



A First Year's Declassified School Survival Guide



Black Student Edition



BLACK EXCELLENCE ORIENTATION



Centre for
Student Engagement

Black Excellence Orientation *Foreword*

Welcome to the Black Excellence Orientation at the University of Toronto, Mississauga (UTM)—an inspiring and empowering journey for incoming Black students!

This unique initiative goes beyond the traditional new student orientation, aiming to create a strong sense of community and belonging for all Black students. At Black Excellence Orientation, we proudly showcase the vibrant and supportive Black community thriving on campus. Through a series of engaging events and meaningful connections, new Black students will discover that they are strongly supported at UTM and assimilating into the campus culture can be made less challenging.

Moreover, this orientation is a gateway to a wealth of essential knowledge. We are dedicated to educating our students about the diverse array of resources available both on-campus and in the broader community. From academic assistance to financial aid, social support to health services, we strive to equip students with the tools they need to thrive in every aspect of their lives. Our mission is to foster an environment where every Black student feels seen, heard, and valued. Together, we will shatter barriers, celebrate achievements, and redefine excellence.

So, join us for a social bash, and meet us at a fun and engaging resource fair at this year's Black Excellence Orientation!



How to use this booklet

Congratulations on receiving the exclusive Black Excellence Orientation Resource Booklet! This treasure trove is your key to unlocking a world of support and opportunity at the UTM. Inside, you'll find essential information on a wide range of resources tailored to your needs as a Black student.

When you encounter an “Is this You?” challenge scenario, flip through the corresponding section to discover the resources designed to help you overcome it. Whether you need academic guidance, financial assistance, health support, or social connections, we've got you covered.

Each section offers colorful and engaging interactive activities, from note-taking to coloring pages, to make your experience truly unforgettable. Each resource has an associated QR code. Simply scan the code with your phone's camera, and you'll be directed to the information page for that resource. It's a seamless way to access detailed information at your fingertips!

Embrace the sentimental experience of holding this booklet in your hands, taking notes, and immersing yourself in the vibrant pages. Let it be your constant companion throughout your first year at UTM, guiding you toward academic excellence and fostering connections within the black community.





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Welcome

to UTM!



Campus Map

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA

Campus Mailing Address*
3359 Mississauga Rd.
Mississauga, Ontario
L5L 1C6
www.utm.utoronto.ca

Building Codes*

Academic Buildings	
CCT	Communications, Culture & Technology Building
DH	Deerfield Hall
DV	William G. Davis Building
HM	Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre & Library
HSC	Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex
IB	Instructional Centre
KN	Kanef Centre/Innovation Complex
MN	Maanjilwe Nondamovinan (formerly New North)

Campus Buildings	
C1	Academic Annex
C2	Alumni House & Parking Office
C3	Central Utilities Plant
C4	Early Learning Child Care Centre
C5	Eriandale Studio Theatre
C6	Forensic Anthropology Field School
C7	Grounds Building
C8	Lislehurst
C9	Paleomagnetism Lab
C10	Recreation, Athletics & Wellness Centre
C11	Research Greenhouse
C12	Student Centre

Student Housing	
R1	Eriandale Hall
R2	Leacock Lane Residence
R3	MaGrath Valley Residence
R4	McLuhan Court Residence
R5	Oscar Peterson Hall
R6	Putnam Place Residence
R7	Roy Ivor Hall
R8	Schreiberwood Residence

Legend:

- MT** Mississauga Transit stop
- P** Parking
- M** Metered parking
- MT** Metered parking - restricted times
- BT** Brampton Transit stop
- SS** Shuttle stop
- UP** Underground parking
- CS** Construction Site

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, please contact your event host, who will work with you to make appropriate arrangements.

For additional directions, visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/maps (Note: Map not to scale)

Version: 091720

Welcome to University of Toronto Mississauga! We're thrilled to have you here.

Above, you will find a map of UTM. We encourage you to explore our beautiful campus and become oriented with our academic buildings, campus facilities, and student housing (and don't forget the nature too!).



Academic

resources



Is this you?

Sean wants to pursue a minor in physics and specialist in chemistry, but is really confused on how to go about this. Where should he look for support?

Academic Advisors

Academic advising is available through individual academic departments and the **Office of the Registrar**. UTM's Academic Advisors can aid with:

- Mapping out your academic direction
- Understanding degree requirements
- Understanding university rules, regulations and student policies
- Interpretation of the Academic Calendar
- Personal or academic concerns that influence academic performance

Appointments can be booked online through AskRegistrar.



