Old Dominion University

History

Old Dominion University began its tradition of excellence when it was founded in 1930 by the College of William and Mary, the second oldest university in the United States. Established as an extension of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, Old Dominion began educating teachers and engineers. The two-year school rapidly evolved into a four-year institution, and was granted independence in 1962 as Old Dominion College.

Considerable growth in enrollment, the expansion of research facilities and preparation for the addition of graduate programs led the Board of Visitors to approve the name change to Old Dominion University. Now Old Dominion is a powerhouse for higher education with seven colleges: Arts and Letters, Business, Continuing Education and Professional Development, Education, Engineering and Technology, Health Sciences and Sciences. Old Dominion has offered master’s degrees since 1964 and Ph.D.s since 1971. Students currently choose from 91 baccalaureate programs, 41 master’s programs, two education specialist programs and 22 doctoral programs. The University has achieved designation as a Research University (high research activity) from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Proud of its past, Old Dominion constantly looks to the future and prides itself on its continually expanding research and teaching programs. An ever-evolving university, Old Dominion is an agent of change for its students, for the region and the nation it serves. Old Dominion is Virginia’s forward-focused, public doctoral research university for students from around the world who want a rigorous academic experience in a profoundly multicultural community. Our nationally recognized faculty use real-world expertise and innovative teaching methods to challenge students to achieve their highest goals. Our determined entrepreneurial approach to problem-solving drives cutting-edge research, eminent scholarship and strategic partnerships with government, business, industry, organizations and the arts.

Students

The students at Old Dominion share a special sense of excitement derived in part from the rich tapestry of backgrounds, cultures and ages represented here. Our students hail from all 50 states and 115 countries. Studying in this multicultural, international environment, and taking advantage of our guaranteed internship program, offers students a true edge after they graduate and begin to compete for jobs in the “real world.”

Among ODU’s outstanding students in recent years are a Rhodes Scholar, Truman Scholar and three USA Today Academic All-Americans, as well as the first undergraduate in the commonwealth of Virginia to earn a patent. The University’s alumni ranks include an Emmy Award-winning television producer, a United States Air Force astronaut, the former Vice Chief of Naval Operations, the commander, U.S. Central Command, the former chief of surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, award-winning authors, engineers and scientists, and professional coaches and athletes.

Almost 20,000 undergraduates and more than 4,500 graduate students comprise the Old Dominion student body. Residence halls and apartments on campus house more than 4,600 students, while many other students live nearby within walking distance of the campus. About 43% of all ODU students are distance learners located throughout Virginia, the nation and the world. These students receive the same quality education but rarely, if ever, set foot on campus. Technology enables students, many of whom are connected to the military, to complete various ODU programs.

Students in search of extracurricular activities don’t have far to look. The University boasts more than 350 student clubs and organizations. The Office of Leadership and Student Involvement (LSI) sponsors a wide variety of programs that complement academic excellence, offer a supportive environment, engage students in various learning experiences and provide them with opportunities to interact with a diversity of groups and individuals. LSI is primarily responsible for commuter services, clubs and organizations, Greek-letter organizations, leadership programs, service and volunteerism, and weekend activities.
Many of our faculty have been recognized on the state and national levels with awards for teaching, research and service. Since 1990, Old Dominion University faculty have won three professor of the year awards from the Carnegie Institute for the Advancement of Teaching, one Humboldt Award, three Virginia Outstanding Scientist awards sponsored by the Science Museum of Virginia, and 31 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards that are sponsored by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Among our faculty ranks you will find nationally and internationally recognized scientists, engineers, educators and authors.

Faculty also serve as the primary academic advisers to our students, beginning in the freshman year. These relationships offer a special opportunity for new students to understand their chosen majors from the perspective of extensive experience and insight that only a professor can offer.

Because of our location and our relationship with dozens of corporations, federal facilities, the armed services, health care services and the tourist industry, faculty at Old Dominion bring a real-world, problem-solving focus to the classroom that makes learning come to life.

A Global Vision

Old Dominion University has made an extraordinary commitment to be recognized as a globally focused institution. This commitment is reflected in a series of recent innovations including:

• International Student Leadership Awards for outstanding leadership and academic achievement to Old Dominion’s diverse international student community
• Provost Award for Leadership in International Education, recognizing faculty leadership in program innovation
• Dean’s Education Abroad Awards, expanding financial support to bring study abroad within reach for more undergraduates
• ICAP, adding a global dimension to the University’s innovative Career Advantage Program
• The Office of International Programs, a comprehensive support office that facilitates continued global exploration and innovation

For more information visit http://odu.edu/intlprogs.

Outside the Classroom

Clubs and organizations for nearly every interest—more than 350 in all—thrive at Old Dominion, nurturing the personal and social development that is essential to the University experience. Clubs for every college and most majors, sororities and fraternities, an Honor Council, Student Government, Student Activities Council, and numerous recreational sports teams and athletic clubs make it easy to get involved at Old Dominion. In addition, ROTC programs are available for the Navy, Army and Marine Corps.

The benefits and rewards of joining one or more student organizations vary depending on you! Some of the best reasons for getting involved are making new friends, leadership development, taking advantage of opportunities, exploring careers and gaining that Monarch Pride!

Eighteen NCAA Division I sports bring pride and spirit to campus life each year, including football, and Old Dominion Monarchs have won 32 team and individual national titles, including four in basketball, nine in field hockey and 15 in sailing.

The Mission of the University

Mission

Old Dominion University, located in the City of Norfolk in the metropolitan Hampton Roads region of coastal Virginia, is a dynamic public research institution that serves its students and enriches the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation and the world through rigorous academic programs, strategic partnerships, and active civic engagement.

Background

Old Dominion University is located in Hampton Roads, one of the world’s major seaports. Since the early seventeenth century, Hampton Roads has been the state’s gateway to the rest of the world and the world’s gateway to Virginia in commerce and industry, in recreation and culture, and in national security. Now a complex of seven major cities, it is a microcosm of the opportunities and challenges of contemporary urban America. It is also a major center for research and development and a home for extensive scientific and technological activities in marine science, aerospace, ship design and construction, advanced electronics, and nuclear physics.

The University takes its unique character from Hampton Roads as it provides leadership to the state and nation in teaching, research, and service. Thus the University has a special mission for the Commonwealth in commerce, and in international affairs and cultures. It has a significant commitment in science, engineering and technology, particularly in fields of major importance to the region. As a metropolitan institution, the University places particular emphasis upon urban issues, including education and health care, and upon fine and performing arts.

As one of America’s major ports, Hampton Roads is the locus of national and international military commands, and the home of a culturally diverse population. The University therefore has natural strengths in activities having international outreach. Faculty members in such fields as business, economics, international studies, geography and the sciences strive to design curricula, teach courses, and encourage foreign exchanges that enhance the University’s role as Virginia’s international institution.

The Hampton Roads scientific environment provides special opportunities for science and engineering faculty to emphasize research and graduate programs in such fields as marine science, aerospace, and advanced electronics. Global ocean studies and cooperative research at NASA receive particular attention, as University researchers collaborate with U.S. and foreign engineers and scientists.

Urban issues are addressed by programs in public administration, education, the social sciences, and the health professions. The richness of Hampton Roads’ artistic life gives great vitality to the University’s programs in the visual arts, music, theater, and dance.

Mission Support

Old Dominion University serves the needs of several internal and external constituencies with its resources. These include: current and prospective students seeking undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs; business and industry; government agencies at all levels; the military; research organizations; and the community at large regionally, nationally, and internationally. These constituencies are discussed in greater detail in the following paragraphs.

