



Associate Vice President for Maritime Initiatives

Old Dominion University (ODU), located in the Hampton Roads region of southeastern Virginia, invites nominations and applications for the newly established position of Associate Vice President for Maritime Initiatives. The University seeks a dynamic visionary who is energetic, creative, and collaborative to coordinate efforts within the region and to ensure a thriving maritime ecosystem that benefits the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. Old Dominion University has named maritime as one of three key strategic areas of focus, alongside data science and health care. The new Associate Vice President for Maritime Initiatives will have the unique opportunity to leverage the academic and research expertise of an R1 university and to coordinate with maritime industry partners, producing impactful innovations, strategic advancements, and economic development for the region.

Background

The Maritime Initiative was established in 2021 to advance ODU as a globally recognized institution for maritime opportunities by coordinating and expanding the University's maritime-related academic offerings, talent development, research, entrepreneurship, and innovations. The Maritime Initiative will leverage and expand the region's maritime assets and opportunities to drive economic development and innovation.

The Maritime Initiative will serve as an "anchor" for the region's maritime strategic direction, acting as a primary point of contact, outreach, and communication between industry partners and ODU resources for maritime research, workforce pipelines, and training.

Spanning across all academic colleges, centers, and programs, the Maritime Initiative will be the University's point for communication, facilitation, and support. By assisting departments, colleges, and research centers in the recruitment of world-class faculty in the maritime domain, building research and instructional capacities, and promoting the maritime mission and opportunities, the Initiative will also strengthen and expand the maritime-related resources, production, and outcomes.

University Resources

ODU is an R1 doctoral research university with extensive maritime-related research, education, and talent development. As of 2021, ODU offers 27 academic programs and 11 centers that focus on maritime teaching and research and 35 academic programs and 18 centers that provide support to coastal-related education and research. Combined they offer more than 100 degrees, certificates, and centers related to water and maritime studies.

Across the maritime sector, ODU supports academic programs and research initiatives that focus on a broad and growing range of maritime-related domains, including port operations and supply chain, logistics, transportation, engineering, coastal resilience and sea-level rise, national defense and cybersecurity, international trade, renewable energy and an emerging offshore wind industry, and climate change adaptation.

With more than 25 existing centers and institutes with direct and collaborative maritime focus, ODU already commands an impressive academic and research infrastructure that has tremendous potential for the advancement and strategic development of a maritime ecosystem.

These include:

[Coastal Virginia Cybersecurity Innovation \(COVA CCI\)](#)

[Center for Geospatial Science, Education & Analytics \(GeoSEA\)](#)

[Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency \(CCRFRR\)](#)

[Digital Shipbuilding](#)

[Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience \(ICAR\)](#)

[Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship \(IIE\)](#)

[International Maritime, Ports, & Logistics Institute](#)

[Maritime Industry Base Ecosystem \(MIBE\)](#)

[OpenSeas Technology Innovation Hub](#)

[Virginia Institute for Spaceflight and Autonomy \(VISA\)](#)

[Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center \(VMASC\)](#)

Regional Resources

Hampton Roads stands apart from other North American maritime localities in terms of both geography and infrastructure. Located at the confluence of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, Hampton Roads possesses one of the world's deepest natural harbors and is home to the world's largest naval base with the highest concentration of U.S. Navy vessels. Maritime industries and related concerns span the region. These include commercial ports, shipbuilding and repair units, suppliers, trans-Atlantic infrastructure development, a newly emerging offshore wind industry, and military and government installations. Regional partners include the Port of Virginia, Sentara Healthcare, Norfolk Southern, NASA Langley, NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, and the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (a Department of Energy National Laboratory).

