

### 4.8.2.4 Distance Learning Programs/Activities

#### Introduction

Old Dominion University's TELETECHNET program is an interactive distance education program that has revolutionized higher education. It enables students who live in remote locations to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from a fully accredited university without leaving their areas of residence. The University delivers courses in partnership with community colleges, military installations, and corporations throughout Virginia and other states. Please see section 4.5 of this *Self-Study Report* for a more in-depth discussion of distance learning programs.

#### Presentation of Findings

Because of its commitment to high quality and excellence in teaching, Old Dominion University recruits and retains faculty who have made significant contributions to the higher-education community. Criteria for faculty at Old Dominion University are closely regulated for all levels of instruction. Credentials of candidates for faculty positions are carefully screened by the departments or interdepartmental committees to determine the faculty with the best qualifications (BOV Policy, Number 1401, 1402). The same criteria apply to faculty members teaching courses for credit through distance-learning activities and programs. Off-campus and Web-based distance-learning courses offered for credit are taught by full-time tenured, tenured-earning, and adjunct faculty. Faculty members teaching these courses hold the appropriate degrees in the teaching discipline. In exceptional cases, unique professional experience, expertise, or distinguished accomplishments related to the teaching discipline may substitute for formal academic preparation.

Faculty members, both full-time and adjunct, are required to post and maintain office hours allowing students and other faculty members to interact with them on a one-to-one basis. These hours are generally posted on each faculty member's office door, on the course syllabi, and on the faculty member's Web page.

Distance-learning students communicate with faculty members on a regular basis through e-mail, by telephone, in class, by mail, and via Web-based discussion forums. Students are required to have Old Dominion e-mail accounts. Faculty have e-mail accounts, access to computers, and technology-based training and guides to facilitate communication with students at remote sites. Old Dominion University is dedicated to providing resources and support for easy faculty-student communication.

#### Conclusion

The University is in compliance with the SACS/COC *Criteria*.

#### Recommendations/Suggestions

None.

4.8.2.4 /1 of 2  
Distance Faculty  
Meet All Criteria

4.8.2.4 /2 of 2  
Student Access to  
and Interaction with  
Full-time Faculty

**Must Statement Compliance Table**  
**4.8.2.4 Distance Learning Programs/Activities**

<b>Must Statement</b>	<b>Compliance Statement</b>	<b>Supporting Documentation</b> <u>Exhibit Numbering Key:</u> <b>Criteria#/MustStatement#:Exhibit</b>
<b>4.8.2.4 /1 of 2.</b> Institutions Offering courses for credit through distance learning activities and programs <b>must</b> meet all criteria related to faculty.	Compliance	<b>4.8.2.4 /1:01</b> Board of Visitor's Policy Number 1401, Initial Appointment of Teaching and Research Faculty  <b>4.8.2.4 /1:02</b> Board of Visitor's Policy Number 1402, Reappointment or Non-reappointment of Faculty
<b>4.8.2.4 /2 of 2.</b> Whether through direct contact or other appropriate means, institutions offering distance-learning programs <b>must</b> provide students with structured access to and interaction with full-time faculty members.	Compliance	<b>4.8.2.4 /2:01</b> Faculty Handbook, Faculty Office Hours, p.90