Academic Programs, Degrees and Degree Requirements

Mission Statement

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.

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 code.

Elon University Honor Code

All students at Elon University pledge to abide by the Honor Code, which recognizes honesty, integrity, respect and responsibility as critical elements in upholding the values of the academic community. The current Student Handbook, http://www.elon.edu/students/handbook, presents sanctions and hearing procedures in detail.
Degrees

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

Anthropology  
Art  
Art History  
Arts Administration  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Chemistry/Chemical Engineering  
Communication Science  
Computer Science  
Computer Science/Engineering  
Economics  
Education  
  Early Childhood Education  
  Elementary (K-6)  
  Middle Grades (6-9)  
  Secondary Licensure (9-12)  
  Special Education/General Curriculum (K-12)  
English  
  Creative Writing  
  Literature  
  Professional Writing and Rhetoric  
  Teacher Licensure  
Environmental Studies  
  Sustainability  
  Global Environmental Issues  
  Environmental Arts and Communication  
Environmental Studies/Environmental Engineering  
French  
  Teacher Licensure  
History  
  Teacher Licensure  
Human Service Studies  
Independent Major  
International Economics  
International Studies  
Journalism  
  Print/Online News  
  Broadcast News  
Mathematics  
  Applied Mathematics  
  Pure Mathematics  
  Teacher Licensure  
Media Arts and Entertainment  
  Broadcast and New Media  
  Cinema  
Music  
  Music Performance  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Public Administration  
Public Health Studies  
Religious Studies  
Science Education  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Teacher Licensure  
Statistics  
  Environmental Statistics  
  Statistical Methods in Social Science  
  Biostatistics  
Strategic Communications  
Theatre Studies  
Theatrical Design and Production  

**Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)**  
Art  
Dance Performance and Choreography  
Music Theatre  
Theatre Arts (Acting)  

**Bachelor of Science (B.S.)**  
Accounting  
Applied Mathematics  
Biochemistry  
Biology  
Biophysics/Biomedical Engineering  
Chemistry  
Computer Information Systems  
Computer Science  
Engineering Mathematics  
Engineering Physics  
Environmental and Ecological Science  
Environmental Studies  
Exercise Science  
Information Science  
Mathematics  
  Teacher Licensure  
Music Education  
Music Technology  
Physical Education and Health  
  Teacher Licensure  
Physics  
Sport and Event Management  
Statistics  
  Mathematical Statistics  
  Biostatistics  
  Actuarial Science  

**Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (B.S.B.A.)**  
Entrepreneurship  
Finance  
International Business  
Management  
Marketing
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 208, 209)
      (4) General Studies/HED 111 Contemporary Wellness Issues............2
   b. Experiential Learning (one unit)
   c. Foreign Language (see page 36).................................................0-8
   d. Studies in the Arts and Sciences
      Transfer students with at least 18 semester hours of transfer credit must complete 32 hours total in Studies in the Arts and Sciences, but may have as few as 7 hours in one or more of the four Studies in the Arts and Sciences 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, art history, 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.
      (3) Society.......................................................................................8
          Eight hours chosen from at least two of the following: economics, geography, political science, psychology and sociology/anthropology.
      (4) Science/Analysis .......................................................................8
          Eight hours chosen from one or more of the following: mathematics/statistics, computer science (must have the CSC department designation) and science. At least one course must be a physical or biological laboratory science.
   e. Advanced Studies........................................................................12
      (1) Eight hours of 300-400-level courses outside the major field chosen from departments and areas Expression, Civilization, Society and Science/Analysis in the Arts and Sciences (8)
      (2) General Studies Interdisciplinary Seminar (4)

Total hours 58-62
3. Completion of elective courses to meet 132 credit hours
4. Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive evaluation in the major field of study
5. A minimum of 36 semester hours of junior/senior level work
6. Sixty or more semester hours of study at Elon, including the last term before graduation
7. Twice as many quality points as credit hours attempted must be earned
8. Participation in Commencement exercises*

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

Students who have not had two years of one foreign language in secondary school must make up this deficiency by taking a first-level 121 foreign language course. Courses taken to remove this deficiency will not satisfy the General Studies requirements. See page 36 for further details.

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., B.S.B.A. 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.

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.

*Students who meet all other responsibilities but are 1-4 credit hours short in any one area may participate in Commencement exercises; degree will be awarded upon completion of all requirements. Students may only participate in one undergraduate Commencement.

