

Title II Report on Teacher Education

April 2006

Overview of the Institution

Elon University is a comprehensive, coeducational, residential university located in the heart of the Piedmont near Burlington, North Carolina. Founded in 1889, Elon is the third largest of North Carolina's 36 private colleges and universities. Elon offers its 4,900 students a dynamic academic program, featuring a solid liberal arts education as well as excellent professional programs in business, communications, and education. Elon also is a national leader in experiential education. Students regularly connect knowledge with experience in programs such as study abroad, internships, research, service learning, and leadership. With 50 undergraduate majors, an average class size of 22, a 15–1 student-faculty ratio, and world-class facilities, Elon provides an ideal learning environment where students are encouraged to investigate for themselves and become independent learners. Elon faculty are devoted to teaching and are accessible to their students. Eighty-five percent of the full-time faculty hold the highest degrees in their fields. Elon's distinctive programs and learning styles have received national recognition. For the fifth year in a row, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) named Elon one of the top universities in the nation in engaging students in learning. In the survey, students gave Elon high marks in five (5) categories: level of academic challenge, active learning, interaction with faculty, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment. In addition, Elon is now ranked 6th (up from 9th in 2004) among 131 Southern regional colleges and universities in the 2005 edition of U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges." Elon ranks #1 on a list of 100 outstanding (but underappreciated) colleges in "Harvard Schmarvard: Getting Beyond the Ivy League to the College That is Best for You," a book by Jay Mathews. Additionally, the 2005 edition of the Kaplan guide lists Elon University as one of thirty "hidden treasure" colleges and universities in the nation, while the Princeton review lists the institution among the nation's top schools in its 2005 "The Best 357 Colleges" guide. The Fiske 2005 guide refers to Elon as "a rapidly rising star" institution. Elon offers students exciting opportunities and academic challenge with six (6) selective, four-year Fellows programs. These include Honors Fellows, Science Fellows, Journalism and Communications Fellows, Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellows, Jefferson-Pilot Business Fellows, and the NC Teaching Fellows. Outside the classroom, Elon students have many opportunities to put their learning into practice and grow personally. The university competes in 16 intercollegiate men's and women's sports in NCAA Division I (I-AA in football), and is a member of the Southern Conference.

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Special Characteristics

Elon's low student-faculty ratio of 15-1 gives teacher education students the advising, academic challenge and support services they need to become successful teachers. The program offers students the opportunity to begin field experiences as early as spring semester of the freshman year, enabling students to make an informed decision about entering teaching early in their college career. This early field experience is followed by more extensive field experiences as part of methods courses, which come after students have been formally admitted to the program. Thus, the Elon teacher education student enters the student teaching semester with two or three semesters of school experience.

Elon University is one of the fourteen campuses participating in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program...Elon is one of only two private institutions in North Carolina selected to offer this prestigious program.

Supplemental Descriptive Information to Provide a Richer Picture of the Efforts to Provide High Quality Teacher Education

Elon University works closely with public schools through a variety of activities, including program development, grant writing, team teaching and service on committees. A new initiative is the Office of School Outreach Programs. The mission of this program is to provide ongoing support efforts to provide assistance to teachers, students, parents and administrators in the local schools. Current projects in which this office is involved include assisting “at-risk” public schools and creating a Professional Development Academy which is offering professional development seminars, workshops and courses to beginning, lateral entry and career teachers. The School Outreach office has created a support system for National Board Certification process for local teachers; provided instructors for AIG licensure coursework for selected local teachers; and sought grants and business/industry sponsorships for collaborative projects with local public schools.

Public school teachers teach classes at Elon; and teachers and administrators serve as guest lecturers in classes and the student teaching seminar. Representatives from the Alamance-Burlington Schools serve as voting members on the Teacher Education Committee and the M.Ed. Advisory Committee assisting with program design and revision. Elon has made college facilities available rent-free for the Alamance-Burlington Schools for staff development programs.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORT CARD

Pass-Rate Data: Regular Teacher Preparation Program

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Academic Year: 2004-2005

Testing Period: 10/04-9/05

Number of Program Completers: 112

Specialty Area/ Professional Knowledge	Number of Students Taking Test	Percent of Students Passing Test
Biology (9-12)	3	*
Chemistry (9-12)	1	*
Elementary Education (K-6)	62	100%
English (9-12)	4	*
French (K-12)	0	*
Health Education (K-12)	0	*
Language Arts (6-8)	2	*
Mathematics (6-8)	2	*
Mathematics (9-12)	4	*
Music (K-12)	1	*
Physical Education (K-12)	3	*

Physics (9-12)	0	*
Science (6-8)	1	*
Science (9-12)	0	*
Social Studies (6-8)	3	*
Social Studies (9-12)	5	*
Spanish (K-12)	1	*
Teaching Learning Disabled (K-12)	18	100%
TOTAL	112	100%

**Individual test scores not reported if fewer than 10; TOTAL includes all test takers.*

Section II. Program Information

Number of student in the regular teacher education preparation program

Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005 254

Information about supervised student teaching

Number of students in supervised student teaching in academic year 2003-2004 94

Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:

(1) Full-time faculty in professional education 4

(2) Part-time faculty in professional education, but full-time in the institution 6

(3) Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution 9

Total faculty student teaching supervisors 19

Student teacher/ faculty ratio 4.9/1

The average number of student teaching hours per week required 40

The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required 14

Average total number of student teaching hours required 560

Information about state approval or accreditation of teacher preparation programs

Is your teacher education program currently approved or accredited by the state? Yes

Is your teacher preparation program currently under a designation as low-performing by the state (as per Section 208(a) of the HEA of 1998)? No