Hampton Roads' significant and growing engagement with leading maritime activities totals over \$34 billion in the U.S., with an expected average growth of five percent annually. The Hampton Roads Maritime Collaborative for Growth & Innovation (HRMC) was established in 2020 to coordinate, facilitate, and align opportunities for the Hampton Roads maritime ecosystem, with the goal of spurring long-term economic development and innovation. In 2021, HRMC and ODU released a report, prepared by TEconomy Partners, that identified major economic areas to leverage and expand the region's innovation and workforce support for the maritime industry. The report, "[A Pathway for Maritime Innovation in](#)

[Hampton Roads](#)," pinpointed defense/shipbuilding/repair, port and logistics, offshore wind energy, and coastal resilience as the principal economic drivers related to maritime. The report recommended four pathways for maritime innovation that the Hampton Roads region must target in order to leverage current and growing maritime advantages:

- Develop a national hub for autonomous systems;
- Organize a maritime small business innovation collaborative;
- Establish a Department of Defense/DoD center of excellence for naval sustainment and mission engineering; and
- Build a sustainable home and brand for maritime innovation in Hampton Roads

Across Hampton Roads and ODU, the maritime channels of expertise include port operations and supply chain, climate change, resilience, and adaption, digitalization of maritime ecosystems, renewable energy, national defense and port security, international trade and development, and tourism and cultural heritage. Leveraging this expertise, across the University and region, will offer tangible assets and actionable opportunities to connect, strengthen, and advance the maritime industry and community.

Role of the Associate Vice President for Maritime Initiatives

The Associate Vice President for Maritime Initiatives (AVPMI) will work at the intersection of academic programs and research initiatives, external partnerships, and regional economic developments. Reporting to the Vice President of Research at ODU and coordinating with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the AVPMI will be responsible for catalyzing maritime-related activities across the University and with outside stakeholders to build an academic infrastructure that synergizes the regional ecosystem and accelerates infusion of innovation into the maritime industry.

The [OpenSeas Technology Innovation Hub](#) will report to the AVPMI, who will be responsible for sustaining OpenSeas and using it as leverage to scale up maritime innovation activities in the region with particular emphasis on SBIR/STTR funding sources. The [Maritime Industry Base Ecosystem](#) (MIBE) and [Digital Shipbuilding](#) initiatives—fraternal maritime innovation resources—will also report to the AVPMI, with administrative support from the [Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center](#) (VMASC).

The AVPMI will be responsible for driving the strategic and tactical plan for the Initiative, collaborating, leveraging, and facilitating the complexities of systems across the maritime ecosystem for the University and Hampton Roads.

Opportunities and Challenges

- **Coordinate, leverage, and strengthen ODU's established maritime academic infrastructure.** Within the University, the AVPMI will have the opportunity to collaborate and identify interdisciplinary capabilities across faculty and academic sectors to facilitate maritime-related research and innovation opportunities. To build and enhance the competitive advantage for ODU among Virginia universities and other institutions in the maritime space, the AVPMI will connect and leverage ODU's existing academic degree offerings, academic programs, and research centers, to optimize talent development for the maritime industry and facilitate collaboration and innovation opportunities with external partners.

- **Effectively represent the Maritime Initiative to internal and external stakeholders.** The AVPMI will be the external-facing lead for the Maritime Initiative stakeholder engagement, engaging with industry, military, and government entities at all levels, the public and private sectors, nonprofit organizations, and the community. The AVPMI will be a coalition builder on and off campus, who finds success in the success of others and who is dedicated to serving and leading the Maritime Initiative through stewardship of the current capabilities and future maritime potential within the University and region.
- **Extend and deepen ODU’s reputation and brand within the maritime sector.** As a core strategic maritime resource for the University, the AVPMI will lead establishment of ODU’s maritime brand, audience engagement, and implementation. The AVPMI will embrace and embody the goal to raise the profile of ODU as a global maritime nexus for teaching, research, innovation, commercialization, and workforce development outcomes.
- **Promote and provide systems-level collaboration and strategic vision for the Hampton Roads maritime ecosystem.** Bolstered by the extensive maritime assets and opportunities across the Hampton Roads region, the AVPMI will work to bring those currently vested in the maritime ecosystem into collaboration, as well as identify and advocate for new partnerships within the maritime business community, military, government agencies, and maritime-related industries, to create compelling opportunities and synergies for current and future initiatives.
- **Expand, diversify, and cultivate resource development and revenue streams to support the Maritime Initiative.** The AVPMI will identify revenue streams, both short- and long-term, that support the initiatives and ensure sustainability. The AVPMI will work to increase and prioritize external research funding, in addition to piloting new revenue-producing opportunities within the maritime industry and ecosystem.

