Student Leadership Awards: Scoring criteria and rubric

The Student Leadership Awards evaluation rubrics are designed to ensure a fair and consistent evaluation process for all nominations. Each of the four core awards—Creating a sticky campus, Learning re-imagined, Partnerships and Tech with a conscience—as well as the President's Award of Excellence in Leadership, has its own specific rubric.

Nominators are encouraged to carefully review the rubrics while preparing their nominations to ensure submissions are thoughtfully written, address the award criteria and provide meaningful evidence of the nominee's achievements.

How the rubrics work

Each criterion will be scored on a 5-point scale:

- 5 - Exceptional: Far exceeds expectations with outstanding evidence of the criterion.

- 4 - Strong: Clearly meets the criterion with significant evidence of impact.

- 3 - Satisfactory: Meets the criterion with adequate evidence.

- 2 - Minimal: Meets some aspects of the criterion but with limited evidence.

- 1 - Insufficient: Does not meet the criterion or lacks sufficient evidence.

Maximum possible score: 20 points

Guidance for evaluation:

- 16 to 20 points: Exceptional candidate.

- 12 to 15 points: Strong candidate.

- Below 12 points: Needs Improvement.

Top three nominations and final selection

After the initial scoring, the top three nominations in each award category will advance to the finalist round, where the Ontario Tech Student Leadership Awards selection committee will

conduct a final review. The committee will uphold Ontario Tech's mission and values to ensure a fair, transparent and mission-aligned process in selecting the final award recipients.

The selection committee comprises five members from various campus roles:

- Faculty member (Academic)

- Non-Union staff member

- Union staff member

- Representative from the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

- President of the Ontario Tech Student Union (or designate)

Nominee notification and award ceremony

- All nominees will be notified of their nomination via their Ontario Tech student email.

- The top three finalists from each award category will be invited to attend the award ceremony.

- Winners will be announced and celebrated at the event.

Rubric: Tech with a conscience award

Award description: The tech with a conscience award recognizes students who embody Ontario Tech's commitment to improving lives and the planet through ethical technology. This award honours those who integrate fairness, critical thinking and a positive social impact into their academic and community work. Recipients of this award demonstrate a commitment to ethical technology practices, considering social and environmental implications while applying technology to address real-world challenges and promote well-being on campus and beyond.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Ethical technology use	Demonstrates fairness, equity and inclusion in the ethical application of technology.	Consistently demonstrates fairness, equity and inclusion in ethical technology applications; sets a clear example for peers.	Often incorporates fairness, equity and inclusion in technology applications, with occasional gaps in consistency.	Rarely demonstrates fairness, equity, or inclusion in technology applications; lacks clarity or consistency in approach.
Innovative problem-solving	Develops creative approaches to address challenges, solve problems, or improve processes.	Develops highly innovative and creative approaches to solve problems or improve processes, yielding significant impact.	Demonstrates some innovation and creativity in addressing challenges, with moderate impact.	Shows limited innovation or creativity in problem-solving; solutions lack originality or significant impact.
Social and environmental awareness	Considers the broader social and environmental implications of technology use.	Demonstrates strong awareness and consistently integrates social and environmental considerations into academic and community activities.	Shows some awareness of social and environmental implications, integrating them into activities occasionally.	Limited or no evidence of considering social and environmental implications in activities.
Real-world application	Applies technology to solve real-world challenges with tangible benefits to individuals or communities.	Applies technology effectively to solve real-world challenges, resulting in clear, positive outcomes for individuals or the community.	Uses technology to address challenges, with some positive outcomes evident but limited in scope or consistency.	Rarely applies technology to solve challenges; outcomes are unclear or lack meaningful impact.

Rubric: Sticky campus award

Award description: The sticky campus award recognizes students who are dedicated to building an inclusive and connected campus community. This award honours individuals who lead with empathy and inclusivity, creating welcoming spaces where all students feel valued. Recipients foster a sense of belonging by actively engaging in or organizing initiatives that promote equity, respect and meaningful relationships, making a lasting, positive impact on the Ontario Tech campus culture.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Inclusive leadership	Demonstrates leadership by fostering a supportive and respectful environment for all students.	Consistently creates inclusive spaces; empowers diverse voices in leadership and collaboration.	Frequently demonstrates inclusivity; supports diverse participation with some gaps in consistency.	Occasionally demonstrates inclusivity but lacks consistent impact.
Commitment to equity and diversity	Actively promotes equity and ensures all voices are heard and valued in campus activities.	Advocates for equity and diversity; implements initiatives that prioritize marginalized voices and perspectives.	Supports equity and diversity in initiatives; shows awareness but may lack significant impact.	Limited effort to promote equity or address diverse perspectives.
Sense of belonging	Builds a sense of belonging through initiatives that enhance campus community.	Regularly organizes or participates in initiatives fostering strong community connections and a welcoming culture.	Engages in activities promoting community but may show limited initiative or scope.	Minimal participation in fostering community or creating belonging.
Positive peer impact	Organizes or supports programs that create meaningful connections among students.	Consistently initiates impactful programs; inspires peers and builds enduring relationships.	Participates in peer engagement initiatives; makes a moderate impact on creating connections.	Limited involvement in programs; minimal impact on peers or connections.

