Resources Available

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, ODU Chapter – our chapter is very active; we have hosted many speakers, and have won various awards.

At ODU, graduate students in human factors have access to world-class research resources. In addition to 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:

NASA Langley Research Center – as one of NASA’s premier centers for aerospace research, students may collaborate with human factors researchers at NASA through a variety of educational programs.

Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC) - conducts a wide range of funded research projects concerning modeling and simulation. Human factors specialists provide research, testing, training, and behavioral modeling support for military, medical, and business applications.

Eastern Virginia Medical School - is a regional leader in the use of medical simulators for surgery, trauma, and standardized patients for family medicine. Human factors researchers are helping to train the next generation of medical specialists.

Financial Aid

Students admitted to the doctoral program in Human Factors 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:

Ph.D. PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
Department of Psychology
Mills Godwin Building 250
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529

Graduate Study in Human Factors 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, and NASA Langley. ODU is a leader in distance education, serving a wide student base through regional and shipboard centers, and by symbiotic connections with institutions like William and Mary and George Mason Universities. Our faculty members represent a combination of experience and energy, conducting funded research on diverse topics such as military simulation, surface and air transportation, medical simulation and error analysis, and team processes.

Do You Want…

• A Consistently Challenging Experience?
• Energetic, Talented and Committed Faculty?
• 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?
Ph.D. in Human Factors

The Ph.D. program in human factors at ODU follows the scientist-practitioner model, emphasizing psychological theory and behavioral science. Faculty members understand the fundamental and ancillary areas of human factors, and they are well versed in statistics and research methodology. At ODU, you’ll gain an appreciation of the broader organizational context for practicing human factors, and you will receive valuable practical experience. 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 pedagogical partners.

Core Faculty and Research Interests:

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.

James P. Bliss, PhD 1993, U. Central Florida; Dr. Bliss studies the occurrence of alarm (and automation) mistrust, the factors contributing to the development of mistrust, and how designers and trainers can optimize compliance to automated systems. He also studies the use of virtual environments for training complex tasks.

J. Christopher Brill, PhD 2007, U. Central Florida; Dr. Brill is interested in human performance with multimodal displays, particularly the sense of touch. He also studies manifestations of simulator sickness, including sopite syndrome.

Poornima Madhavan, PhD 2006, U. Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Dr. Madhavan is interested in studying human decision making processes in complex environments that embody risk, stress, time pressure, and uncertainty. She currently uses simulated environments such as military, aviation, and defense/homeland security to investigate these issues.

Mark W. Scherbo, PhD 1987, U. Cincinnati; Dr. Scherbo’s main interests concern human performance with medical/surgical simulators and adaptive technology. In addition, Dr. Scherbo studies issues concerning vigilance, human-computer interaction, and virtual environments.

Affiliated Faculty and Research Interests:

Donald D. Davis, PhD 1982, Michigan State U.; Dr. Davis' research interests lie in the general area of organizational change and improvement. He is currently studying management of advanced technology, leadership and organizational culture, and organizational influences on human resources.

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 assessment of various personality constructs, such as sensation-seeking.

Debra Major, PhD 1992, Michigan State U.; Dr. Major’s research interests include work-family conflict, developmental relationships at work, barriers to the career development of women and minorities, and teamwork. Her work has been funded by NASA, NSF, and NIH. She works closely with the Eastern Virginia Medical School.

A Distinctive Program

Since the formation of the ODU human factors program in 1977, graduates have shown extraordinary success in the human factors field. A partial list of alumni and their current organizational affiliation include:

Dr. Ruth Arnegard – NCR Corp.
Dr. Nathan Bailey – Aptima, Inc.
Dr. Orhan Beckman – Hewlett-Packard
Dr. Christina Bubb-Lewis – Lucent Technologies
Dr. Ernesto Bustamante – U. Idaho
Dr. James R. Comstock - NASA Langley
Dr. Shari Converse – North Carolina State University
Dr. Todd M. Eisheid – IBM, Inc.
Dr. Ann Fulop - State Farm Insurance
Dr. Monty Grubb - Trilogy Behavioral Services
Dr. Mike McAnulty - FAA
Dr. Gwen Pearson - AT&T
Dr. Matt Risser – Pacific Science & Engineering
Dr. Eduardo Salas – U. Central Florida