



ELON M.Ed.

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**Elon University** programs are built upon the liberal arts and sciences and offer excellent professional preparation. The Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, which offers the MBA, is one of only five business schools at private institutions in North Carolina accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. The M.Ed. is offered through Elon's School of Education, which is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The physical therapy department at Elon offers the DPT and has earned accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The Elon University School of Law opened on the Greensboro campus in August 2006 and received full accreditation by the American Bar Association in 2011. In August 2009 Elon welcomed the inaugural class of the master of arts in interactive media degree program offered through the School of Communications, which is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC). In 2010 the Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a master of science degree program in physician assistant studies. The program, offered through the School of Health Sciences, will enroll its first class in January 2013. Each of the graduate programs is stamped with Elon's distinctive academic approach, combining rigorous intellectual activity and practical experience. Small classes and creative, dedicated faculty make the Elon graduate experience personal, challenging, and exciting. I welcome your interest in graduate education at Elon and hope you will give serious consideration to joining our community of scholars.

Sincerely,

*Leo M. Lambert*

*President, Elon University*



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## *Graduate Education at Elon*

Located in the beautiful Piedmont section of North Carolina, Elon University has earned a regional and national reputation for excellence both in undergraduate and graduate programs. Academic innovation is the hallmark of an Elon education, and the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Arts in Interactive Media (M.A.), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Juris Doctor (J.D.) programs exemplify Elon's commitment to combining a stimulating classroom environment with opportunities to apply knowledge in a practical setting.

### ***MBA***

In the Elon MBA program, graduate students develop analytical and leadership skills. They learn the theories and concepts inherent in the disciplines of accounting, business administration and economics, and they prepare for business careers that require innovative leadership, a knowledge of global markets and the ability to apply sophisticated information technology. The distinctive program includes the opportunity to incorporate into their current work the skills and concepts they learn in their graduate courses. The program also includes a regularly scheduled international trip exposing students to foreign markets and the global economy. This program, designed to meet the needs of full-time working professionals, is typically completed within 21 to 33 months.

### ***M.Ed.***

The M.Ed. program offers graduate licensure in elementary education (K-6), gifted education (K-12), and special education (K-12). In the M.Ed. program, students hone skills for implementing appropriate instruction and differentiating curriculum for special needs students while deepening their understanding of the different content areas. Though skill development is an important aspect of the program, empowering teachers to make professionally mature decisions and developing collaborative leadership and research expertise are also emphasized. The M.Ed. Summer Cohort program provides licensed teachers the opportunity to complete the degree in just three summers. The Advanced Track option allows students with degrees outside education to obtain initial and advanced licensure in an integrated program.

### ***M.A. in Interactive Media***

In the rapidly converging world of media, the Elon Master of Arts in Interactive Media prepares students to think strategically across media platforms; to plan and create interactive media content consisting of text, images, sounds, video, and graphics; manage information for interactive news, entertainment, and strategic communications; and to



work in any profession that employs interactive media skills. The intensive 10-month, 36-hour program includes hands-on laboratory and theoretical courses along with a winter term, team-project course where students create an interactive product that involves domestic or international travel. The M.A. in Interactive Media allows students to design, produce, and create projects that are rapidly becoming the principal components of 21st century digital media.

### **DPT**

Graduate students enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program have unique opportunities to practice specific learning objectives in a variety of clinical settings. The partnership between Alamance Regional Medical Center and Elon's Department of Physical Therapy offers students a wealth of clinical and research opportunities. The philosophy of the DPT program emphasizes critical thinking, active learning, strong clinical experiences, and inquiry-based approaches to treatment and research. The program produces graduates who are highly skilled clinician generalists and compassionate individuals, well prepared for leadership as key members of a health care team.

### **J.D.**

The Elon University School of Law opened in downtown Greensboro, North Carolina, in fall 2006 with a charter class of 100 students. The school builds on Elon University's national reputation for excellence in engaged learning and leadership education. It provides experiential opportunities for law students in a learning laboratory environment, with direct access to the region's major courts, law firms and government and nonprofit agencies. Elon law students acquire excellent knowledge of the law. They develop broad lawyering skills and learn how to listen, communicate, interact effectively and resolve conflict in the broad range of complex situations lawyers confront. They are empowered to improve our system of justice and make the world a better place.

The School of Law produces a separate academic catalog, which can be accessed online at [law.elon.edu](http://law.elon.edu).

