

SECTION 8: STUDENT SERVICES

8.1 Introduction

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) provides a transformational educational experience that encourages students to reach their full potential. A team of student affairs professionals supports student achievement by delivering quality services that contribute to students' academic success and eliminates non-academic barriers. Student engagement is cultivated through a living, learning environment that is committed to developing the whole student, while preparing tomorrow's leaders. For more information, including office locations and operational hours, visit www.uoit.ca.

8.2 Student Life

At UOIT, emphasis is given to building a learning community that is increasingly supportive of student success in all facets intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. The vibrant student life opportunities at the university are congruent with the institution's educational aspirations providing a seamless learning environment for students.

The Student Life office welcomes the student voice, connects students to existing campus opportunities and assists students in developing new initiatives. The office liaises with Your Student Association (YSA), the Student Centre, residence, student clubs, academic departments, and student support services to enhance student satisfaction and campus life.

The wide variety of activities available makes life on campus a more rewarding and enriching experience. In keeping with this commitment, UOIT offers students the Co-curricular Recognition Program to support and acknowledge student participation and leadership in campus activities. This record will also be used to determine eligibility for student leadership awards. Please visit MyCampus or the Student Life web page for more information.

8.3 Academic assistance

The student academic learning services provided by the Learner Support Centre (LSC) serves students through:

Learning skills advisors – A team of specialized advisors deliver workshops as well as assist students one-to-one to refine their learning skills. Areas of focus include time management and organization skills, learning styles, active listening and note taking, thinking and reading skills, stress management, study habits, test and exam preparation, and memory skills. For a detailed description of each area, please visit the Learner Support Centre website.

Subject specific supports – Qualified advisors provide clinics in a variety of disciplines. Specific support is determined by student need and availability of qualified advisors.

Academic writing services – Supports students with their research, reference citations, essay writing and basic language mastery. Through one-to-one consultations, small groups seminars, and focused workshops students can have their specific needs met. Students can book their appointments through the LSC website or by calling 905.721.3111 ext. 2491. The service is flexible and adaptive in serving students' needs.

Peer writing tutors – Trained successful senior students work with their peers to review assignments, discuss essay development and assist with reference citations. Individual appointments are available through the LSC. Many students prefer to work with a student who has mastered that course work and understands the specific requirements.

ESL Academic Services – Language services are available to any student who speaks English as a Second Language (ESL). Students can access one-to-one appointments to work on reviewing assignments to improve their editing skills and develop comprehension skills to access content and coherence in academic writing. A staff member is available to conduct speaking assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses in oral presentation skills. A conversation club designed to encourage students to practise their English speaking skills meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the LSC.

8.4 Hired Career Services

Career services are available to both students and graduates. Advisors deliver workshops and individual assistance in the following areas: job search techniques, resumé and cover letter writing, interview skills as well as career planning. Students may choose to have a career assessment done in order to assist with the career planning process.

A number of career events are hosted on campus such as the Part-time Job Fair during Orientation Week, the Career Fair in the fall and the Job Fair in the winter. In addition to these large events, dozens of employers visit the campus throughout the academic year to provide students with expert labour market information and employment opportunities.

The optional internship program is co-ordinated centrally by this office. Internship and summer co-op experiences give students the opportunity to gain practical work experience related to their program of study. The Faculties of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science, Engineering and Applied Science and Science encourage eligible students to participate and gain the advantage of having a paid practical work experience. Other faculties also offer valuable work placement opportunities. Visit the faculty sections of the Academic Calendar for details.

Interactive career services are available online through the Hired portal. The site is accessible to students and graduates through MyCampus and features on-campus employer recruitment events, workshops, career appointment booking, job postings, resource information and other interactive services.

8.5 Personal financial counselling

One-to-one financial aid counselling is available to students needing to explore their options for funding their post-secondary education. The Financial Aid office also provides students with advice on how to prepare a school year budget. This process encourages students to consider their income and expenses and enables a counselor to identify potential problems and offer solutions. Through financial counselling, students can learn the skills required to keep their finances in good order.

8.6 Services for students with disabilities

UOIT is committed to facilitating the integration of students with disabilities into the university community. While all students must satisfy the essential requirements for courses and programs, accommodations, supports and services related to the disability are available to support students.

Reasonable academic accommodation may require members of the university community to exercise creativity and flexibility in responding to the needs of students with disabilities while maintaining academic standards.

This policy acknowledges that fundamental to the academic and personal success of students is their responsibility both to demonstrate self-reliance and to identify needs requiring accommodation.

The Centre for Students with Disabilities will assist students with disabilities who require accommodations in order to be successful as legally required by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Students are encouraged to contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities if they plan to attend the university, so that the relevant supports can be put in place. Supports may include, but are not limited to, alternative testing arrangements, FM hearing systems, note takers, training and access to computers and adaptive software, alternative formats, interpreters, class assistants, counselling and learning strategies instruction.

8.7 Intercollegiate Athletic Academic Success Program

The Intercollegiate Athletic Academic Success Program (IAASP) encourages academic success for all varsity athletes through the establishment of academic standards and a comprehensive program of success strategies and advising.

8.8 Athletics

UOIT has a variety of facilities and spaces on campus to promote active and vibrant student life. They include a brand new Athletic, Fitness and Health Centre with a triple gymnasium, 200m indoor running/walking track, group fitness studios, fitness classes, and student sports club space. Existing facilities include a double gym and squash courts, indoor golf centre, a state-of-the-art year-round Tennis Centre with six clay courts, a new arena complex with two NHL size ice pads, a softball diamond, and a soccer field complex. These facilities are home to intramural, recreation and fitness programs offered on campus.

UOIT offers the following varsity sports programs for the competitive student-athlete – men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s rowing, and men’s and women’s hockey. UOIT is the home of the Ridgebacks and is a member of Ontario University Athletics (OUA), the provincial voice for interuniversity sport.

8.9 Chaplain services

Chaplain services are available to students in need through community services.

8.10 Campus Health Centre

The Campus Health Centre is committed to providing the highest level of health care to all students of UOIT throughout the year. Whether you have a health emergency, a concern about nutrition or a bad case of the flu, you can expect care dispensed by health professionals who are friendly, concerned and accessible.

Our services include a recently expanded Medical Clinic where you can receive medical assessment and treatment of illness or injury, annual health exams, gynaecological exams, laboratory testing and screening, birth control counselling and pregnancy testing, immunizations and allergy injections and a variety of health education services which include resources such as: books, pamphlets, bulletin boards, web resources and health newsletters. An on-site pharmacy, a variety of alternative health care therapies, and individual counselling services, are all located within the Campus Health Centre.

If you require assistance dealing with relationship issues, family problems, nutrition, stress, depression, or other personal problems, our team of health-care professionals are available to help you by providing support, discussions and education, and/or referrals to other campus or local resources.

The centre also provides placement opportunities for students in a variety of university programs, as well as a volunteer placement program.

8.11 Residence

UOIT residence is a modern home away from home. It provides students with the opportunity to participate fully in campus activities and to mature and develop responsibility in a rich academic and social environment. Our over 1300 bed facilities located directly on campus offers students a safe and convenient living solution. Residence staff are committed to making your experience both memorable and rewarding.

8.12 Student government

Your Student Association represents the body of students on campus and is the voice of the students to governing bodies. The association’s office is located on the second floor of the Student Centre.

8.13 Student rights and responsibilities

The Student Rights and Responsibilities office is responsible for the maintenance of the non-academic Code of Conduct on campus. Students’ rights will be vigorously protected and their responsibilities re-enforced to increase student retention and produce graduates who reflect the values of the institution and the community at large. One of these values is respect for others and the re-enforcement of this value will create a positive relationship between students, faculty, support staff, administration and the community. Success will be measured by the ability of each student to succeed and the achievement of good community relations.

The mission of the UOIT diversity initiative is to build a more inclusive community, grounded in respect of differences based on education, age, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, class, marital status, political affiliation, and national origin. To accomplish this mission, the UOIT diversity initiative will encourage and facilitate strategies to create a more sensitive and welcoming campus environment through programs and on-going projects. In addition, the initiative will co-ordinate efforts to increase the visibility and coherence of campus diversity activities. The Diversity office will act as an advocate for students and staff to support educational justice on campus.