



Integrated Academic-Research Plan Summary / 2019-2021



Creating our story, together



Our university has an amazing story to tell—it's been created by the uniquely talented community of faculty, staff and students we have at Ontario Tech. It's a story that's still being created by all of us.

This Integrated Academic-Research Plan provides the arc of our story by aligning our vision, mission and values with the key priorities to guide our collective focus. Together, we're creating the story that we're proud to share with the world.



Lori Livingston, PhD
Provost and Vice-President, Academic



Vision

We advance the discovery and application of knowledge to accelerate economic growth, regional development and social innovation. We inspire our students and our graduates to make a positive impact in a tech-focused world.



Mission

We aim to:

- Provide superior undergraduate and graduate technology-enriched programs that respond to the needs of our students and the evolving workplace.
- Conduct research that creates knowledge, solves problems, results in economic and social innovation, and engages our students.
- Facilitate lifelong learning that is flexible, inclusive and emphasizes college-university transfers.
- Develop academic and research collaborations with industry and community that stimulate and enhance the region and university at home and abroad.
- Cultivate a dynamic learning environment for students by promoting social engagement, fostering critical thinking, and integrating experiences inside and outside the classroom.



Values

We value:

Integrity and Respect

We embrace honesty, inclusivity and equity in all that we do.

Accountability

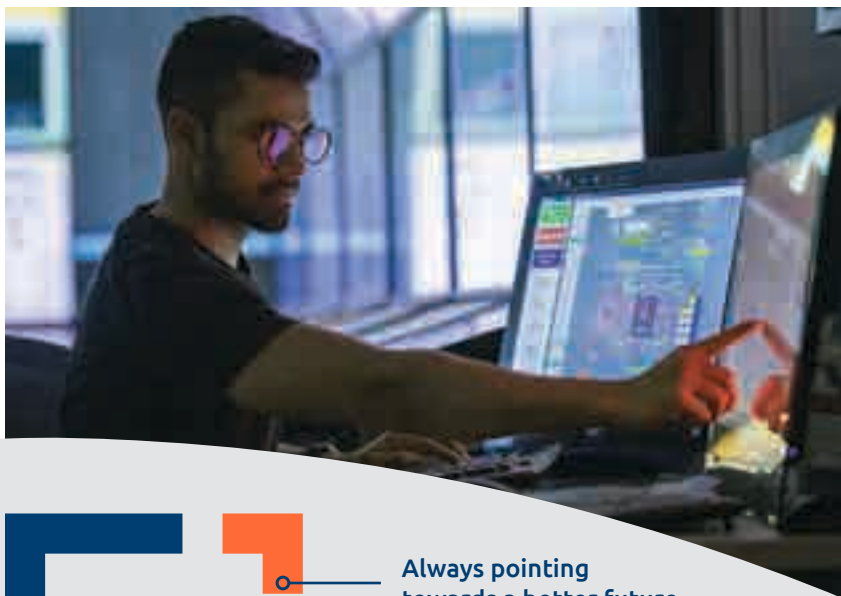
Our actions reflect our values, and we are accountable for both.

Dedication to Quality and Intellectual Rigour

We strive for excellence with energy, commitment and passion.

Pursuit of Innovation

We cultivate creativity, adaptability and flexibility in our students, faculty, and staff.



Always pointing
towards a better future


Open to new emerging
ideas and possibilities

A modern, forward-
thinking University



The right priorities are key





Our plan, including the goals, objectives, commitments and actions, aligns with our academic-research strategic priorities:

- Tech with a conscience
- Learning re-imagined
- Creating a sticky campus
- Partnerships

Along with our focus on telling our story, these priorities will advance the university to the next level.

Tech with a conscience:

Innovation, impact and the social and ethical implications of technology



We aim to improve the lives of humans and the planet through the ethical application of technology. It's a key component in our teaching and learning practices, administrative processes and innovative research projects.

Our commitments

- Establish new research institutes, centres and chairs.
- Be national leaders in the conversation pertaining to the future of energy in Canada.
- Intentionally differentiate ourselves as an institution committed to using technology in all that we do.

Attainment of these goals will be measured against actions that contribute to making Ontario Tech a great place to work, study and play.

We will know if we are on track if by 2021 we have:

- Launched new research institutes, centres and chairs, which examine the use, application, social and ethical implications, and impact of technology on everyday life.
- Built on existing strengths by establishing interdisciplinary research teams in select areas to create innovative and ethical technological solutions for the future.
- Established advisory boards or consortia to guide complex interdisciplinary conversations and community-based research initiatives pertaining to technology and its promise for the future, as well as its challenges.
- Successfully implemented a new Learning Management Platform (i.e., CANVAS™).
- Increased the quantity of online curricular and course offerings, and use of online educational resources (OERs) with a commitment to enhancing the quality of the same.
- Expanded faculty, staff and student usage of digital/virtual platforms.

Learning re-imagined:

Learner-centred educational options



We adapt to the ever-changing educational landscape by experimenting with the most effective ways to deliver flexible and dynamic learning, giving more choices to more people.

Our commitments

- Prepare students for careers, which contribute to individual, societal and global solutions and prosperity
- Reinvent learning via continuous learning and technological solutions.
- Provide students with experiential learning and work-integrated learning opportunities, including entrepreneurial and research-intensive options domestically and globally.

Attainment of these goals will be measured against actions that contribute to making Ontario Tech a great place to work, study, and play.

We will know if we are on track if by 2021 we have:

- Increased the number, quality, and diversity of undergraduate and graduate student engagements in experiential- and/or work-integrated learning and co-op opportunities via enhanced community-, industry-, and partner-sponsored options.
- Increased enrolment in Continuous Learning offerings.
- Leveraged existing technological assets to provide a greater number of degrees, courses and other for credit offerings (e.g., micro certification, badges) via online formats.
- Leveraged existing and emerging technological assets to elevate the integration and use of immersive-learning strategies within existing and new program offerings.
- Increased the production of open educational resources (OERs) amongst our full-time and part-time faculty and staff.
- Increased the usage of OERs in each of our faculties.
- Introduced new or revamped existing offerings to increase our collaborations with stakeholders, either within and between faculties, externally with university and college partners, or with local communities, municipalities and industry.

Creating a sticky campus:

A place to make lasting connections



We promote positive social change and encourage an accessible, equitable, diverse and inclusive culture for our campus community.

Our commitments

- Create new campus spaces and experiences at our downtown and north locations.
- Broaden and diversify our university community demographics while at the same time celebrating and promotion equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do.
- Expand our virtual campus assets.

Attainment of these goals will be measured against actions that contribute to making Ontario Tech a great place to work, study, and play.

We will know if we are on track if by 2021 we have:

- Completed construction and the move into a new multi-purpose building to support faculty, staff, student and community educational, research and service needs.
- Repurposed vacated spaces to support growing teaching, research and service needs, while at the same time creating new 'collision' and social spaces where innovative ideas may thrive.
- Established a new standard in food delivery with improved selection, choice, pricing, points of purchase and nutritional value to meet the needs of our diverse campus communities.
- Expanded our commitment to sustainability through waste reduction initiatives.
- Intentionally committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in support of Indigenous students and the local Indigenous communities.
- Increased the number of international students, scholars and visitors on our campuses.
- Welcomed greater participation from members of our local communities and region via age-specific programming and community-specific needs.
- Hired a Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- Embraced and gained, with intention, a better understanding of the diversity of our on-campus demographics through robust employee- and student-data collection methods.
- Introduced and implemented new orientation, mentorship and leadership programs for our faculty, staff and students.
- Committed to student success and retention via enhanced first-year experiences, greater investments in student advising and mental health supports, and cost reductions via OER and other digital delivery strategies.

Partnerships:

Meaningful connections with our local and global communities



We help industry, community, government and academic partners be more effective by bringing them together with students and researchers to uncover innovative solutions for our partners' most pressing problems.

Our commitments

- Strengthen existing, and cultivate new, industry, community and government relationships within the Durham Region, Northumberland County and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
- Strengthen and add to our existing academic partnerships—regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Broaden our impact and reach beyond the Durham Region and Northumberland County.

Attainment of these goals will be measured against actions that contribute to making Ontario Tech a great place to work, study, and play.

We will know if we are on track if by 2021 we have:

- Engaged a greater number of students in Brilliant Catalyst and Brilliant Solutions activities.
- Increased the number of faculty, staff and students in City of Oshawa's TeachingCity and Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) initiatives.
- Increased the number of faculty, staff and student engagements with other municipalities within the Durham Region, Northumberland County and beyond.
- Increased the number of students enrolled in collaborative programs offered between Ontario Tech and other universities and colleges.
- Established up to five new international partnerships (with at least one in the United States) with universities renowned for their technologically oriented research and academic programs.
- Increased the number of university-industry research chairs.
- Increased the number of pan-university partnership agreements with industry, community partners and collaborative international research teams.
- Experienced an increase in research granting success from non-Canadian and U.S. funding sources.
- Completed our first community engagement survey to benchmark our engagement within community.
- Set up a satellite research and partnerships office in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Conclusion

Ontario Tech continues to grow, expand and mature into the promise its founders envisioned when it was established in 2002. It is a technologically forward-looking institution characterized by innovation, entrepreneurship and its commitment to the betterment of society and the planet.

This plan builds on the university's ever-evolving position as a dynamic, conscientious and innovative technological leader in the province's higher education sector. We are young, yet with intention, our campus now more than ever welcomes faculty, staff, students, and the greater community to engage in strategic education and research initiatives with the aim of building



Resources

Members of the Ontario Tech University community are annually invited to contribute to our planning exercises. Using a rolling plan approach, this Integrated Academic-Research Plan is supported by a complimentary Strategic Research Plan and annual budgeting and capital planning exercises. Together, these documents comprise an integrated university-wide planning approach that will support our efforts through 2021 and beyond.

a better and brighter future for all. Importantly, Ontario Tech is growing, expanding, and diversifying to include students, staff and faculty from around the world. Together, through an overt appreciation of our differences—products of our individual backgrounds, world views and choices—we aspire to achieve excellence in all that we do.

We're motivated to continue pursuing solutions to complex societal problems and value the opportunity to serve as a catalyst for improvement and change within our local and global communities. Within this planning cycle, we're confident that we'll realize our goals through hard work and the implementation of the commitments articulated herein.



Contacts

Dr. Lori Livingston,
Provost and Vice-President, Academic
provost@ontariotechu.ca
905.721.8668 ext. 5467

Brad MacIsaac,
Assistant Vice-President, Planning and Administration
brad.macisaac@ontariotechu.ca
905.721.8668 ext. 3149



ontariotechu.ca

For an alternative format of this information, contact marketing@ontariotechu.ca

© University of Ontario Institute of Technology 2020. ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY and Design are trademarks of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. D5095