Office of the Registrar
Room 1235 in Kaneff Centre
(Innovation Complex)



ACORN

ACORN is a **self-serve student information service** that is used across all three UofT campuses. ACORN can be used for:

- Course enrollment
- Exam schedule
- Transfer explorer
- GPA Calculator
- Tuition Fee deferral
- Grant applications
- Tax forms
- Graduation & Convocation requests



Is this you?

Jamie wants to major in Communication, Culture, Information & Technology, but he is struggling to pick courses. He wants to make sure he gets into his desired subject POST. What services should he access?

Degree Explorer

Degree Explorer helps you plan your courses and review your academic history to make sure you **meet all of your degree requirements**. Using the planner function, you can determine which future course choices might meet your requirements.

Degree						
Code & Title	Start Session	Estimated Progress	Status	DE Result	Confirmed Result	Requirements
ERPRG8BA Honours Bachelor of Arts	Fall 2020	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 100%;"></div></div>	Active	Incomplete		Show Details ▼

Programs						
Code & Title	Start Session	Estimated Progress	Status	DE Result	Confirmed Result	Requirements
ERMAJ1034 MAJOR - COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY	Fall 2021	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 100%;"></div></div>	Active	Pending		Show Details ▼
ERMIN1210 MINOR - VISUAL CULTURE	Fall 2021	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 100%;"></div></div>	Active	Pending		Show Details ▼
ERMIN1302 MINOR - PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND COMMUNICATION	Fall 2021	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 100%;"></div></div>	Active	Incomplete		Show Details ▼



Timetable Builder

The Timetable Builder is an explorative tool that lets you search for courses and **build potential timetables**.

Search for Courses

Step 1: Select Faculty / Division and Session (Required)

Select one or more faculties or divisions from the list, as well as a session or specific terms you'd like to search for courses in. If you remove a selected Faculty / Division or Session, any associated courses or departments selected in Step 2 will also be removed.

Faculty / Division (Required) University of Toronto Mississauga X

Session (Required) Summer First Sub-Session 2023 (F) X
Summer Second Sub-Session 2023 (S) X
Summer Full Session 2023 (Y) X

Step 2: Add More Filters (Optional)

Narrow down your search results by selecting a specific course, entering a keyword, or selecting departments. You may add additional filters (level, time, etc.) to narrow your results further.

Course Code, Course Title, or Keyword Type something

Department / Subject Area Type Something

Show more filters ▼

Search Reset Filters



Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)

The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC) is UTM's **hub for academic support**. They help students develop their academic skills for success through one-on-one appointments, programs and workshops, and online resources. **Writing, math & numeracy skills, and study skills** are their main areas of focus.



RGASC

Room 3251 in Maanjiwe
nendamowinan (MN)



Study Spaces

In addition to open seating, there are many bookable study spaces across campus. The Library, Instructional Centre (IB), CCIT building, and Maanjiwe nendamowinan (MN) building have numerous options for both **individual and group spaces**.



Accessibility Services

Accessibility Services provides services and **academic accommodations** to students who have a documented **learning, physical, sensory, mental health disability or medical condition**. A disability can be temporary or permanent.



Accessibility Services
2037B in Davis Building
(DV)

