

Financial Aid

Students admitted to the doctoral program in Applied Experimental Psychology are generally guaranteed tuition remission and funding as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant for the first 2-4 years, depending on previous graduate work. Students may also be eligible for financial aid through the university.

For More Information

Feel free to contact us by mail (see address below), email (psychppd@odu.edu), by phone (757) 683-4439, or on the web:

<http://sci.odu.edu/psychology/>

Or contact us by traditional mail services:

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Doctoral Study in Applied Experimental Psychology at



Do You Want...

- *A Consistently Challenging Experience?*
- *Energetic, Talented and Committed Faculty?*
- *Access to Expertise in a Variety of Applied Academic Areas?*
- *Proximity to World Class Research Resources?*
- *Multidisciplinary Collaboration?*
- *A Growing Program with Firm Regional Ties?*
- *A Close-Knit Community of Scholars?*
- *The Opportunity to do Ground-Breaking Research?*

At Old Dominion University (ODU), we offer all of this and more. Situated in the center of the beautiful and economically thriving Hampton Roads area, ODU is closely allied with academic, federal, military, and industrial partners such as the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center, Eastern Virginia Medical School, NASA Langley, US Navy, US Joint Forces Command, and Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard. ODU is a leader in distance education, serving a wide student base through regional and shipboard centers. Our faculty members are experienced and knowledgeable, conducting funded research on diverse topics such as parenting in the context of stressors such as substance abuse or deployment, adult outcomes of child maltreatment, driving behavior, aging and cognition, and coping with chronic illness.

Ph.D. in Applied Experimental Psychology

The Ph.D. program in applied experimental at ODU follows the scientist-practitioner model, emphasizing psychological theory and behavioral science. ODU faculty members involved in the applied experimental program have expertise in developmental psychology, community psychology, cognition, and health psychology. They are well versed in experimental design and statistics. We encourage students to make innovative and professional contributions to the field. Our performance expectations and standards are high; however, faculty members are committed to your success. The learning environment is open, nurturing, and cooperative, and students are encouraged to be active partners in the learning process.



Faculty and Areas of Research Emphasis

ODU's applied experimental program features core faculty, affiliated department faculty, and adjunct faculty working in the region. Core faculty members include:

Ivan K. Ash, Ph.D. 2005, U. Illinois at Chicago – Dr. Ash's research area is Cognitive Psychology. His recent projects have included investigating the role of representational change in creative problem solving, and looking at the effects of surprising information on judgment-making biases.

Valerian J. Derlega, PhD 1971, U. Maryland -- Dr. Derlega's area of research is concerned mainly with the area of close relationships. He also studies factors influencing coping with stress and non-verbal behavior, the psychology of gender and sex roles, self-disclosure, and privacy regulation issues in coping with HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases.

Perry M. Duncan, PhD 1969, U. Washington -- Dr. Duncan studies the effects of psychoactive drugs on animal behavior. Much of his work has involved the combination of CNS depressants and stimulants. Currently he is examining behavioral aspects of hypoglycemia in rats.



James M. Henson, PhD 2004, UCLA - Dr. Henson is a quantitative psychologist with statistical and applied research interests. He examines mixture detection in latent variable models, and his applied interests involve assessment of various personality constructs, such as sensation-seeking, and their role in influencing health-risk behaviors in adolescents and adults.

Elaine M. Justice, PhD 1980, U. Cincinnati -- Dr. Justice's areas of research are cognitive and developmental psychology. She studies the relation of strategy use, motivational variables, and metacognition to memory and academic performance. Recent studies have focused on children's understanding of intention for strategy use, and cognitive and motivational factors for predicting college students' academic performance.

Michelle L. Kelley, PhD 1988, U. Houston -- Dr. Kelley examines the relationship between parenting and children's social and cognitive development. She has focused on the impact of Navy deployment in families, work-family stress, paternal influences on children's development, parenting in families experiencing economic stress, job instability, or substance abuse and parent-child relationships in families with disabled children.

Peter J. Mikulka, PhD 1967, Rutgers U. – Dr. Mikulka studies human performance and adaptive automation. He is also interested in the relationship between electrodermal activity and facial recognition.

Bryan E. Porter, PhD 1996, U. Memphis -- Dr. Porter studies large-scale problems that have included environmental waste, fire safety, and traffic safety. He currently works with government and community partners to change unsafe roadway behaviors. Dr. Porter has used field research methods, behavioral interventions, and educational outreach to target red light running, following too close, pedestrian unsafe walking, and safety belt non-use.

Resources Available

At ODU, graduate students in applied experimental have access to world-class research resources. In addition to standard computing and research space within the department (including a full fidelity driving simulator and a range of state-of-the-art physiological recording equipment), collaborative research arrangements are in place with entities that include the following:

Eastern Virginia Medical School - located minutes away from the ODU campus. Research projects are underway concerning the validity of the use of standardized patients in training medical students, barriers to compliance to medical regimens, the impact of child illness on work-family stress, a community intervention to increase the use of child safety seat use, and medical simulation evaluation.

Local Behavioral Healthcare Services – Faculty have conducted evaluations of programs in place in Portsmouth and other communities to prevent substance abuse and to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

Local Law Enforcement Programs and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles – Faculty have coordinated with these agencies to investigate the effectiveness of interventions to curtail unsafe driving behaviors such as red light running and tailgating.