

The Communique

A Publication of the Institutional Research Office

"Assessing Elon University through the timely collection, analysis, and dissemination of institutional related information."

What is a cohort?

A cohort is a defined population of students entering an institution at the same time. Elon follows a nationally accepted definition for establishing a cohort, that being a group of first-time, full-time in-college students. Normally a student who enters with a group cannot be removed from a cohort, even if the student transfers or drops out of school. However, four exceptions are allowed: (1) death or total disability, (2) call to military duty, (3) joining foreign aid service (for example, Peace Corps), and (4) official church mission.

What is retention rate?

Retention rate is the percent of a cohort that returns the following year, fall term to fall term. This rate is identified by class, year to year, (freshman to sophomore, sophomore to junior, etc.), but is typically defined as the one-year, *freshmen to sophomore* retention rate.

2001 Elon Retention Rate

| Cohort | 1-year rate Freshman to Sophomore | 2-year rate Sophomore to Junior |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | | |
| 1,144 | 952 | 850 |
| 100% | 83.2% | 74.3% |

Current 2002 Elon retention rate is 84.1%

What is graduation rate?

The graduation rate is the percent of a cohort that graduates. This rate is only reported for years four, five, and six, and is accumulative (that is, four years or less, five years or less, and six years or less). Most schools report a graduation rate based upon the *six-year rate*.

2001 Elon Graduation Rate

| Cohort | 4-year Graduation Rate (1999) | 6-year Graduation Rate (2001) |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1995-96 | | |
| 907 | 548 | 626 |
| 100% | 60.4% | 69% |

Current 2002 Elon graduation rate is 66.1%

For additional information on both current and historical rates, please refer to the Fact Books at www.elon.edu/irweb/!

Note!

Retention and graduation rates published by *U.S. News* are the four most recent years averaged together. For additional information on *U.S. News* methodology visit:
<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/cohome.htm>

Visit Elon University's Institutional Research website at: www.elon.edu/irweb