



MACON & JOAN BROCK VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES

EVMS School of Health Professions

AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY



Academic Programs

Educating healthcare professionals for the local community and beyond



Leadership



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Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University is an academic health center dedicated to achieving excellence and fostering the highest ethical standards in medical and health professions education, research and patient care. We strive to improve the health of our community and to serve as a national center of intellectual and clinical strength in medicine.

Our vision is to be recognized as the most community-oriented school of medicine and health professions in the country. We offer a number of educational programs through Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences EVMS School of Health Professions at Old Dominion University in collaboration with many community partners. Students are taught by faculty who hold advanced degrees in their respective disciplines and who supplement their teaching with ongoing research, community service and patient care.

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Redesigning Online Course Delivery

Old Dominion University is reimagining course design and delivery to reflect the evolving expectations of modern learners while empowering faculty to innovate with purpose. With guiding priorities of flexibility, intentionality and innovation, all online courses are being redesigned into accelerated (typically 8-week), asynchronous formats. This change is expected to be implemented in fall 2026. The goal is to increase access, improve completion and better serve our diverse student population, including adult learners, part-time students and those balancing work or family responsibilities.

**Denotes programs with online formats impacted by redesign.*



Doctoral Programs

Health Sciences

The Health Sciences (D.H.Sc.) program prepares scholarly health services professionals to serve as leaders and change agents in their place of employment and in their communities. The program is designed to help professionals interested in career advancement or possibly a career change and should be especially valuable for those in mid-level or senior manager positions in healthcare organizations. The curriculum provides substantial exposure to diverse yet interrelated topics such as healthcare delivery systems, strategic communication, financial management, health policy, conflict analysis and leadership.

- The program consists of 14 three-credit hour courses for a total of 42 credit hours delivered over eight consecutive semesters.
- Students complete two courses in each of the fall and spring terms and one course during the summer term.
- Courses are taught via online asynchronous instruction with no on-campus requirement.



- The online format allows students anywhere to earn the degree while balancing work and other responsibilities.

For more information: 757-446-0572 or vhs-dhsc@odu.edu



Medical and Health Professions Education

The Medical and Health Professions Education (Ph.D./Ed.D.) program is designed to prepare health professionals to become teaching faculty, educational scholars and higher education leaders. The 48-credit, distance-learning doctoral program in medical and health professions education leads to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree and allows for an area of concentration in Higher Education, Contemporary Human Anatomy Education or Simulation Education.

The **Higher Education concentration (Ph.D. or Ed.D.)** allows students to gain the practical knowledge and skills necessary to tackle major issues facing higher

education today by exploring current issues impacting higher education structure and oversight with a focus on medical and health professions education. This concentration allows healthcare professionals to expand their careers in academics, research or administration in educational institutions.

The **Contemporary Human Anatomy Education concentration (Ph.D.)** is designed to provide the next generation of anatomy educators with skills relating to contemporary needs, issues and best practices in a variety of academic settings. This concentration provides experience in management, course directing, dissection and modern teaching modalities.

The **Simulation Education concentration (Ph.D. or Ed.D.)** trains students to educate the next generation of healthcare professionals using relevant models and simulations as instructional and assessment tools. Students will gain knowledge of the business principles and organizational structures required for successful simulation center management as they train to become leaders in simulation education.

For more information: 757-446-0365 or vhs-mhpeinfo@odu.edu



Medical Science

The Medical Science (D.M.Sc.) program is designed to be completed in one year while working full-time in a physician assistant career. The program equips physician assistants (PA) with the competencies and confidence to propel their careers forward. Graduates will enrich their practice, elevate the PA profession and foster positive impacts within their communities. The program's interdisciplinary and advanced curriculum is meticulously designed to empower physician assistants to emerge as leaders within various spheres, including clinical practice, healthcare administration or PA education.

The Doctor of Medical Science degree offers students the opportunity to select a focal area from two distinct tracks: Clinical Leadership and Administration or Educational Leadership and Administration. Students culminate their academic journey with a Capstone Project, wherein they will acquire career-enhancing proficiencies through activities such as developing conference proposals, crafting grant applications and composing publishable scholarly articles.

**For more information: 757-446-7158
or vhs-dmsc@odu.edu**

Reproductive Clinical Science – Embryology & Andrology

The Reproductive Clinical Science – Embryology & Andrology (Ph.D.) program prepares graduates to conduct independent research and/or direct and manage In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) laboratories as well as to seek certifications as High Complexity Lab Directors, Embryology Lab Directors, and Andrology Lab Directors. Graduates will be capable of developing protocols and procedures by working closely with other clinical team members. They also will be able to contribute to best practices in patient care and will be responsible for managing clinical labs to ensure compliance with all federal, state and local IVF regulatory requirements.

This primarily distance-learning program is designed to collaborate with working embryologists and andrologists who have already obtained a master's degree in clinical embryology or a related field. The curriculum includes advanced statistics, experimental design, comparative anatomy and physiology of the reproductive system, developmental biology, toxicology and infertility, clinical laboratory management and compliance. Students will develop a research project and write a dissertation. Online meeting tools are used for virtual project



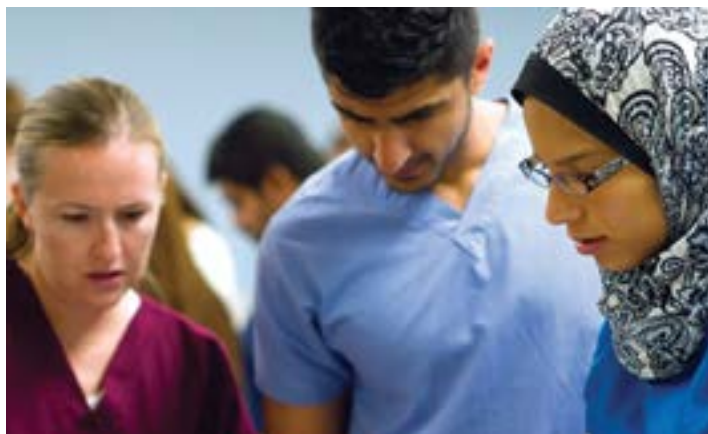
presentations, graduate committee meetings and journal club. Students also will visit Old Dominion University's medical campus for skills evaluation and certification, as well as training in how to teach.

**For more information: 757-446-5002 or
vhs-rcscourses@odu.edu**

Master's Programs

Biomedical Sciences - Medical

The Biomedical Sciences - Medical (M.S.) one- and two-year programs provide students with opportunities to become more competitive applicants for medical school. Both programs have high acceptance rates into medical school. Diligent and motivated students from all backgrounds wishing to achieve and excel in a medical school environment are encouraged to apply.



One-Year Program

The curriculum for the one-year medical master's program includes four classes with first-year medical students as well as a course in medical school preparation. Multiple exposures to standardized patients provide an early introduction to patient history and physical exam skills. Students also receive personalized assistance with medical school applications and interview preparation and strategies.

Two-Year Program

Students in the two-year medical master's program take all the courses in the one-year program along with MCAT preparation, courses in public health and legal and ethical issues in medicine, and participate in volunteer experiences.

For more information: 757-446-5944 or vhs-medmasters@odu.edu

Counseling & Art Therapy

The Counseling & Art Therapy (M.S.) program is an academic program based in growth-oriented and reflective classroom, studio, community and clinical experiences. It is unique for its balance of clinical practice, art making and research. For over 50 years, our nationally and internationally renowned faculty have prepared world-class counselors and art therapists who are culturally responsive, community involved and ethical professionals for successful careers. Full and part-time study options are available.

- Students are encouraged to develop their own informed theoretical approach to the practice of counseling and art therapy applied to a vast array of individuals, groups, families, communities and settings.
- Students' experience includes pre-practicum and internship clinical practice in assessment and basic skills with simulated patients.
- Internships provide students with three semesters (child, adolescent and adult) of hands-on experience in over 50 choices of settings throughout Hampton Roads.

- The completion of a master's Capstone Project allows students to apply knowledge in the continuum of practice in counseling and art therapy, specialty areas of focus and research.
- There is a focus on Clinical Mental Health Counseling (specialty area).
- Areas of mental health counseling and art therapy sub-specializations include art therapy in the schools, medical art therapy, trauma informed care, research and cultural humility.
- Personal art making is required and supported by our fully stocked, 2,000-square-foot art-making studio which is conveniently located on campus and open to students around the clock.
- Students are prepared to seek Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Registered Art Therapist (ATR).

The full-time course sequence is five (5) consecutive semesters over 22 months. The part-time course sequence provides for the program to be completed in three (3) to five (5) years.

For more information: 757-446-5895 or vhs-counselingandarttherapy@odu.edu



Program courses focus on all aspects of laboratory animal science, such as diseases, care, husbandry and facility management. The practicum provides students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge to the actual practice of laboratory animal science. The degree has also been used for acceptance to higher degree programs such as veterinary medicine.

This online program allows maximum flexibility for students. It is designed for individuals who may currently be working within the field of laboratory animal science and seeking career advancement, or those looking for opportunities in research laboratories who do not wish to relocate for a traditional master's program.

The full-time program comprises 31 credits in five semesters over two years. Students are required to attend a one-week, on-campus internship course during the summer semester. Please visit the website for information regarding the part-time option and Laboratory Animal Anesthesia and Handling Techniques Certificate. An optional Clinical Reproductive Biology (CRB) track is available as well as an Early Assurance Program.

**For more information: 757-446-5634
or vhs-lasinfo@odu.edu**

Laboratory Animal Science

Much of modern-day medicine is indebted to irreplaceable animal research. With the need for technically sophisticated, humane and well-considered use of animals in biomedical research, the demand for qualified individuals is very high. The online Laboratory Animal Science (M.S.) program can assist in advancement within this highly competitive industry.

Medical and Health Professions Education

The Medical and Health Professions Education (M.M.H.P.E.) program is designed to prepare health professionals to become teaching faculty, educational scholars and higher education leaders. The program provides advanced coursework in the areas of teaching and learning, scholarship and organizational management with an emphasis on real-world, practical applications.

This two-year, 31-credit hour, distance-learning master's program is designed for working professionals who require flexibility as they pursue an advanced degree in education, as well as for less experienced individuals seeking a long-term role in medical and health professions higher education.

**For more information: 757-446-0365 or
vhs-mhpeinfo@odu.edu**



Nutrition

The Nutrition (M.S.) program prepares graduates to provide evidence-based nutrition care in clinical and community settings, lead wellness initiatives and translate research into practice. Offered fully online in an 18-month sequence, the program combines advanced nutrition science with applied training in assessment, counseling and medical nutrition therapy. Learning is enhanced with simulation media from the Sentara Center for Healthcare Simulation and Immersive Learning to build readiness for real-world encounters. Students earn the M.S. in Nutrition and may tailor their plan through two currently available concentrations:



Community Nutrition or Personalized Nutrition & Wellness. A third concentration in Dietetics (Didactic Program in Dietetics) is in the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics pre-candidacy process and targeted for a January 2027 launch.

- Plan of study: 21 credit core plus 12-15 credits in a selected concentration; full-time completion in 18 months.
- Learning format: 100% online, asynchronous coursework designed to accommodate working professionals.
- Practice readiness: applied projects, simulated patient scenarios and an integrative Capstone reinforce real-world skills.
- Career paths: roles in clinical and community nutrition, public health and policy, research and higher education and wellness/industry with emphasis on precision nutrition.
- Labor outlook: employment for dietitians and nutritionists is projected to grow about 6% from 2024-2034.

