



# Prior Learning Assessment in Graduate Education

Council of Graduate Schools' Annual Meeting  
December 9, 2016

Robert Wojtowicz, Dean of the Graduate School  
Old Dominion University

Joanne Romagni, Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the  
Graduate School

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Bill Ayres, Associate Dean of the Graduate School  
Wright State University



# Prior Military Learning Assessment in Graduate Education

Robert Wojtowicz, Ph.D.  
Dean of the Graduate School  
Council of Graduate Schools' Annual Meeting  
December 9, 2016



**OLD DOMINION**  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION

# ODU at a Glance



- Doctoral urban research university located in Hampton Roads (S.E. Virginia)
- Carnegie Classification
  - Doc/Prof: Doctoral, professional dominant
  - RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity)

# ODU's Fall 2016 Enrollment

- 24,322 students
  - 19,793 undergraduate; 4,529 graduate
- ~40% taking some courses online

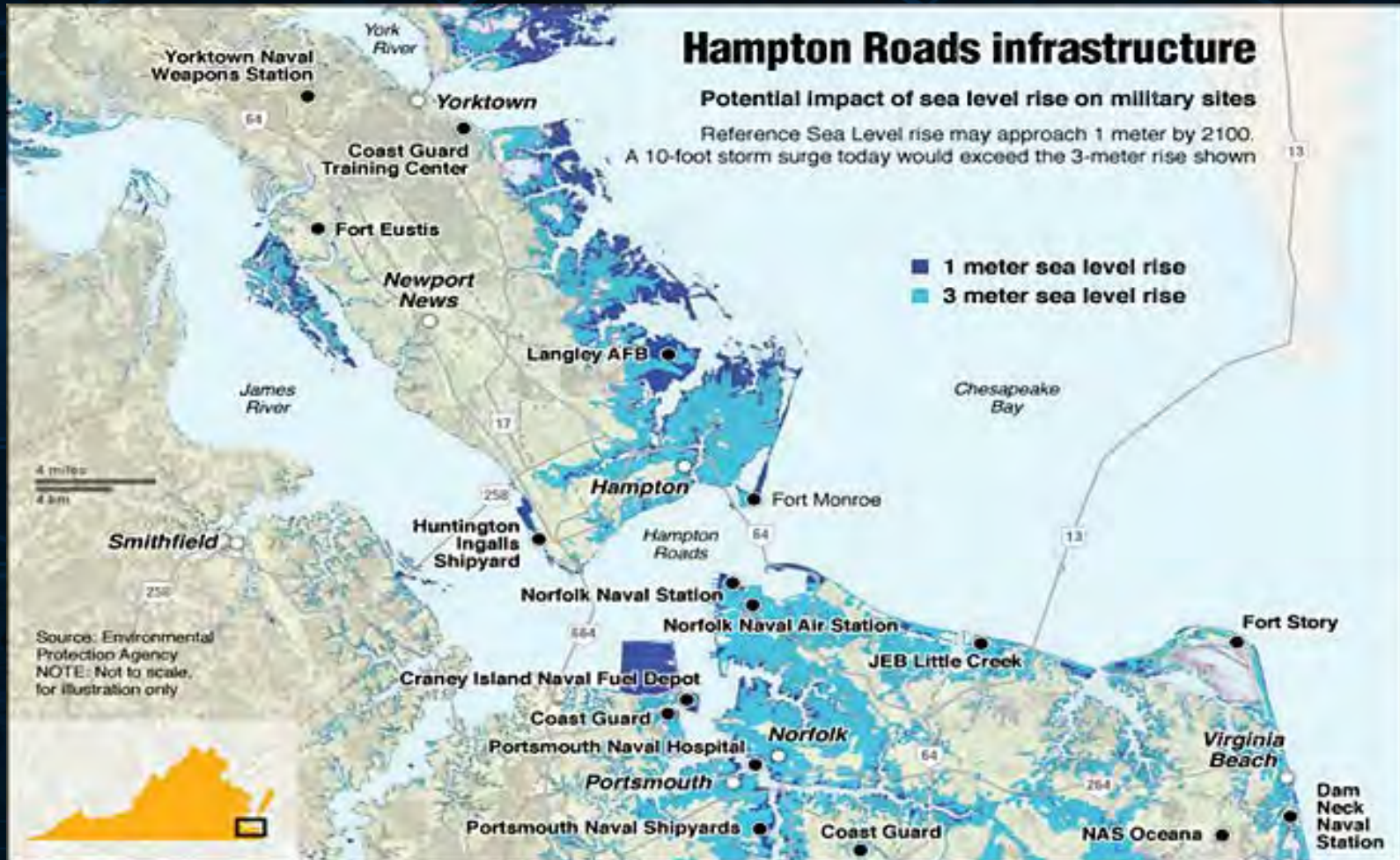


# ODU's Military Presence

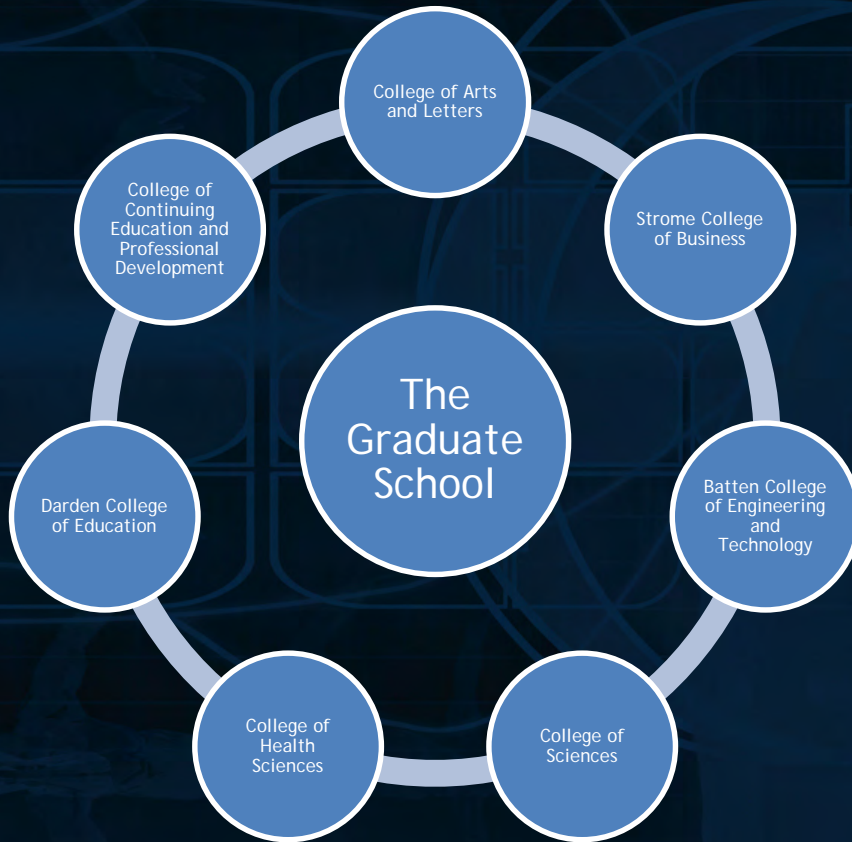
- >25% of student body military affiliated (ROTC, active-duty, reserve, veteran, spouse, dependent)
  - Ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in *Military Times'* "best for Vets" 2016 survey
  - Rated "Top College and University" by *Military Advanced Education* in 2015



# The Military Footprint in Hampton Roads



# ODU's Graduate Portfolio



- 22 doctoral degrees
- 2 education specialist degrees
- 40 master's degrees
- Numerous graduate-level certificates and licenses

# Best Practices for Attracting Military Students and Veterans

- Develop graduate-specific MOUs for officers
- Maintain a flexible tuition policy for active-duty personnel
  - Tuition assistance capped at varying levels depending on service branch
- Market specific programs to veterans with G.I. benefits



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION



# Existing Military and Civilian Articulation Agreements

- NAVAIR
- Military Sealift Command
- Bettis Reactor Engineering School
- Joint Forces Staff College
- U.S. Naval Officer Nuclear Power School

## Engineering Management by Portable Media

Build on your military training to lead in the field of engineering.

Degree

Master of Engineering Management

Frank Batten College of Engineering & Technology  
Department of Engineering Management &  
Systems Engineering

[REQUEST INFO](#)

[APPLY NOW](#)

# Navy Education Consortium Agreement

- M.S.Ed. program for active-duty officers
  - Old Dominion, George Washington, U. of Memphis, U. of Rhode Island, San Diego State, and U. of West Florida
- Common curriculum keyed to the U.S. Navy's Education Training Management Subspecialty Program competency areas




OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION



# Graduate Credits by Transfer Policy

- Maximum of 12 semester hours of graduate credit taken as a non-degree student may be transferred into a graduate degree program
- Additional combined maximum of 12 credits may be transferred into a graduate degree program from another accredited institution



ODU will accept graduate transfer credits from any regionally-accredited military institution of higher education (e.g. Naval Postgraduate School)



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION


# Graduate Prior Learning Assessment Policy

- Fee-based program for assessing graduate-level knowledge gained through work and life experience and self-study
- Maximum of six graduate hours may be “challenged” through the following:
  - Internal and external examinations
  - Credit for training
  - Portfolio development



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

I D E A F U S I O N




The vast majority of prior learning assessments involve undergraduate credits, but there is the potential for ODU to do a great deal more at the graduate level, especially with “expired” credits



