

Ridgeback Report



Undergraduate Student Course Feedback Surveys

[Surveys](#) for the fall semester will be available from **November 22 to December 6**.

Do you have comments or concerns about your courses? [Share your feedback](#) with us and help improve your student experience.

By completing the survey(s), you'll be entered into a draw for a chance to win 1 of 5 \$75 gift cards.

Academic Support



- TALENT is excited to launch **self-paced** microcredentials. Have you thought about taking a microcredential but can't find the time to fit one into your busy schedule? We hear you! On **Monday, December 6**, TALENT is launching five of our top microcredentials in a self-paced model so you can get the same great credential—on your own time. With flexible start and completion dates, bookable facilitator hours, and any-time access to assignments, you're in full control of your learning. We're offering a special discounted rate for the first 10 registrants. Follow TALENT on social media to learn more via [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
- Google has announced that all Google Workspace for Education (previously known as G Suite for Education) customers will have a new storage policy that will **end unlimited storage** for educational institutions in July 2022. [Visit the IT Services website](#) for more information and the steps to start reducing your data usage.
- The **Stride Learning program** provides a variety of online learning-skills 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



- International students, you're invited to bring your existing resumé to the **Job Prep: Resumé and Cover Letter Writing** workshop on **Tuesday, November 23 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** You'll learn how to update your resumé so that it reflects

your accomplishments and is tailored to the job you'll be applying for. Registration is required through the [Student Life Portal](#).

- **Wavemakers** is a national part-time, work-integrated learning program on a virtual-reality campus. Attend learning sessions with world-class speakers, a career fair with employers across dozens of industries, and be eligible for financial aid and scholarships. [Register to attend a student information session](#) on **Thursday, November 25 from 11 a.m. to noon**.
- The **Virtual Career Carnival** will be held on **Friday, November 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The carnival provides interactive, fun and professional assistance to help prepare you for graduate employment, summers jobs, and upcoming co-op/internship opportunities. [Register on the Student Life Portal](#) to join us for learning, games and prizes!
- The Career Centre is hosting the workshop: **Dear Anxiety, We Need to Talk**, relating in preferred ways to stress and anxiety in career decisions, and interviews. The workshop will be held virtually on **Monday, November 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** Join and take a chance to reflect on your relationship with stress and anxiety, and consider how you would like to relate to it moving forward. [Register on the Student Life Portal](#).
- International students, you're invited to attend the **Job Prep: Strategies** workshop on **Monday, November 29 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** You'll learn how to navigate the pandemic work environment and how to succeed in an uncertain job market using a strategic job search action plan. Registration is required through 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](#).
- **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](#).
- 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



- Have your say by completing the **Campus Bookstore** survey. We're continuously trying to improve our services and would love to hear your feedback! The results will help determine areas where we can serve you and the rest of the campus community better. The survey will be open until **Wednesday, December 15**. [Take the survey](#).
- 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 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.
- **Student 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](#).
- The **Better Together Series**—in collaboration with Durham College—has a variety of events taking place throughout the year that are aimed at helping you make connections. To view the full list of events and register, [visit the mental health events 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



- From **November 25 to December 10**, you're invited to participate in the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** campaign. We will be hosting [three virtual sessions](#) that focus on what practical steps and actions we can all take in addressing the issue to create an inclusive environment.
- **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. [Learn more and register](#).
- **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](#).
- Join the **Classroom Equity Advocates** as they discuss what classism looks like for students, the social and economic impacts of classism in the university atmosphere, and barriers to overcoming classism. There will be **three gift cards raffled off** to participants that attend. [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. For more information and to access the meeting links, [visit the equity groups and workshops web page](#).

Athletics and Wellness



- **National anthem singers and half-time entertainers wanted**: The Department of Athletics and Recreation is looking for any local singers, groups, choirs, or musicians to perform the Canadian National Anthem or perform half-time/intermission entertainment at any Ridgebacks' hockey or basketball home games. If you're interested or know somebody interested in performing, contact scott.dennis@ontariotechu.ca.
- **Holiday food/winter clothing drive**: Teaming up with members of the Durham community, the Ontario Tech Ridgeback Leadership Council are, once again, ready for the holiday season. Fans are invited to contribute winter clothing, and non-perishable food donations at seven Ridgebacks' basketball and hockey home games. Admission will be granted for any donations made at the Campus Ice Centre or Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre from **November 24 to December 4**.
- Need the latest news on what's happening in Athletics? Make sure to [follow them on Instagram](#) ([@ot_ridgebacks](#)).
- [Follow Campus Rec on Instagram](#) ([@dco campusrec](#)) for the latest updates on recreational opportunities.

Money Matters



Financial Literacy Month (FLM)

- November is [FLM](#); Student Awards and Financial Aid (SAFA) will be hosting external workshops from **November 22 to 25**. To learn more and register, [visit the financial literacy workshops' web page](#).

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

- [Apply for OSAP](#) if you haven't already done so for the academic school year.
- Ensure your winter semester course load (e.g. number of courses registered in) matches with your OSAP application. If they don't match, this will delay the release of your winter semester funding in January.
- Continue to monitor the status of your OSAP application and remember to make all necessary updates with the [SAFA team](#).

Student awards

- There are many different scholarship and bursary applications available on [MyCampus](#). Visit the **OT awards and financial aid** tab to see what's available for you.

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 questions or concerns, contact us at connect@ontariotechu.ca.

Other News



- **Holiday hours for Food Services:** From **December 6 to 17, 2021**, only the Hive Café will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All Food Service outlets will be closed from **December 18, 2021 to January 4, 2022** inclusive. From **January 5 to 7, 2022** only the Hive will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. As of **Monday, January 10, 2022**, the UB Café, Shop61 and the Hive will resume regular operating hours.
- **Holiday hours for Shop Ontario Tech (Campus Bookstore):** Shop Ontario Tech will be closed from **December 16, 2021 to January 4, 2022** inclusive. It will resume regular operating hours beginning **Wednesday, January 5, 2022** (Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
- **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.