### **Visiting and contacting campus**

Visitors to the university are welcome at all times. Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Office of Graduate Admissions is located on the Elon campus in the Powell Building, suite 114, and can be reached at 336-278-7600 or 800-334-8448, ext. 3 (Fax: 336-278-7699). You may also wish to contact us by email at [gradadm@elon.edu](mailto:gradadm@elon.edu). For information about visiting the School of Law, contact the admissions office at 336-279-9200 or [law@elon.edu](mailto:law@elon.edu).

*Elon University does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, veteran status or disability in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff or the operation of any of its programs. Students with documented disabilities may request in writing reasonable special services and accommodations. Questions should be directed to Ms. Susan Wise, disability services coordinator, Duke 108H, 336-278-6500. The university's Section 504 coordinator for students and Title IX coordinator is Ms. Jana Lynn Patterson, Moseley 206, 336-278-7200. The university's Section 504 coordinator for applicants and current employees is Mr. Ronald Klepcyk, 314 W. Haggard Ave., 336-278-5560.*



# Introduction

## **The mission of Elon University graduate programs**

Through its graduate programs, Elon University gives students the opportunity to acquire a high level of competence in their fields of interest and to gain significant experience in the application of advanced knowledge and skills. Graduate programs offered at Elon foster a stimulating intellectual community based upon close interaction with faculty, academic engagement with peers in and out of the classroom, and a university environment fully committed to supporting inquiry and research. Graduates from Elon's advanced degree programs are prepared to assume positions as active professionals committed to continued learning and to the advancement of their professions.

Elon University offers graduate programs that are:

- Connected to the university's undergraduate programs, building on existing strengths and contributing to the enhancement of the quality of the undergraduate experience.
- Committed to the broad perspective of arts and sciences.
- Distinctive, excellent in overall quality and responsive to the needs of society.
- Committed to the intellectual growth and development of each student.
- Supportive of both faculty and student scholarly activity and its dissemination to the appropriate community of scholars and practitioners.

## **History**

Elon University is a private, coeducational, comprehensive university. Founded in 1889 by the Christian Church (now United Church of Christ), it is the third largest of North Carolina's 36 private colleges and universities.

During the 1980s, Elon experienced a decade of unprecedented growth. During this time, applications doubled and enrollment increased 35 percent, making Elon one of the fastest-growing institutions in the region. Dozens of academic and student life programs were added to enrich the quality of an Elon education. Special classes and volunteer programs were developed to provide students with leadership and service opportunities. In fall 1984, the university began offering a Master of Business Administration degree through the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. In fall 1986, a Master of Education degree was added, and in 1997, a Master of Physical Therapy degree program was established. In 2003, the Doctor of Physical Therapy replaced the MPT. The Elon University School of Law opened in fall 2006. The Master of Arts in Interactive Media



program was established in fall 2009. The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program will begin in January 2013.

Also during the '80s and '90s, the university's physical plant grew. Total campus acreage doubled, square footage of buildings increased and significant new facilities were added, including **Carol Grotnes Belk Library**, featuring 75,000 square feet with more than 250 computers, networked study rooms and multimedia and audiovisual stations; **Dalton L. McMichael Sr. Science Center**, providing 81,000 square feet of research laboratories, high-tech instrumentation and computer technology; **Moseley Campus Center**, a 74,000-square-foot student center; and **Koury Center**, a physical education, athletics and recreation complex. In the early part of the new century, Elon opened **Rhodes Stadium**, **Belk Track**, **White Field** and five pavilions in the **Academic Village**.

In the summer of 2006, Elon opened the three-story, 60,000-square-foot **Ernest A. Koury, Sr. Business Center**, home of Elon's Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. The Center includes the **LaRose Digital Theatre**; the **LabCorp Suite for Executive Education**; the **William Garrard Reed Finance Center** with real-time data from global financial markets; the **Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership**; the **Chandler Family Professional Sales Center** and the **James B. and Anne Ellington Powell Lobby**.

In the summer of 2009, Elon renovated the second floor of Powell Building to become the home of the Master of Arts in Interactive Media program. **The Powell Interactive Media Suite** houses a state-of-the-art computer laboratory/production facility and classroom. It includes five editing suites, a graduate study center, and lounge. The suite also includes a technology library that houses high definition, tapeless digital video cameras; 35mm digital still cameras; audio recorders; and other equipment to produce interactive media including booms and tripods. Offices for interactive media faculty are also located in the Powell Interactive Media Suite.

