

SECTION II: INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE

Introduction

Old Dominion University has a Statement of Mission and a set of goals that are approved by the Board of Visitors; published in the University Catalog; periodically reviewed, revised, and reaffirmed; and always used to set policy.

II/1 Mission Statement

Presentation of Findings

Old Dominion University's current Mission Statement was adopted by the Board of Visitors in 1971 and revised in 1989 and 1999. The text of the Mission Statement is as follows:

Old Dominion University promotes the advancement of knowledge and the pursuit of truth. It develops in students a respect for the dignity and worth of the individual, a capacity for critical reasoning, and a genuine desire for learning. It fosters the extension of the boundaries of knowledge through research and scholarship and is committed to the preservation and dissemination of a rich cultural heritage. Old Dominion University is old enough to value tradition yet young enough to facilitate change. In a spirit of creative experimentation, the University is ready to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

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 to science, engineering, and technology, particularly in fields of major importance to the region. As a metropolitan institution, the University places particular emphasis on urban issues, including education and health care, and fine and performing arts.

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 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 on appreciation of the arts and on 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 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 fields such 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 fields such 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, theatre, and dance.

As a national leader in the field of technology-delivered distance learning, the university strives to enhance the quality of the educational experience by applying emerging technologies; it also supports research to explore the impact of these technologies on the teaching-learning process. Through the use of these technologies and through partnerships 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 offers life-long learning opportunities through credit and non-credit 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 and their families located in this region.

As a center of learning, Old Dominion University is committed to the principle of free inquiry. The university faculty consists of distinguished teacher-scholars who seek to pass on the best academic traditions while establishing themselves at the forefront of discovery and creativity. As partners in the development of the university's future, faculty members enjoy full academic freedom and play a 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 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 recognition of superior instruction.

The discovery of new knowledge through research and creative endeavor is a central function of the University, which values and supports faculty participation in the discovery, synthesis, application, and creation of new knowledge and art forms.

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 to 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 on 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 depends on its alumni for advice, leadership, and support. In close collaboration with the university, the Alumni Association gives 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, the University gives high priority to a continuing process of systematic assessment. The information gained from such efforts ensures the highest possible quality for all university programs (Old Dominion University, Catalog, 2000-02, pp. 2-3).

**II/2
Description of the
Institution in
Mission Statement**

Old Dominion University's Mission Statement describes the institution, its characteristics, and its component parts (programs, faculty and staff, students, alumni).

**II/3
Institutional
Practice Consistent
with Mission
Statement**

The official posture and practice of the institution is consistent with its Mission Statement.

**II/4
Publications Must
Cite Mission
Statement**

The following Old Dominion University publications are among those that cite the Mission Statement:

- Old Dominion University Catalog, 2000-01, pp. 2-3

- Old Dominion University Faculty Handbook, 1999-2001, p. 1
- Old Dominion University Homepage (Board of Visitors Policies and Procedures)

**II/5
Approval of
Mission Statement
by Governing
Board**

The Old Dominion University Board of Visitors approved “The Mission of the University” on June 10, 1971. Subsequent revisions were approved on June 18, 1987, January 17, 1989, and April 15, 1999 (Old Dominion University Homepage web.odu.edu, Board of Visitors Policies and Procedures 2001).

**II/6
Periodic Review of
Mission Statement**

The Board of Visitors reviews the Mission Statement when the need arises. During the 1980s and 1990s, it was reviewed and revised three times: in 1987, 1989, and 1999.

**II/7
Resources and
Programs
Adequate to Fulfill
Mission**

As the remainder of this Self-Study Report will demonstrate, Old Dominion University’s planning and evaluation processes, educational programs, educational support services, financial and physical resources, and administrative processes are adequate and appropriate to fulfill its stated purpose.

Recommendations/Suggestions

None

Must Statement Compliance Table**II: Institutional Purpose**

Must Statement	Compliance Statement	Supporting Documentation <u>Exhibit Numbering Key:</u> Criteria#/MustStatement#:Exhibit
II/1. An institution must have a clearly defined purpose or mission statement appropriate to collegiate education as well as to its own specific educational role.	Compliance	II/1:01 Old Dominion University, Catalog, 2000-02.
II/2. This statement must describe the institution and its characteristics and address the component of the institution and its operations.	Compliance	II/2:01 Old Dominion University, Catalog, 2000-02.
II/3. The official posture and practice of the institution must be consistent with its purpose statement.	Compliance	
II/4. Appropriate publications must accurately cite the current statement of purpose.	Compliance	II/4:01 Old Dominion University, Catalog, 2000-02. II/4:02 Old Dominion University Faculty Handbook, 1999-2001. II/4:03 Old Dominion University, Homepage, Board of Visitors Policies and Procedures.
II/5. It (the statement of purpose) must be approved by the governing board.	Compliance	II/5:01 Old Dominion University, Catalog, 2000-02. II/5:02 Old Dominion University, Homepage, Board of Visitors Policies and Procedures.
II/6. An institution must study periodically its statement of purpose, considering internal changes as well as the changing responsibilities of the institution to its constituencies.	Compliance	II/6:01 Old Dominion University, Catalog, 2000-02. II/6:02 Old Dominion University, Homepage, Board of Visitors Policies and Procedures.
II/7. The institution must demonstrate that its planning and evaluation processes, educational programs, educational support services, financial and physical resources, and administrative processes are adequate and appropriate to fulfill its stated purpose.	Compliance	II/6:01 Old Dominion University, Self Study Report, 2000-02.

