



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. Diversity and inclusion are hallmarks of our culture.

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 the EVMS School of Health Professions 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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Doctoral Programs



Biomedical Sciences

The Biomedical Sciences (Ph.D.) program is an extensive program that develops students by providing a broad foundation of biomedical sciences knowledge and intensive laboratory research training. This doctorate program is a proven path to a variety of career options. Faculty participating in the program are subject matter experts in their chosen field.

Graduates are prepared to apply and/or interpret discoveries in biomedical sciences for the betterment of human health. Our graduates are confident and highly competitive with honed skills in critical thinking that are recognized in subsequent positions within commercial research, academia and government. An interdisciplinary background with focus on translational biology provides a unique advantage to our graduates.

For more information: 757-446-5076 or vhs-biomedsci@odu.edu

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: 757-446-7935 or vhs-dhsc@odu.edu

Medical and Health Professions Education

The Medical and Health Professions Education (Ph.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** 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.

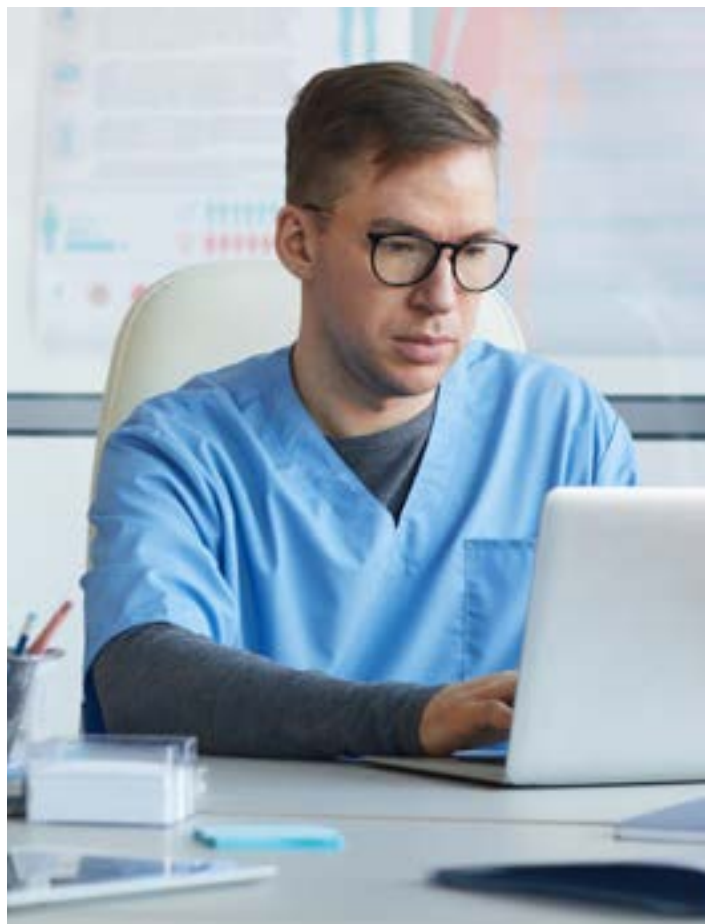
The **Contemporary Human Anatomy Education concentration** is designed to provide the next generation of anatomy educators with skills relating



to contemporary needs, issues and best practices in diverse academic settings. This concentration provides experience in management, course directing, dissection and modern teaching modalities.

The **Simulation Education concentration** 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 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 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 EVMS 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 - Research

The Biomedical Sciences - Research (M.S.) program is an ideal path to build a research experience portfolio that will advance your career. This two-year program provides extensive multidisciplinary foundational knowledge in biomedical sciences combined with intensive hands-on research training. Graduates are equipped to confidently convey their research and critical thinking skills. Advantages from this degree include:

- Graduates are competitive for multiple career paths.
- Enhanced competitiveness for Ph.D. programs.
- Proven research skills improve competitiveness of applications for Doctor of Medicine programs. EVMS alumni who have graduated with a competitive GPA and a strong MCAT total score receive priority consideration as candidates to the EVMS MD program.



The Biomedical Sciences Research master's program involves faculty who are subject matter experts that conduct research focused on critical human diseases. Thesis students create original research projects.

For more information: 757-446-5076 or vhs-biomedsci@odu.edu

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 presentation skills and professional knowledge. 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 diverse individuals, groups, families, communities and settings.
- 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 LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor), ATR (Registered Art Therapist) and QMHP-C (Qualified Mental Health Professional-Children) credentials.

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**



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.

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: 757-446-0365
or vhs-lasinfo@odu.edu**



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. Coursework from the program may be transferred into the doctoral program in Medical and Health Professions Education.

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

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 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 both academically and professionally for patient care responsibilities and patient-centered services as a physician assistant. This ARC-PA accredited professional program is divided into two phases and spans 28 consecutive months. Graduates receive a Master of Physician Assistant degree. Individuals with broad educational backgrounds, prior healthcare experience and who are from groups that are underrepresented in the healthcare professions are encouraged to apply for admission.

