

# Academic Programs, Degrees and Degree Requirements

## ***Mission Statement***

Rooted in the historic tradition of the United Church of Christ, Elon University embraces its founders' vision of an academic community that transforms mind, body and spirit, and encourages freedom of thought and liberty of conscience.

To fulfill this vision, Elon University acts upon these commitments:

- We nurture a rich intellectual community characterized by active student engagement with a faculty dedicated to excellent teaching and scholarly accomplishment.
- We provide a dynamic and challenging undergraduate curriculum grounded in the traditional liberal arts and sciences and complemented by distinctive professional and graduate programs.
- We integrate learning across the disciplines and put knowledge into practice, thus preparing students to be global citizens and informed leaders motivated by concern for the common good.
- We foster respect for human differences, passion for a life of learning, personal integrity, and an ethic of work and service.

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## ***Academic Message***

An Elon student's highest purpose is **Academic Citizenship**: giving first attention to learning and reflection, developing intellectually, connecting knowledge and experiences, and upholding Elon's honor codes.

## ***Elon University Academic Honor Code***

All students at Elon University pledge to uphold the Academic Honor Code which recognizes self responsibility as a critical element in avoiding behaviors such as cheating, lying, plagiarizing, stealing and assisting other students in these violations. The current Student Handbook outlines violations, sanctions and hearing procedures in detail.

## ***Degrees and Degree Requirements***

### **Bachelor of Arts (A.B.)**

Art  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Chemistry/Chemical Engineering  
Communications  
    Broadcast and New Media  
    Corporate Communications  
    Cinema  
Computer Information Systems  
Computer Science  
Computer Science/Engineering  
Dance  
Economics  
Education  
    Elementary (K-6)  
    Middle Grades (6-9)  
    Secondary Licensure (9-12)  
    Special Education/LD (K-12)  
English  
French  
History  
Human Services  
Independent Major  
International Studies  
Journalism  
Mathematics  
Music  
Music Performance  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Public Administration  
Religious Studies  
Science Education  
Social Science Education  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Theatre Arts

### **Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)**

Music Theatre  
Theatre Arts (Acting)

### **Bachelor of Science (B.S.)**

Accounting  
Athletic Training  
Biology  
Business Administration  
    Management  
    Finance  
    Marketing  
    International Business  
    Management Information Systems  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
Engineering Mathematics  
Engineering Physics  
Environmental Studies  
Environmental Studies/Engineering  
Exercise/Sport Science  
Health Education  
Leisure and Sport Management  
Mathematics  
Medical Technology  
Music Education  
Physical Education  
Physics

## Bachelor's Degree Requirements

Elon University offers an academic program consisting of a minimum of 132 semester hours of credit for the bachelor's degree. The degree consists of a major field of concentration in the liberal arts or in a professional or preprofessional area, a General Studies program and elective courses. To earn a baccalaureate degree the student completes the following academic program:

1. Satisfactory work in one major subject
2. Completion of General Studies as follows:
  - a. First-Year Core
    - (1) General Studies 110 The Global Experience .....4
    - (2) General Studies/English 110 .....4
    - (3) General Studies/Mathematics (MTH 112, 121 or higher) .....4  
(Excludes MTH 210)
    - (4) General Studies/HED 111 Contemporary Wellness Issues .....2
  - b. Experiential Learning (one unit)
  - c. Liberal Studies

Transfer students with at least 18 semester hours of transfer credit must complete 32 hours total in Liberal Studies, but may have as few as 7 hours in one or more of the four Liberal Studies areas.