In April 2011, the Elon University Board of Trustees established the School of Health Sciences. The school will be housed in the **Gerald L. Francis Center**, which is undergoing a total renovation, creating classrooms, lab facilities, meeting and office space. The Francis Center is scheduled to open in December 2011.

### **Location**

Elon's historic campus is ideally situated on 600 acres in central North Carolina, adjacent to Burlington, a city of 50,000. Elon's brick sidewalks, Georgian architecture and state-of-the-art facilities are surrounded by majestic oak trees and lovely gardens. The university is a 40-minute drive from UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University, and 30 minutes from Greensboro, a city that regularly offers major concerts and sporting events. A dozen other colleges and universities are less than an hour away.

Downtown Greensboro is also the location of the new Elon School of Law, an 84,000-square-foot facility including a new multimillion-dollar library collection, wireless technology, courtroom and specialized labs and classrooms, adjacent to federal and state courts, government offices and major law firms.

Airline services are conveniently located at the Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro and at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Amtrak serves Greensboro and Raleigh with daily connections to Burlington.



### ***Degrees and majors***

Elon University offers more than 50 major fields of study leading to the bachelor of arts, bachelor of fine arts or bachelor of science degree. The university also offers a dual-degree engineering program in cooperation with Columbia University, Penn State University, Georgia Tech, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina State University, University of Notre Dame, University of South Carolina, Virginia Tech and Washington University in St. Louis.

Elon's graduate programs include a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business; a Master of Education (M.Ed.) with specialty areas in elementary, gifted and special education; a Master of Arts in Interactive Media (M.A.) through the School of Communications; a doctor of physical therapy (DPT); and the juris doctor (J.D.) degree.

### ***Enrollment***

With approximately 700 graduate and 5,000 undergraduate students, Elon is smaller than most universities. Students come from 48 states and 49 other nations, with 72 percent of enrollment coming from outside North Carolina. At Elon you won't be lost in a crowd, but you will meet and interact with many new people.

### ***Accreditation***

Elon University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; phone: 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's and master's degrees, the doctor of physical therapy degree, and the juris doctor degree.

The Master of Business Administration program is accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The Master of Education program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction.

The Master of Arts in Interactive Media program is a part of the School of Communications, which is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone: 703-706-3245).

The Juris Doctor program is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).

### ***Library/technology center***

The state-of-the-art Belk Library features the latest in information technology and is located at the center of campus, convenient to all graduate classrooms. It is uniquely designed to integrate print, electronic and audiovisual resources, with an extensive program of research, tutoring and technical support available during all hours of operation to assist students and faculty. More than 200 Macintosh and Windows desktop



computers and wireless laptop computers offer access to the online catalog and the Internet. Students can choose among a wide variety of individual and group study spaces while using the more than 280,000 volumes, government documents and media resources. More than 27,000 online journals are available, as well as an extensive video and audio collection.

Belk Library also houses the Tutoring and Writing Center and the Faculty Resource Center. Please visit [www.elon.edu/library](http://www.elon.edu/library) for more information.

### ***Writing assistance and computer services***

Elon has a well-established writing center located in Belk Library. Graduate students seeking assistance with writing may utilize the services of the center, including one-on-one tutoring, without charge. Graduate students may use computer labs with Internet access, and they can set up free email accounts. Staff members are available to provide assistance. There are approximately 940 computer work stations on campus in 50 computer labs.

### ***Career services and professional placement assistance***

The Career Center, located in Duke building, assists graduate students individually as they identify their career direction and finalize their career search. The Career Center has incorporated modern technology to provide effective student/employer matches and to assist students in accessing current employer literature. Programs for graduate students include resume referral to employers, individual job search assistance, job vacancy lists, and workshops on resume writing and job interviewing. For details, please visit [www.elon.edu/careers](http://www.elon.edu/careers).

### ***Parking***

Student parking at Elon is convenient and easily accessible. For full-time students enrolled in the DPT and M.A. in Interactive Media programs, the annual fee is \$80. No parking fees apply for graduate students enrolled in the M.Ed. program. There is a \$10 annual fee for MBA students.