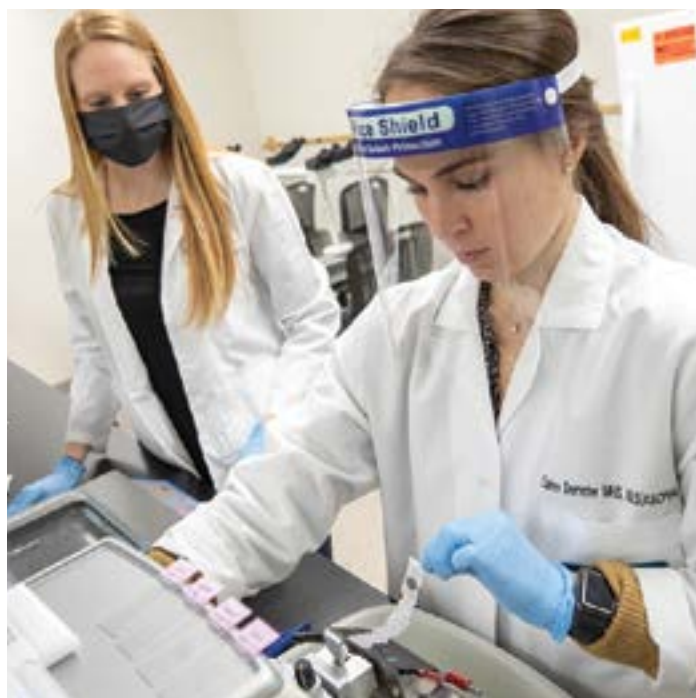
For more information: 757-446-7149 or nutritionVHS@odu.edu

Pathologists' Assistant

A Pathologists' Assistant (PathA) is a highly trained allied health professional who provides various services under the direction and supervision of a pathologist. The PathA is academically and practically trained to provide accurate and timely processing of anatomical laboratory specimens, including the majority of pathological specimens that are key components to helping make a pathologic diagnosis.

The Pathologists' Assistant (M.S.H.P.A.) program consists of 78 credit hours including didactic instruction in the first year, clinical rotations in the second year and several online courses that will be completed during both years of the program. The curriculum meets National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accreditation standards and incorporates cutting-edge instructional methods and technology.

Pathologists' Assistants work in a wide variety of clinical practices and settings. Many are employed in academic and community settings, private pathology laboratories, forensic pathology laboratories, government healthcare systems and medical teaching facilities.



For more information: 757-446-7123 or vhs-pathainfo@odu.edu

Physician Assistant

The Physician Assistant (M.P.A.) program prepares students to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care as essential members of interprofessional healthcare teams. This Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) accredited program spans 28 consecutive months and is structured in two intensive phases. Students are immersed in rigorous biomedical science coursework while developing hands-on clinical skills, ethical judgment and professional conduct.

Curriculum Highlights

- **Longitudinal Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS):** Scaffolded instruction begins in the first semester and continues throughout the clinical year. Students learn image acquisition, clinical integration and documentation, reinforced by competency checks and real-world application during clinical rotations.
- **Early patient contact utilizing professional standardized patients in a simulated clinical learning environment.**
- **Community-Engaged Learning:** Students engage in service and outreach across the Hampton Roads region, gaining experience with a vast array of patient populations and healthcare settings.

Program Structure

Phase I – Didactic (16 months): Coursework includes medical sciences, clinical assessment and reasoning, pharmacotherapy, and professional practice. Training is reinforced through simulation labs, standardized patient encounters and foundational Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) modules.

Phase II – Clinical (12 months): Students complete supervised clinical rotations across core specialties with options for selectives and electives. POCUS skills continue to be applied and refined in clinical settings.

Program Highlights

- **PANCE Success:** Graduates consistently exceed national first-time pass rates on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE).
- **Career Readiness:** With approximately 2,000 hours of supervised clinical training, graduates are equipped to contribute effectively on day one.
- **Support for Growth:** Students benefit from professional mentoring, wellness resources, leadership development and tailored elective rotations.

PA Profession Demand

PA graduates are in high demand. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment for PAs will grow by nearly 26.5% between 2022 and 2032, much faster than for most occupations.

Admissions

Application Deadline: March 1

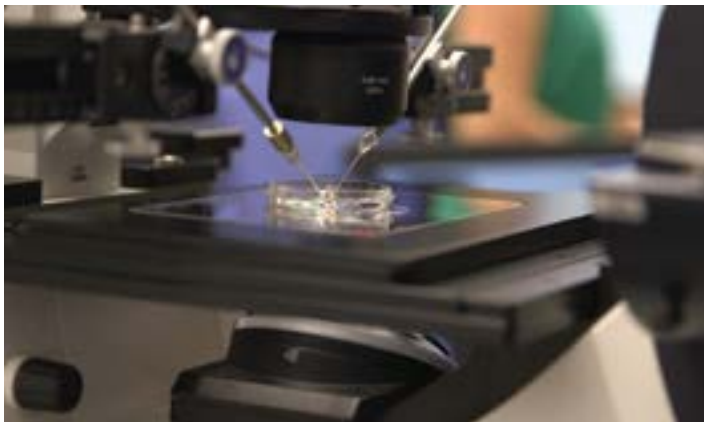
Program Start: January

For more information: explorehealth.odu.edu or vhs-paprog@odu.edu



Reproductive Clinical Science – Embryology & Andrology

Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University is a pioneer in assisted reproductive technology. In 1981, the first in vitro fertilization baby in the U.S. was born through the efforts of the prestigious Howard and Georgeanna Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine*, located on Old Dominion University's medical campus. Since 2003, this international distance-learning program has established a legacy of successful graduates around the globe.



Today's embryologists and andrologists require a foundation for lifelong learning to prepare for and adapt to new technologies, understand the relevance and application of advances in cell biology and genetics and apply best clinical practices in the ethical treatment of infertility.

- The Reproductive Clinical Science – Embryology & Andrology (M.S.) curriculum consists of 36 credit hours, spanning six semesters over two years.
- Instructional materials are delivered online using streaming video for asynchronous lectures and live interactive online classrooms for virtual office hours and journal club.
- Hands-on skills training and certification courses are offered at the yearly residential program.

**Now known as Shady Grove Fertility.*

For more information: 757-446-5002 or vhs-rcscourses@odu.edu

Surgical Assisting

The Surgical Assisting (M.S.A.) program has set the standard for surgical assistant training. It offers individuals with at least a bachelor's degree and little or no medical experience a career pathway in the practice of surgery. The EVMS School of Health Professions offers the only master's-level surgical assisting program, which prepares candidates for a career in assisting surgeons in the performance of surgical procedures. Surgical assistants scrub for operative procedures and assist in the positioning and draping of patients as well as preparation of the operative site. During procedures, the surgical assistant anticipates the needs of the surgeon as the operative procedure progresses by retracting and exposing the operative field to secure the best possible exposure of the anatomical site and best outcome for the patient.

Students will receive credentials in operation room management and leadership, robotic surgery certification and the skills to direct their careers.

- This program empowers students to excel in their careers. Graduates will gain the credentials and skills necessary to lead operating room teams, perform

robotic surgeries and establish independent practices. Our alumni have achieved notable success, holding leadership positions in healthcare organizations, serving as educators and pursuing advanced degrees in medicine.

- Through this program, students will develop strong leadership, teaching and management skills. Our graduates have a proven track record of success, securing positions in medical staffing, hospitals and academia. They have also advanced to roles such as Physician Assistants, Surgeons and doctoral-level positions.
- Graduates will be equipped to advance their careers, whether in traditional healthcare settings or as independent contractors.

This program accepts approximately 24 students per year. Classes begin in August, and students complete 22 months of didactic and clinical training.

For more information: 757-446-6165 or vhs-surgasst@odu.edu

Certificates

Counseling & Art Therapy

The Counseling & Art Therapy program offers two stand-alone graduate certificates. These certificates target continuing education for alumni and area counselors and art therapists based on coursework to meet continuing education standards, fill gaps in education and engage in the developing literature in the field.

Graduate Certificate in Advanced Cultural Humility

CAT 616 Cultural Humility (3 credits)

This course supports the development of culturally humble counselors and art therapists through multicultural orientation with regard to intersecting identities including age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, developmental ability, physical ability, education, family values and religious and spiritual values. Through review of the current literature, application to clinical practice and self-assessment, students will explore culture and their own unintentional biases, develop strategies for working with a vast array of individuals, groups and communities, foster critical thinking skills, and explore the role of the counselor and art therapist in culturally alert and responsive practices for clinical mental health counseling, art therapy, social justice and advocacy.

CAT 631 Applied Cultural Sensitivity in Counseling & Art Psychotherapy (4 credits) (Study Abroad)

Applied Cultural Sensitivity in Counseling & Art Psychotherapy will engage students in cultural immersion to learn about cultural similarities and differences in mental health services, counseling, and art psychotherapy and varied aspects of the impacts of trauma related to culture. Students will engage in content and experientials that explore art expression, role of art, artists, therapists and art therapists in society, art/crafts processes, preferences or prohibitions to various art processes or media and conventional/cultural symbolism;

cultural appropriation in art therapy; and cultural sensitivity to the use of art processes and materials in art therapy for trauma informed approaches integrated into art psychotherapy and counseling in various community settings.

Graduate Certificate in Trauma & Neuroscience Informed Art Psychotherapy

CAT 624 Trauma & Neuroscience Informed Counseling & Art Therapy (3 credits)

The course will review and engage students in the current literature of Trauma Informed Counseling Practices. The objective is for the student to build skills in understanding how to treat survivors of trauma, understand the etiology of behaviors, emotions, and functioning related to trauma and develop age-appropriate treatment plans based in best counseling practice.



**For more information: 757-446-5895 or
vhs-counselingandarttherapy@odu.edu**

Laboratory Animal Anesthesia and Handling Techniques

The certificate in Laboratory Animal Anesthesia and Handling Techniques is offered to U.S. and international applicants during the summer semester. This certificate enables international students to meet United States visa entry requirements.

For more information: 757-446-5634 or vhs-lasinfo@odu.edu



Medical and Health Professions Education

Graduate certificates in Medical and Health Professions Education (MHPE) are designed to build evidence-based knowledge and skills as an educator without having to obtain a graduate degree. Certificates include:

- Scholarship Certificate
- Teaching Certificate
- Simulation Program Management

Individuals completing any of the Medical and Health Professions Education certificates who wish to earn the master's or doctoral degree may count some of their certificate course work toward other MHPE degrees.

For more information: 757-446-0365 or vhs-mhpeinfo@odu.edu

Medical Science

The Medical Science (D.M.Sc.) program offers two graduate certificates:

- Clinical Leadership and Administration
- Educational Leadership and Administration

The nine credits earned in these one-year programs can be applied to fulfill the doctoral courses if a student chooses to continue the degree.

**For more information:
757-446-7158 or
vhs-dmsc@odu.edu**



Reproductive Clinical Science

The Reproductive Clinical Science program offers two graduate certificates:

The **Graduate Certificate in Clinical Andrology*** provides training in assessing parameters of male reproductive function, laboratory technologies and identification of strategies to assist embryologists and andrologists in improving the andrology laboratory.

The **Graduate Certificate in Clinical Embryology*** provides training in in-vitro fertilization (IVF) to assess the parameters of gametes and embryos and building increased competence in IVF laboratories. The curriculum consists of four courses, spanning three semesters over one year. Hands-on skills training and certification courses are offered at the yearly residential program.

These primarily distance-learning programs are designed to build knowledge and skills for health-care professionals involved in assisted reproductive healthcare and develop a better understanding of assisted reproductive technology (ART).



For more information: 757-446-5002 or vhs-rcscourses@odu.edu

**Certificate credits with a grade of B or above can transfer into the Reproductive Clinical Science (M.S.) program.*



Surgical Assisting

Since 1981, the Surgical Assisting program has set the standards for surgical assistant training. As states continue to enact greater legislative requirements for the practice of surgical assisting, the goal of the Certificate of Surgical Assisting program is to provide current professionals and those seeking to enter the profession a training avenue that meets the changing requirements of the professional.

By completing the didactic and clinical content requirements, the Surgical Assistant certificate program is designed to prepare entry-level professionals to assist surgeons in the performance of surgical procedures. With experience, the surgical assistant learns to anticipate

the needs of the surgeon as the operative procedure progresses. Candidates must be currently practicing certified surgical technologists, surgical assistants or registered nurses with a minimum of two years of experience. The program pairs students with educational liaisons to support their success in the completion of the program.

This program accepts approximately 15 students per year. Classes begin in May and students complete didactic and clinical training in 12 months.

For more information: 757-446-6165 or vhs-surgasst@odu.edu



As an Equal Opportunity Employer, Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University provides equal employment and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, genetic information, or any other basis protected by law. As a federal contractor, we comply with government regulations and affirmative action responsibilities where applicable. Employees and applicants are directed to bring any violation of this policy to the immediate attention of the Human Resources Department. Students are directed to bring violations of this policy to the Office of Student Affairs.



MACON & JOAN BROCK
VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES
AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