- (1) Expression .....8  
 Eight hours chosen from at least two of the following: literature (in English or foreign languages), philosophy and fine arts (art, dance, fine arts, music, music theatre and theatre arts). At least one course must be literature.
- (2) Civilization.....8  
 Eight hours chosen from at least two of the following: history, foreign languages and religion. Or eight hours chosen from foreign languages.
- (3) Society .....8  
 Eight hours chosen from at least two of the following: economics, geography, political science, psychology and sociology.
- (4) Science/Analysis.....8  
 Eight hours chosen from one or more of the following: mathematics, computer science (must have the CSC department designation) and science. At least one course must be a physical or biological laboratory science.
- d. Advanced Studies .....12  
 Eight hours of Advanced level\* courses outside the major field chosen from at least two of the four areas listed under Liberal Studies (8 sh)  
 One General Studies Interdisciplinary Seminar (4 sh)

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**Total hours**

**58**

\* Advanced level courses consist of courses numbered at the 300-400 level and certain 200 level courses that have been approved by the General Studies Council. Such courses would be marked in the schedule books for each semester and in the academic catalog.

3. Completion of elective courses to meet 132 credit hours
4. Satisfactory completion of General Studies competency assessments in the freshman and sophomore years
5. Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive evaluation in the major field of study
6. A minimum of 36 semester hours of junior/senior level work
7. One full academic year of study at Elon (33 semester hours or more), including the last term before graduation
8. Twice as many quality points as credit hours attempted must be earned
9. Participation in commencement exercises

Students must demonstrate competence in English and Mathematics or successfully complete English 100 and Mathematics 100 before beginning English 110 and the mathematics requirement in the First-Year Core.

Students who have not passed Algebra II should make up this deficiency by taking Mathematics 100 during the freshman year.

Students who have not had two years of one foreign language in secondary school must make up this deficiency by taking a first level 110 foreign language course. Courses taken to remove this deficiency will not satisfy the General Studies requirements.

A maximum of 16 semester hours of internship/cooperative education credit may be applied to the 132 semester hours required for the A.B., B.S. and B.F.A. degrees.

Students must apply for graduation by the dates published by the Registrar.

A student may graduate under the provisions of the catalog published the year of first enrollment, provided the course of study is completed within five years. After the interval of five years, a student's credits will be subject to review by the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

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Students who qualify for more than one major must select the primary major for which they will receive a bachelor's degree. No student will be awarded two degrees at commencement.

It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the preceding requirements for graduation.

## The Major

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in the requirements for the major is required for graduation. Bachelor of arts majors require 32-52 semester hours of credit. Bachelor of science or bachelor of fine arts majors require 32-68 semester hours of credit. The student may elect to complete more than one major. No later than the beginning of the junior year, each candidate for a bachelor's degree must select a major field. Requirements for each major are listed with the courses of instruction.

## The Minor

A candidate for the bachelor's degree may elect a field (or fields) of minor concentration, consisting of 20-24 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

## **Academic Programs**

The academic program at Elon University prepares qualified students to enter graduate and professional schools or readies students to begin work in such fields as business, communications, teaching, public service and allied health. The bachelor's degree consists of a major field of concentration in the liberal arts or in a professional or preprofessional area, a general studies program and elective courses.

## **General Studies**

Elon's General Studies program reflects the university's long history of strong liberal arts education in a distinctive and highly contemporary form. First year students have the exceptional opportunity to begin their university careers in an intimate, seminar setting. The Global Experience course features a broad interdisciplinary investigation into many of the profound challenges facing the planet as we move into this new millennium. With classes individually designed by professors noted for their excellent teaching, each group gains a unique perspective on a set of issues under discussion campus-wide. As a result, the entire class of first year students participates in an ongoing dialogue rich with diverse opinions, approaches and sources of information.

The Global Experience course models the most admirable qualities of university learning. Students are called upon to participate and converse daily in a seminar setting. Collaboration and cooperation are fostered by frequent activities and projects. Writing and critical thinking are refined and the students develop a skill set that supports their future explorations in the university and beyond.

Developed with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the advanced seminars at the junior and senior level are interdisciplinary in order to help students think about important issues that cross the boundaries of traditional disciplines.