### ***The graduate admissions process***

Elon's admissions policy encourages the selection of students who have demonstrated both academic ability and talent in their field. Each application is considered in light of all completed academic work, test scores, evidence of leadership and motivation, work history, credentials and letters of recommendation.

Applicants should consult the section in this catalog dealing with their desired degree for specific admissions requirements. This information, as well as an application, can also be obtained from the **Office of Graduate Admissions, 2750 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244** or the **Elon Graduate Admissions website at [www.elon.edu/graduate](http://www.elon.edu/graduate)**. Please note that undergraduates are not permitted to register for graduate courses.

### ***Basic requirements***

- Evidence of an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university



- Strong undergraduate record
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate studies completed or taken
- Three letters of recommendation
- TOEFL scores for international students, unless English is the student's native language or the language of instruction

### *Application procedures, testing, transfer credits and graduate program costs*

Since all of Elon's graduate programs differ in application procedures, testing, transfer credits and program costs, graduate students should consult the section in this catalog dealing with their desired degree for program-specific information.

### *Forms of financial assistance for graduate students*

Elon is committed to assisting eligible students in securing the necessary funds for their graduate school program. To the extent possible, eligible students receive assistance through careful planning and through accessing various forms of financial assistance.

In order to receive any type of university, state or federal funding, students must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of graduate degree requirements. No financial assistance is offered until an applicant has been accepted for admission to a graduate program.

### *Elon University payment program*

Elon offers a payment plan to all graduate students. The plan requires an initial payment of one-third of the total cost of the program with the remainder divided into two equal payments. For further information on this payment plan, contact the Bursar's office. Students must submit a new application for each semester.

We are making a policy adjustment that will affect families that pay tuition, fees, room and board with credit cards. While we understand the reasons people choose this payment method, the university has borne the cost of paying transaction fees to the credit card companies, amounting to approximately \$1.1 million annually. We believe that money would be much better spent supporting our educational mission.

As a result, families that pay tuition statement bills with MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards will be assessed a 2.75% convenience fee. VISA credit/debit cards will no longer be accepted as payment for the tuition statement bills. Families that wish to avoid the fees are encouraged to use online checks/ACH or personal checks, wire transfers or other payment options. There will be no extra fees for other Elon transactions, such as online tickets or Phoenix Cash deposits. In addition, the university accepts American Express, VISA, MasterCard and Discover cards for payment of books.

If you have questions about the new payment options, contact the Bursar's Office.

### *Federal Stafford Loan (subsidized)*

Fixed 6.8% loans may be awarded to fully admitted students who register for at least half time and who demonstrate financial need. These loans are federally guaranteed. With these loans, no interest accrues, nor is any payment due, until six months after



the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half-time. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Elon University Financial Aid Form to be considered for this program. These forms are available in the Financial Planning Office, 336-278-7640.

#### Federal Stafford Loan (unsubsidized)

Fixed 6.8% loans may be awarded to fully admitted students who are enrolled at least half time. Students do not need to demonstrate financial need to qualify for this program. These loans are federally insured, and no payment of principal is due until six months after the student ceases to be at least a half-time student or graduates. However, borrowers do not qualify for the federal interest subsidy, and interest accrues while the student is enrolled in school. Students must file the FAFSA and the Elon University Financial Aid form to be considered for this program. These forms are available in the Financial Planning Office, 336-278-7640.

#### The Federal Graduate PLUS Loan Program

For students who need financial assistance beyond the \$20,500 Stafford Loan maximum, there is the federal Graduate PLUS loan program. The PLUS loan allows for the deferment of repayment while the student is enrolled. The PLUS loan carries a fixed 7.9% interest rate. The maximum amount a student may borrow from the PLUS Loan program is Elon's Cost of Attendance less any Stafford Loans and other forms of financial aid a student may be receiving. Information about the Graduate PLUS Loan may be obtained from the Office of Financial Planning.

#### North Carolina Student Loan Program for Health, Science and Mathematics

Need-based loans are available for residents of North Carolina who are unconditionally accepted into a graduate program in mathematics, health or science fields. These loans are administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. For a brochure and application, call 800-600-3453, visit [www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org) or write N.C. Health, Science and Math Student Loan Program, P.O. Box 14223, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-4223.

