices](#)). Watch each video and answer a quick question for the chance to win a weekly prize. **Bonus:** Compete to win a \$50 gift card of your choice at the end of the month.

For more information, [visit the Cybersecurity Month web page](#).

## Academic Support



- Papers are due and finals are quickly approaching! No need to stress—the Student Learning Centre is hosting **Anti-Procrastination Week** from **November 8 to 12**. Join throughout the week for a series of virtual workshops that will help you prepare for the end-of-term crunch! Workshops will cover a variety of topics, including strategies to avoid cramming, effective study strategies, planning for final exams, preventing procrastination, increasing motivation, finding and reading peer-reviewed journal articles, using the APA style guide, and more. To view the full workshop schedule—including dates and times, and registration links—[visit the Anti-Procrastination Week web page](#).
- During Anti-Procrastination Week, the Student Learning Centre will be holding its bi-annual **Long Night Against Procrastination** event on **Tuesday, November 9 from 3 to 6 p.m.**, both **in-person and online**. You can sign up for in-person or online appointments to learn some helpful tips on writing, citations and preparing for exams, as well as get tips for studying and time management, and ask a Reference Librarian for help with specific research topics or research skills; the library appointments are online only. **Please note:** Masks are required for the in-person activities and all refreshments will be to take away to a designated eating space on campus. If you are interested in registering for this event, contact [studentlearning@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:studentlearning@ontariotechu.ca).
- The Student Learning Centre will be holding **Study Together sessions** throughout the week of **November 8 to 12**. Stay accountable and on track by studying with other students in a quiet virtual space. We will be using a structured study time and break system to stay focused, and will begin each study session with some helpful study tips; webcams are encouraged but not required. Check out the [Study Together schedule](#)! To register for these workshops and virtual study sessions, [visit the Student Life Portal](#).
- The **Stride Learning program** provides a variety of online learning skill workshops, offered at critical times throughout the year. You'll be introduced to learning strategies that will contribute to your academic success—time management skills, memory strategies, note-taking, goal setting and more. We also offer study sessions, one-on-one appointments, and small group appointments for individual students, peer groups and student clubs. For more information, [visit the Stride web page](#).
- The Student Learning Centre offers a variety of **peer learning programs**. If you're looking for academic support, you can access **Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)** that occur weekly for help in reviewing courses that are historically challenging. For the schedule, [visit the PASS web page](#). If you're looking for extra support, [one-on-one peer tutoring sessions](#) are also available. Both programs are offered fully online via Google Meet.

- Note-taking is an essential service to support some students with long- or short-term disabilities. Student Accessibility Services invites you to get involved with this rewarding opportunity; submissions are anonymous and note-taking can be included on your [Student Experience Record](#). For more information, [visit the volunteer note-takers web page](#).

# Career Readiness



- [Open Access Week](#) is **October 25 to 31**. Join the Library's workshop—[Free and Findable: An Introduction to Open Data Online](#)—on **Thursday, October 28 at 5 p.m.**; learn what open data is, how your business can leverage open data for your research, and where to find it at the municipal, provincial, national and international levels.
- Join TALENT's Customer Success and Marketing Manager's session on **Wednesday, October 27 from noon to 1 p.m.**, focused on alternative credentials and microcredentials, and career development post-graduation. TALENT's managers will be on-hand to discuss how employers are actively using alternative credentials to assess job readiness and highlight top skills in demand across leading job sectors in Ontario like Advanced Manufacturing, Energy, and Healthcare. To register, [visit the Student Life Portal](#).
- **International students:** The Career Centre's virtual drop-in sessions happen on **Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m.** These sessions are designed to support career development and your employment journey; no appointment is necessary. For more information and for the meeting link, [visit the Student Life Portal](#).
- **Career Chats** is an initiative that takes place on the **last Tuesday and Thursday of each month**. They provide you with an opportunity to talk directly with human resource professionals to receive resumé, LinkedIn, interview or job-searching advice from industry-leading employers. [Register through the Student Life Portal](#).
- Do you have an interview coming up? The Career Centre offers practice interviews with an Employment Advisor. To book an appointment, [visit the Student Life Portal](#).

# Community



- Join us for **Fall Fest** on **Thursday, October 28**; we have some fun activities planned. Have you ever wanted to play a game of Dungeons and Dragons? Now's your time! Join us for a Halloween-themed adventure from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** (in-person in the UA Building). Other Fall Fest events include drop-in art from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** (in-person in the UA Building). We will have bracelet making supplies available and fall-themed colouring pages. [Register](#) if you're interested in either activity.
- **Treaties Recognition Week** is meant to honour the treaties agreed to between Indigenous nations and the Crown in Right of Ontario over the last 250 years. Understanding the spirit and intent of treaty relationships is important for building new relationships of mutual respect and benefit between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. From **November 1 to 5**, take time to learn more by accessing the [resources](#) developed by the Campus Library.
- If you or your family have been affected by the legacy of residential schools in Canada, support is available. The Indigenous Cultural Advisor is available for traditional counselling support. Contact [Indigenous@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:Indigenous@ontariotechu.ca) to make an appointment. If you are in crisis or need immediate support, contact the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line (24 hours) at 1.866.925.4419.
- **Student Mental Health Services** offers a range of groups and workshops to support your mental health. [Register online](#) if you'd like to participate.
- The **Better Together Series**—in collaboration with Durham College—has a variety of events taking place throughout the year that are aimed at helping students make connections. To view the full list of events and register, [visit the mental health events](#)

[web page](#).