Rubric: Learning re-imagined award

Award description: The learning re-imagined award celebrates students who drive their own educational journeys with innovation and initiative, embracing diverse and hands-on learning experiences. Recipients of this award pursue growth beyond the classroom, actively engaging in projects, fieldwork, or research that supports their academic and career goals. These students demonstrate a commitment to personal development through both online and in-person opportunities, seeking out or creating learning pathways that foster meaningful advancement and reflect a passion for lifelong learning.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Pursuit of learning beyond the classroom	Actively engages in hands-on projects, fieldwork, or research to enhance educational and career goals.	Consistently seeks out and excels in diverse learning experiences beyond the classroom, with significant impact.	Participates in out-of-class learning activities; shows growth and moderate contributions.	Minimal involvement in learning opportunities outside the classroom.
Engagement across learning modalities	Combines online and in-person learning opportunities to foster self-improvement and comprehensive growth.	Actively integrates both modalities to enhance educational outcomes and demonstrates significant self-growth.	Participates in a mix of online and in-person activities; moderate contribution to self-improvement.	Limited engagement with diverse learning formats or focus on self-growth.
Initiative in crafting learning pathways	Creates or seeks out opportunities aligned with personal and professional aspirations.	Demonstrates creativity and drive in establishing meaningful and goal-oriented learning experiences.	Seeks opportunities that align with goals; some evidence of initiative and strategic planning.	Rarely takes initiative in pursuing learning opportunities or aligning them with goals.
Commitment to experiential learning and innovation	Engages in experiential learning or entrepreneurship activities to expand academic and career horizons.	Fully embraces experiential learning; demonstrates innovative thinking and impactful contributions.	Engages in experiential activities with some evidence of innovation and contribution.	Limited participation in experiential learning; minimal evidence of innovation.

Rubric: Partnerships award

Award description: The partnerships award celebrates students who contribute to impactful collaborations with community, industry, or academic partners. Honouring those who engage in partnerships that address real-world challenges, this award recognizes students who bring innovative ideas, leadership and a commitment to global responsibility to these projects. Recipients professionally represent Ontario Tech, actively participating in collaborative efforts that promote personal growth, solve complex problems, and reinforce the university's mission for positive societal impact.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Professional representation of Ontario Tech	Represents the university with professionalism in partnerships involving external organizations or communities.	Consistently demonstrates outstanding professionalism, enhancing Ontario Tech's reputation significantly.	Represents the university well, with some evidence of professionalism and positive contributions.	Limited or inconsistent demonstration of professionalism in representing Ontario Tech.
Engagement in university-initiated partnerships	Actively participates in partnerships that enhance personal growth and the university's reputation.	Fully engaged in university-led partnerships, showing strong personal growth and positively impacting reputation.	Participates in partnerships with moderate contribution to personal growth or institutional reputation.	Minimal involvement in university partnerships or limited impact on personal growth or reputation.
Leadership and innovation in collaborative projects	Contributes leadership and creative ideas to solve complex problems or improve well-being.	Demonstrates exceptional leadership and innovation, producing significant and measurable outcomes.	Shows leadership or offers creative ideas with moderate contributions to problem-solving or well-being.	Limited evidence of leadership or innovation in collaborative projects.
Commitment to sustainability and global responsibility	Integrates sustainable practices and considers global implications in partnership activities.	Exemplifies a strong commitment to sustainability, making a significant positive societal impact.	Demonstrates some consideration for sustainability and global responsibility in activities.	Minimal or no evidence of commitment to sustainability or global impact.

Rubric: President's award of excellence in student leadership

Award description: The president's award of excellence in student leadership is Ontario Tech University's highest honour, presented annually to two graduating students—one undergraduate or professional student and one graduate student—who demonstrate outstanding leadership across all four award categories: Creating a sticky campus, Learning re-imagined, Partnerships and Tech with a conscience.

Recipients of this prestigious award exemplify the university's mission to prepare future leaders who solve complex problems and reflect the core values of integrity, inclusion, intellectual resilience and innovation. These students set a standard of excellence through their holistic contributions, embodying the spirit of Ontario Tech's vision while creating a lasting impact within the university and beyond.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Leadership across all categories	Demonstrates exceptional contributions in each award category: Creating a sticky campus, Learning re-imagined, Partnerships and Tech with a conscience.	Outstanding leadership across all four categories, with evidence of holistic impact and alignment with award descriptions.	Strong contributions in most categories, with moderate to significant evidence of holistic impact.	Limited or inconsistent contributions across categories, with minimal demonstrated impact.
Holistic contributions to university vision and mission	Advances Ontario Tech's mission by solving complex problems, embracing sustainability, and driving positive change.	Exceptional contributions that align fully with the university mission, creating transformative and sustainable impact.	Moderate alignment with the mission, with evidence of meaningful but less transformative contributions.	Limited contributions to advancing the university's mission or creating sustainable impact.
Embodiment of core values	Reflects Ontario Tech's core values: Integrity, Inclusion, Intellectual Resilience and Innovation.	Consistently exemplifies all core values through exceptional integrity, inclusivity, resilience, and innovative approaches.	Demonstrates alignment with most core values through actions and contributions in various areas.	Minimal or inconsistent evidence of alignment with core values in contributions or leadership.

Lasting impact	Creates a lasting positive impact on the Ontario Tech community and beyond.	Demonstrates significant and enduring influence, with a legacy of leadership that benefits the community broadly.	Evidence of positive impact, though the influence may be limited in scope or duration.	Limited or unclear evidence of lasting contributions or meaningful positive impact.