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11/15/24
CYSE 368

Reflective Journal 5

On November 14th, we held an event called the MEESA Open House. The Maritime Engineering and Environmental Studies Academy (MEESA) is a two-year magnet program in Newport News, Virginia. It offers students a unique opportunity to explore maritime engineering and logistics while earning dual enrollment credits from Old Dominion University. The program is designed to prepare students for high-demand careers in the Maritime industry.

The program provides hands-on learning opportunities. The program emphasizes practical experience. It does this through a capstone project and an internship. An example would be an internship



with Newport News Shipbuilding. These experiences provide students with valuable real-world skills and knowledge. Real-world, hands-on experience is invaluable for



personal and professional development. It specifically has the intention of going beyond theoretical knowledge by offering practical experience. It offers skill-building and insight that are difficult to gain in an otherwise restricted

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academic setting. This will enhance understanding and retention of knowledge. It is also ideal for working with others. These practical experiences build technical and soft skills. They will promote problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and adaptability. It fosters resilience, adaptability, and critical thinking to navigate complex problems. This sort of exposure can help to get your foot in the door. This can include networking, internships, and other career opportunities. It can essentially enhance the chances of securing a job.

What does the program require of students?

To complete the program successfully, students must:

- Complete foundational courses in Maritime Systems and Engineering Explorations in Maritime and Environmental Studies during 11th grade.
- Choose a specialized pathway in either Maritime Engineering or Maritime Logistics in the 12th grade.
- Participate in a capstone project and an externship with industry partners.
- Earn up to 6 dual enrollment credits from Old Dominion University.
- Obtain industry certifications, such as the Pre-Engineering Certification Examination: Fundamentals or the Certified Logistics Technician (CLT) 4.0.
- Attend classes at both the MEESA Campus, located at the Brooks Crossing Innovation Center, and a zoned NNPS school as part of the half-day program



As stated prior, students can earn Dual Enrollment Credits. Students can earn up to 6 dual enrollment credits from ODU. This also allows them to explore their interests at a higher academic level. At this particular Open House, there were multiple stations of different companies in the area. In Newport News, MEESA might refer to programs or initiatives connected to local museums or educational organizations, for example; The Mariners' Museum and Park.