Monarch Family Connection

A publication from Student Transition & Family Programs

An Office of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services

Welcome Edition

odu.edu/family

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Welcome to a New Semester at Old Dominion! We are excited to

have your student in the Monarch Nation. ODU is committed to your student's success and safety throughout their academic career. We acknowledge and appreciate the critical role that families play as partners in their student's success. As you embark on this journey with your student, it is important for you to have knowledge of ODU resources and ways to support your student. The Big Blue Book is a comprehensive guide to ODU, including information about academics, campus resources, services, and a quick reference problem solving guide. As with

any new semester, this is an exciting time for growth and new opportunities. While this Fall semester may look and feel different, our dedication to providing a quality education remains the same. We have continued to work diligently to create, support, and maintain an engaged and connected experience for all of our Monarchs. We cannot do it alone and we are all in this together. This summer, ODU developed a Reign Responsibly statement (outlined below) that asks for every Monarch to commit to a shared responsibility to promote the health and wellbeing of the Monarch community, which includes ODU faculty, staff, students, the Norfolk community, and loved ones.

Pre-COVID-19,February 2020

REIGN RESPONSIBLY

- // STAY INFORMED
- // FOLLOW GUIDELINES
- // CARE FOR YOURSELF
- // CARE FOR OTHERS

These are the four guiding principles of the Reign Responsibly pledge.

STAY INFORMED   FOLLOW GUIDELINES   CARE FOR SELF   CARE FOR OTHERS

1. Students should **stay informed** by checking their ODU email regularly and following the University COVID-19 page for updates.
2. Students should commit to **following the guidelines** set forth by ODU, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Center for Disease Control.
3. Students should **care for themselves** by completing the ODU daily symptom tracker through the myODU portal and staying home and contacting their health provider or Student Health Services if exhibiting symptoms.
4. Students can exhibit their **care for others** by maintaining a clean space, disinfecting shared spaces, and participating in screening and testing to help reduce the spread.

The University will continue to post updates about the Fall 2020 semester on the University Blueprint webpage.

Online Learning Success Sheet

This page is designed as a helpful tool for you to assist your student in succeeding in online courses . You will find terminology commonly used in online learning and tips to aide your student.

In navigating online learning, you and your student may experience some unfamiliar terminology. Here's a list of virtual learning lingo and ODU systems that may help you help your student. If your student experiences issues with an ODU system, please have them contact Information and Technology Services is available at itshelp@odu.edu.

Asynchronous – Asynchronous learning allows learners to go through a course at their own pace and on their own schedule.

Blackboard – A web-based course management tool used by faculty to administer course content such as assignments, syllabus and grades.

Campus Restriction— Students may receive campus restriction errors in changing their class schedule. The Registrar's Office has a Registration FAQ to assist.

Cloud-based – A term that refers to applications, services or resources made available to users on demand via the Internet from a cloud computing provider, such as Box or Google Drive.

DegreeWorks – A tool designed to assist advisors and students with course planning, measuring progress toward program completion, and curriculum advising.

LeoOnline – ODU's student information system. LeoOnline houses personal information, grades, transcripts and more.

Lockdown Browser – A custom browser that locks down the testing environment within Blackboard. When students use Respondus Lockdown Browser they are unable to print, copy, go to another URL, or access other applications.

myODU Portal – A web-based, personal gateway for official ODU information, with direct access to many university services. The portal pulls together the ODU online resources you need most.

Synchronous – When learners participate in an online learning course at the same time but in different locations, it is known as synchronous learning. Synchronous learning allows learners to interact with the instructor and other participants.

WebEx – A cloud-based web conferencing service that allows users to meet online and share content.

Zoom – Zoom is a cloud-based web conferencing service that allows users to meet online and share content.

Online learning requires students to be self-motivated, self-disciplined, and well organized. As your student starts this semester, the following tips can be used for both online and in-person classes. The beginning of the semester is a key time to establish habits and implement strategies for a successful semester.

Get Organized

Organization is critical to time management and staying on top of tasks. Encourage your student to record all due dates and deadlines on their phone or calendar. Your student can use their mobile device to add reminders for tests or live activities.

Find a Space

We encourage students to set up a study space that works best for them. Additionally, establish a routine for online course work to prevent procrastination. For example, if enrolled in an asynchronous course, it may be beneficial to set aside 50 minutes three times a week or a hour and a half two times a week to mimic a designated class time.

Study

Students should plan to spend 9-12 hours a week studying for each 3-credit course. It can be beneficial for students to study in small windows of time and take frequent breaks. This allows the mind time to rest and digest the information they are taking in.

Between August 24 and August 27th ODU hosted four Town Halls for students and families to learn more about the Fall 2020 semester. Here are three key takeaways from the Academic Success Town Hall on August 24. View all four Town Hall presentations.

Students are encouraged to use tutoring resources such as the Math and Science Resource Center and The Writing Center.

Students can meet with their academic advisor at any point throughout the semester.

It is beneficial for students to get to know their instructors. All instructors have their email address on the course syllabus.

WOW 2020
WEEK OF WELCOME

Weeks of Welcome at ODU is a series of activities, events, and traditions that are designed to help your student become better acquainted with ODU and to make new Monarch connections. There's something for everyone during Weeks of Welcome. For our in-person Weeks of Welcome activities, we are offering activities multiple times to provide as many students as possible the ability to participate while also social distancing. Activities have been reshaped to comply with the public safety guidelines that prohibit gatherings of 50 or more people. Students can find more information about Weeks of Welcome here.

August and September Important Dates

August 29: Start of Fall classes. Most students will not have their first class until 8/31.

September 1: Fall tuition deadline.

September 1 and 3: Mini-Involvement Fair held on Kaufman Mall hosted by Leadership and Student Involvement.

September 2: Career Boot Camp hosted virtually by Career Development Services.

September 7: Labor Day (no classes).

September 8: Add/Drop Deadline.

September 15: Deadline to withdraw and receive 50% tuition refund.

View the complete Fall 2020 academic calendar.