Admission to Old Dominion University

Office of Admissions

The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions is to recruit, admit and enroll students from throughout the United States and abroad who will contribute to the overall collegiate experience. Old Dominion University is open to all qualified students regardless of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex (including pregnancy), political affiliation, veteran status, family medical and genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or disability. All students submitting an application for admission must certify the content is true and correct. Applicants also agree to abide by and support the rules, regulations and Honor Code of Old Dominion University. Please refer to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions web site for deadlines.

Programs available online and on-campus are subject to change. Please consult the application for admission for the specific semester for the most up-to-date information.

Undergraduate Admission

Freshmen Admission

Traditional freshman applicants are typically under the age of 21 and currently enrolled in high school or have graduated from high school within the past two years and have not attended any regionally accredited college or university (not to include dual enrollment).

Admission to the University does not imply admission to a specific degree program. The following programs require a secondary admission process once the student has been admitted to the University:

- Cytotechnology
- Dental Hygiene
- Environmental Health
- Health Sciences
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Nursing

Please contact the department directly for secondary admission information.

Requirements

The Office of Admissions considers the following factors during the application review process.

Academic Preparation

The University encourages students to participate in a college preparatory program of study. Preference is given to students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB), honors and college-level dual enrollment courses.

The most qualified applicants' high school curriculum includes course work in the following areas:

- English - 4 units
- Social Sciences - 3 units (World History, United States History and United States Government)
- Mathematics - 3 units (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II)
- Sciences - 3 units of laboratory sciences
- Foreign Language - 3 years of one foreign language or two years of two foreign languages

Note: College of Engineering and Technology intended majors: Students who have taken advanced courses, particularly in math, chemistry and physics, are best prepared for the academic rigor of the Batten College of Engineering and Technology and are more competitive in the admissions process. Students are encouraged to complete four units of mathematics that include one unit of higher-level math courses such as trigonometry, analysis, or calculus. Science units should include one unit of chemistry, one unit of physics, and one unit in another area of science, such as general science, physical science, environmental science, and anatomy and physiology.

Academic Criteria

The weighted cumulative high school grade point average (HS GPA) and performance on the Scholastic Assessment Test I (SAT) or the American College Testing (ACT) Program are primary considerations during the application review. Applicants should consult http://sat.collegeboard.org/home or http://www.act.org/ for test registration procedures. Freshman applicants who have earned a minimum 3.3 HS GPA (weighted cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale) may choose whether or not to submit standardized test scores. Applicants choosing to exclude test scores should provide evidence of a challenging academic curriculum that predicts future college success and possess demonstrated leadership in extracurricular, work, or service experiences. Applying test-optional does not guarantee admission. Applicants desiring full scholarship consideration must submit test scores even if applying for admission under the test optional program.

Admission of Homeschool Graduates

Students who received secondary instruction at home are encouraged to apply using the regular admissions application by visiting http://www.odu.edu/apply. In addition to the application and $50 non-refundable fee, students should also submit a typed transcript outlining their curricula and grades awarded by the parent instructor, who should also sign the document attesting to its authenticity. Students who are not eligible for or who do not wish to be reviewed as a test-optional candidate for admission should also submit results from the SAT or ACT.

Additional Credentials

Applicants may submit a resume, essay, and/or letters of recommendation as part of their application materials. These additional credentials, combined with the academic qualifications, provide the Office of Undergraduate Admissions with a comprehensive profile of an applicant’s potential for academic success and ability to contribute to the academic community. Students with unique talents and abilities in art, music, leadership, and other endeavors should provide such information.

Deposits for Admission

All new undergraduate applicants who wish to accept their offer of admission to the University are required to submit a non-refundable $200 admissions deposit. Under certain circumstances new undergraduate applicants may request to defer their admission up to one year. All deferment requests must be submitted in writing to the Office of Admissions.

Gifted High School Students

Gifted high school students with exceptional academic abilities may take classes before completing the full program of high school studies. Students must submit scores from the SAT and/or ACT along with their high school transcript. Additionally, a letter must be submitted from the high school principal supporting the student’s request for early enrollment into college-level courses. Admission to the University does not imply admission to a specific degree program. Departmental approval may be required contingent on the course.

Freshmen Early Action Admission

Freshman applicants who submit the application for admission, fee and all credentials by the early action deadline will be notified of an admission decision by mid-January. Early action decisions are non-binding. Please refer to the Office of Admissions web site for deadlines.