#### American Physical Therapy Association

Doctor of Physical Therapy students are encouraged to contact the American Physical Therapy Association at 800-999-2782 to obtain the Financial Assistance Resource Guide. This publication lists scholarships, awards, grants and fellowships available to students and physical therapists. Minority students are encouraged to request the Minority Scholarship Financial Aid Information Packet. Copies are available in the Financial Planning Office and the Department of Physical Therapy Education.

#### Scholarship Programs

A limited number of Doctor of Physical Therapy scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 will be awarded annually to students who have demonstrated academic ability and talent as well as an enthusiasm and commitment for the physical therapy profession. Every admitted student will be considered for scholarship in light of all academic work, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, interview scores and demonstrated leadership ability. Students will be notified of their award at the time of acceptance if selected. Students who receive a scholarship are required to maintain good academic and professional standing in the program.



A number of scholarships are also available to Interactive Media students who demonstrate an enthusiasm for learning and a commitment to energizing media communication. Scholarship amounts range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. While awards will be merit-based, the School of Communication's Scholarship Committee will assess merit within the context of an applicant's significant and distinctive financial need, if explained in the application. Applications are due March 15 and should be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions.

#### **Private sources**

Many companies, corporations, foundations and school systems offer assistance to students based on a variety of qualifications. Students should investigate policies of their employers and check with the many local civic organizations to determine the availability of such funds and their application procedures.

Please note that federal and state loan programs are not available to international students.

### **Academic regulations**

#### **Course registration**

Registration information is available to all students prior to registration. Students are expected to register themselves on designated days. Registration includes academic advising, selection of courses and payment of fees. As part of the preregistration/registration process, graduate faculty are available to offer advice concerning scheduling of courses and assisting with registration.

Undergraduates are not permitted to register for graduate courses.

#### **Changes in class schedule**

The university reserves the right to cancel or discontinue any course because of small enrollment or for other reasons deemed necessary. In order to assure quality instruction, the university reserves the right to close registration when the maximum enrollment has been reached and to make changes in schedule and/or faculty when necessary.

#### **Dropping courses**

A student may officially drop any class with a "W" (withdraw without penalty) halfway through the term, which includes the week of examinations. The withdrawal period applies to programs following the regular semesters and the summer sessions. After that date, no class may be dropped. Any exception to this policy is the responsibility of the appropriate academic dean's office.

A course dropped without permission of the Registrar is automatically graded "F"

A student who withdraws from the university for any reason (except for a medical reason) receives grades of "W" if the withdrawal is before the designated half-term time period. After this time a student will receive a "W" or "F" depending on his/her grades at the time of withdrawal.



**Graduate grading system and quality points\***

Graduation is dependent upon the quality as well as the quantity of work completed. Letter grades are used. They are interpreted in the following tables, with the quality points for each hour of credit shown at right:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Quality Points</b>
A ..... Distinguished .....	4.0
A- ..... Excellent .....	3.7
B+ ..... Above average .....	3.3
B ..... Average .....	3.0
B- ..... Below average .....	2.7
C ..... Unsatisfactory .....	2.0
F ..... Failure .....	0
I ..... Incomplete .....	0
WD ..... Medical withdrawal .....	0
W ..... Withdrawal .....	0
NR ..... No report .....	0

Pluses and minuses added to the letter grade pertain only to the MBA program. For the DPT grading system, please refer to the DPT Student Handbook. Grades of “A” through “F” are permanent grades and may not be changed except in case of error. After a professor has certified a grade to the Registrar, he or she may change it before the end of the next regular grading period. The change must be made in writing and have the written approval of the program director/committee chairperson.

An “I” grade signifies incomplete work because of illness, emergency, extreme hardship or self-paced courses. It is not given for a student missing the final examination unless excused by the Dean of Academic Affairs upon communication from the student. After the date designated on the appropriate academic calendar, “I” grades automatically change to “F” unless an extension is granted by the Dean of Academic Affairs.

**Grade point average (GPA)**

The grade point average is computed by dividing the total quality points on work attempted at Elon University by the number of hours attempted, except for courses with grades of “WD,” “W” or “S.”