- **Mental Health Peer Mentors** are undergraduate or graduate students at the university, who listen and provide social and emotional support to students in a one-on-one setting. To learn more about the program and Peer Mentors—and to book an appointment—[visit the Mental Health Peer Mentors web page](#).
- **Conversation Café** runs on **Thursdays' from 3 to 4 p.m.** 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 begin.

## Equity and Inclusion



- **Respecting Individuals, Supporting Equity (RISE):** The RISE program is a suite of workshops scheduled throughout the fall, that provides training and education on what participants can do on an individual level to foster a safer, and more inclusive campus community. To learn more and register, [visit the equity groups and workshops web page](#).
- **Equity discussion groups and student-centred spaces** are running throughout the fall. Learn about equity topics in open discussion groups or discuss your experiences with those who may share them in a closed, student-centred space. To see which groups are available and register, [visit the equity groups and workshops web page](#).
- **Campus Connected** is about caring and kindness, and listening for understanding, empathy and without judgment. The session is two hours long and is offered on many different dates, in hopes that you can find one that suits your busy schedule. [Register on the Student Life Portal](#).
- 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 **#Let'sTalkSex workshops** to provide education and destigmatization around topics of sex, and sexuality. Part of building a culture of consent and respect on campus is providing space for conversations like these. To view the schedule and register, [visit the equity groups and workshops web page](#).
- **Pride study space** is a drop-in program for 2SLGBTQ+ students and allies to study together virtually in a quiet environment, and take breaks together. This programming takes place **every Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** until Monday, November 29. For more information and to access the meeting links, [visit the equity groups and workshops web page](#).

## Athletics and Wellness



- Check out the Ridgebacks' hockey and basketball teams as they begin their OUA seasons starting on **Thursday, November 4**. To see full schedules, [visit the Ridgebacks' website](#).
- Need the latest news on what's happening in Athletics? Make sure to [follow them on Instagram](#) (@ot\_ridgebacks).
- What a time to try the remaining six weeks of FLEX group fitness classes! On select dates in November and December, you'll only pay \$25 for classes (one class a week for six weeks). To view the schedule and register, [visit the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre website](#). Questions? Contact Fitness Co-ordinator, Angela Wood, at [angela.wood@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:angela.wood@durhamcollege.ca).
- [Follow Campus Rec on Instagram](#) (@dcotcampusrec) for the latest updates on recreational opportunities.

# Money Matters



## OSAP

- OSAP for the 2021-2022 academic year is now available. If you haven't already, [apply now](#).
- Your course load, program, and year of study reported on your OSAP application **must match your Ontario Tech course registration** for your funding to be released each semester. If they don't match, there will be a delay in your funding. [Contact the Student Awards and Financial Aid \(SAFA\) team](#) to make updates.
- Confirmation of enrolment began at the end of August. Check your status on the [OSAP website](#) to see if your funding has been released. Once your enrolment is confirmed, it takes up to 10 working days for the funds to reach the university and/or your bank account.
- [Check MyCampus](#) for your tuition account balance and your net-cost view by semester. This will show if you owe any tuition fees after your OSAP funds are applied.
- Continue to monitor the status of your OSAP application and remember to make all necessary updates with the [SAFA team](#).

## Additional resources

- Don't forget to [check MyCampus](#) for important payment deadlines and to review your tuition account balance.
- For the most up-to-date financial information, [visit the SAFA website](#). Additionally, please ensure you're checking the **OT awards and financial aid** tab of [MyCampus](#) regularly. If you have any further questions or concerns, contact us at [connect@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:connect@ontariotechu.ca).

# Other News



- In an effort to ensure our Academic Advising services align with the needs of our current students, we would like to receive your feedback related to your preferred hours of service. Your response to the survey questions will help us better understand student needs and how we can ensure we are providing the best services possible. The survey will take less than one minute to complete. [Take the survey](#).
- Student Life services are being offered at the 61 Charles Street Building, at the downtown Oshawa campus location. To book an appointment for writing or career support, [visit the Student Life Portal](#).
- **MyCampus login:** Some users are currently experiencing login issues while trying to access self-service options in [MyCampus](#). If you're experiencing this issue, you will need to log in through either **Firefox or Safari**, as those are the only supporting browsers at this time.



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