Endless Opportunities

Old Dominion University (ODU) is situated in the center of the beautiful and economically thriving Hampton Roads area. ODU is closely allied with academic, federal, military, and industrial partners such as the Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center, Eastern Virginia Medical School, and NASA Langley. ODU is a leader in distance education, serving a wide student base through regional and shipboard centers, and by symbiotic connections with institutions like William and Mary and George Mason Universities.

Our faculty members represent a combination of experience and energy, conducting funded research on diverse topics such as military simulation, surface and air transportation, medical simulation, human-automation interaction, user experience, and team processes.

Graduate Study: Human Factors

- Work in highly technical environments
- Explore behavioral research
- Use world-class research resources
- Collaborate with other researchers

Human Factors is concerned with the application of what we know about people, their abilities, characteristics, and limitations to the design of equipment they use, environments in which they function, and jobs they perform.

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http://www.odu.edu/academics/programs/doctoral/human-factors-psychology
Our program encompasses the scientific discipline concerned with understanding humans and other elements of a system. It is comprised of human factors and ergonomics-related courses. The profession aims to improve human well-being, error, and overall system performance.

Students admitted to the doctoral program (PhD) are generally guaranteed tuition remission and funding as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant, depending on previous graduate work. Admitted master’s students (MS) will have the opportunity to work in one of our HF-focused research labs. Financial aid may also be available.

HF-focused research labs:

**Research Environment for Alarms and Complex Task Simulation (REACTS) Laboratory**
Dr. Bliss’s REACTS laboratory investigate issues concerning alarm mistrust, including strategies to improve operator responding and variables that may interact with alarm mistrust. They also investigate the role of games and other simulation tools for skill training.

**Simulation Usage Research Facility (SURF)**
Dr. Scerbo is a Fellow of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. His primary interest is with the development and evaluation of medical simulation technology. He also studies virtual reality systems and virtual environments and performance with adaptive technology.

**Applied Cognitive Performance (ACP) Laboratory**
Dr. Yamani explores mechanisms of attention and how they constrain human performance in basic and applied environments. He also studies younger and older adults’ allocation of attention using diving simulation and eye tracking technology.

**Psychology of Design (PoD) Laboratory**
Dr. Still is the newest addition to the Human Factors community at ODU. He specializes in human-computer interaction and design. His major interests include applied visual attention, cybersecurity, intuitive design, and user-centered design.

Students also have access to Modeling and Simulation Facilities, the Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory, and the Human Cognition Laboratory.

**HFES Student Chapter**

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) is a national professional organization for human factors specialists. The society is concerned with the study of human characteristics and capabilities and the application of this knowledge to better design products, systems, and environments that people use. Old Dominion University’s student chapter of HFES is geared towards professional development and service in the areas of Human Factors and Ergonomics. The ODU HFES Student Chapter engages in a variety of academic and social activities. The chapter is well represented at the Annual National HFES Conference.