

# Title II Report on Teacher Education

**April 2009**

## **Overview of the Institution**

Elon University is a dynamic private comprehensive 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 5,628 students a dynamic academic program, featuring a solid liberal arts education. Master's programs are offered in business administration and education, and doctoral programs include physical therapy and law. Elon 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 54 undergraduate majors, an average class size of 22, a 14–1 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 seventh 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, *U.S. News & World Report* named Elon the nation's # 1 "school to watch" in its 2009 "America's Best Colleges Guide," and it continues to rank Elon University #2 among master's level universities. The Education Trust recognizes Elon for excellence in freshman retention and outstanding graduation rates. Elon offers students exciting opportunities and academic challenge with six (6) selective, four-year Fellows programs. These include Honors Fellows, Elon College Fellows, Communications Fellows, Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellows, Business Fellows, and the N.C. 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 (Football Championship Subdivision in football), and is a member of the Southern Conference.

### Special Characteristics

Elon’s low student-faculty ratio of 14-1 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 prestigious North Carolina Teaching Fellows 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. The Office of Education Outreach Programs provides 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 offering professional development seminars, workshops and courses to beginning, lateral entry and career teachers. 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 all program advisory committees assisting with program design and revision. Elon has made college facilities available rent-free for the Alamance-Burlington Schools for staff development programs.

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## INSTITUTIONAL REPORT CARD

Pass-Rate Data: Regular Teacher Preparation Program

Academic Year: 2007-2008

Testing Period:10/07-9/08

Number of Program Completers: 71

Specialty Area/ Professional Knowledge	Number of Students Taking Test	Percent of Students Passing Test
Elementary Education (K-6)	40	100%
Special Education (General Curriculum)	*	*
TOTAL	49	100%**

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

\*\*State pass rate: 98%

## Section II. Program Information

### ***Number of students in the regular teacher education preparation program***

Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2008-2009 370

### ***Information about supervised student teaching***

Number of students in supervised student teaching in academic year 2008-2009 101

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* 6

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

Total faculty student teaching supervisors 17

Student teacher/ faculty ratio 5.94/1

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

