

Ridgeback Report



This winter, the Student Learning Centre will be holding [Stride Study Support groups](#) for all students. These groups are designed for students looking for supportive ways to stay accountable throughout the term while learning some useful study strategies in the process!

Sessions will run twice a week, on **Mondays from 10:10 to 11:10 a.m.** and **Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m.**, for 10 weeks.

Academic Support



- 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 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.
- Curbside pickup at the library is now available. For more details, see our [Library Service & Operations update](#).

Career Readiness



- 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](#).
- The [Virtual Career Carnival](#) will be held **January 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, and offers interactive professional assistance to help prepare you for graduate employment, part-time jobs and upcoming co-op/internship opportunities. Each activity of the Career Carnival has a different focus of either resumé and cover letters, interview skills, or networking and personal branding. Drop-in throughout the day and get something different every time!
- The [Virtual Job Fair](#) will be held on **Thursday, February 3 from 1 to 4 p.m.** Employers are invited to participate in recruitment for full-time, contract, summer, part-time and co-op positions. In the days leading up to the Job Fair, the Career Centre will offer drop-in hours to get your resumé and cover letter reviewed. Find drop-in times on the [Student Life Portal](#).
- The Career Centre is hosting various workshops throughout the winter semester. To view and register for the workshops, [visit the Student Life Portal](#).
- Are you looking for insights on the Canadian employment market, and strategies for getting a job in Canada as a student or alumni? Then this career conversation panel is for you! Join our [Job Preparation: Tips & Tricks on How to Land a Job](#) event

on **Thursday, February 17 from 5 to 7 p.m.** You'll have the opportunity to connect and learn from an Ontario Tech alumni and current international student with Canadian work experience and more!

- **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](#).
- **Deadline extended:** Are you interested in a project management job in the nuclear industry? Don't pass up the opportunity to learn from the best in the energy sector and [register for our Energy Project Management Fundamentals microcredential!](#) The course starts on **Monday, January 31**; use the exclusive discount code OTUSTUDENT to get this \$399 course for only \$99.

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.
- Want to earn \$500 and learn a new skill? We've got just the thing for you! Join us for [Brilliant Idea Winter 2022](#), a three-day workshop series led by experienced entrepreneurs; learn how to identify and solve real-world problems right here in our community! Every student will be paid \$500 for participating. The deadline to apply is **Sunday, February 6** and the program starts on **Tuesday, February 15**.
- **Student Mental Health Services** continues to offer a range of groups and workshops to support your mental health. [Register online](#) if you'd like to participate.
- Are you interested in becoming an [Ambassador](#)? Being an Ambassador is a great way to develop your leadership skills, meet new people and get involved on campus. If you're interested, your first step is to attend the Ambassador Level 1 training. [Sign up today!](#)
- **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.

Equity and Inclusion



- **Respecting Individuals and Supporting Equity (RISE)** 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.](#)
- Have you completed the requirements for Ontario Tech's **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.
- **Equity Discussion Groups and Student-Centered Spaces** are running throughout the winter semester. Learn about equity topics in open discussion groups or discuss your experiences with those who may share them in a closed student-centered Space. [View the available groups and register for sessions.](#)
- **#Let'sTalkSex 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. Part of building a culture of consent and respect on campus is providing space for conversations like these.
- **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 (ALEC)** is back! Whether you go out for a walk, take part in a Campus Rec activity or work out at home, **all activity counts**. Just [fill out the ALEC submission form](#) for your chance to win weekly and grand prizes. We want all staff and students at both institutions to stay active, and have an opportunity to win amazing prizes through 1 of 6 weekly prize draws or one of our three grand prizes.
- Need the latest news on what's happening in Athletics? Make sure to [follow them on Instagram](#) (@ot_ridgebacks).
- [Follow Campus Rec on Instagram](#) (@dcotcampusrec) 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 winter semester. The last day to apply for full-time OSAP is **Wednesday, February 23**.
- Ensure your winter semester course load (e.g. number of courses you're registered in, program and year of study) matches with your OSAP application. If they don't match, this will delay the release of your winter semester funding.
- Confirmation of enrolment has begun for the winter semester. 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 business days for the funds to reach the university and/or your bank account.

- Check [MyCampus](#) for your tuition account balance and for your **net cost view by term**. This will show if you owe any tuition fees after your OSAP funds are applied.

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.

Other News



- **Student Health & Dental Plan:** The deadline to opt-in, opt-out or add a family member to your Student Health & Dental Plan is **Monday, January 31**. To get started, [view the forms on the OTSU website](#).
- The nominations for the 2022 **Celebrate Teaching! Awards** are now open. Submit your nomination on the [Teaching and Learning Centre website](#). The deadline for all submissions is **Friday, February 25 at 4:30 p.m.** Contact teachingandlearning@ontariotechu.ca if you have any questions.
- **MyCampus login:** Some users are experiencing issues while accessing the self-service options of [MyCampus](#). To avoid this, use Safari or Chrome, right-click on the self-service options and open the links in a new tab.



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