Old Dominion University offers a wide array of undergraduate programs, all of which meet national standards of excellence. Every Old Dominion undergraduate student follows a general education program that is designed to develop the intellectual skills of critical thinking and problem solving and to encompass the breadth of understanding needed for personal growth and achievement and for responsible citizenship. This general education program places special emphasis upon appreciation of the arts and upon understanding the perspectives of women, minorities, and non-Western cultures. Each undergraduate chooses a major program in the liberal arts or sciences or in a technological or professional field.

Old Dominion University’s graduate offerings are focused on society’s need for advanced professional education and on specialized programs at the master’s and doctoral levels for which the institution is prepared through unusual strength of faculty or special geographic advantages. All graduate programs meet national standards of excellence.

As a national leader in the field of technology-delivered distance learning, the University strives to enhance the quality of the educational experience, wherever education is delivered, by applying emerging technologies. It also supports research to explore the impact of these technologies on the teaching-learning process. By utilizing these technologies and by partnering with institutions of higher education, corporations, and governmental entities, the University is able to provide undergraduate and graduate degree programs to students across time and geographic boundaries.
Because of its commitment to Hampton Roads and its emphasis on creative innovation, Old Dominion University offers life-long learning opportunities through credit and noncredit courses and brings educational services and programs to the people of Hampton Roads at several off-campus centers. The University has a responsibility to serve the many members of the military services and their families. The military forms a unique combination of national and international constituencies because they are from other locales in the United States and are looking to become, among other things, internationally capable in an international environment.

As a center of learning, Old Dominion University is committed to the principle of free inquiry. The University faculty of distinguished teacher-scholars seek to pass on the best in academic tradition while establishing themselves at the forefront of discovery and creativity. As partners in the development of the University’s future, the faculty enjoy full academic freedom and have a recognized role in the decision-making process of the University. Mindful of present and future needs for a multicultural academic climate, the University deems recruitment and retention of minority and women faculty members and staff to be essential.

The University is committed to providing the highest quality instruction to all of its students. Teaching excellence is encouraged through faculty development programs and appropriate recognition of superior instruction.

The discovery of new knowledge through research and creative endeavor is a central function of Old Dominion University, which values and supports faculty participation in the discovery, synthesis, application and creation of new knowledge and art forms. The institution shall promote and preserve excellence in basic and applied research as a Carnegie Foundation Doctoral Research-Extensive University which is a key production and coordination force in technology development.

The University encourages the involvement of its faculty and staff in community service. The enrichment of the lives of students and residents of Hampton Roads is fostered through University sponsored cultural activities, fine and performing arts events, and intercollegiate athletics. In addition, through applied research, consulting, and other activities, the University plays a prominent role in the development of local business and industry and serves as a resource of government agencies and both public and private educational institutions.

The University seeks in its student body a diversity of age, gender, ethnic, religious, social, and national backgrounds. It actively recruits American minority students along with students from other countries worldwide in such numbers as to have their presence make a discernible impact upon the University’s educational processes. Old Dominion recognizes its mandate to serve both the academically gifted and those who have the potential for academic success despite educational, social, or economic disadvantages.

Extracurricular activities and experiences are offered that challenge students to develop a personal system of values, to think and act autonomously, to achieve physical competence, and to establish a sense of their own identity. Other services help students meet educational, personal, and health needs.

Old Dominion University depends on its alumni for advice, leadership, and support. In close collaboration with the University, the Alumni Association provides to former students opportunities to continue their participation in various aspects of university life, to advance their personal and professional development, and to sustain communication and strengthen bonds with their alma mater and fellow alumni.

To evaluate its accomplishments against its goals, a continuing process of systematic assessment is given high priority by the University. Information gained from such efforts is utilized to ensure the highest possible quality for all University programs. The Board of Visitors will conduct a periodic review of the University’s mission and major goals in conjunction with representatives of the major University constituencies. The review will ensure that the mission clearly identifies the University’s unique role in Virginia’s public higher education system and assures that the University is focusing its resources to be the best that it can be in that role to achieve its mission and accomplish the major goals.