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Elon's General Studies program also embodies the university's focus on a holistic approach to education, linking theory to application through the experiential learning requirement. Through General Studies, Elon students encounter the best of the Elon faculty, are challenged to think in new and creative ways, and bring focus to their education through experience.

The General Studies program consists of four elements:

### **First-Year Core**

In these four courses, students: 1) sharpen their reading, communication, numerical and information retrieval skills, 2) deepen their appreciation for a diversity of ideas, 3) grow in their ability to think independently, 4) learn to appreciate the wholeness of their own mind, values and body, 5) build on the careful and creative thinking that will bring them into the world of scholarship, and 6) learn that leadership is a way of thinking as well as a set of skills.

### **Experiential Learning**

The requirement encourages students to engage the world about them actively and to reflect insightfully about their experiences. Included in experiential learning are study abroad, internships/co-ops, service learning activities, undergraduate research programs, leadership activities and individualized learning.

## Liberal Studies

Elon students take courses from a variety of areas, learning facts and ideas from professors and disciplines outside their majors. As they complete their Liberal Studies requirement, Elon students learn that there are multiple ways to examine problems and differing strategies for the development of solutions.

## Advanced Studies

Upper-level courses outside the major carry the broad Elon education past the introductory level. A required interdisciplinary seminar provides the capstone to the General Studies experience. Students work closely with a professor as they use intellectual skills to cross the borders between traditional academic disciplines.

The General Studies program assumes learning is cumulative and developmental. Elon University students will revisit the theme of a broad education from initial enrollment to graduation.

## Elon 101

Elon 101 is a specially designed academic advising course/program that introduces first-semester students to life at Elon University. Among the topics discussed are academic expectations and how to become involved in campus activities. An extended orientation to Elon, the course is co-taught by the students' academic advisors and student teaching assistants. This elective class is limited in size to 16 students. The course meets weekly during the first semester and offers one semester hour of general credit upon successful completion. Grades given in this course are "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory."

## Degrees and Major Fields of Concentration

Elon offers courses leading to the undergraduate degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Science.

**The Bachelor of Arts degree** is awarded in the following fields: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Chemistry/Chemical Engineering, Communications (Broadcast and New Media, Corporate Communications and Cinema), Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Computer Science/ Engineering, Dance, Economics, Education (Elementary, Middle, Secondary — various subject areas, Special Education/Learning Disabilities), English, French, History, Human Services, Independent Major, International Studies, Journalism, Mathematics, Music, Music Performance, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Religious Studies, Science Education, Social Science Education, Sociology, Spanish and Theatre Arts.

**The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree** is awarded in Music Theatre and Theatre Arts (acting emphasis).

**The Bachelor of Science degree** is awarded in the following fields: Accounting, Athletic Training, Biology, Business Administration (concentrations in Management, Finance, Marketing, International Business and Management Information Systems), Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Mathematics, Engineering Physics, Environmental Studies, Environmental Studies/Engineering, Exercise/Sport Science, Health Education, Leisure and Sport Management, Mathematics, Medical Technology, Music Education, Physical Education, and Physics.

## ***Professional Programs***

Elon University offers professional programs in Accounting, Business Administration, Communications, Computer Science, Education, Engineering, Human Services, Journalism, Music, Public Administration and Medical Technology. These programs prepare graduates to enter beginning-level professional positions. Qualified graduates may wish to continue their studies in graduate school.

## ***Preprofessional Programs***

Elon University offers programs that prepare students for professional studies in such fields as dentistry, engineering, law, medicine, physical therapy and theology. Students entering any preprofessional program should plan carefully, using the catalog of the professional school they wish to enter as a specific guide to choosing courses at Elon University. In addition to the preparation students receive through the regular academic curriculum, Elon offers a preprofessional advising program that emphasizes careful academic advising, special programs and workshops, and assistance in the graduate application process. Faculty advisors are available to assist students in this planning.

## ***Minor Fields of Concentration***

Candidates for the bachelor's degree may elect a minor concentration consisting of at least 20 semester hours.

The following minor fields are available: Accounting, African/African-American Studies, Anthropology, Asian/Pacific Studies, Biology, Business Administration, Chemistry, Cinema, Classical Studies, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Dance, Economics, English, Exercise/Sport Science, French, Geography, Geographical Information Systems, History, Human Services, International Studies, Communications, Latin American Studies, Leisure and Sport Management, Mathematics, Multimedia Authoring, Music, Non-Violence Studies, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Political Science, Professional Writing Studies, Psychology, Public Administration, Religious Studies, Sociology, Spanish, Studio Art, Theatre Arts and Women's/Gender Studies.

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## ***Enrichment Programs***

### **Leadership Development**

Special courses, service projects, organizational leadership and internships help students develop the characteristics that identify a leader in any field: strong character, good communication skills, self-confidence, the ability to make decisions and motivate others, solve problems and take risks. Leadership development programs are described more fully in the Student Life section.

### **Service Learning**

Acting on the university's commitment to civic responsibility and leadership, the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Elon Volunteers! offer programs and projects ranging from Habitat for Humanity to tutoring and mentoring programs. In addition, campus organizations participate in a variety of support and fund-raising programs, such as the Adopt-A-Highway clean-up program, American Red Cross Blood Drive, Special Olympics and March of Dimes walk-a-thon.

## Internship and Co-op Opportunities

Through internships and co-op opportunities, Elon helps students apply classroom knowledge, understand the value of productive work, develop the knowledge and skills to compete and progress in a meaningful job or earn money to meet financial obligations. The Elon Career Center assists students in the preparation and planning of careers and provides the resources and support needed for successful employment and career advancement after graduation. More than 78 percent of 2002 Elon graduates participated in internships and co-ops.

## Study Abroad

Study abroad programs through the Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies enhance the academic program and give students an opportunity to learn firsthand from other countries and cultures. Approximately 62 percent of the 2003 Elon graduates participated in study abroad activities. The university offers a variety of such opportunities.

Students may elect to spend a semester, either fall or spring, abroad in one of Elon's eighteen approved programs. Each one offers a wide range of classes that will apply either towards General Studies or major requirements. In some locations internships, research projects and volunteer service is possible. Fall and spring breaks allow further exploration of neighboring countries. Semesters in Chile, Ecuador, Argentina, Costa Rica, Japan, France and Spain require a certain level of Language proficiency. Semester study in Sweden and Denmark allow for language study but classes are taught in English. Other semester opportunities include the U.K. (London or University of Sussex), Scotland (St. Andrews), Africa (University of Ghana) and the Caribbean and Australia.

During the winter term, the university offers a wide range of study opportunities abroad. Although the courses vary from year to year, Elon students for the past few years have chosen from a range of courses in the London program; studied economics in eastern European countries; literature in Ireland; fine arts in Italy; the European Union and the history of World War II in Western Europe; language and culture in Costa Rica; culture in Ghana; biology in Belize and Aboriginal communities in Australia to name only a few. New courses are added each year reflecting student and faculty interests.

## *Undergraduate Research and Independent Study*

Undergraduate research and independent study is an integral part of the educational program at Elon University. With the assistance of faculty members, students develop hypotheses and think creatively. Those students who plan to attend graduate school benefit from the research experience. By providing an atmosphere for one-on-one learning with professors, Elon gives students a unique opportunity to discover the experience of being a professional in their chosen field. Elon students can showcase their research efforts in the Student Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) where participants give a presentation of their research projects and then respond to questions from the audience. Students receive academic credit and have the opportunity to present research papers off campus at regional, state and national conferences.

## **Military**

### **ROTC**

The Reserves Officers Training Corps program offers a military science curriculum leading to commission in the U.S. Army upon graduation. This course offers built-in financial assistance and special scholarship programs. In cooperation with North Carolina A&T State University, an option for Air Force ROTC is available.