**Grading system for the M.A. in Interactive Media program**

Graduation is dependent upon the quality of work and mastery of material in the 36 hours required to complete the Master of Arts in Interactive Media. Students will be evaluated using the following grade scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Credit</b>
H .....	Honors.....	3 hrs.
P .....	Pass with mastery .....	3 hrs.
L .....	Low pass .....	3 hrs.
F .....	Failure .....	0 hrs.
I .....	Incomplete	
WD .....	Medical withdrawal	
W .....	Withdrawal	
NR .....	No report	



If, in the judgment of the academic program director, faculty, and administrators of the School of Communications, a student fails to make satisfactory progress toward the completion of the degree or to demonstrate sufficient promise in the discipline, the student will not be allowed to continue in the program. Registration in the following semester for academically ineligible students will be cancelled automatically.

A student becomes academically ineligible to continue in the program for the following reason: S/he receives a grade of F, or 2 or more grades of L.

### *Continuation standards and graduation requirements*

Because all of Elon's graduate programs differ in continuation standards and graduation requirements, graduate students should consult the section in this catalog dealing with their desired degree for program-specific information.

### *Access to student educational records*

Elon University complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. This act protects the privacy of educational records, establishes the right of students to inspect and review their educational records, and provides guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students also have the right to file complaints with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the act.

Questions concerning the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be referred to the Office of the Registrar.

### *Transcripts of student records*

Requests for copies of a student's record should be made to the **Office of the Registrar, 2106 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244**. All graduate transcripts reflect the student's complete graduate academic record. No transcripts will be issued without the written authorization of the student. No transcript is issued for a student who has a financial obligation to the university.

### *Changes*

Adequate notice will be given to enrolled students as changes are made in the graduate programs.

### *Policies*

Instructional and financial policies not covered in this document will follow those printed in the official Elon University Academic Catalog. Students may obtain a copy of this catalog from the **Office of Admissions, 2700 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244**. The catalog is also available online at [www.elon.edu/catalog](http://www.elon.edu/catalog).



# The M.Ed. Program

## ***Enhancing professional competence***

The Master of Education program at Elon University is designed to enhance the professional competence of experienced classroom teachers. Candidates may select a program of study in Elementary Education, Gifted Education or Special Education. The M.Ed. program is structured to foster inquiry, reflection and knowledge generation, and to contribute to the realization of Teacher Education's conceptual framework from an advanced perspective.

Research, curriculum and leadership are the features that distinguish the Elon graduate experience. In the M.Ed. program, inquiry becomes the driving force behind action research, curriculum development and leadership preparation. As candidates conduct their graduate research and reflect on their findings, they grow in their knowledge and make a genuine contribution to the practitioner knowledge base. Their engagement in curriculum development deepens their understanding of the nature of learning and teaching, and their leadership project suggests ways of translating their knowledge into action that strengthens the profession.

## ***Respectful environment for learning***

Throughout this program candidates broaden and deepen their understanding of a respectful learning environment. Such an environment is one that values diversity and extends beyond the school environment to include families and communities. A respectful learning environment is inclusive, collaborative and global in perspective. In such an environment, high expectations are held for all students, and graduate candidates expand their repertoire of skills in differentiating curriculum and instruction for students with special strengths and needs. Graduate candidates understand that this is necessary if today's students are to remain engaged and appropriately challenged.

## ***Program of study***

### ***The curriculum***

The M.Ed. program is designed to allow students to earn a graduate degree and advanced licensure in the areas of Elementary Education (K-6), Gifted Education (K-12) or Special Education General Curriculum (K-12). All three programs require a total of 33 semester hours. The M.Ed. program is designed for experienced teachers who are graduates of accredited institutions and initially licensed to teach.

**Summer cohort program**

Beginning each summer, students have the opportunity to enroll in an intensive and concentrated three-year summer program leading to the Master of Education degree. The program involves two sessions each summer for three years and one online course each semester during the two intervening academic years. Students not enrolled in the summer cohort program also take courses online and during summer, but they complete the program at their own pace.

**Elementary Education (K-6)**

All students seeking graduate licensure in Elementary Education are required to complete the graduate core curriculum of MED 515, 516, 523, 532, 561 and PSY 515; the Elementary Education core of MED 521, 522, 530, 550; and two courses from: MED 540, 588; MTH 521; SCI 565.

