Hello, my name is Robert Wojtowicz, and I’m the dean of the Old Dominion University Graduate School. Welcome to Old Dominion University!

Graduate Education is an integral part of the University’s mission. We offer numerous graduate degree programs, postgraduate licensures, and certificates that are broad in scope and many that are nationally and internationally recognized. We serve students in the Commonwealth of Virginia, throughout the United States, and around the world by creating and disseminating knowledge within and across disciplines; promoting integrity in teaching, research, and scholarship; fostering cultural awareness, diversity, and inclusiveness; and increasing collaborative partnerships with the Hampton Roads Community and beyond.

Old Dominion University is classified as a doctoral institution, professional dominant, with high research activity by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

Let’s talk more specifically about graduate education at the University. Graduate enrollment currently stands at just over 4,500 as of fall 2015. It comprises approximately one-fifth of the University’s overall enrollment. Approximately one-third of the University’s graduate
students are full-time, with the remaining two-thirds taking classes part-time.

The University offers 41 master’s degrees, 2 education specialist degrees, and 21 doctoral degrees, as well as numerous graduate-level certificates and licenses.

In fall of 2015, we conferred 1,081 master’s degrees, 40 education specialist degrees, and 254 doctoral degrees. This was the highest number ever recorded.

The Graduate School serves as an advocate for graduate education and we collaborate with the various college’s deans, graduate program directors, and faculty to ensure excellence and quality in all of our programs. The colleges have responsibility for admitting new students, administering and monitoring of graduate programs, conducting periodic program reviews, developing new programs that meet local and regional needs, certifying faculty for graduate instruction, and awarding assistantships and tuition waivers to more than 700 graduate assistants.

The mission of the Old Dominion University Graduate School is to serve graduate students and graduate programs in an interdisciplinary framework that coordinates and optimizes available resources and that enhances the visibility and value of graduate education across the
region and world. The purpose of the Graduate School is to advocate for graduate students and graduate programs in a centralized manner so that policies and practices are consistently developed and applied across the academic colleges.

The Graduate School’s responsibilities include: coordinating the administration of graduate education at the University; providing leadership in establishing strategic goals and objectives for graduate education; convening Graduate Administrators’ Council (GAC);

approving new graduate-level courses, programs, and certificates; updating and publishing the University Graduate Catalog; overseeing the continuance process (including probation, suspension, and reinstatement); organizing and providing training for graduate program directors (GPDs) and staff;

advising the colleges on the faculty graduate certification process; administering the Graduate Teaching Assistant Institute (GTAI), which is the process for training and certifying graduate teaching assistants; coordinating the excellence in graduate teaching award, the doctoral mentoring award, and the graduate teaching awards;
planning and facilitating the New Graduate Student Orientation and the Graduate Research Achievement Day (GRAD); resolving student issues and grievances not resolved at other levels; and interacting with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and other professional organizations.

The Graduate School also emphasizes the importance of preparing future faculty and professionals, supports graduate student services and quality of life, and serves as an advocate for issues and constituencies critical to the success of graduate programs.

You may find additional information at our website www.odu.edu/graduatestudies, or you may call us at 757-683-4885. Feel free to stop by our office located at 2019 Koch Hall. We look forward to working with you.

Again, welcome to Old Dominion University!