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION



For military students, most often it is professional experience acquired while active duty or as a veteran that is being evaluated



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION

# 2015-2016 Graduate-Level Prior Learning Assessment Credits

- 11 graduate students (none military) granted a total of 54 credits in the following subject areas:
  - English
  - Engineering and Engineering Management
  - Accounting and Finance
  - Counseling and Sport Management
  - Art



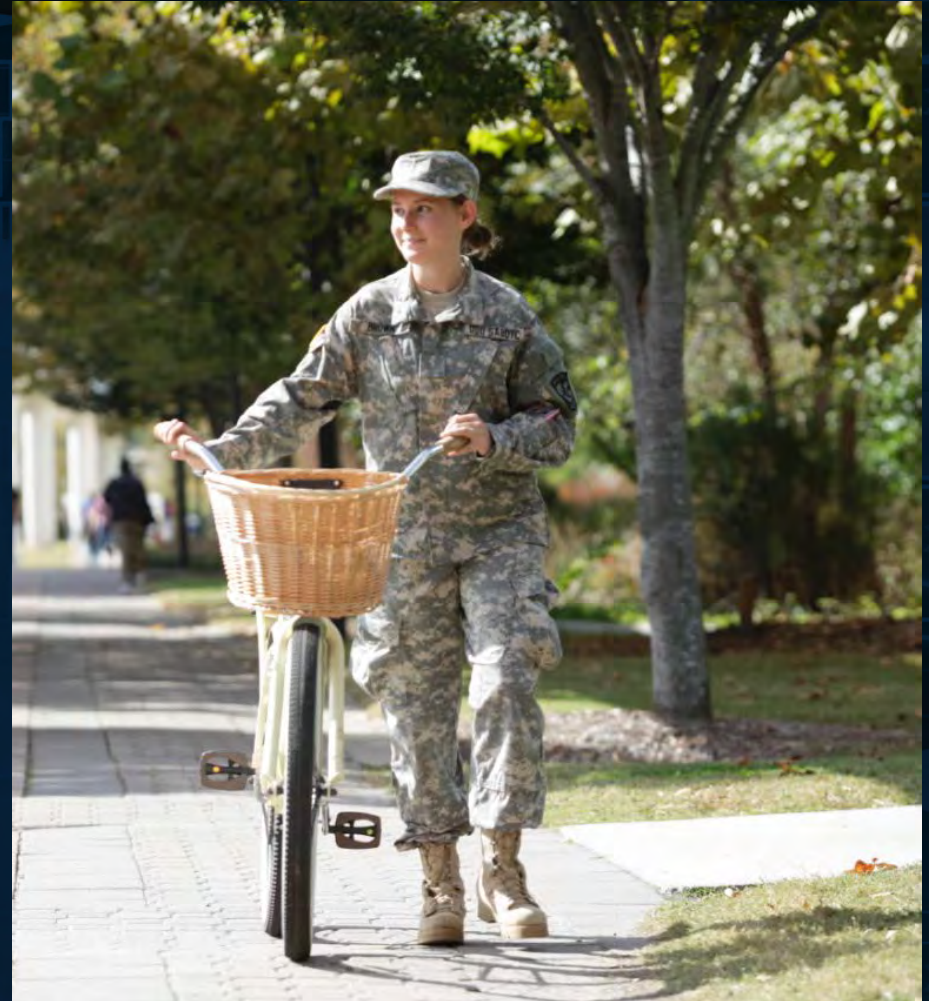
OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION



# Typical Military Content Areas Assessed for Prior Learning

- Information Technology
- Management and Leadership
- Criminal Justice
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management



# Testimonials

*"I am a Principal of an engineering firm and have a young family. With these commitments, working towards my goal of a Master's degree...[has been] daunting. However, the Prior Learning Assessment team at ODU worked with me to review my past experience and leverage this to meet my academic requirements. The result was that I was able to apply my Project Management experience towards credit in an Engineering Management class and am one step closer to my goal. Thanks ODU!"*

-Devin J. Santa, P.E.

*"Putting together my expanded resume and the narrative for the two courses gave me the opportunity to reflect on how my 30-year career dovetailed with the learning requirements of the courses.... It was quite fun - and exhausting - to pull together. Being able to get credit for my prior learning meant that I could stay on track to graduate as planned, Spring 2016. The degree conferral date was special to me: it was my birthday!"*

-Vivian Paige



**OLD DOMINION**  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION

# Best Practices for Assessing Military Experiences

- Utilize the American Council on Education's *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services*
  - <http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx#>
- Develop a good working relationship between your evaluating office and your faculty
- Have a flexible "challenge" policy



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION



CONNECTED

Questions?



OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION