We are pleased that you have shown interest in the Biomedical Sciences PhD Program (BIMD) at Old Dominion University. You can find information about the application process through the Office of Admissions. Specific information about the BIMD Program can be found in the next pages of this document. As part of the application process, we expect all applicants to contact our Faculty about openings for new graduate students.

Citizens of countries other than the U.S.A. should get a written confirmation from one of our Graduate Faculty showing you have an advisor in the Biomedical Program, and then submit your admissions application to Old Dominion University.

If you have submitted an application to ODU, then you can check the status of your file at LEO Online Admissions Menu >Admissions Menu >Application Status Check.

Our students work with biomedical faculty located in the College of Sciences with the majority in the Departments of Biological Sciences or Chemistry & Biochemistry. The BIMD Program no longer offers a concentration in Clinical Chemistry.

In 2014, the BIMD Program graduated two students and admitted four (17%). Our matriculated students averaged 304 on the GRE (v+q). Over the past six years, our average graduation rate was 6.0 years. There are 27 students in our program, 33% from international backgrounds.

Don’t hesitate to contact me with your questions.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Ratzlaff, Ph.D.
Director, Biomedical Sciences PhD Program
Department of Biological Sciences
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA, USA 23529-0266
757.683.4361
rratzlaf@odu.edu

Biology Graduate Programs:

Master of Science in Biology http://sci.odu.edu/biology/academics/degree_programs.shtml
Biomedical Sciences PhD http://sci.odu.edu/biology/academics/phdmed.shtml
Ecological Sciences PhD http://sci.odu.edu/biology/academics/ecologyphd.shtml
May 28, 2015

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Old Dominion University is located in Norfolk, Virginia, one of the nation’s oldest cities, having recently celebrated its three hundredth anniversary. Norfolk is one of seven major cities which make up the Hampton Roads region with a population 1.7 million. Hampton Roads boasts one of the world’s largest natural harbors, and is home to a thriving commercial seaport and the U.S. Atlantic Naval Fleet. The maritime influence is also evident in the region’s mild climate. The region is renowned for its historical and recreational attractions.

Old Dominion University is Virginia’s forward-focused, public doctoral research university for high-performing students from around the world who want a rigorous academic experience in a fast-paced and profoundly multicultural community. With an enrollment of more than 23,000 students, the university offers 70 bachelor’s, 60 master’s and 36 doctoral degree programs and 2 educational specialists degrees. ODU’s eminent scholarship and innovative and engaging teaching foster nationally recognized programs. A determined entrepreneurial approach to problem-solving drives cutting-edge research and strategic partnerships with government, business, industry, organizations, and the arts. In addition to its 185-acre main campus in Norfolk, Old Dominion operates higher education centers in Hampton, Virginia Beach, and Portsmouth and a thriving distance learning network.

The Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Sciences

Biology@ODU or Facebook are sites that highlight the work and interests of the faculty, students and staff in the Department of Biological Sciences.
SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Biomedical PhD Program
Students who wish to apply to the Biomedical PhD Program should complete an application and indicate their proposed field of study in the Statement of Interest. Other questions about the program should be addressed to Biomedical PhD Graduate Program Director.

Application deadlines
February 1st for summer and fall semester admission
June 1st – fall semester admission
October 1st – spring semester admission

Admission Standards
1) A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a grade point average of at least a 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Students with advanced degrees are encouraged to apply. Prior training in biology (two years), calculus and/or statistics, and organic chemistry (one year). Additional courses in biology, chemistry, and physics are recommended.
2) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Medical College Admission Test (MCAT):
   a) GRE General Test; 300 minimum combined score on the verbal and quantitative sections (1000 on the old scale).
   b) 26 Minimum MCAT cumulative score (PS+VR+BS) may substitute for the GRE.
   c) GRE and MCAT scores are valid for five years.
   d) A statement of personal goals and academic objectives.
3) Three letters of recommendations.
5) We do not offer conditional admission.