Desired Qualities and Qualifications

The successful applicant will have at least ten years’ experience in a maritime-related area that has significant economic promise for Hampton Roads (such as port logistics, supply chain management, shipbuilding/repair/modernization, coastal resilience, offshore wind energy, naval systems acquisitions, or naval fleet support). A graduate degree is required, and demonstrated experience in higher education is highly preferred. Demonstrated experience with federal contracting (either on the federal or contractor side) is also highly preferred.

In addition, the new AVPMI will be a systems thinker who possesses many of the following qualities and experiences:

- A deep understanding and appreciation of the maritime industry and impacted sectors;
- Experience building relationships and developing resources across internal and external stakeholders;
- An ability to successfully prepare for and develop growth opportunities within the maritime ecosystem and related industries;
- Demonstrated leadership in building and managing complex organizations;
- An entrepreneurial, energetic, and optimistic approach to leadership and collaboration;
- A stewardship approach to leveraging existing and established assets across the University, community, and region;

- Ability to engage with University stakeholders and the community;
- Ability to engage with leadership across maritime industries, government, commercial, technology, and operational sectors;
- A track record of managing a diverse portfolio and balancing the needs of multiple constituencies;
- Experience with fund development and management, including grant proposals and partnerships;
- The ability to navigate the needs of various partners and align them through strategic vision, impact, and results;
- A management style based on consensus building, teamwork, and partnership;
- An understanding of the expectations across academic operations in comparison to industry;
- Demonstrated history of leadership and personal integrity and accountability;
- A deep commitment to supporting ODU’s mission, vision, culture, and entrepreneurial spirit; and
- Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills.

About Old Dominion University

Old Dominion University, located in the city of Norfolk, Virginia, is an R1 public research institution that serves its students and enriches the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world through rigorous academic programs, strategic partnerships, and active civic engagement.

Founded in 1930 as an extension of the College of William and Mary and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, ODU grew from a two-year school into a four-year institution, with independence in 1962, and has grown to become a prominent, entrepreneurial-minded university for academic excellence within the Hampton Roads region.

Today, ODU is Virginia’s forward-focused public doctoral research university, with more than 24,000 students, providing rigorous academics, an energetic residential community, and initiatives that contribute \$2.6 billion annually to Virginia’s economy. The University offers more than 150 programs available on campus and more than 100 programs through online learning at *ODUOnline*. Its eight academic colleges confer 91 bachelor's degrees, 42 master's degrees, 22 doctoral degrees and two educational specialist degrees. With more than 160,000 alumni, ODU has a 94 percent employment rate for its graduates within six months, with a dedication to producing top talent to the Hampton Roads region and Virginia.

With its waterfront campus in the coastal city of Norfolk, ODU neighbors Naval Station Norfolk, the world’s largest U.S. Navy base. ODU provides educational opportunities for active military, veteran students, and their families and is ranked as the No. 1 “Best for Vets” Virginia institution by *Military Times*, with 25 percent of their student body being military affiliated.

ODU delivers top-quality education to populations in need and provides internationally recognized research in areas of regional and national significance, such as coastal resilience, data analytics, modeling and simulation, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing.

With a number of key strengths in the region—including significant Department of Defense investment, ports of national, strategic importance (the largest deep water harbor on the East Coast), national labs (DoD, DOE and NASA), a nationally prominent shipbuilding, repair and modernization sector, a newly emerging offshore wind industry, and new trans-Atlantic broadband capacity — ODU is capitalizing on its unique role as a central connection point by training the workforce, providing advanced research and engaging in meaningful community service to further the regional economy.

Research

ODU has nationally recognized research strengths in coastal resilience, cybersecurity, modeling and simulation, port logistics and maritime engineering. More than half of the faculty are involved in funded research projects sponsored by federal agencies and industry, creating research opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students. ODU is one of only 29 universities that are members of a Department of Defense-sponsored University Affiliated Research Center. ODU is a key research partner for the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, Newport News Shipbuilding and, through ODU's Virginia Institute for Spaceflight and Autonomy, NASA's Langley Research Center and Wallops Flight Facility. ODU research teams generate \$68 million in annual expenditures, innovating locally to transform globally.