- Phase I, the didactic phase of the program, spans 16 months.
- Phase II of the program represents the supervised clinical education component (clinical rotations) and spans 12 months.
- Program graduates have strong first-time pass rates on the national certification examination.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the number of PA jobs will grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2030.



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

Reproductive Clinical Science – Embryology & Andrology

Rock Virginia Health Sciences at ODU 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. Now known as Shady Grove Fertility, this premier fertility center operates on Old Dominion University's Eastern Virginia Medical School 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 16 courses, 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.
- The academic year extends from May through May, with approximately 24 students admitted each year. The deadline for submitting applications for early admission is November 15, and for regular admission is January 15 of each year. Applications submitted after January 15 will be reviewed on a rolling basis until April 30.

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 OR 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

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.*



Counseling & Art Therapy

The Counseling & Art Therapy program offers three 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 Trauma & Neuroscience Informed Therapy (for counselors)

Course Requirements:

ATC 705: Trauma & Neuroscience Informed Therapy (3 credits)

This course will review and engage students in the current literature of Trauma trauma-informed practices, neuroscience as it applies to trauma work in counseling, and resources of trauma-informed care (assessments, workbooks, & practices). The objective is for the student to build skills and understand trauma as well as the etiology of behaviors, emotions, and functioning related to trauma, and develop treatment plans based in practice.

Graduate Certificate in Advanced Cultural Humility (for art therapists only)

Course Requirements:

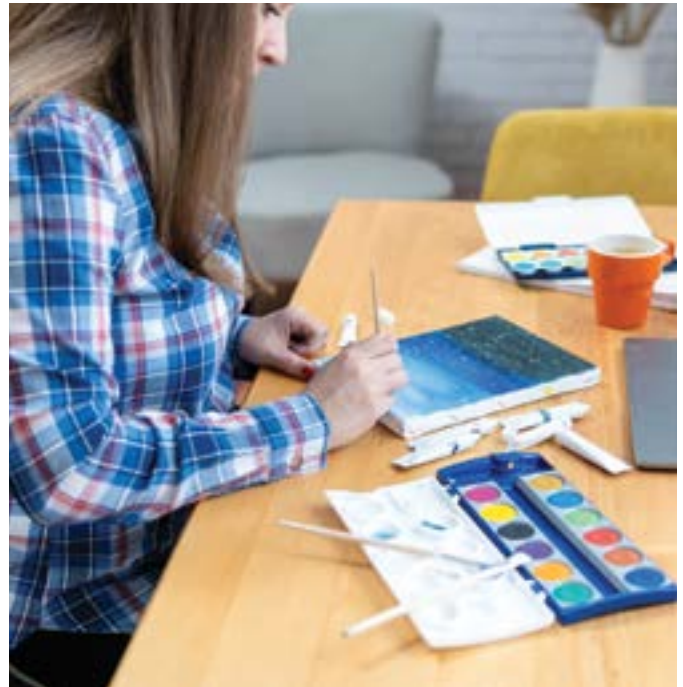
ATC 659: Cultural Humility (3 credits)

This course supports the development of culturally humble counselors and art therapists through a multicultural orientation about 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 diverse 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 mental health services, social justice, and advocacy.

ATC 701/702: Applied Cultural Sensitivity in Art Psychotherapy & Counseling (4 credits) (Study Abroad)

This course will engage students in cultural immersion to learn about cultural similarities and differences in art, the arts, and art psychotherapy, and varied aspects of the impacts of trauma (war trauma, trauma experiences of families, combat trauma, survivors of sex trafficking, and historical trauma). Students will engage in experiences that

explore art expression, the 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 (for art therapists only)

Course Requirements:

ATC 687: Trauma & Neuroscience Informed Art Therapy & Counseling (3 credits)

This course will review and engage students in the current literature of Trauma and Neuroscience Informed Counseling & Art Psychotherapy Practices and additional materials. The objective is for the student to build skills and understanding of how to treat survivors of trauma, understand the etiology of behaviors, emotions, and functioning related to trauma, and develop age-appropriate treatment plans based on best art therapy practice. In addition, students will develop an understanding of brain-based science and neuro-informed practices in counseling and art psychotherapy.

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: 757-446-0365 or vhs-lasinfo@evms.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