The Major
A minimum GPA of 2.0 in the requirements for the major is required for graduation. Bachelor of Arts majors require 36–110 semester hours of credit. Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majors require 72–76 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 18–24 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 in the 21st century. 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.

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 program consists of five 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.

**ENG 110.  COLLEGE WRITING  4 sh**

In this first-year course emphasizing invention, peer response, revising and editing, students learn to develop and make assertions, support them with appropriate evidence and present them in public form. Students also learn that the style and content of their writing will affect their success in influencing audiences. A grade of C- or better is required for graduation. Offered fall and spring.

**GST 110.  THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE  4 sh**

This first-year seminar examines public responsibility in a global context. It explores some of the implications created by cultural and natural diversity and the possibilities for human communication and cooperation within this diversity. The course emphasizes student and faculty creativity through active and collaborative learning; the seminar is writing intensive. First-year students only. Offered fall and spring.

**HED 111.  CONTEMPORARY WELLNESS ISSUES  2 sh**

Students will study selected topics in personal wellness. Topics may include nutrition and weight control, exercise for health and wellness, psychosocial aspects of health and wellness,
and the effects of alcohol and other drugs. Students will examine current issues pertaining to personal choices and well-being. This course meets half-semester.

**MTH 112. GENERAL STATISTICS**  
4 sh  
This course provides an introduction to modern statistics. Students will analyze and critically interpret real world data using information such as the U.S. Census, election results and health issues. This course emphasizes communication, use of technology and collaborative learning. Topics covered include descriptive statistics, inferential statistics and regression analysis. A specific graphing calculator is required. Prerequisite: MTH 100 or placement exemption. Offered fall and spring.

**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.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

Students must meet one of the following:

1. complete a language course numbered 122 or higher at Elon, or receive transfer or study abroad credit for the same;
2. place into a language course numbered 200 or above upon arriving at Elon, using a department of foreign languages approved placement instrument;
3. score 4 or 5 on an AP language exam or similar exam.

In order to ensure consistent treatment of all students, each student must take the language placement test by October 1 of their first full year at Elon. Students are allowed two tries; the higher score is counted. That score stands and may not be replaced by later testing.

**Studies in the Arts and Sciences**

Elon students take courses from a variety of areas, learning facts and ideas from professors and disciplines outside their majors. As they complete their Studies in the Arts and Sciences 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 expec-
tations, the honor code, campus involvement and student success. 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 and offers one semester hour of general credit upon successful completion. Grades given in this course are “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory.”

**Phi Beta Kappa**

Elon University houses a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest academic honor society. Phi Beta Kappa honors the top graduating seniors who have distinguished themselves in the study of the liberal arts and sciences. To be eligible for invitation, a student must demonstrate breadth in the liberal arts and sciences, including significant study of a second language and competence in mathematics. At least three fourths of the degree program (99 semester hours) must be in liberal work, i.e., not applied or professional work. Further stipulations for eligibility are available at the Eta Chapter of North Carolina web page, [www.elon.edu/pbk](http://www.elon.edu/pbk).

**Degrees and Major Fields of Concentration**

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


- **The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree** is awarded in Art, Dance Performance and Choreography, Music Theatre and Theatre Arts (acting emphasis).


- **The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree** is awarded in the following fields: Entrepreneurship, Finance, International Business, Management, and Marketing.
Preprofessional Programs

Elon University offers programs that prepare students for professional studies in such fields as dentistry, engineering, law, medicine and physical therapy. 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 18-24 semester hours.


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 of Elon's website.

Service Learning

Academic Service-Learning gives students the opportunity to link knowledge and skills learned in the classroom with the world around them. Through Academic Service-Learning courses, students develop a deeper understanding of disciplinary knowledge as they engage in academic coursework and relevant community projects guided by the expertise of faculty members and community practitioners. Students engage in structured reflection and complete academic assignments that enhance their understanding of the connections between course content and service. Academic Service-Learning has numerous demonstrated benefits for students including increased mastery of course content, improved critical thinking and problem-solving skills, increased understanding of social responsibility, and enhanced self-awareness and personal growth. Some Academic Service-Learning courses fulfill the Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR).
The Kernodle Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement and Elon Volunteers! (the umbrella organization that coordinates and facilitates service experiences for students) combine volunteer service with education about social issues. Students may complete the ELR through one of the Kernodle Center’s volunteer service programs when they are linked with appropriate reflection and academic assessment.