Freshmen Regular Admission

Freshman applicants who submit the application for admission, fee and all credentials by the regular admission application deadline will be notified of an admission decision by mid-March.
Non-Traditional Freshmen

Non-traditional freshman applicants are typically over the age of 21 and graduated from high school or received a General Education Development (GED) Certificate more than two years ago. Additionally, they have not enrolled in any regionally accredited college or university (excluding dual enrollment). Non-traditional freshman applicants must submit the application, fee and an official high school transcript or GED transcript presenting a minimum composite score of 500. If the applicant has graduated from high school or received the GED certificate within the past three years, official SAT or ACT standardized test scores are required. The submission of a resume and statement of goals is strongly encouraged.

Freshmen Guaranteed Entry and Linked Undergraduate to Graduate Degree Programs

High-ability freshmen may be guaranteed entry into professional and graduate school in a number of areas.

In the College of Health Sciences, physical therapy, nursing and dental hygiene programs offer this option for freshmen. Linked bachelor’s/master’s programs are also available in environmental health/community health and dental hygiene.

The B.S./M.D. (guaranteed admission to medical school) is available through the College of Sciences. The B.S./M.D. program allows students to begin professional school after three years. In addition, the College of Sciences offers linked bachelor/master programs in biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, and mathematics.

A B.S./M.D. program is available for students pursuing undergraduate engineering degrees. The Batten College of Engineering and Technology also offers linked bachelor/master and bachelor/Ph.D. programs.


A linked B.A. or B.S./M.B.A. allows students to combine a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science with excellent preparation for a career in the business world. A linked B.A. or B.S./M.P.A. allows students to combine a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science with a master's degree in public administration. These programs are available in the Colleges of Arts and Letters, Education and Sciences.

The following linked bachelor/master programs are available in the College of Arts and Letters:

- Art history/humanities
- Communication/humanities
- Communication/lifespan and digital communication
- English
- English/applied linguistics
- Fine arts/humanities
- Geography/humanities
- History
- Interdisciplinary studies/humanities
- International studies
- Philosophy/humanities
- Studio art/humanities
- Women’s studies/humanities

Information on guaranteed entry and linked bachelor/master programs may be obtained on the University’s web site or by contacting the individual programs or departments.

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and A/AS Level Credit

Old Dominion University recognizes the rigor and challenge of the Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Advanced (A/AS Level) programs. Credit may also be awarded for A/AS Level Examinations from examining boards other than the Cambridge Advanced Program. Advanced standing credit is awarded to students who earn qualifying scores on AP, IB and Cambridge Advanced (A/AS Level) subject examinations. (See AP and IB equivalency charts, Office of Undergraduate Admissions website: http://www.odu.edu/admission.) For further information on credit awarded for A/AS Level Examinations, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Most credits awarded for AP, IB and Cambridge Advanced (A/AS Level) examinations satisfy individual course requirements in ODU’s General Education curriculum. Course credit will not be awarded until final and official examination scores are received. Students must request that their official exam results be sent to the Old Dominion University Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

-Approved by the Board of Visitors

Transfer Admission

Transfer applicants have attended a regionally accredited college or university after graduating from high school or receiving a GED.

Some academic programs require a secondary admission review. Students should contact the academic department for information regarding additional application requirements.

Applicants must submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions (including post-secondary institutions outside of the U.S.) regardless of whether or not the transfer credit will apply toward an Old Dominion University degree. It is understood that all information stated on the application is truthful. Deliberate falsification of application information will result in immediate withdrawal and a potential forfeiture of credits. By submitting an application, applicants agree to abide by and support the rules, regulations and Honor Code of Old Dominion University.

Guaranteed Admission

Old Dominion University guarantees admission to an applicant who graduates with a transfer-oriented degree program or an articulated applied associate degree program at a Virginia community college with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on a four-point scale. Submission of the Letter of Intent to Transfer is required for eligibility under this guaranteed admission program. Graduates of an articulated applied associate degree program must have met all degree/course requirements outlined in the specific curriculum articulation agreement.

Some degree programs at Old Dominion University require a secondary admission process; thus, guaranteed admission into Old Dominion University does not imply admission to these specific degree programs. Applicants admitted to Old Dominion University via the Letter of Intent should contact the department directly for information regarding secondary admission requirements.

Academic Criteria

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will consider the cumulative grade point average and the grade point average (based on a four-point scale) of the most recent 24 credit hours. Performance on the Scholastic Assessment Test I (SAT) or American College Testing (ACT) Program will be required if the applicant has completed fewer than 24 semester hours of academic work at a regionally accredited college or university.