### **Credit for Veterans**

This program offers military personnel on active duty the opportunity to submit CLEP credit by contacting their Education Officers or USAFI in Madison, Wisconsin, for testing. Credit for work completed may be transferred to other accredited postsecondary institutions and service experience is accepted for physical education requirements.

## **Academic Support Services**

Elon University seeks to meet the individual academic needs of all students. In order to accomplish this, the university places emphasis on a variety of academic support services.

### **Academic Advising Center**

Students are assigned faculty advisors before they enter Elon University. An important part of the Academic Advising Center's service is Elon 101, a freshman advising course. Freshmen not enrolling in Elon 101 are assigned advisors based on whether or not they have expressed an interest in a major. Students without clear career goals may be counseled in selecting a major and are assigned advisors within the major departments. Special advising assistance is also available for students in preprofessional programs such as prelaw, premedical and pre-engineering. Transfer students are assigned an academic advisor in the department of their majors at the time they enter.

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### **Career Center**

The Career Center offers services and programs to support students and alumni in the lifelong process of defining career goals, learning the skills to attain them, and developing employment opportunities. Internships, co-ops and individualized learning are coordinated through the Career Center, where students can find assistance in identifying opportunities related to their major and career interests.

Career assistance is provided through testing and advising to identify abilities, interests and values related to career choices, developing a career plan and finding available job or graduate school options. Center staff also offer individual appointments, workshops and programs that help students develop the skills required for a successful search. Designing effective resumes and job search letters, learning the art of networking, conducting a comprehensive job search and preparing for interviews are examples of skill sets that students can develop at the Career Center.

### **Disabilities Services**

Although Elon has no formal program for students with disabilities, the university does attempt to make reasonable classroom accommodations for students who provide formal documentation from a licensed/certified doctor, psychologist or learning specialist. The documentation should be dated within four years of the

student's enrollment at Elon; should explain the limitations resulting from the disability; and should include specific accommodations needed. Students who wish to discuss their disabilities and appropriate accommodation should contact Priscilla Lipe, Disabilities Service Coordinator, in the Academic Advising Center in Duke 108. Copies of the Elon University disabilities policy and procedures are also available in Duke 108. Dr. Smith Jackson, located in Alamance 109, is the Section 504 Coordinator.

### **Peer Tutoring**

Peer tutoring is offered to all students, covering most subject areas, through Tutorial Services. Walk-in tutoring is held in Belk Library, Sunday through Thursday evenings. The tutor schedule is located at [www.elon.edu/tutoring](http://www.elon.edu/tutoring). No additional fee is required. Tutorial Services also offers study skills seminars for students during fall and spring semesters.

### **Internships or Co-ops**

Elon University strongly supports programs that allow students to relate their classroom learning to work experience. Active cooperative education and internship programs provide opportunities throughout the academic year and during summers for students to explore careers, to integrate theory with practice and to examine future job possibilities. In each learning experience, the student's academic or career-related work assignment is supervised and evaluated by Elon faculty. Internships are directly related to majors or minors, may be full- or part-time and paid or unpaid. Most departments offer internship credits. Co-ops usually offer pay, are full- or part-time, may be repeated and count toward elective credit. The class COE 310, Securing A Job, is recommended for co-op students.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Students must be a junior or senior (sophomore for co-op), have a 2.0 minimum GPA, have completed departmental prerequisites and have approval from the Faculty Sponsor/Experiential Education Director.

### ***The Elon Experiences Transcript***

The Elon Experiences Transcript provides a cocurricular transcript that enhances job and graduate school opportunities. This transcript will document study abroad, service, leadership, internships/co-ops and undergraduate research throughout the student's university career. Elon Experiences help develop informed, productive, responsible and caring citizens — individuals equipped with an education that enriches personal lives and enhances professional careers.