Application Requirements
1) Transcripts of all college course work. Transcripts will be official transcripts sent by the registrars of the colleges attended.
2) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).
3) A statement of personal goals and academic objectives.
   Three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty members at colleges attended who are familiar with the applicants academic and research capabilities.
5) A written acknowledgement from one (or more) of our Faculty who agrees to place the student in their lab and serve as the student’s major advisor. The applicant does not submit anything to ODU Admissions Office about the advisor—the Faculty member will notify the Graduate Program Director of their willingness to be your advisor.
6) Application form and application fee ($50 as of January 2010).

Regarding major advisors, it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact a faculty member(s) and make arrangements for placement in their laboratory. This process allows the student to evaluate the research and funding opportunities of a potential advisor. It is our suggestion that you be prepared to explain why you are specifically interested in their lab, include information about your academic credentials, skills, and future plans. And of course, the applicant has the chance to gather information about research projects and funding available for new students.

An individual professor may agree or decline to serve as the major advisor based on criteria relevant to their research program. If an applicant is offered a place in more than one laboratory, then the student will select their major advisor upon entering the program. Although required for admission, it is possible to change major advisors if the situation warrants it.
Submission of application materials
Submit all materials to the Office of Admissions (applicants from USA schools) or the Office of International Admissions at Old Dominion University. There is a non-refundable application fee. However, if you have ever paid the application fee as a previous non-degree or degree-seeking student, or you are an ODU Alumni, the fee is not required.

Non-Degree Status Graduate Students
Non-degree status indicates that the student is taking graduate course work (500 level or greater) to satisfy individual needs or interests. Although non-degree students are not admitted to degree programs, they may receive graduate credit for graduate work passed. A maximum of 12 semester hours of non-degree graduate credit may be applied towards a graduate degree at Old Dominion University. Undergraduate transcripts are not required for initial registration, but must be submitted for graduate study beyond six hours. Application materials are available at the ODU Admissions website. Non-degree students interested in specific types of classes should contact our Faculty with expertise in those research areas for advice on coursework.

BIMD FACULTY

Biological Sciences

Dr. Dayle Daines
Dr. Holly Gaff
Dr. David Gauthier
Dr. Wayne L. Hynes
Dr. Piotr Kraj (pkraj@odu.edu)
Dr. Girish Neelakanta
Dr. Emilia Oleszak (eoleszak@odu.edu)
Dr. Christopher J. Osgood
Dr. Chris D. Platsoucas (cplatsoucas@odu.edu)
Dr. Robert E. Ratzlaff
Dr. Hameeda Sultana

Chemistry

Dr. Craig A. Bayse
Dr. Kenneth G. Brown, Jr.
Dr. Lesley H. Greene
Dr. Steven M. Pascal
Dr. Jennifer L. Poutsma
Dr. Bala Ramjee
Dr. Guijun Wang
Affiliated Faculty

Biological Sciences

Dr. Daniel E. Sonenshine

Computer Science

Dr. Nikos Chrisochoides
Dr. Ranjan Desh
Dr. Jing He
Dr. Shuiwang Ji
Dr. Yaohang Li

Mathematics & Statistics

Dr. Nak-Kyeong Kim
Dr. Jin Wang
REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

To graduate, the student:
1. Selects appropriate advanced course work approved by the guidance committee.
2. Completes at least 79 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree or 48 credit hours beyond the master’s degree. The curriculum is developed with the guidance and approval of the student’s advisory committee.
3. Rotates through three laboratories (mentor’s laboratory included as one) developing research questions and techniques in a variety of disciplines.
4. Presents two seminars.
5. Passes either (a) written and oral qualifying examinations on course work or (b) an NIH-style grant proposal written on a research question in an area not specific to the planned research in the mentor’s laboratory and an oral exam on the grant proposal and on coursework.
6. Develops an interdisciplinary research proposal in NSF or NIH format that is accepted by the guidance committee.
7. Performs publishable research to demonstrate the ability to complete original and creative research projects.
8. Prepares and successfully defends a dissertation.

The student’s curriculum is designed with the assistance and approval of a guidance committee, following guidelines established by the track that most closely matches the student’s interests. The two tracks approved within the biomedical sciences program are biological chemistry and pure and applied biomedical sciences.

Graduate Courses

A list of all graduate classes is available in the University Graduate Catalog.

Biology Course Rotations as anticipated for the next two years.

Chemistry Course Rotations (not available at this time)

ODU Schedule of Classes. This site has registration information and the list of all ODU courses offered in the current academic year.

FINANCIAL AID

Establishing Eligibility for In-state Tuition Rates

Graduate Teaching Assistantships
The GTA stipend is currently set within your major Department. For the summer session the amount is dependent on the number of credits taught. The expected workload for a GTA is 20 hours per week with a maximum of 9 lab-contact hours per semester or a maximum of 6 classroom (teaching/lecturing) contact hours per semester.

Graduate Research Assistantships
Contact individual faculty for the details about graduate research assistantships funded through their grants and contracts. The expected workload for a GRA should also be discussed with the person responsible for the funding.

Tuition Support
Financial support for graduate tuition is awarded each semester and in the summer session with deadlines announced in advance. In most instances, tuition is paid by the University for PhD students who are making acceptable progress in the program. Undergraduate courses are not eligible for tuition waivers even if required by the advisory committee.
Scholarships

**Dominion Graduate Scholar Program**

The Virginia S. Bagley Endowed Scholarship is made possible by Mrs. Bagley’s estate and is awarded to a graduate student in the Department of Biological Sciences.

The Nick Savage Scholarship
Contact the Chair in the Department of Biological Sciences for additional information.

The Claire Dabel Scholarship
Contact the Chair in the Department of Biological Sciences for additional information.

The Ferraro Foundation for Science and the Disabled
Contact Dr. Deborah Waller for additional information.

Graduate Financial Aid; Scholarships, Grants, Loans, and Student Employment. (See the latest version of the University Graduate Catalog.)

Work Study Funding for Graduate Students
For details contact the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Student Health Insurance & Plans

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Entertainment, activities, etc

**ODU International student organizations**

**Virginia Opera** is one of the finest regional opera companies in the nation and is the only company to perform regularly in **three separate main stage venues**.

**Virginia Stage Company**, a not-for-profit, professional resident theater company, enriches, educates and entertains the region by creating and producing theatrical art of the highest quality and worthy of national prominence.

**Virginia Symphony** is recognized as one of the nation’s leading regional symphony orchestras, the Virginia Symphony has enriched the cultural life of the Hampton Roads community nine decades.

**The Virginia Arts Festival** Each spring, internationally acclaimed artists from around the globe team up with the best of the region’s own professional arts organizations to present a dazzling lineup of music, theatre and dance.

**The Hampton Arts Foundation** is the umbrella under which The American Theatre, The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center and the new Gordon-Kearney wing of the Theatre operate in a unique public/private partnership with the City of Hampton.

**The Chrysler Museum of Art** combines, under a single administrative umbrella, one of America’s great fine arts museums and two significant historic houses.

**The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia**

**The Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries**
The Mariner’s Museum collection totals approximately 35,000 artifacts, of which approximately one-third are paintings and two-thirds are three-dimensional objects.

The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

Verizon Wireless Virginia Beach Amphitheater

The Attucks Theatre

nTelos Wireless Pavilion

The Norfolk Tides are the Triple-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, and a member of the International League.

The Norfolk Admirals are a minor professional ice hockey team in the American Hockey League, and affiliate of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Business, government information

The Virginian-Pilot (local newspaper)

Veer Magazine (alternative source for news, arts, culture, and entertainment)

GLBT Live Radio

Norfolk International Airport

Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport

5 Points Community Farm Market

City of Norfolk

City of Virginia Beach

Other local and regional information

Colonial Williamsburg

Jamestown, and Yorktown

Outer Banks of North Carolina

Norfolk Parks and Recreation (includes other activities in the area)

Norfolk Utilities Water Resources: Boating on Norfolk’s reservoirs: Fishing stations, boat ramps, maps, etc. Kayaks are allowed with a boating permit.

Great Dismal Swamp

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation

Northwest River Park

First Landing State Park

Kiptopeke State Park

Chippoke Plantation State Park

Chippokes Farm and Forestry Museum

Virginia daytrips