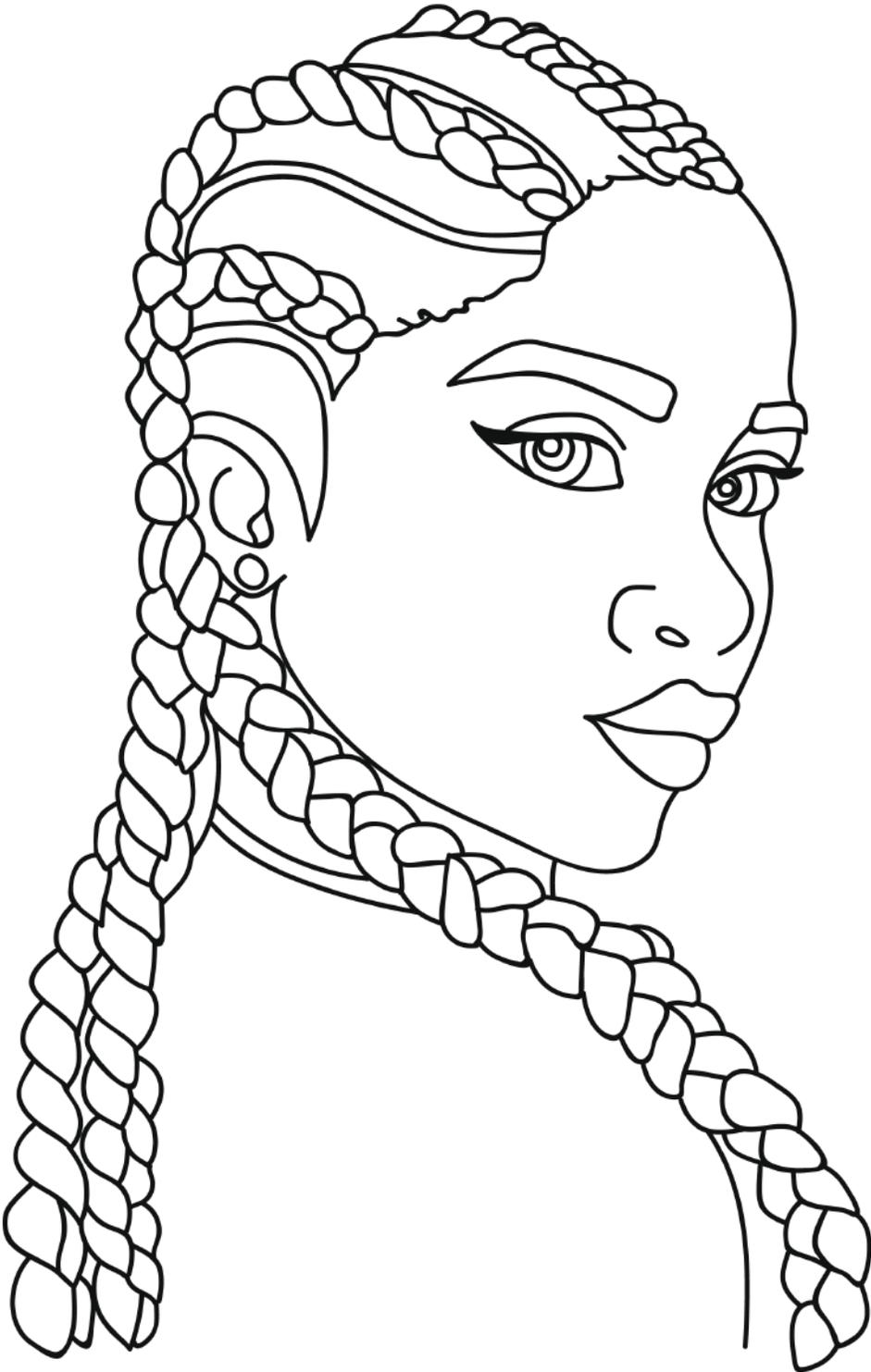


Academic Integrity Unit (AIU)

The Academic Integrity Unit, through the Office of the Vice Principal Academic & Dean, educates, informs and encourages students on issues related to **academic integrity**. They also act as a resource to provide information about the process involved in academic offence cases.



Colour & Chill



*Colour
me!*



Financial

resources



Is this you?

Esther is starting her degree in Education Studies, but is worried about balancing the new costs and expenses of student life. What options does she have?

Financial Aids

UofT offers an array of **grants** and other **financial aids** to assist you in covering course enrollment. Funding options available to students include:

- UTM Grant
- U of T Emergency Grant
- Bursary for Students with Disabilities
- University of Toronto Crown Ward Grant
- Noah Meltz Program for Part-time Students
- University of Toronto Advance Planning for Students
- University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Bursaries
- Experiential Learning Bursary Application form (PDF) for students enrolled in EL Courses



Scholarships & Awards

In addition to automatic entrance scholarships, UTM offers many **scholarships** that students can apply to throughout their degrees.

Scholarship types include:

- Awards offered by program
- In-course scholarships
- Graduation awards

In addition, numerous scholarships & awards are **designed for self-identifying black and racialized students at UTM**. These include:

- University of Toronto Achievement Scholar
- UTM Comparative Political Science Prize
- UTM STEM Scholars Program
- Women and Gender Studies Prize



Students can explore and apply to scholarships through UofT's Award Finder.

