

# The Virginian-Pilot

Hampton Roads, Pages 1 and 8, December 2, 2009

## REPORT SHOWS HOW WELL COLLEGES ARE BEING FUNDED

By Denise Watson Batts  
*The Virginian-Pilot*

People hear about Old Dominion University's expanding modeling and simulation programs and see campus improvements and might assume that the school is rolling in money, said ODU President John Broderick.

That isn't the case, according to numbers recently released by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Old Dominion is at the bottom when it comes to receiving the portion of funding the state says it should get.

With federal stimulus money, state support, tuition and fees, ODU expects this year to bring in \$210.6 million. The state says it needs

### by the numbers

**ODU** expects this year to bring in \$210.6 million, falling short at 83 percent of the \$254.6 million the state says it needs.

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**The College of William and Mary** will get 101 percent.

# FUNDING HAS DECLINED

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\$254.6 million. Other schools look better on paper, such as Norfolk State University, which will receive 103 percent of its funding, and the College of William and Mary, which will get 101 percent.

The state uses a formula to determine how much each school should receive. Under the formula, the commonwealth aims to pay two-thirds of the cost of in-state students, and families handle the rest through tuition and fees. But state funding has declined 18 percent at four-year institutions and 9 percent at community colleges between 1992 and 2010, according to the state council.

The gap has worsened with the recession and revenue shortfalls within the state.

At community colleges, the cuts are even more pronounced as they deal with exploding enrollment. Tidewater Community College's population jumped 20 percent this fall, and the State Board of Community Colleges recently approved a tuition increase for the spring to handle the costs that come with the jump in enrollment.

The new tuition revenue, however, "has by no means zeroed out the cuts," said TCC President Deborah DiCroce.

And despite what the figures show for NSU, the college is not overfunded, said Earlie Horsey, special assistant to the president for policy.

Norfolk State, as well as Virginia State University in Petersburg, receives additional federal money through an agreement with the Office of Civil Rights, to make up for historical deficiencies to black institutions. Norfolk State officials have challenged the state, contending that some of those federal monies are being included in the state's funding calculations when they should not. The practice, school officials say, prevents the school from getting its fair share from the commonwealth. Norfolk State also has raised tuition in recent years to cover state budget adjustments.

"We should always be funded above the base because that's what OCR says," Horsey said.

The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg can make a similar argument, said Sam Jones, vice president for finance. Its Board of Visitors recently approved a midyear tuition increase for the spring to manage the latest round of state cuts announced in September.

The council's numbers show that William and Mary is well-funded, but if

the state were following its policy, it would give the college about \$21 million more, Jones said.

"What keeps us is that we've used tuition revenue to do some things that had to be done," Jones said.

William and Mary also enrolls a higher percentage of out-of-state students than other schools, such as ODU. Out-of-state students pay more than in-state students.

As the state faces another budget shortfall, Broderick hopes the legislature looks at the report and realizes ODU can't afford more hits.

"Part of it is that we've grown during the past 10, 12 years and state funding hasn't corresponded to that," Broderick said.

TCC's DiCroce hopes that the state uses the data in its long-term planning, especially if it wants to produce globally competitive students and help businesses that rely on community colleges for training.

"The bottom line is we find ourselves as an absolutely critical piece of delivering on the state's quality of life and economic vitality," DiCroce said, "but we still remain the most underfunded sector of Virginia's higher education."

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**college funding** Estimated 2009-10 "Base Adequacy" funding for the state's public four-year institutions and community colleges, including federal stimulus money, which was allocated for the next two years to help schools combat state cuts. The "funding to guideline" category is calculated by dividing resources by need.

INSTITUTION NAME	CALCULATED NEED	AVAILABLE RESOURCES	FUNDING SHORTFALL	% FUNDING TO GUIDELINE
Virginia Military Institute	\$24,984,546	\$29,425,974	0	118%
Norfolk State University	\$64,937,728	\$67,131,834	0	103%
College of William and Mary	\$135,572,513	\$136,290,184	0	101%
University of Virginia	\$485,465,822	\$486,601,382	0	100%
University of Virginia at Wise	\$20,680,127	\$20,480,980	-\$199,147	99%
George Mason University	\$361,985,562	\$352,196,153	-\$9,789,409	97%
Virginia State University	\$59,214,299	\$56,606,327	-\$2,607,972	96%
Christopher Newport University	\$59,243,751	\$56,396,639	-\$2,847,112	95%
James Madison University	\$225,439,721	\$214,672,164	-\$10,767,557	95%
University of Mary Washington	\$61,430,235	\$56,836,859	-\$4,593,376	93%
Richard Bland College	\$9,510,048	\$8,828,557	-\$681,491	93%
Virginia Community College System	\$797,008,794	\$729,849,036	-\$67,159,758	92%
Longwood University	\$57,410,103	\$51,690,352	-\$5,719,751	90%
Virginia Tech	\$550,290,342	\$494,477,079	-\$55,813,263	90%
Radford University	\$104,304,290	\$92,628,649	-\$11,675,641	89%
Virginia Commonwealth University	\$502,216,533	\$446,288,704	-\$55,927,829	89%
Old Dominion University	\$254,599,428	\$210,620,426	-\$43,979,002	83%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,774,293,842</b>	<b>\$3,511,021,299</b>	<b>-\$271,761,308</b>	

SOURCE: STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA