Hello and welcome to the Old Dominion University family. My name is Lisa Mayes, Executive Director of Academic Enhancement and the Student Success Center. The Center is located on 43rd Street directly behind Perry Library. Today, I will share information with you about our academic support services and programs, and resources for undergraduate students and faculty.

Please feel free to contact me at the information listed. I am available most days between 8am and 5pm.

So what does Academic Enhancement do? Our aim is to provide the tools for students to succeed in the classroom and foster collaborative relationships with teaching and administrative faculty.

Academic Enhancement provides a variety of group and individualized services to ODU’s undergraduate students. We work with student affairs administrators, the academic colleges, athletics, and other University offices to develop and improve upon academic support initiatives, such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, and placement testing. These are a sampling of the services we provide to help students successfully transition through to graduation.

Our organizational structure reports to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Programs. The administrative team supports a variety of functions for all staff residing in the Student Success Center. Additional units include Academic Skills, the Peer
Educator Program, Student Support Services, Experiential Learning, and the University Testing Center.

Since its opening in 2011, the Student Success Center has been maintained by Academic Enhancement. The administrative resource analyst provides support for assessment and database development for our student initiatives. She also provides tours of the facilities in the Learning Commons and Student Success Center. The instructional resource specialist provides technology consultation in the SSC and Learning Commons. Faculty may request a one-on-one meeting and get advice on the use of a specific software programs (such as Final Cut Pro, Windows Movie Maker) or in the use of a specific piece of media equipment (video camera, voice recorder, etc.) for classroom instruction. Additional staff offer support to faculty for space reservations. We have a 40-seat mediated testing/training center; a mediated conference room with a 60” cable television; as well as smaller workshop spaces. Please contact us if you have questions or would like to reserve space.

There are a host of other important resources that we can offer to assist you. First of all, there is oducares@odu.edu. When you're teaching a class, you may notice that a student isn't showing up, or you may notice that a student’s affect has changed, or that he/she seems a little down and you're wondering: who do I contact to see how we can help this student? Answer: oducares@odu.edu. In addition, you may also be asked to serve as an academic advisor in your respective department, or one of your students will ask a question about a university policy or degree requirement. If you have an advising question, please contact advisor@odu.edu. Also, Advising and Transfer
Programs offers a master advisor certificate to help you develop your skills as an academic advisor.

Academic Skills is another unit in academic enhancement. In partnership with the Writing Center, which is housed in the Learning Commons, we offer individualized counseling on writing skills. In addition, Academic Skills will be happy to develop a writing workshop or a writing refresher course for one of your classes. In addition, Academic Skills provides basic writing courses to enhance students’ college level writing abilities. You may contact Mike Holt for additional information about support for ODU’s undergraduate writing program.

Academic Enhancement is also the home for the Peer Educator program, which offers peer-led tutoring, supplemental instruction, academic coaching, and mentoring for ODU undergraduate students. There are also a couple of the services that the Peer Educator program offers you, as an ODU faculty member. First, we have a certified training program for students interested in becoming peer leaders, tutors or mentors. Secondly, our peer mentors are available to share this valuable information about our resources to your class. They normally take five minutes to distribute flyers and encourage students to use the tutoring services.

Student Support Services is another unit in Academic Enhancement. It provides tutoring and mentoring, advising services, workshops, and cultural activities for students who meet the program criteria. If you
have a student who needs some additional help in making the transition to college life, this is an important resource for you. Signs that they may need assistance are, the student cannot afford their course materials or they are a difficult time with the college culture.

ODU undergraduates come from a variety of different backgrounds and many of them have a tremendous amount of work or military experience. Our experiential learning director can advise them on approaches to acquire academic credit for their experience. Our University testing center is housed in the Student Success Center and administers exams and provides students with the opportunity to take nationally recognized tests such as CLEP and DANTES. The testing center also provides placement testing for mathematics and foreign language. All undergraduate students, first-year freshmen, and transfer students must take the Writing Sample Placement Test. In order to graduate, all ODU undergraduates must meet the undergraduate writing requirement which includes taking and passing the Writing Sample Placement Test.

A partnership of the University Libraries, the Office of Technology Services, and Academic Enhancement, the Learning Commons @ Perry Library space is designed for interactive learning. Moveable furniture, group collaboration rooms, a presentation room, and a multimedia lab with a sound booth support both the creative development of group and individual projects. The Learning Commons offers technology, expert assistance, library resources, and student support tutoring and mentoring services -- to
provide students with tools they can use to develop and succeed academically.

Academic Enhancement and Student Success Center staff members are available Monday through Friday. I have provided a contact list for you so you have the resource to connect with us when you have a need. I also encourage you to visit our website which showcases all of our programs and services.

On behalf of Academic Enhancement and the Student Success Center, I welcome you to Old Dominion University.