Discounted Student Services

There are numerous services available to all UTM students at **discounted prices!**

These services include:

- Health & Dental Plan
- Meal & Campus Value Plan (Hospitality & Ancillary Services)
- GO ID Cards
- Discounted Wonderland & Cineplex tickets

Free Student Services

Thanks to the UTMSU, students can also take advantage of numerous services that are **completely free!**

These services include:

- Free Breakfast Wednesdays
- Free Professional Headshots
- Free weekly groceries from the Food Centre
- Free Virtual Tax Clinic
- Free bike rentals through BikeShare
- Free menstrual products in all bathrooms

Games & Chill

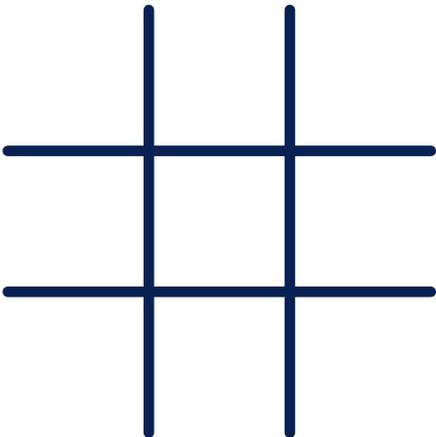
Crossword

DOWN

- 1. An acronym for students in the science, tech, engineering & math field
- 2. What students look forward to at the end of their degree

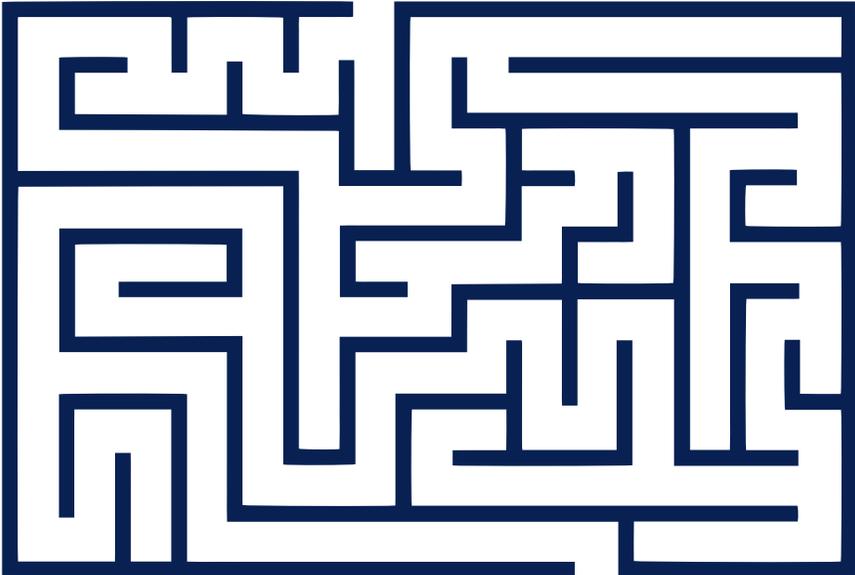
ACROSS

- 3. The day of the week the UTMSU provides free breakfast to student
- 4. Money provided to students based on academic merit and/or financial need



Tic tac toe

Maze



04 Engagement

resources





Is this you?

Jolene wants to find work and get a job but is struggling to find something due to her academic schedule. She wants something that can easily study with and make money, without travelling too far. What should she do?

Work-Study Program

Work-Study programs allow students to apply for **paid, professional positions** on-campus that strengthen skills, deepen knowledge, and allow students to explore how academic studies translate into career possibilities. Students will work alongside UofT Faculty and Staff on meaningful projects with a schedule that accommodates for their academic timetables.

Across the University of Toronto, more than **3,500 students** participate in the Work-Study Program every year!

Many Work-Study Programs include positions at:

- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- International Education Centre (IEC)
- Student Housing & Residence Life (SHRL)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Recreation, Athletics & Wellness Centre (RAWC)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)



Internships

Academic Internships, offered through the Experiential Education Unit, are designed to **supplement classroom learning** with **practical, work-based experience** across the community.

Academic departments also offer for-credit internships & co-op courses for upper-year students.

Internship opportunities provide students with:

- Structured work experience related to a student's program and/or career goals
- Supervision by a professional in the field
- Full- or half-year course credit
- Experience that enhances a student's academic, professional, and personal development
- Excellent experience to include in a resume or CV
- Job search, resume writing, oral and written communication, and presentation skills development
- Chance to explore career options
- Networking



Outside of UofT, internship programs designed for Black, Indigenous and POC students include:

- Vector Institute's Black and Indigenous Research Internship
- Black Alliance Internship Program
- NSERC - Undergraduate Student Research Award

Research Opportunity Program (ROP)

The Research Opportunity Program (ROP) provides students in second to fourth year with the chance to **participate in the research of a faculty member** while earning course credit. Students have the valuable opportunity to become involved in practical, cutting-edge research, working one-on-one with the University's leading faculty members across a range of academic units.



Experiential Education Unit (EEU)

The Experiential Education Unit aims to enrich the undergraduate education experience by promoting and nurturing **unique opportunities** and approaches to learning both **within and outside of the classroom**, such as Academic Internships, Community Engaged Learning, Field Courses, and ROPs.



Black Access to Educational Excellence (BAEE@UTM) - Ambassadors

Black Access to Educational Excellence offers Community Ambassador positions where students will **share about the Black student experience** for BAEE@UTM events and prospective student engagement opportunities.



Co-Curricular Record (CCR)

Offered through the Centre for Student Engagement, the Co-Curricular Record (CCR) at the University of Toronto is designed to help students find opportunities beyond the classroom and have their skills and experiences captured on an **official university document**. It can help you:

- Find out how to get involved on campus and track your progress
- Connect your involvement with your career prospects
- Build your resume
- Build your network
- Be more successful in your studies
- Get recognized

To find out if an opportunity is CCR recognized, check to see if the activity description mentions CCR or contact the program coordinator of that opportunity and ask. Look out for the CCR logo!



Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)

The Centre for Student Engagement (CSE) **connects learning to life** through its various programs, services, and resources which empower students to shape their own experience and contribute to their community.

In addition to large-scale events, such as Orientation and Exam Jam, some of the CSE's many resources and services include:

- University transition support
- Leadership workshops
- Student group recognition
- Student awards
- Co-Curricular Record (CCR) support
- Access & Inclusion programming
- Engaging Faculty Events
- Community event programming
- Q&A Drop-in centre (CSE Connect Corner)
- Mentorship, internship & volunteer opportunities



CSE Connect Corner
Room 2077 in Davis
Building (DV)



CLNx

CLNx is UofT's portal where you can search and apply for various engagement opportunities.

On CLNx, you can find job positions, information and services regarding:

- Work-Study positions
- Volunteer opportunities
- Casual employment positions
- Experiential learning
- Events & workshops
- Resume & cover letter support
- Career resources
- Co-Curricular Record (CCR)



Career Centre

The Career Centre offers many **resources, programs and services** to help build your knowledge about the world of work, your own skills and interests, and the skills and/or further education you need to take your next steps. Take advantage of their specialized career counselling and employment strategizing appointments.

The Career Centre can help you:

- Plan your career
- Navigate the job market
- Gain professional skills
- Learn about further education
- Access CLNx



Career Centre
Room 3094 in Davis
Building (DV)



Job Boards

1. ByBlacks.com

This award-winning online magazine, funded by the Government of Canada, offers a list of job postings and a free business directory for Black Canadian-owned businesses.

2. Canada's Best Diversity Employers

A competition among Canadian employers that have exceptional workplace diversity and inclusiveness programs, including programs for members of visible minorities.

Resumé Template

NAME HERE

Subtitle (optional)

Email address

| Phone number

| Address

WORK EXPERIENCE

Time worked

Job title

Employer

- Use action words, numbers & specifics

Time worked

Job title

Employer

- Use action words, numbers & specifics

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Time worked

Job title

Employer

- Use action words, numbers & specifics
- Use action words, numbers & specifics

SKILLS

- Bullet list
- Bullet list
- Bullet list
- Bullet list

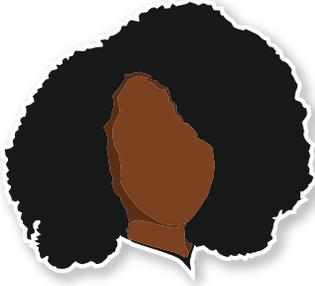
AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Month & Year **Name of award or achievement**
Issuer (optional)

Month & Year **Name of award or achievement**
Issuer (optional)

Wellness

resources



Is this you?

Aisha is just about to re-take her calculus midterm. She just vomited and is running a fever from the nerves and lack of sleep. Where can Aisha go to for immediate support on-campus?

Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)

The Health & Counselling Centre (HCC) is a service available for any of your **health-related needs**.

The HCC's on-campus medical staff can support with:

- Physical care
- Mental health & counselling
- Healthy sexuality resources
- Nutrition resources



HCC Main Office
Room 1123A in Davis
Building (DV)



Campus Safety

The University of Toronto Mississauga Campus Safety Special Constable Service is dedicated to creating a safe, secure, and equitable environment for students, staff and visitors. Campus Safety is **on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**

Campus Safety can be reached by calling:

Emergency: 905-569-4333

General: 905-828-5200



ECSpeRT (Medical Emergency Response Team)

Campus Safety works in partnership with ECSpeRT to respond to **medical emergency calls**. ECSpeRT is on duty 8AM Monday to 8AM Saturday. If you require medical assistance, you can contact ESCpeRT.

Fitness Centre

The Fitness Centre, inside the Recreation, Athletics & Wellness Centre (RAWC), offers a range of services, including **modern fitness equipment, group exercise classes, personal training, and wellness programs.**

Whether you're a fitness enthusiast or just starting your fitness journey, it has supportive and experienced staff to guide you. Stay active, and prioritize your well-being. Embrace a healthier lifestyle and discover the benefits of a thriving fitness community. Free and available to you!

The RAWC also offers:

- Intramural and drop-in sports
- Aquatics
- Weight training
- Yoga
- Walking programs
- Women's only hours



Fitness Centre

Level 2 in Recreation,
Athletics & Wellness
Centre (RAWC)



Dietitian

University life can offer many challenges and opportunities. So for many students, a healthy diet may not be high on the list of priorities. However, your food choices can have a **significant impact on your energy level, mood, and on both academic and physical performance.**

If you think your diet could use some improvement, make an appointment with your **campus Registered Dietitian** - a free service for UTM students.



Spiritual & Faith Spaces

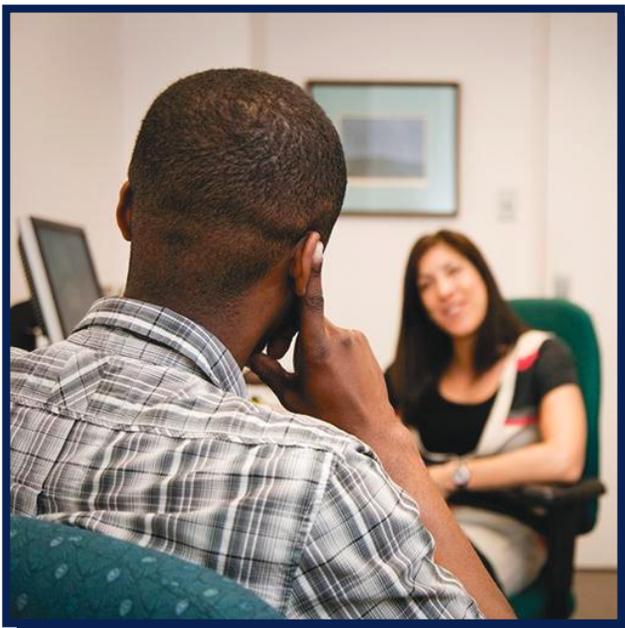
University of Toronto provides facilities for **members of all faith communities** to practice their religion, their traditions and rituals and is accommodating a diversity of faith-based and spiritual practices.



Black Counsellors in the GTA

Some black counselling & therapy offices in the GTA include:

- Kahle Therapy & Counselling
- Enliven Counselling Services



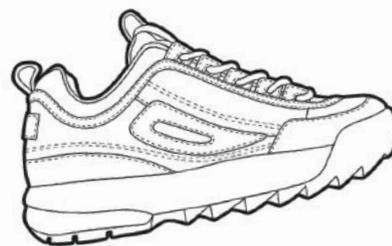
For a comprehensive list with QR codes for all of the black community resources mentioned in this booklet, scan here:



Note: These professionals are not affiliated with the University of Toronto Mississauga and listing them is not an endorsement of their products/services.