ODU fosters and promotes the research enterprise through its [Office of Research](#). This office is also responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring regulatory compliance policies and procedures. Regulatory compliance concerns include export controls, protection of laboratory animals and human subjects in research, radiation safety, chemical safety, scientific integrity, and conflict of interest. University intellectual property administration is a function within the Office of Research. The office supports technology transfer activities by identifying, protecting, and marketing inventions and works of authorship.

The [ODU Research Foundation](#) serves as the University's fiscal and administrative agent for sponsored program activities. Established in 1965 as an independent, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, the Research Foundation has played a significant role in ODU's ability to attract world-class researchers and advance its research mission while enhancing the University's profile.

University Leadership

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., became ODU's ninth president on July 1, 2021. Most recently, President Hemphill served as President at Radford University, after serving as President at West Virginia State University. He has held administrative leadership positions including Associate Vice Chancellor, Dean of Students, and Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, in addition to his academic positions as Associate and full Professor across previous institutions. President Hemphill earned a Ph.D. in higher education administration and policy studies from the University of Iowa, a master's degree in journalism and mass communication from Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from Saint Augustine's University.

Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion

ODU is a vibrant and diverse campus that embraces an inclusive and welcoming community. The University has a dedication and commitment to the principles of equality and equity across students, faculty, and staff. Nationwide, ODU is recognized for its diversity, equity, and inclusion as a top 20 university in graduation of African American students and is known for its position as a leader in first-generation college graduates.

ODU has implemented initiatives to foster an inclusive and supportive environment that values diversity, including the President's Task Force on Inclusive Excellence, with the goal of achieving a level of institutional success realized in diverse communities where all constituencies have equitable opportunities to succeed. ODU believes in encouraging diversity through every aspect of the University, including its people, campus, curriculum, co-curriculum, and the community.

City of Norfolk

Old Dominion University is located in Norfolk, Virginia, which is home to nearly 250,000 residents across 66 square miles. The city of Norfolk is truly a coastal and waterfront community with seven miles of beachfront and a total of 144 miles of shoreline along lakes, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. Norfolk is home to the world's largest naval base and the North American Headquarters for NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and is the home of the USS Wisconsin battleship and a vibrant harbor. Nauticus, also known as the National Maritime Center, is a maritime-themed science center and museum located on the downtown waterfront, which also houses the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and exploratory exhibits from NOAA. *USA Today* called Norfolk one of the "Top 10 Booming Downtowns," recognizing a decades-long housing, retail, and financial boom in the city. Norfolk International Terminals has completed a 300-acre expansion, making it the largest intermodal center in the nation. Ocean-going cruise vessels of up to 3,000 passengers regularly stop at the Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center downtown. There is also a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Norfolk and the region, driven by 757 Collab, 757 Angels, ODU's Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, and other partners.

Norfolk is a cultural hub on the East Coast, serving as home to the Virginia Opera, the Virginia Stage Company, the Virginia Symphony, the Virginia Arts Festival, Chrysler Hall, Chrysler Museum of Art, the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial, the Virginia Zoological Park, and the NorVA live music venue. Norfolk has been recognized as a Tree City, and its neighborhoods have extensive trees and flowers, with 12 walkable city blocks of downtown waterfront through the city's museum and historic sites. The nationally recognized Norfolk Botanical Garden, Virginia's largest botanical garden, offers 175 acres of over 60 themed gardens that can be viewed by tram, boat, or foot.

Surrounding Norfolk, the Hampton Roads area is home to approximately 1.75 million people including the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. The Historic Triangle area of the Hampton Roads region is one of the largest tourist attractions in Virginia encompassing Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown. Each city has its own unique attractions, events, and activities that contribute to the evolving and flourishing metropolitan area.

Contact

The Search Committee will begin reviewing candidates immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Nominations and applications should be submitted electronically as soon as possible. Applications should include a letter of interest that outlines a vision for Maritime Initiatives at ODU, a curriculum vita, and five professional references. References will not be contacted until later in the process and only with the candidate's permission. All application materials will be considered in full confidence. Please send all nominations, inquiries, and applications, electronically to:



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It is the policy of Old Dominion University to provide equal employment, educational and social opportunities for all persons, without regard to race (or traits historically associated with race including

hair texture, hair type, and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists), color, religion, sex or gender (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), national origin, gender identity or expression, age, veteran status, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation or genetic information. Minorities, women, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.