**Graduate Core Curriculum:**

- MED 515 Educational Assessment and Evaluation
- MED 516 Educational Research
- MED 523 Instructional Technologies in the Classroom
- MED 532 Collaboration and Consultation Skills
- MED 561 Advanced Master's Seminar
- PSY 515 Advanced Psychological Theory in the Classroom

**Elementary Education Core:**

- MED 521 Critical Issues in Elementary Education
- MED 522 Advanced Literacy Development
- MED 530 Curriculum and Instructional Design in Elementary Education
- MED 550 Educating Diverse Learners

**Electives: Select one course**

- MED 540 Literature for Children and Youth: Analysis and Application
- MED 588 Studies in International Education
- MTH 521 Mathematical Concepts and Connections
- SCI 565 Integrated Science

**Gifted Education (K-12)**

All students seeking graduate licensure in Gifted Education are required to complete the graduate core curriculum of MED 515, 516, 523, 532, 561 and PSY 515; the Gifted Education core of MED 562, 564 and 567; and two courses from: MED 540, 588; MTH 521; SCI 565.

**Graduate Core:**

- MED 521 Critical Issues in Elementary Education
- MED 522 Advanced Literacy Development
- MED 530 Curriculum and Instructional Design in Elementary Education
- MED 550 Educating Diverse Learners

**Gifted Education Core**

- MED 562 Foundations of Education of Gifted Students
- MED 564 Curriculum Development and Differentiation for Gifted Students
- MED 567 Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students
- Choice of one content course:
- MED 540 Literature for Children and Youth: Analysis & Application
- MTH 521 Mathematical Concepts and Connections
- SCI 565 Integrated Science

**Electives: Select one course**

- MED 540 Literature for Children and Youth: Analysis & Application
- MED 588 Studies in International Education
- MTH 521 Mathematical Concepts and Connections
- SCI 565 Integrated Science

**Special Education (K-12)**

All students seeking General Curriculum licensure in Special Education are required to complete the graduate core curriculum of MED 515, 516, 523, 532, 561 and PSY 515; and the following Special Education courses: MED 534, 542, 544, 545; and one course from MED 588, SCI 565 or MTH 521.

**Graduate Core:**

- MED 521 Critical Issues in Elementary Education
- MED 522 Advanced Literacy Development
- MED 530 Curriculum and Instructional Design in Elementary Education
- MED 550 Educating Diverse Learners

**Special Education: General Curriculum**

- MED 534 Curriculum and Instructional and Design in Special Education
- MED 542 Foundations of Special Education
- MED 544 Language and Literacy Methods in Special Education
- MED 545 Classroom Management for Exceptional Learners

**Electives: Select one course**

- MED 540 Literature for Children and Youth: Analysis & Application
- MED 588 Studies in International Education
- MTH 521 Mathematical Concepts and Connections
- SCI 565 Integrated Science

**Accreditation**

Elon University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; phone: 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's and master's degree, the doctor of physical therapy degree, and the juris doctor degree. The M.Ed. program is accredited by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education ([www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org)).



### *Program objectives*

The goal of the graduate program in teacher education is to prepare teachers to meet the advanced standards set by the state of North Carolina for teacher leaders as shown below. Emphasis throughout is on empowering teachers with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to become informed leaders, reflective practitioners and outstanding contributors to their profession.

#### **Standard 1: Teaching Leadership**

Teacher leaders assume the roles and responsibilities of collaborative leaders in schools and communities. They demonstrate leadership in their classrooms, schools and professional organizations; they advocate for students and effective educational practices and policies; and they are role models for ethical leadership.

#### **Standard 2: Respectful Educational Environments**

Teacher leaders establish a positive and productive environment for a diverse population of students, their families and the community. They are knowledgeable about cultures and global issues and how they are contextualized locally. They help colleagues develop effective strategies for students with special needs and encourage positive, constructive relations among colleagues and students.

#### **Standard 3: Content and Curriculum Expertise**

Teacher leaders have a deep knowledge of the subjects they teach and understanding of curriculum theory and development. They value collaboration and the interconnectedness of disciplines. They understand the importance of curriculum relevance in engaging students in content.

#### **Standard 4: Student Learning**

Teacher leaders facilitate student learning through evidence-based practice informed by research. They understand and apply research in child and adolescent development, cognitive development, and general and specialized pedagogy. They encourage critical reading, writing and thinking in the learning process. They foster instructional and evaluation methods that embrace variety and authenticity.

#### **Standard 5: Reflection**

Teacher leaders contribute to systematic, critical analysis of learning in their classrooms and beyond. They are lifelong learners who model and support ongoing professional development. They embrace critical thinking, problem solving and innovation.

