



Darden College of Education
and Professional Studies

MISSION

The Darden College of Education and Professional Studies creates an environment for transformative education rooted in deep community impact and drives impactful and innovative research that addresses emerging societal needs.

VISION

We empower our college community to push boundaries in research, education, and community engagement, creating systemic impact locally and beyond.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-2030

The Darden College of Education and Professional Studies (DCEPS) at Old Dominion University (ODU) is poised for a transformative future as we build on our strengths and embrace new opportunities.

THE PLANNING PROCESS:

This plan represents the culmination of a year's worth of thoughtful work, collaboration, and reflection driven by input from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external partners through interviews, surveys, listening sessions, and focus groups. It reflects our community's shared priorities and aspirations and will serve as our roadmap for achieving the next phase of growth and impact.

With this plan, DCEPS will continue to lead the way in shaping the future of education and professional studies, preparing our students to succeed in a rapidly changing world while contributing to advancing knowledge and societal well-being.

We are grateful to all who have come together to contribute to this process, and look forward to building a vibrant, thriving future for our college.

PRIORITIES AND GOALS:

This strategic plan is organized around four key priority areas – for each area, a key goal has been established, providing a focus for progress, accompanied by key strategies and actions required to drive success and will ensure that each goal is achieved.

ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

We are committed to maintaining a high level of support for all students, ensuring they are prepared to succeed academically and professionally. Our focus on student success will include enhancing recruitment efforts, providing comprehensive advising, growing financial accessibility, and fostering excellence in all educational experiences.

EXPAND RESEARCH OUTPUT THROUGH SUPPORT & COLLABORATION

DCEPS will continue to lead in research productivity. We will broaden our definition of who engages in research, integrate students into research experiences, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration across departments and institutions. We aim to create a culture of scholarly excellence that empowers faculty and students to address significant societal challenges through research.

STRENGTHEN EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT

Our partnerships with industries, educational institutions, and community organizations are critical in expanding the impact of our work. By deepening relationships with our external stakeholders, we will create more avenues to provide students with valuable real-world experiences, enhance our research impact, and expand opportunities for collaboration. Alumni engagement will also play a key role in strengthening our community and connecting our work to broader professional networks.

REINFORCE AN EFFICIENT & EMPOWERING INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

We will ensure our internal structures support faculty and staff in doing their best work. Creating clear, standardized policies, enhancing internal communication, and reducing administrative burdens will foster a positive, productive, and inclusive work environment. These efforts will help us attract and retain top talent and position DCEPS for long-term success.