Additional Credentials

Other items taken into consideration during the review process are letters of recommendation, resume and essay. These additional credentials provide a comprehensive profile of an applicant’s potential for academic success and individual ability to contribute to the academic community.

Transfer Early Action Admission

Transfer applicants who submit the application, fee, all official transcripts from any previously attended institution, and all other credentials by the early action deadline will be notified of their admission decision by mid-April. Early action decisions are non-binding.
Students who apply by the early action deadline are reviewed for scholarship eligibility. Please refer to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions web site for deadlines.

Transfer Regular Admission
Transfer applicants must submit the application, fee, all official transcripts from any previously attended institution, and all other credentials by the appropriate deadline. All applicants who have completed the application process will receive notification on a rolling basis. Once a student has been admitted, a transfer credit evaluation will be available at https://www.leonline.odu.edu. Admitted transfer applicants who do not attend the University within one year of their admitted term must re-apply.

Second Baccalaureate Degree Admission
Second baccalaureate degree applicants have earned a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university and wish to pursue an additional bachelor’s degree in a different course of study. Second baccalaureate degree applicants must submit the application form, fee, all official transcripts from any previously attended institution, and all other credentials by the appropriate deadline for their intended term of entry. All applicants who have completed the application process will receive notification on a rolling basis. Please refer to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions web site for the application form and deadlines. Second baccalaureate degree students who do not attend the University within one year of their admitted term must re-apply by submitting a new application, fee and updated credentials.

Transfer of Credit
Transfer credits must be taken at regionally accredited institutions such as those accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. A grade of C (2.00) or above must be earned in the course and must be appropriate to Old Dominion University’s degree program. In general, all liberal arts credits and professional and technical courses parallel to those of Old Dominion University are transferable. Graduate credit will not be accepted for undergraduate degree requirements.

Transfer Policies for General Education Requirements
1. Students wishing to transfer academic credits into Old Dominion University to satisfy the General Education Requirements must apply individual transfer courses to the appropriate skills, Ways of Knowing and upper-division categories as listed in this catalog. Students must submit transcripts to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for evaluation. Decisions regarding the equivalency of transfer courses to satisfy General Education Requirements will rest with the chair of the academic department responsible for the subject matter involved. Students should be aware that even though University General Education Requirements might be met through transfer courses, departmental and college requirements must still be met.

2. With regard to the fulfillment of General Education Requirements, students will be able to apply transfer credit on a course-by-course basis rather than hour-by-hour as long as the course is determined to be commensurate with content categories of the curriculum used to fulfill General Education Requirements at Old Dominion University. Questions regarding such equivalency will be directed to the chair of the academic department responsible for the subject. Any such course transfer will carry the number of academic credits assigned by the institution where the credits were earned. In the case of quarter system credits, the standard conversion of quarter hours to semester hours (3.2) will be used.

3. Students who have received an A.A., A.S., or A.A.&S. from Richard Bland College or the Virginia Community College System (including the A.A.&S. degree in general studies) have met all lower-division General Education requirements except those specified as major or college requirements and requirements for completion of the Undergraduate Writing Program.

Applicants who have received the A.S. degree in general studies offered by institutions whose general studies degrees are recognized as transfer

Evaluation of Transfer Credit. Subsequent to notification of admission, a formal evaluation of credit is completed by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Transfer credits may be awarded for specified equivalent courses, electives within a discipline or free electives.

Appeals of Transfer Credit Evaluations
Students who wish to appeal their transfer credit evaluation may consult with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or the academic department relevant to the course in question. Course descriptions and/or syllabi are required for departmental review. Once a course equivalency is approved, the department will request the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to update the student's record.

Students with Foreign Credentials
U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents who have attended high school (secondary) and/or post-secondary (college or university) institutions outside the United States must submit official credentials to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Official transcripts are delivered in a sealed envelope bearing the official seal and signatures of the issuing institution. Transcripts should be sent directly from the previous institution to Old Dominion University. All transcripts that are not issued in English must be supplemented with a literal (word-for-word) translation. These translations should be official and stamped by a school official or certified by an acceptable translation service. For a list of acceptable translation companies, please visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website. Notarized copies are not considered official documents. Old Dominion University will not accept untested photocopies or documents verified by a local notary public. All submitted documents become property of Old Dominion University and will not be returned. Old Dominion University conducts in-house evaluations of foreign credentials. Evaluations completed by a credential evaluation service or agency (AACRAO, WES, ECE, etc.) will serve as an English translation only.

Nondegree Admission
Nondegree entry is available to applicants who do not choose to apply for admission to a degree program but wish to enroll in course work at Old Dominion University. Federal financial aid is not available for nondegree students, except those in approved teacher certification programs.

• Visiting students – those taking course work at Old Dominion University with the intention of transferring the course credit to their home degree-granting institution.
• Certificate program students – individuals expanding their academic background or seeking teacher certification. For information related to registering for a certificate program, please contact the academic department directly. Financial aid is not available for nondegree students, except those in approved teacher certification programs.
• Adult learners – students taking courses for personal and/or academic growth.
• Gifted High School Scholars – high school students taking college-level courses (permission is needed from the high school principal and parent or legal guardian).

Additional Information
• All students taking prerequisites (undergraduate, second degree or graduate) for a degree-seeking program should seek the approval of the academic department before registering for course work as a nondegree student. Financial aid is not available for nondegree students, except those in approved teacher certification programs.
• Students under suspension from Old Dominion University or another college or university are not eligible to attend Old Dominion University.
• All applicants who were denied admission to Old Dominion University are not eligible for nondegree admission without a change from the original application type (i.e. attended a community college or became non-traditional by definition).
• Academic advisors are not assigned to nondegree-seeking students, but students are strongly encouraged to contact their academic department of interest prior to registering for courses.
• Undergraduate students are advised to take no more than 24 semester hours as nondegree students.
• All students, degree and nondegree alike, must meet the continuance requirements as stated in the current Undergraduate Catalog. Failure to meet these requirements will subject students to probation or suspension.
• Non-native speakers of English must provide evidence of English language proficiency.

Nondegree Admission Procedures
Nondegree applicants must submit the fee, along with the nondegree application form found on the Office of Undergraduate Admissions web page at www.odu.edu/admissions. For the student’s convenience, official credentials may not be required at the time of registration; however, unofficial records or a personal interview may be requested for admission purposes. It is understood that all student information stated on the application is truthful. Deliberate falsification of application information will result in immediate withdrawal and a potential forfeiture of credits. By submitting an application, applicants agree to abide by and support the rules, regulations and Honor Code of Old Dominion University.

Nondegree students who do not attend the University within one semester of their admitted term must re-apply by submitting a new nondegree application and fee.

Admission Reactivation
Continuing applicants are students who previously attended Old Dominion University on a degree-seeking basis and left the University. A student who has left the University in good academic standing for more than a year is required to complete a reactivation/readmission form available on the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website.

If the separation from the University was longer than five years, the applicant will need to resubmit all official transcripts and other required credentials.

The deadlines to apply for admission reactivation are as follows:
• Fall semester – second Friday in August
• Spring semester – second Friday in December
• Summer semester – second Friday in April

Reactivation forms submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Students must resubmit the reactivation form and required credentials by the next deadline.

Students who are returning from academic suspension must participate in the Academic Continuance Experience for Success (ACES) program prior to the start of classes for the returning semester. Failure to participate will result in a deferment of admission until the next semester, at which time the ACES program must be completed. More information about readmission from suspension can be found at http://www.odu.edu/academics/academic-records/grades/academic-performance/reinstatement or by contacting the Office of Advising and Transfer Programs in Academic Enhancement (also see Undergraduate Continuance Regulations and Adjusted Resident Credit information in this Catalog).

Graduate Admission
Refer to the Graduate Catalog.

English Proficiency Requirements for Non-Native Speakers of English
Admission to all levels of University study is contingent upon successful completion of English language proficiency requirements. Non-native speakers of English can provide evidence of English language proficiency through a variety of options. Admission to the on-campus English Language Center (ELC) and subsequent enrollment in English language courses at the
center does not imply admission to the University. Further information for non-native speakers of English is available from the Office of Admissions (permanent residents and naturalized citizens) and from the Office of International Admissions (all non-immigrants).

Fulfillment of any one of the following will satisfy English language proficiency requirements for admission to Old Dominion University:

1. Submission of one of the following English proficiency test scores:
   - TOEFL of 79 (550 paper based); IELTS overall band of 6.5; new SAT Reading Test of 26 or SAT Critical Reading of 480; GRE Verbal Reasoning of 152; GCSE or GCE "O" level pass in English language; CPE grade of A, B, or C.
2. Possession of a bachelor’s or master’s degree equivalent from an accredited institution located in a country where English is the native language.
3. Successful completion of two university- or college-level English courses at a regionally accredited U.S. institution. Successful completion is defined as obtaining a minimum grade of C (2.00) in each of these courses. These courses must be equivalent to the University’s English composition course(s) (see General Education Requirements, Lower-Division Written Communication section) and any other advanced composition or technical writing course.
4. Successful completion of Old Dominion University’s English Language Center (ELC) Monarch English Transition Program (formerly the ELC Bridge Program). Successful completion is defined as satisfying the following two criteria: a.) Securing a minimum grade of B and demonstrating 85% attendance in each English Language Center class; and b.) Securing a minimum grade point average of 2.50 in academic courses taken during the Monarch English Transition Program.