Surgical Assisting

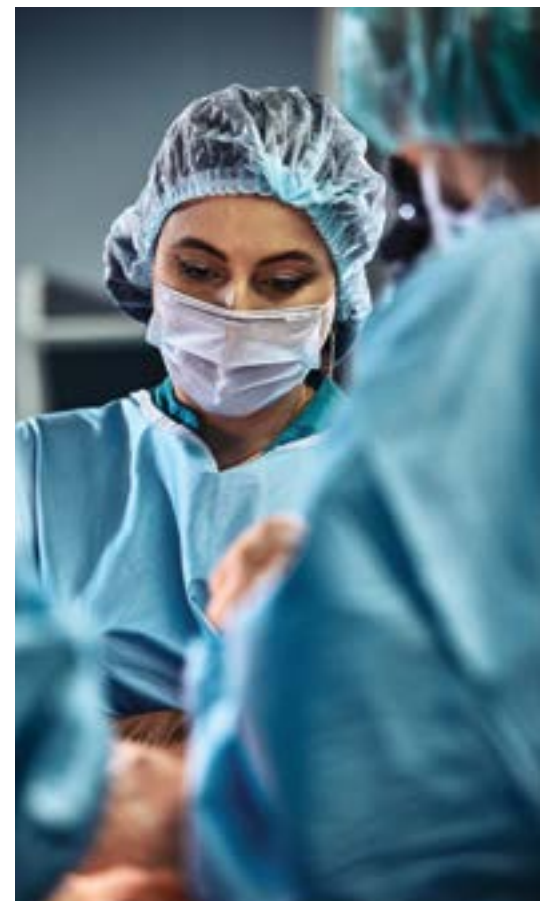
Since 1981, the Surgical Assisting program has set the standards for surgical assistant training. As states continue to enact greater legislative requirements for the practice of surgical assisting, the goal of the Certificate of Surgical Assisting program is to provide current professionals and those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

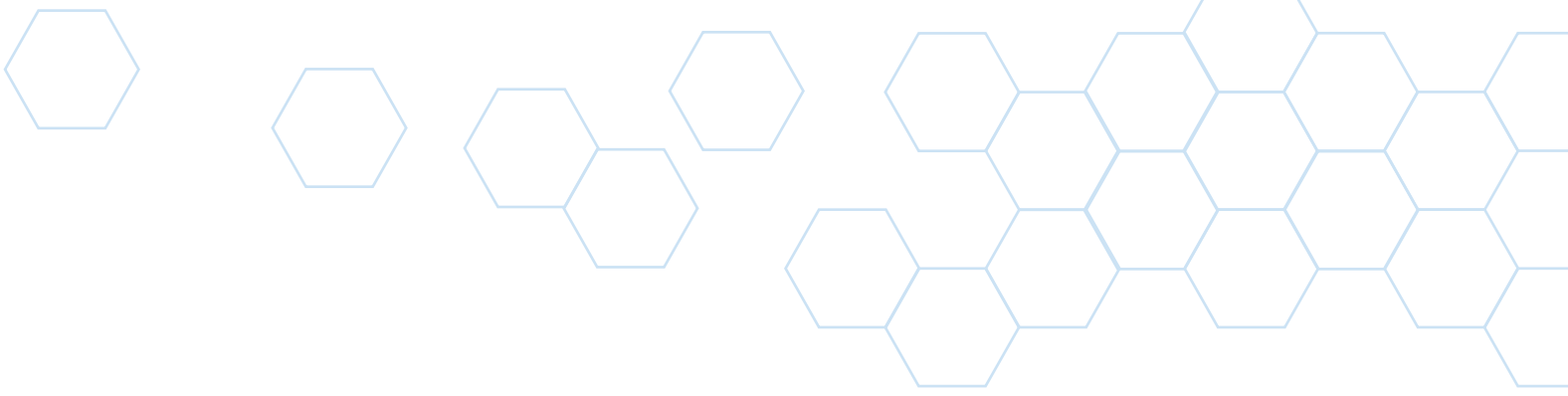
By completing the didactic and clinical content requirements, the Surgical Assistant certificate program is designed to prepare entry-level professionals to assist surgeons in the performance of surgical procedures. With experience, the surgical assistant learns to anticipate

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





Continued Program Development and Innovation

The integration that established the largest health sciences center in the commonwealth has paved the way for continued innovation and strategic program development. Building on this foundation, the EVMS School of Health Professions is advancing its mission by developing a master's-level Nutrition program to meet the growing demands of healthcare education and workforce needs.

By leveraging the combined expertise and resources of the integrated institutions, we are delivering stronger educational programs, enhancing patient care and addressing critical healthcare disparities in the region. These efforts not only expand Virginia's healthcare workforce but also amplify our collective impact on the local economy and community well-being.

Through collaboration and innovation, we are shaping a future where education, healthcare and community impact are seamlessly aligned — leading the way toward a healthier and more prosperous tomorrow.

Master of Science in Nutrition

Launching in Fall 2026, the EVMS School of Health Professions Master of Science in Nutrition program is designed to prepare the next generation of leaders in nutritional sciences. Offering two distinct tracks — Community Nutrition and Personalized Nutrition and Wellness — this innovative program provides students with the flexibility of online learning while delivering a rigorous, evidence-based curriculum.

Graduates will gain the knowledge and skills to address public health challenges, promote lifelong health and wellness and fill critical roles in healthcare, wellness and education. The program also supports eligibility for Certified Nutrition Specialist certification, broadening career opportunities for those seeking advanced credentials.

With a focus on health promotion, cultural humility and practical

application, the program reflects our commitment to advancing health education and research while meeting the evolving needs of individuals and communities. Together, we are transforming the future of nutrition and empowering students to create meaningful change.





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.



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VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES
AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

