

# ELON UNIVERSITY

## MARTHA AND SPENCER LOVE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of school	Private
Affiliation	United Church of Christ
Academic calendar	Trimester

### SURVEY SAYS . . .

- Friendly students
- Cutting-edge classes
- Helpful alumni
- Happy students
- Smart classrooms
- Solid preparation in:*

- Teamwork
- Communication/interpersonal skills
- Presentation skills
- Doing business in a global economy

### STUDENTS

Enrollment of parent institution	5,230
Enrollment of business school	118
% male/female	68/32
% part-time	100
Average age at entry	32
Average years work experience at entry	9

### ACADEMICS

<b>Academic Experience Rating</b>	<b>85</b>
Student/faculty ratio	20:1
Profs interesting rating	98
Profs accessible rating	82
% female faculty	30
% minority faculty	20

### Prominent Alumni

Christina Baker, executive vice president and CFO, Capital Bank; Steven Casey, founder and board secretary, Expression Analysis; Allan Davis, CEO, AllFab Solutions; Bernadette Spong, CFO, Rex Hospital.

### FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition	\$416
	per credit
Average award package	\$13,062
Average grant	\$3,818
Average student loan debt	\$16,807

### Academics

Flexible scheduling, an affordable degree, and a “focus on leadership and soft-skill development” earn the praises of MBA students at Elon, a premier regional university in North Carolina’s Triad region. Nearly all the part-timers here work full-time in addition to fulfilling their academic responsibilities, so students understandably demand convenience in their program. Elon delivers, scheduling all classes once a week in the evenings (6 P.M. to 9 P.M., Monday through Thursday) during the ten-week fall, winter, and spring terms; classes during the accelerated summer terms meet twice a week. Since the school doesn’t have lockstep sequencing, “students can choose the courses they feel fit with their current schedules and timetables.” As a result, many finish the program in as brief a period as 21 months—on average, students take slightly more than two years to complete the program.

Elon MBAs can also earn their degrees without putting a significant dent in their bank accounts. One student explains, “What binds most students is the desire to have a strong, valued-added education at a reasonable expense.” Many here feel that “the marginal benefits received at schools with higher tuitions aren’t worth the extra costs.” For the 2006–2007 academic year, courses cost \$1,248 each, and students were able to complete their degrees for just under \$18,000.

MBAs here praise the “alternative teaching styles and small class sizes.” The curriculum “stresses community and teamwork. We do many projects together. The school does not curve the grades in a way such that a portion of the class makes an F; therefore, we all try to work together and not fight for the top position.” True to its historic connection to the United Church of Christ, “Elon is as much concerned with producing ethical, trustworthy, and successful leaders as it is with developing students’ academic performance.” Professors here “are very accessible and actively engage students to improve both the learning experience and the program overall. There is a tremendous opportunity to tailor class projects to individual interests, which enhances the level of enthusiasm and discussion.”

### Career and Placement

Career-placement services are provided by Elon’s Career Development Office, which serves all students in the university. Services offered specifically for MBAs include a battery of self-assessment tools, faculty advising, and seminars with area business leaders. (Through the Legends of Business program, students have met with and learned from Knight Kiplinger, editor-in-chief of the *Kiplinger Letter*; J. Richard Munro, Former Chairman and CEO of Time Warner; and Edward N. Ney, former ambassador to Canada and former Chairman, President and CEO of Young and Rubicam, Inc.) The Love School Board of Advisors meets regularly to work with the administration and faculty to ensure that the program is relevant to the needs of organizations.

Elon MBAs work for some of the area’s top employers, including BASF Corporation, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina, Cisco Systems, Duke Energy, Labcorp, Dell, GE, Johnson Controls Inc., Sealy, Siemens Medical, Underwriters Laboratories, Volvo, GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, UNC Hospitals, Wachovia, and Wake Med.

## **Student Life and Environment**

While students do “study together and occasionally socialize outside of class, most of [them] are older, working, and have active lives apart from the school.” Because “the school draws from a large geographic area, it’s somewhat hard to mingle with classmates outside of class.”

Despite the lack of a “life at school,” Elon students sing the praises of their classmates, whom they regard as “an extended family. Students accept each other for who they are and are more than willing to help each other grow and develop in the program.” One MBA notes, “I’ve worked in groups with many strong opinions stemming from a depth of experience and awareness of current events and trends. Many personalities lean towards leadership, and there is a good diversity in both culture and professional background.” The student body spans “a wide range of ages, with experienced students helping to educate the less experienced, and the less experienced often assisting the older ones with new perspectives.”

In fall 2006, Elon opened the new 60,000 foot Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center. This state-of-the-art facility includes the Reed Finance Center, LaRose Digital Theatre, Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, computer and research labs, and a variety of specialized classrooms to suit Elon’s nationally recognized style of engaged learning.

Elon’s central North Carolina location makes it well situated to serve the Triad region, which includes the Greensboro, High Point, and the Winston–Salem metropolitan areas. As a destination, Elon is notable mostly for its proximity to fine dining in Durham, Chapel Hill, and Greensboro; great barbecue in Lexington; the state’s best zoo in Asheboro; and some of the finest golf courses in the nation.

## **Admissions**

The Elon MBA requires a minimum of two years’ professional experience for all applicants. A completed application must include three letters of recommendation (two from work supervisors), official transcripts from all postsecondary schools attended, and GMAT scores. Students whose native language is not English must also submit TOEFL scores (minimum 550 written, 213 computer). Applicants must exceed a score of 1000 under the formula [(undergraduate GPA × 200) + GMAT score], and must also have a minimum GMAT score of 470. Undergraduate classes in finance, financial accounting, microeconomics, and statistics are required foundation courses in the MBA program. Students may begin in August or February; applications are assessed on a rolling basis.

## **ADMISSIONS**

<b>Admissions Selectivity Rating</b>	<b>77</b>
# of applications received	97
% applicants accepted	78
% acceptees attending	71
Average GMAT	550
Range of GMAT	470–620
Average GPA	3.2
Minimum TOEFL	
(paper/computer)	550/213
Application fee	\$50
Regular application deadline	Rolling
Regular notification	Rolling
Deferment available	Yes
Maximum length of deferment	1 year
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Transfer application policy	
A student may transfer up to 9 semester hours of credit from another AACSB-accredited school.	
Non-fall admissions	Yes
Need-blind admissions	Yes

## **Applicants Also Look At**

North Carolina State University, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Wake Forest University (evening MBA, Winston-Salem).