Internship and Co-op Opportunities

Through internships and co-op opportunities, Elon helps students apply classroom knowledge, understand the value of productive work and develop the knowledge and skills to compete and progress in a meaningful job. More than 88 percent of 2010 Elon graduates reported participation in internships and co-ops on the graduation survey. (Additional information on page 41.)

Study Abroad

The Isabella Cannon International Centre (ICIC) provides Elon students with opportunities to study, conduct research, engage in service learning or intern abroad during Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer terms. Details of the programs can be found at www.elon.edu/studyabroad. Elon study abroad programs may not be taken pass/fail and may not be audited.

Elon operates its own overseas semester programs in San Jose, Costa Rica; London, England; and Florence, Italy. An Elon faculty member serves as Faculty-in-Residence for these programs and teaches one course. Local faculty teach additional courses.

During Winter Term, Elon offers 25 to 30 faculty-led programs. These begin with a 1-credit required course in the Fall semester, followed by the 4-credit program abroad in January.

Students who study abroad on the 40+ semester programs will receive Elon credit, pay through Elon, maintain the same financial aid and scholarships available to them on campus, satisfy their Experiential Learning Requirement, and generally have the support of the Elon campus. The ICIC has vetted and approved these programs based on safety, level of support, academic rigor, and overall fit with the Elon University curriculum and philosophy.

Students may petition to study in a program that is not affiliated with Elon. Students on non-Elon programs are not enrolled at Elon, pay directly to the institution abroad, do not receive institutional scholarship money, and do not satisfy the ELR requirement. The assistant registrar reviews the credits for transfer just if they were from any other university.

For further information, please come to the Isabella Cannon International Centre (Carlton 113) or visit www.elon.edu/studyabroad.

Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate research is an integral component of the Elon experience. Mentored by a faculty member, student researchers engage in the exploration of new ideas and seek to further the knowledge in their chosen disciplines. As researchers, they enhance their disciplinary skills, gain confidence as emerging scholars and often develop contacts within the disciplinary network. Many undergraduate research projects lead to dissemination in the form of public presentations ranging from Elon’s Spring Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) to regional and national conferences. It also is possible for students, as a result of their research, to be coauthors on peer-reviewed scholarly publications. Whether a student intends to transition immediately into the workforce after graduation or plans to pursue post-graduate studies, participating in undergraduate research will enhance his/her chances for ultimate success.
Independent Study

Students may undertake independent study to explore special subject matter that is not available through catalogued courses. To receive credit for independent study, a student will work with a faculty member with the requisite expertise. A course may not be repeated by Independent Study.

Military

ROTC

The Reserve 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 academic advisors before they enter Elon University. An important part of the Academic Advising Center’s service is Elon 101, a freshman advising course. Students without clear career goals may be counseled in selecting a major. The center processes advisor assignments for the major departments. Transfer students are assigned an academic advisor in the department of their majors at the time they enter.

Career Services

Career Services 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 offers 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.

Disability 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 for health concerns, and a licensed/certified
psychologist or learning specialist for learning disabilities. The documentation should be dated within four years of the student’s enrollment at Elon, should explain the limitations resulting from the disability and include specific accommodations needed. Students who wish to discuss their disabilities and appropriate accommodation should contact Susan E. Wise, Coordinator of Disability Services, in the Academic Advising Center in Duke 108. The Elon University disabilities policies and procedures may be seen online at www.elon.edu/disabilities. Copies of the Elon University disabilities policy and procedures are also available in Duke 108. Jana Lynn Patterson, located in Moseley 206, is the Section 504 Coordinator.

**Peer Tutoring**

Peer tutoring covering most subject areas is offered to all students through Tutorial Services. Walk-in tutoring is held in Belk Library, Sunday through Thursday evenings. By-appointment tutoring is also available. The walk-in tutor schedule and the by-appointment tutor list are located at www.elon.edu/tutoring. No additional fee is required. The tutoring website also offers links to Internet sites containing useful study guides and study skills building information as well as study skills inventories.

**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, integrate theory with practice and 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.

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 co-curricular 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. The Elon Experiences help develop informed, productive, responsible and caring citizens — individuals equipped with an education that enriches personal lives and enhances professional careers.