Undergraduate students who choose to satisfy English language proficiency requirements through the on-campus English Language Center will be placed according to the following criteria:

1. Students with a TOEFL iBT score below 61 (below 500 paper-based) are automatically eligible to enroll in the ELC’s Intensive English Program (IEP). Conditional admission to the university is available for most academic programs.
2. Students with a TOEFL iBT score between 61 - 78 (500 - 550 paper-based) will be placed in the Monarch English Transition Program, which includes both academic and semi-intensive English Language Center course work.

English Language Center - IEP students may enter the Monarch English Transition Program directly without TOEFL test scores after satisfying the following requirements: a.) Successful completion of level 5 in the IEP program with a ‘B’ grade or higher; and b.) Receive passing scores on level exit assessments. This option is only available to students that have progressively enrolled in the Intensive English Program.

Students whose native language is not English and who have satisfied English language proficiency requirements through one of the avenues detailed above are exempt from fulfilling the foreign language requirement for general education. Students pursuing degrees that require proficiency beyond the 100 level must be certified by the Department of World Languages and Cultures to obtain a waiver of the 200-400 level courses.

Transfer credit is not granted for English composition classes taken at an institution located in a non-native English-speaking country. Exceptions to this policy may be made in instances in which the University has entered a formal agreement with an overseas institution.

All undergraduate students take a University writing exam (Writing Sample Placement Test) to determine proficiency in writing. In addition, all undergraduate students must earn a grade of C or better in ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and the writing intensive (W) course in the major in order to graduate.

International Student Admission

International students should apply only through the Office of International Admissions. U.S. Permanent Residents and Green Card holders should apply only through the Office of Admissions. The primary method of application is web-based; however, a paper application is available upon request. Along with the application and fee, officially issued academic records (transcripts) and evidence of English language proficiency are required. As a service to applicants, the Office of International Admissions evaluates all foreign academic credentials.

Application Process and Dates

Applicants must strictly adhere to international admission and specific program deadlines to allow for the evaluation of academic and financial credentials. Additional timeline considerations include the student visa application process and required attendance at various orientation programs conducted during the week prior to the beginning of classes. Admission deferments are granted for up to one calendar year (two semesters); beyond this allotted time, a new application, fee and academic credentials are required. Along with the application and fee, all academic transcripts, translations and standardized tests must be official, sealed, stamped by the institution or testing agency and sent directly to the Office of International Admissions at Old Dominion University (CEEB code 005126). Officiating authorities include an institution’s Registrar or Principle/Controller of Exams. When English is not the language of instruction, academic transcripts and course descriptions are required in one’s native language and officially translated into English. Photocopies, notarized copies, or faxed copies of required official documents will not be accepted. Certified translations by a licensed or professional translator must accompany academic documents not written in English. Translations of official documents completed by the student will not be accepted. Credentials submitted during the application process become the property of Old Dominion University and cannot be returned.

Transfer of Undergraduate Course Credit

The determination of the equivalency and number of undergraduate transfer credits to be awarded for post-secondary work completed at a foreign institution is based on grades, credit value assigned per course (or number of hours per week spent in class) and the duration (in weeks) per course. All transfer credit policies listed in the Transfer Admission section of this catalog are parallel and apply to the transfer of credit from non-U.S. institutions. It is the responsibility of the student to provide this information to the Office of International Admissions. Course descriptions or syllabi must be officially translated into English. The Office of International Admissions may provide the transfer credit evaluation upon admission; however, the final evaluation may be determined by the academic department upon the student’s enrollment.

F-1 & J-1 Student Visas

Students seeking an F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant student visa must demonstrate to both Old Dominion University and the U.S. consulate the financial ability to cover all expenses related to study and living in the U.S. Funding requirements include tuition, health insurance, living and personal expenses for the first year of study, in addition to a reasonable expectation of funding for the remaining years of study. Old Dominion University issues forms I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1) for the nine-month academic year with the submission of Old Dominion University’s Financial Affidavit of Support, along with any corresponding original, bank issued financial statements or financial sponsorship guarantees.