Adopted by the Board of Visitors
June 10, 1971

Major Goals of the University

1. Students
Old Dominion University is a selective admission institution. The University strives to serve those students in the immediate geographical area as well as attract students from the national and international communities. Additionally, the University seeks to attract and serve a culturally and ethnically diverse student body. The University pays particular attention to identifying and admitting students who are academically gifted. As a major metropolitan university, Old Dominion University has a special commitment to serve those students who have been academically, socially, or economically disadvantaged, but who have the potential for academic success.

2. Faculty
Old Dominion University seeks to attract and retain a distinguished faculty of teacher-scholars. Its faculty enjoy academic freedom and have a recognized role in the decision-making process of the University. The University is committed to strengthening its faculty through the recruitment and retention of minorities and women.

3. Academic Programs

Undergraduate Programs
As a comprehensive university, Old Dominion University offers and develops quality liberal arts, science, technology and professional programs. Old Dominion University undergraduate students follow a general education program that emphasizes intellectual skills and the breadth of intercultural understanding necessary for personal growth and achievement and responsible citizenship. All Old Dominion University degree programs meet national standards of excellence.

Graduate Programs
Old Dominion University’s graduate offerings are focused on society’s need for advanced professional education and on specialized programs at the master’s and doctoral levels for which the institution is prepared through unusual strength of faculty or special geographic advantages. In selected graduate programs, the University aspires to international leadership.

Special Emphasis Areas
Because Hampton Roads is a major international maritime and commerce center that is Virginia’s window to the nation and world, the University has a special mission for the Commonwealth in commerce, and in international affairs and cultures. With the principal marine and aerospace activities of the Commonwealth concentrated in Hampton Roads, the University has a significant commitment to science, engineering and technology, specifically in marine science, aerospace and other fields of major importance to the region. Due to its location in a large metropolitan area, Old Dominion University places particular emphasis on urban issues, including education and health care, and on fine and performing arts.

4. Teaching
Old Dominion University is committed to providing the highest quality instruction to all of its students. Teaching excellence is encouraged through faculty development programs and appropriate recognition of superior instruction.

5. Research, Scholarship, and Creativity
Old Dominion University is a center of learning committed to the principle of free inquiry. The University seeks to participate in the acquisition, discovery, synthesis, application, and creation of new knowledge and art forms through research, scholarly endeavor and creative undertakings by faculty and students. In selected areas of research, scholarship and creativity, the University strives for international recognition.
6. Distance Learning
As a national leader in the field of technology-delivered distance learning, Old Dominion University is committed to providing academic programs to a diverse national and international population. The University seeks partnerships and alliances that will facilitate delivering those programs to place-bound students.

7. Life-long Learning
Old Dominion University is committed to the concept of life-long learning, and offers credit and noncredit courses throughout the region. The University seeks to develop off-campus centers to bring educational services and programs to the citizens of the region. Because of the major Armed Forces presence in Hampton Roads, the University is particularly cognizant of its responsibility to serve members of the military services and their families.

8. Community Service
Community service is an important part of the University’s mission. Particular importance is attached to the enrichment of the lives of students and residents of Hampton Roads through University cultural activities, fine and performing arts events, and recreational, intramural and intercollegiate athletics. The University acts as a resource to business, industrial, health care and educational organizations, as well as to the agencies of local, state and federal government. The University is committed through applied research, consulting and other activities to playing a major role in advancing the overall development of Hampton Roads.

9. Student Life
The University provides opportunities for student development outside of the classroom. Programs are offered to enhance personal and social growth of individual students, to provide an exciting and stimulating collegiate environment and to enable students to cope with educational, career, and health needs. Students choosing to live in on-campus housing benefit from programs especially designed to promote student educational and personal development.

10. Alumni
Alumni are an important part of the University community. Through outreach programs, participation on advisory committees, and a variety of professional and social activities, the University maintains a close relationship with its alumni and seeks alumni involvement and support for planning and development purposes.

11. Quality
Improvement of the University is a continual process. The foregoing goals provide criteria for the rigorous and regular evaluation of the quality, pertinence and effectiveness of academic and other University programs. These goals also provide criteria for the assessment of student achievement and the performance of members of the faculty, administration, and staff.

Adopted by the Board of Visitors
January 17, 1989
Revised April 15, 1999

General Statement of Policy
Within the limits of the University’s facilities as to numbers that can be accommodated, admission to Old Dominion University is open to all qualified students without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, veteran status, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information; the facilities and services of the University are open to all enrolled students on those same bases, and all policies and standards of the University, including those governing employment, are applied accordingly. Students having concerns of this nature should contact the assistant vice president for institutional equity and diversity.

Accreditations
Old Dominion University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters, education specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the status of Old Dominion University.

Numerous programs of study at the University are accredited by specialized accrediting agencies that are recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), the U.S. Department of Education, and other agencies. The baccalaureate degrees in civil engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and modeling and simulation engineering are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET, http://www.abet.org/. The engineering technology programs in civil engineering technology, electrical engineering technology, and mechanical engineering technology are accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC) of ABET, http://www.abet.org/.

The teacher education unit in the Colleges of Arts and Letters, Education and Sciences is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (CAEP). The following programs are nationally recognized through their specialized professional associations and CAEP: applied linguistics - Teaching English as a Second Language, biology, chemistry, early childhood education, earth science, educational leadership, elementary education, English/language arts, foreign languages, library science, marketing education, mathematics, music, middle school education, physical education, physics, reading specialist, school counseling, social studies, special education, technology education, and theatre and dance. The graduate program in music education is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The Children's Learning and Research Center is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS/CASI).

The undergraduate park, recreation and tourism studies program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT). The undergraduate program in exercise science is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAATEP). The graduate program in speech-language pathology is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The mental health, school, and college counseling master’s and counselor education doctoral degree programs are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

The doctoral program in clinical psychology is accredited by the American Psychological Association. The undergraduate program in chemistry is American Chemical Society certified.

The undergraduate and graduate business programs of the Strome College of Business are accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)-International. The undergraduate and master’s degrees in accounting are also accredited by the AACSB-International.

The master’s degree in public administration is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. The baccalaureate nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing. Graduate nursing programs (M.S.N. and D.N.P.) are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Specialty tracks in graduate nursing programs are approved by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, the National Nurses Certification Corporation, American Nurses Certification Corporation, and the American College of Nurse Practitioners. The certified registered nurse anesthetist specialty track is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. The medical technology program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical
The physical therapy program is accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The graduate program in athletic training is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The environmental health programs have been awarded accreditation from the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council. The nuclear medicine technology program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology. The Master of Public Health program has received accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. The cytotechnology program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAAEP). The health services administration track in the Bachelor of Health Sciences is certified by the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA).

The Department of Music is a full member of the National Association of Schools of Music. The Department of Art is a full member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. The theatre program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

**Affiliations**

The University is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the American Council on Education, the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Association for Higher Education, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the Southeastern University Research Association, the American Association of University Women, the University Extension Association, the Universities Space Research Association, the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the Association for Continuing Higher Education, the North American Association for Summer Sessions, the Association of Virginia Colleges, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, the American Society for Engineering Education, the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education, and the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. The University is also a Division I member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Conference USA (C-USA).

Old Dominion University is authorized by the Washington Student Achievement Council and meets the requirements and minimum educational standards established for degree-granting institutions under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act. This authorization is subject to periodic review and authorizes Old Dominion University to offer specific degree programs. The Council may be contacted for a list of currently authorized programs. Authorization by the Council does not carry with it an endorsement by the Council of the institution or its programs. Any person desiring information about the requirements of the act or the applicability of those requirements to the institution may contact the Council at P.O. Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430.