

Dr. Donald D. Denton

Awards: Four-Time Winner: University of Maryland Global Campus Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award, 2022-2023 latest award

University of Maryland Global Campus: Dr. Denton began teaching at the University of Maryland University College (now University of Maryland Global Campus) in 2008 while completing a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Management at the Douglas L. Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. Academic degrees in ministry and psychotherapy plus his publication history and continuing interests in the fields of international relations, intelligence gathering, and the history of religion combined with his military background and teaching at Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care to make a good fit for the university's developing curriculum and program.

The first years were very intense. Curriculum and academic performance standards had to be developed while also teaching the initial courses that had been identified as key subject matter areas. Courses in terrorism, physical security, continuity of operations and the social dimensions of disasters competed with teaching courses in hazard and risk as well as leadership and the ever-present introductory courses. Homeland Security (HSMN) and Emergency Management (EMAN) eventually were separated into two departments. The early classes were quite large, approaching on-line twenty-five students scattered across the globe and still used a mixture of required text books and on-line documents. The university abandoned the use of text books about five years ago, making their course offerings entirely internet-document-based. Class sizes are now more manageable, with ten to fifteen students being the rule.

These are students who have become the next generation of leaders in the fields of security and emergency management. They find positions in various government agencies at all levels. They are increasingly filling positions in private industries and non-profit agencies that recognize the value such professional can add to entities that have a global footprint. For example: one of Dr. Denton's students was a director in Wal-Mart's International Crisis Management Department while completing her Master's degree. When there is a catastrophic event anywhere in the world that affects the corporation's business and personnel, she is one of the primary managers that vectors in supplies and personnel to both aid the actual property as well as marshal relief supplies that the unit can provide to the affected region.