To fulfill its mission, Elon University monitors student achievement in multiple ways during the time students are enrolled and once they have graduated. Examples of Elon’s goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals are provided below. These include first- to second-year retention, persistence to degree (graduation rate), participation in selected high impact practices, outcomes for licensing examinations, and students’ success in securing jobs or continuing their education after graduation. To benchmark student success in achieving the goals, Elon University uses information from the sources identified below.

**Retention from first- to second-year**

*Goal:* Elon’s first- to second-year retention will exceed the national average retention for selective four-year private colleges and universities as reported by ACT.

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### First-Second Year Retention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elon</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elon: 2013-14 entering first-year students

ACT: 2014 National Collegiate Retention and Persistence to Degree Rates

---

**Persistence to degree (graduation rate)**

*Goal:* Elon’s four, five, and six year graduation rates will exceed the national average for selective four-year private colleges and universities as reported by ACT.

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### 4-Year Graduation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elon</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elon: 2008-09 entering first-year students

ACT: 2014 National Collegiate Retention and Persistence to Degree Rates

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### 5-Year Graduation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elon</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 6-Year Graduation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elon</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historical information can be found in the *Elon University Fact Book.*
High Impact Educational Experiences

Consistent with the Elon University Mission Statement to provide a dynamic and challenging undergraduate curriculum, integrate learning across disciplines, put knowledge into practice, prepare students to be global citizens, and to foster an ethic of service, Elon University strives to provide all students with access to high impact practices as articulated by Association for American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Click here for more information about high impact practices and the educational benefits for students engaging in these experiences.

Goal: Elon seniors will have engaged in the following high impact practices at rates higher than national averages as indexed by responses to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE 2014).

Study Abroad*
- Elon: 72%
- NSSE: 14%

Internships or field experience*
- Elon: 87%
- NSSE: 51%

Service Learning*
- Elon: 76%
- NSSE: 58%

Research with Faculty (Undergraduate Research)*
- Elon: 43%
- NSSE: 25%

Learning Communities
- Elon: 45%
- NSSE: 24%

Culminating Senior Experience
- Elon: 88%
- NSSE: 44%

Other High Impact Practices (Comparative data is not available.)

Writing

Elon University has embarked on an ambitious plan to make writing a signature experience of an Elon education. The Writing Excellence Initiative was developed as the institution’s quality enhancement plan for Elon’s 2013 SACS-COC reaffirmation.
Leadership*

43% of students graduating in 2014 held at least one leadership position during their studies at Elon.

*Indicates that the high impact practice is one of the Elon Experiences.  [Click here](#) for additional information regarding the Elon Experiences and for internal data on student participation in these high impact experiences.

**Additional Recognition for High Impact Practices**

Elon University has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for 7 high-impact educational programs that “Focus on Student Success.” Based on a survey of higher education leaders across the country, Elon is noted for excellence in *study abroad, internships, service learning, undergraduate research, learning communities, first-year experiences,* and *senior capstones.*

The Institute of International Education’s Open Doors report ranks Elon University #1 for masters-level universities for the total number of students who *studied overseas.* Elon has been the top ranked masters-level institution for several years.

Elon University has been named to the Presidential Honor Role for *Service* by the Federal Corporation for National & Community Service every year since 2006.

**Post-Graduate Employment and Graduate/Professional Education (2014 Graduates)**

*Goal: Within one year of graduation, Elon graduates will have secured employment or admission to graduate or professional school at rates that meet or exceed the averages reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers First Destination report.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Elon</th>
<th>NACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continuing their Education</th>
<th>Elon</th>
<th>NACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduates may be both employed and continuing their education. When graduates are counted only once, 89% of students are employed, have been accepted to graduate or professional school, are completing a post-graduate internship/fellowship, or are working for a service organization (e.g., Peace Corps, Teach for America). The survey response rate was 96%.

More detailed and historical information is provided in the [First Destination Reports](#) produced by Elon University’s Student Professional Development Center.

**Additional indicators of post-graduate success**

Elon University ranked #3 on the annual list of U.S. master’s-level institutions whose graduates received Fulbright awards for 2014-2015.

92% of 2014 graduates who are employed report that the position is related to their career goal.
Licensing Examinations

One undergraduate program and three graduate programs at Elon culminate in a licensing examination. Recent student success rates are described below.

**Education – Undergraduate and Graduate (Praxis);**

Students earning AB or BS degrees in education must complete the Praxis examination. The success rate for 2012-2014 Elon undergraduates was 100%.

For M.Ed. students, the Praxis II is required only for those changing the area of the initial license. Because most Elon M.Ed. students do not change teaching areas, the number of students taking this exam is low. The success rate for M.Ed. students taking the exam from 2012-2014 was 90%.

**Law – Graduate Only (Bar)**

The class of 2014 bar passage rate was 67% overall and 69% for within jurisdiction (NC).

**Physical Therapy – Graduate Only**

Students graduating with degrees in Physical Therapy are required to take a qualifying test from the Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy. The overall pass rate from 2012-2014, as reported by the Federation, was 99.4%.

**Physician Assistant Studies – Graduate only**

The first class of Physician Assistant Studies graduates achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam. The national average for test takers is 94%.