

Ridgeback Report



The Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) will have 2022 general elections from **January 10 to February 11**. All full-time students are eligible and encouraged to run for any of the executive positions—President, VP Student Life, VP Student Affairs or VP Downtown.

If you're interested in campaigning, [visit the OTSU website](#) for more information.

Academic Support



- Software for the Winter semester will be available on **Saturday, January 1**. [Download and install your software](#) for the upcoming semester via the Software Portal.
- 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](#).
- 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.

Career Readiness



- Energy Project Management Fundamentals is **open for registration**. Are you interested in a project management job in the nuclear sector? Don't pass up the opportunity to learn from the best in the energy sector! [Register](#) for the **Monday, January 17** session. Don't forget to check out all our other offerings on the [TALENT website](#).
- 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](#).
- **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](#).

Community



- 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](#).
- **Recovery College** is a collaboration between the university and Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. Three courses will be held over the winter semester, will provide education about mental health and wellness, and will help you discover or rediscover passion, hope, and meaning. To view the course descriptions and register, [visit the mental health groups' 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.
- The **Better Together Series** in collaboration with Durham College has a variety of events taking place throughout the year, aimed at helping you make connections. To view a full list of events and register, [visit the mental health events web page](#).

Equity and Inclusion



- Have you completed the requirements for Ontario Tech's **Respecting Individuals and Supporting Equity (RISE)** certificate? If so, contact equity@ontariotechu.ca with your full name, student (ontariotechu.net) email address, and RISE sessions/dates you attended; we'll send you the online reflection questions to complete your requirements! Everyone who completes their requirements by **Monday, January 31** will be entered for a chance to win 1 of 3 #Let'sTalkEquity prize packs.
- 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](#).
- **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



- The **Active Living and Engagement Challenge** returns in January! Athletics and Recreation is excited about the return, scheduled to start on **Monday, January 10**. Whether you're at home or on campus, we're encouraging the entire campus community to get active to win great prizes. Full details about the contest will be released in January. [Visit the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre website](#) for any updates on facilities.
- 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



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



- There is a campus internet outage taking place on **Wednesday, December 29**. To see what services will be affected, [visit the IT Services website](#).
- **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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