Serving Our Military-Affiliated Students

Did you know that nearly 25% of ODU students have a connection to the military? This population of military-affiliated students is a very dynamic and impressive group consisting of veterans, those still serving, and spouses and children of veterans and military members. Here at ODU, we strongly value these students and know that we have a role to play in helping them navigate their way from the admissions process to graduation and beyond.

Therefore, in Fall 2013 we established the Military Connection Center to serve as a hub that connects prospective and current military-affiliated students with the answers they may be looking for, whether it be about their GI Bill benefits, transferring in credit from military service or looking for resources to help them in the future. The Military Connection Center is staffed by veterans and military family members who understand what it means to be in the military and will make sure that you and your students get the information and assistance that you need.

If your students ever have questions that need to be answered or want to know how to access the resources they need, encourage them to visit the Military Connection Center (located in room 1000 in the Student Success Center), send an email to military@odu.edu or call 757.683.7153. The Military Connection Center staff will be happy to help!
Dear Monarch family members,

A national movement is underway to combat sexual violence. I wanted to take the opportunity to reach out to you to let you know that ODU has always taken this topic seriously. At ODU, we have zero tolerance for this type of behavior, and we’re taking comprehensive steps to prevent it on our campus. Education and prevention is the best defense against these crimes, and offering student-friendly and expert support and advice is a hallmark of Old Dominion.

On the ODU campus, students are leading important safety initiatives such as the M-POWER Peer Education Network designed to allow students to educate their peers through programs and discussions that promote gender equality and anti-violence. Our student leaders are taking the lead in educating and creating a culture of respect on our campus. Some are making news at the state and national levels as they push to eradicate sexual violence on all university campuses. Our student body president, Christopher Ndiritu, serves as a member of the Virginia Governor’s Task Force on Combating Campus Sexual Violence. ODU senior, Saige Hill, spoke at the White House this past fall about our efforts to prevent sexual violence, as part of a news conference in which President Obama and Vice President Biden launched a nationwide “It’s On Us” campaign against sexual assault.

As parents, I want you to be aware of what we have available in education as well as support for victims. Listed below is a small sampling of current pro-active measures we are taking to maintain the safety and well-being of our students.

- First Class is a program in which all incoming freshman students participate on their first day on campus. They learn the facts about sexual assault, as well as their role in prevention, bystander intervention and responding to concerns of their peers. Then we have programs throughout the year on this topic in the residence halls, for clubs and organizations, and in the classroom.

- The Women’s Center provides education about sexual assault and relationship violence prevention through engaging programs throughout the year. This office also provides crisis support, referrals and assistance with reporting incidents. You can reach the Women’s Center at 757.683.4109 or womenctr@odu.edu.

- Counseling Services employs licensed mental health professionals who, as a part of their responsibilities, help students cope with trauma when needed. You can reach Counseling Services at 757.683.4401.

- Student Ombudsperson Services works with faculty and other officials to help students navigate the available support services. The Ombudsperson can be reached at 757.683.3442.

By taking this multi-faceted approach, we continue to make the ODU community a safe space for our students to learn and grow. We welcome you to be a partner in our efforts.

- Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, Vice President for Student Engagement & Enrollment Services