

Elon University

# Title II Report on Teacher Education

April 2002

## Overview of the Institution

Elon University is a comprehensive, coeducational, residential college 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 4,300 students a dynamic academic program featuring a solid liberal arts education and 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 46 undergraduate majors, an average class size of 24, a 16-1 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 hold the highest degrees in their fields.

The 2001 National Survey of Student Engagement found that Elon is among the nation's top schools in five benchmarks of academic excellence — level of academic challenge, active learning, interaction with faculty, educational opportunities outside the classroom and supportive campus environment. In addition, Elon ranked in 9th place out of 130 Southern regional universities in the 2002 U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges rankings.

265 Elon offers students exciting opportunities and academic challenge with six selective, four-year Fellows programs. They are Honors Fellows, Science Fellows, Journalism and Communications Fellows, Leadership Fellows, Jefferson-Pilot Business Fellows and the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

Outside the classroom, Elon students have many opportunities to put their learning into practice and grow personally. There are more than 100 student organizations, including academic honor societies, intramural and club sports, Greek organizations, student media and performing ensembles. Elon also has 16 teams that compete in NCAA Division I (I-AA football) and the Big South Conference.

## Special Characteristics

Elon's low student-faculty ratio of 16-1 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 the only private, coeducational campus in the 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.

Each year two Elon University teacher education faculty members spend a semester in the public schools, working directly with a teacher in his or her classroom. 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. Public school teachers served on the Technology Portfolio review teams to assess the technology portfolios developed by student teachers. Elon is a member of the Piedmont Alliance with area IHEs, the Alamance-Burlington Schools, Guilford County Schools and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County LEAs. The Alliance collaborates on issues related to student teaching and other practicum experiences and legislative issues affecting teachers. Elon has made college facilities available rent-free for the Alamance-Burlington Schools for staff development programs. Also, two teachers from the Alamance-Burlington Schools served on the Elon committee to select the recipient of Elon’s highest teaching award.

**INSTITUTIONAL REPORT CARD**

Pass-Rate Data: Regular Teacher Preparation Program

Academic Year: 2000-2001

Testing Period: 10/00-9/01

Number of Program Completers: 110

Specialty Area/ Professional Knowledge	Number of Students Taking Test	Percent of Students Passing Test
Biology (9-12)	2	*
Chemistry (9-12)	0	*
Elementary Education (K-6)	49	92%
English (9-12)	3	*
French (K-12)	1	*
Health Education (K-12)	0	*

Specialty Area/ Professional Knowledge	Number of Students Taking Test	Percent of Students Passing Test
Language Arts (6-8)	0	*
Mathematics (6-8)	1	*
Mathematics (9-12)	2	*
Music (K-12)	1	*
Physical Education (K-12)	4	*
Physics (9-12)	1	*
Science (9-12)	0	*
Social Studies (6-8)	0	*
Social Studies (9-12)	6	*
Spanish (K-12)	3	*
Teaching Learning Disabled (K-12)	7	*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>93</b>

*\*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 1999-2000 271

267

### Information about supervised student teaching

Number of students in supervised student teaching in academic year 1999-2000 91

Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:

(1) Full-time faculty in professional education 2

(2) Part-time faculty in professional education, but full-time in the institution 9

(3) Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution 10

Total faculty student teaching supervisors 21

Student teacher/ faculty ratio 4.3/1

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