

Online Virginia Network Cost Structure Report

October 1, 2021

Purpose

This document is designed to address Code of Virginia § 23.1-3137 (11.), which requires an "Annual report of the Online Virginia Network Authority on the cost structure of funds allocated to the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of the Online Virginia Network."

Online Virginia Network (OVN) Vision

- Build a network across Virginia universities to support adult degree completion
- Increase the number of college degree completers in Virginia
- Create accessible and efficient pathways to a bachelor's degree
- Provide more cost-effective programs than traditional degree offerings

OVN Authority Board Established 2018 (House Bill 1181)

- 4 Members of the Virginia House of Delegates
- 3 Members of the Senate of Virginia
- 3 Citizen appointees by the Governor
- President of George Mason University or designee
- President of Old Dominion University or designee
- Chancellor of Virginia Community College System or designee
- President of James Madison University or designee
- Director of SCHEV
- 1 George Mason University BOV Nominee
- 1 Old Dominion University BOV Nominee
- 1 VCCS Board Nominee
- 1 James Madison University BOV Nominee

Role of OVN Board (Duties of Authority)

- Expand access to affordable online delivery of courses that facilitate completion of degrees at George Mason University, James Madison University, Old Dominion University and Virginia Community College System
- Encourage public institutions to offer online courses through the Network and oversee approval process to participate with such funds as appropriated

- Serve as resource for online programs and coordinate online portal of Network offerings
- Collaborate to ensure needs of students through online student support systems
- Ensure courses expand access and respond to employment demands
- Provide cost effective and flexible offerings
- Promote seamless transferability of courses
- Assist participating institutions to expand online offerings
- Develop goals for meeting demand for affordable/accessible online learning and examine ways to reduce cost of online education
- Annually report to General Assembly on cost structure of funds allocated for the Network and account for moneys received

OVN Progress to Date and Next Steps

- 2015 – Initial budget language introduced in General Assembly Session
- 2016 – General Assembly provides \$3 million over biennium for OVN creation
- 2017 – Web portal launch, OVN Authority established (15-member board), additional courses developed, refined media strategy, worked with SCHEV to identify candidates for completion
- 2018 – Develop/increase capacity of course and high demand program offerings, create efficient pathways through degree completion, enhance infrastructure for student support and flexible scheduling, cultivate community college partners, refine marketing tactics to identify more online learners. Met 2017-18 enrollment goals.
- 2019 – Expand partnership to five VCCS institutions, create branding of OVN to promote community college attendance, complement digital advertising with big data leads to reach potential online learners, define unique personas for OVN outreach efforts. Met 2018-19 enrollment goals.
- 2020 – Expand partnership to James Madison University and two additional VCCS institutions, establish collaborations with NCI and higher education centers, develop portal integration with “Transfer Virginia”, transfer budget authority for OVN to Old Dominion University, explore OVN business models to meet COVID-19 demands. Met 2019-20 enrollment goals.
- 2021 - Utilize half of \$10M from American Rescue Plan funds approved in August 2021 to expand scope of OVN offerings and services. Establish administrative organizational team including budget and resource management, technology and infrastructure solutions, marketing and outreach, and enrollment coaching and advising support. Expand promotion and targeted outreach through integrated marketing strategies, connect degree-completer web-based platforms, and provide career tools to link value of bachelor’s degree, internships, and job placement. Met 2020-21 enrollment goals.

OVN Budget/Cost Structure

To date, the OVN initiative has been funded for 6 years. Funding is allocated from SCHEV to the ODU to serve as the ODU Budget Authority. The Budget Authority distributes to individual institutions their OVN related expenditures. The tables on the following pages detail expenditures in FY21. The budget allocation of \$4M supports OVN as presented and approved at the December 17, 2020 OVN Authority Board meeting. The FY22 budget for \$4M in base and half of the \$10M in one-time American Rescue Program (ARP) funds was approved by the OVN board on September 21, 2021.

FY21 Approved Budget – December 17, 2020

Project Support & Management	\$ 200,000
Technology	\$ 579,000
Outreach	\$ 981,000
Course Creation & Capacity	\$1,753,750
Student Support	\$ 486,250
Total	\$4,000,000

FY22 Approved Budget – September 21, 2021

Project Management/Coordination	\$ 320,000
Technology & Related Support	\$1,579,000
Outreach, Lead Acquisition & Related Service	\$2,481,000
Course Creation/Scalability	\$2,633,750
Coaching, Student Support & Career Services	\$1,986,250
Total	\$9,000,000

**Online Virginia Network Budget
FY21 – FY22
FY21 (Expenditures)**

OVN Budget: \$4M

	Combined Resources	Institutional Resources	TOTAL
Project Management Support	\$ 200,000		\$200,000
Lead & Prospect Acquisition/Service			
Technology			
Contracted Web Architecture Re-design	\$ 24,000		\$24,000
Web Functionality/Enhancements/Hosting	\$ 90,000		\$90,000
IT Development and Support	\$ 140,000		\$140,000
Lead Acquisition			
Communication and Outreach	\$ 661,950		\$661,950
Mason		\$ 15,000	\$15,000
ODU			
VCCS			
Madison		\$ 20,000	\$20,000
Outreach strategy, implementation, analytics	\$ 284,050		\$284,050
Course Creation and Capacity			
Portfolio Development (Course Creation)			
Mason		\$ 570,000	\$570,000
ODU		\$ 300,000	\$300,000
VCCS		\$ 483,750	\$483,750
Madison		\$ 400,000	\$400,000
Student Support			
Mason		\$ 65,000	\$65,000
ODU		\$ 105,000	\$105,000
VCCS		\$ 166,250	\$166,250
Madison		\$ 150,000	\$150,000
Institutional Tech Infrastructure/Integration/Development			
Mason			
ODU		\$ 245,000	\$245,000
VCCS			
Madison		\$ 80,000	\$80,000
Total	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 4,000,000
Note: Allocation to each institutional partner \$650,000			