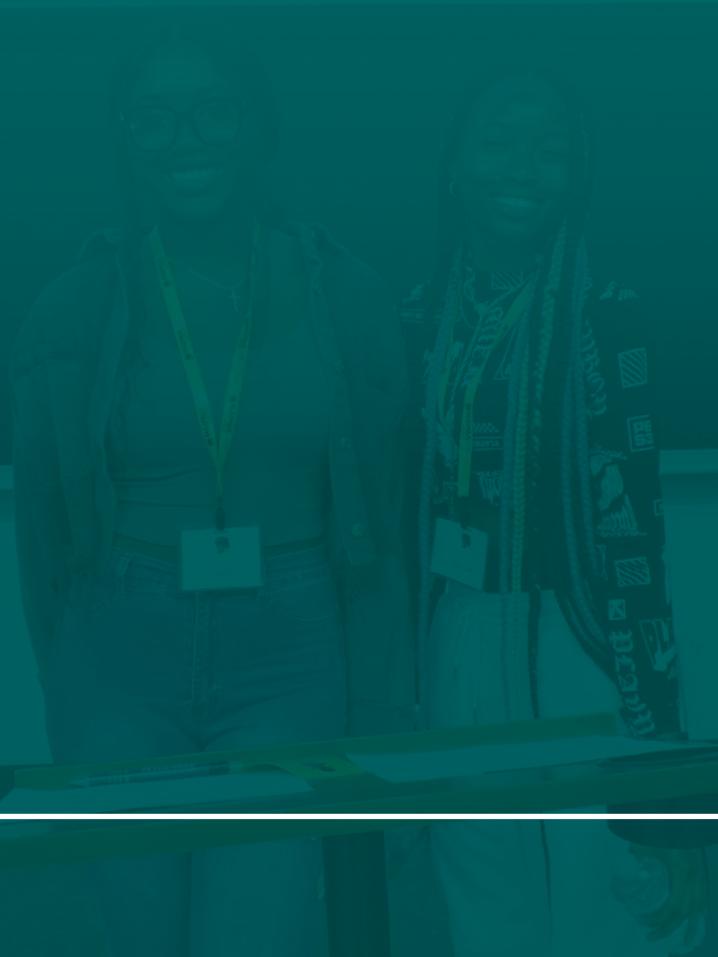
Colour & Chill

*Design
a sneaker!*



06

Community *resources*





Is this you?

Tayo met a lot of really cool upper years at Black Excellence Orientation. Tayo can't help but want to remain engaged within the Black community on campus and participate in fun events. What should Tayo do?

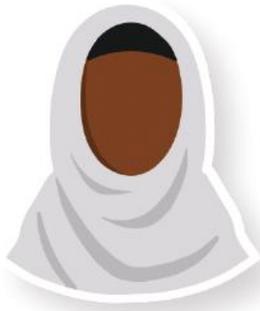
Black Campus Clubs

There are many of ways to get involved in on-campus black-student activities through extracurriculars! **Student groups, clubs & societies** are verified through the Centre for Student Engagement or UTMSU.

Black-led groups on campus include:

- Black Student Association (Instagram: @utm.black)
- African Student Association (Instagram: @utmasa_)
- Caribbean Connections (Instagram: @caribbeanconnectionsutm)

Don't see a club that interests you? Consider starting one of your own!



Is this you?

Ever since moving to Canada for school from Trinidad and Tobago, Shaeeda feels a bit homesick and is missing her local food and beauty suppliers. Where should she go?

African & Caribbean Restaurants

African and Caribbean cuisine is easy to find across the GTA!

Some local restaurants include:

- Wanda's Caribbean Kitchen (Mississauga)
- Lena's Roti and Doubles (Mississauga)
- Mr. Big's (Mississauga)
- Naija Jollof Mississauga (Mississauga)
- Suya City Express (Mississauga)
- Chubby's Jamaican Kitchen (Toronto)
- SKCOOKKS African Cuisine (Toronto)

Note: These businesses are not affiliated with the University of Toronto Mississauga and listing them is not an endorsement of their products/services.

African & Caribbean Grocery Stores

- KAF African Caribbean Market (Mississauga)
- Naomi African Food Market (Mississauga)
- Charlie's West Indian Food Mart (Mississauga)
- Danforth Market (Toronto)

Black Beauty Supply Stores

- SM Beauty Supplies (Mississauga)
- Beauty Supply Outlet (Mississauga)
- Hair Granted Beauty Supply (Etobicoke)

Black Hair Salons & Barbers

- Mustays Braiding Place (Mississauga)
- Majestic Barber (Mississauga)
- Nanni's Natural Hair Studio (Toronto)
- Loc N' Twists (Brampton)

Note: These businesses are not affiliated with the University of Toronto Mississauga and listing them is not an endorsement of their products/services.

For a comprehensive list of local Black-owned businesses, check out the Black Community Action Network (BCAN) of Peel.



Black Religious Services

Local religious services include:

1. House of Praise Church - Ignite (Mississauga)

This church has a heavy black (particularly Nigerian) youth population and offers transportation services via bus to weekly Sunday service.

2. Jana Masjid (Mississauga)

This is a general population mosque that is very accessible to UTM students.

Note: These businesses are not affiliated with the University of Toronto Mississauga and listing them is not an endorsement of their products/services.

UofT's Transportation Services

1. UTM Shuttle Bus

This service is a fare-free mode of transportation for students that connects the Mississauga campus directly to the St. George campus of UofT.

2. U-Pass

This transit card enables students unlimited fare-free rides on all city of Mississauga transit buses, MiWay. U-Pass fees are accounted for in the term-tuition of UTM students.

International Education Centre

The International Education Centre (IEC) is dedicated to providing **support for global students** at UTM.

Their programming and resources can assist with:

- Arrivals & transition coaching
- UHIP & Health support
- Immigration support & advising
- UTM Abroad & Exchange programs



Bingo

Find someone who...

Is excited about their uni journey	Is an international student	Has been to the UTM Bookstore	Speaks 3+ languages	Plays an instrument
Grew up in Mississauga	Likes their T-Card photo	Has family who are UofT alumni	Has never been to Canada before uni	Has seen Canadian geese on campus
Knows where the library is	Lives in residence	FREE SPACE!	Is taking 5 courses this semester	Draws, paints, or sculpts in their free time
Is doing a specialist program	Received an entrance scholarship	Likes to cook	Grew up in Mississauga	Is left-handed
Considers themselves a sneakerhead	Has a pet	Has a September birthday	Likes bubble tea	Has been to Square One

Access & Inclusion

at the Centre for Student Engagement

Here at UTM, the Access and Inclusion (A&I) team is dedicated to fostering equitable environments and empowering underrepresented groups, such as Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ communities, and mature students who face unique challenges in post-secondary institutions. Our mission centers on addressing the historical racial discrimination and exclusionary practices faced by these groups in educational institutions. Through our work, A&I aims to provide personalized resources, a sense of community, and equal opportunities for success. By rendering targeted support, we grant access to essential resources and create a welcoming space that promotes inclusivity and diversity on campus. Through tireless efforts, the A&I team strives to empower and uplift these marginalized groups, ensuring their needs in UTM are met, ultimately contributing to a more just and inclusive campus community.

The Access and Inclusion team is a part of a dynamic hub of opportunities and connections known as the Centre for Student Engagement (CSE). The mission of the CSE is to enhance your university experience through diverse programs, events, and resources. From student organizations to leadership development, community engagement, and career support, we're here to guide and empower you. Join clubs, volunteer, and make lasting connections with like-minded peers. At CSE, we foster a welcoming and inclusive environment, valuing your voice and aspirations. Embrace the possibilities and make the most of your UTM journey with the CSE by your side!

The QR code below connects users with all targeted programs provided by the Access and Inclusion team here on campus. Opportunities for volunteering and partnerships are also available on this website.



Scan me!



Credits & Acknowledgments

The 2023 Access & Inclusion Team extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the production of this resource booklet. Special appreciation to Anne Ikhile, the author and overseer, and all team members for their input and support. Smyrna Wright, our Community Engagement Coordinator, and Access & Inclusion Supervisor, provided valuable guidance and logistic work throughout the process. Xenab Rizwan, the Access & Inclusion Team Lead, and Wai Kong Chan, the Access & Inclusion Team Member, contributed valuable insights and played pivotal roles.

We appreciate the design and marketing team for their skillful execution and incredible dedication to bringing this vision to life. Special thanks to Hayley Park from the Marketing Team who designed and copywrote this resource booklet

with excellence and commitment, as well as the BEO brand identity and merch. We also appreciate Leena Sheikh from the Marketing Team for her support. Their creativity and skillful execution have made the booklet visually engaging and user-friendly. Additional credits to UTM's Print shop who made obtaining the physical copies of this booklet possible.

This booklet is a result of a collaborative effort, and we thank the entire Center for Student Engagement (CSE) community for their unwavering support. Together, we aim to make a lasting impact on the lives of incoming Black students, ensuring they feel seen, heard, and supported as they embark on their academic journey at the University of Toronto, Mississauga. Thank you all for making this initiative possible!

Thank you!



PROPERTY OF:
