

NUMBER: 1002

TITLE: Major Goals of the University

APPROVED: January 17, 1989; Revised April 15, 1999, Revised December 9, 1999

1. Students

Old Dominion University is a selective admission institution. The university strives to serve those students in the immediate geographical area as well as attract students from the national and international communities. Additionally, the university seeks to attract and serve a culturally and ethnically diverse student body. The university pays particular attention to identifying and admitting students who are academically gifted. As a major metropolitan university, Old Dominion University has a special commitment to serve those students who have been academically, socially, or economically disadvantaged, but who have the potential for academic success.

2. Faculty

Old Dominion University seeks to attract and retain a distinguished faculty of teacher-scholars. Its faculty enjoy academic freedom and have a recognized role in the decision-making process of the university. The university is committed to strengthening its faculty through recruitment and retention of minorities and women.

3. Academic Programs

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS. As a comprehensive university, Old Dominion University offers and develops quality liberal arts, science, technology and professional programs. Old Dominion University undergraduate students follow a general education program that emphasizes intellectual skills and the breadth of intercultural understanding necessary for personal growth and achievement and responsible citizenship. All Old Dominion University degree programs meet national standards of excellence.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS. Old Dominion University's graduate offerings are focused on society's need for advanced professional education and on specialized programs at the master's and doctoral levels for which the institution is prepared through unusual strength of faculty or special geographic advantages. In selected graduate programs, the university aspires to international leadership.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS AREAS. Because Hampton Roads is a major international maritime and commerce center that is Virginia's window to the nation and world, the university has a special mission for the Commonwealth in **commerce**, and in **international affairs and cultures**. With the principal marine and aerospace activities of the Commonwealth concentrated in Hampton Roads, the university has a significant commitment to **science, engineering and technology**, specifically in marine science, aerospace and other fields of

major importance to the region. Due to its location in a large metropolitan area, Old Dominion University places particular emphasis on **urban issues**, including education and health care, and on **fine and performing arts**.

4. Teaching

Old Dominion University is committed to providing the highest quality instruction to all of its students. Teaching excellence is encouraged through faculty development programs and appropriate recognition of superior instruction.

5. Research, Scholarship and Creativity

Old Dominion University is a center of learning committed to the principle of free inquiry. The university seeks to participate in the acquisition, discovery, synthesis, application, and creation of new knowledge and art forms through research, scholarly endeavor and creative undertakings by faculty and students. In selected areas of research, scholarship and creativity, the university strives for international recognition.

6. Distance Learning

As a national leader in the field of technology-delivered distance learning, Old Dominion University is committed to providing academic programs to a diverse national and international population. The University seeks partnerships and alliances that will facilitate delivering those programs to place-bound students.

7. Life-long Learning

Old Dominion University is committed to the concept of life-long learning, and offers credit and non-credit courses throughout the region. The university seeks to develop off-campus centers to bring educational services and programs to the citizens of the region. Because of the major Armed Forces presence in Hampton Roads, the university is particularly cognizant of its responsibility to serve members of the military services and their families.

8. Community Services

Community service is an important part of the university's mission. Particular importance is attached to the enrichment of the lives of students and residents of Hampton Roads through university cultural activities, fine and performing arts events, and recreational, intramural and intercollegiate athletics. The university acts as a resource to business, industrial, health care and educational organizations, as well as to the agencies of local, state and federal government. The university is committed through applied research, consulting and other activities to playing a major role in advancing the overall development of Hampton Roads.

9. Student Life

The university provides opportunities for student development outside of the classroom. Programs are offered to enhance personal and social growth of individual students, to

provide an exciting and stimulating collegiate environment and to enable students to cope with educational, career, and health needs. Students choosing to live in on-campus housing benefit from programs especially designed to promote student educational and personal development.

10. Alumni

Alumni are an important part of the university community. Through outreach programs, participation on advisory committees, and a variety of professional and social activities, the university maintains a close relationship with its alumni and seeks alumni involvement and support for planning and development purposes.

11. Quality

Improvement of the university is a continual process. The foregoing goals provide criteria for the rigorous and regular evaluation of the quality, pertinence and effectiveness of academic and other university programs. These goals also provide criteria for the assessment of student achievement and the performance of members of the faculty, administration, and staff.