### *The faculty*

Graduate faculty have a well-earned reputation for being active in their respective professional organizations and in the educational community at large. Faculty make presentations and deliver papers at professional meetings, write and publish in professional journals, act as consultants and serve on local, state and national advisory committees. Additionally, graduate faculty maintain a realistic picture of the changing classroom environment through active participation in the public schools. This meshing of academic and clinical activity enables faculty to provide graduate students with the optimum blend of theory and practice.



Elon’s classes are small, and the graduate faculty is accessible. This atmosphere of personal attention combined with dedication to teaching sets the Elon M.Ed. program apart from others.

**Costs**

The cost of the M.Ed. program at Elon is reasonable considering the high quality of the program.

Graduate tuition (per semester hour).....	\$444
Miscellaneous:	
Late payment.....	\$30
Late registration/re-enrollment during term .....	\$25
Payment plan fee .....	\$10
Returned check fine.....	\$25
Transcripts.....	\$5

An attractive feature of Elon’s summer cohort program is its reduced cost. Enrollment for the three-year program is fixed and represents a substantial savings compared with payment by individual course. Costs for the Summer Cohort program are available from the **Office of Graduate Admissions, 2750 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244**, on the **Elon Graduate Admissions website at [www.elon.edu/graduate](http://www.elon.edu/graduate)** or by calling toll-free **800-334-8448, ext 3**. (Please note that student teaching vouchers are not redeemable for the summer cohort program.)

In addition, Elon offers a deferred payment plan, and some loans are available. Please see Forms of Financial Assistance for Graduate Students in the front section of this catalog.

Grades, diplomas and transcripts will be withheld until financial obligations to the university are settled. A student cannot register for coursework until financial obligations to the university are paid.

**Refunds**

**Summer Cohort Refund Policy**

The refund policy for cohort students reflects the policy stated below for summer sessions; however, there will be no refunds after the second summer session of each year.

**Summer Sessions**

In the summer sessions, enrollment dropped by 4 p.m. on the days listed below will warrant the corresponding refund.

1st day of class .....	100%
2nd day of class.....	90%
3rd, 4th, 5th day of class .....	50%
6th, 7th, 8th, 9th day of class .....	25%
10th day of class.....	no refund

**M.Ed. admissions requirements and procedures**

The M.Ed. admissions policy is designed to select outstanding students who have demonstrated both academic competence and teaching ability. Each application is considered in light of all completed academic work, undergraduate grade point

average, appropriate test scores from either the Graduate Record Examinations or the Miller Analogies Test, letters of recommendation, and a statement of educational and professional goals.

Application materials are available from the **Office of Graduate Admissions, 2750 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244**, on the **Elon Graduate Admissions website at [www.elon.edu/graduate](http://www.elon.edu/graduate)** or by calling toll-free **800-334-8448, ext 3**.

Completed applications should be sent directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions and must include:

- Evidence of an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum GPA of 2.5 for undergraduate work or GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 hours or for all the courses in the major
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate studies completed or taken
- Minimum Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score of 380 or combined verbal and quantitative score of 800 on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) taken within the last five years
- A minimum one year of teaching experience (two years preferred)
- Recognized teaching license or commitment to achieving licensure. Candidates must have a clear (not provisional) North Carolina initial or higher license before being recommended for graduate licensure.
- Three letters of recommendation
- A completed application form with a \$50 nonrefundable fee (check or money order made payable to Elon University)
- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required unless English is the student's native language or the language of instruction. A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based) or 79 (Internet-based) is required. English translations of transcripts and explanations of grading systems are required.

Exceptions to these requirements may be considered under special circumstances.

### Transcript Requests

Contact the registrar of each college or university attended to have an official copy of your transcript mailed to Elon. Transcripts should be mailed directly to the **Office of Graduate Admissions, 2750 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244**. Applicants currently enrolled should request a transcript showing completed academic work through the most recent semester of enrollment. A final transcript will also be required.

### Recommendations

Applicants should send recommendation forms to each designated individual. Those requested to provide recommendations should be aware of the applicant's academic abilities and professional potential. Supervisors are preferred, not family and friends. Recommendations are confidential.



### *Testing for M.Ed. students*

Applicants to the M.Ed. program are required to take either the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). Elon's program code is **R5183**.

### *Transfer credits*

A student enrolled in the M.Ed. program may be permitted to transfer up to six semester hours of appropriate graduate credit from another accredited graduate school.

For transfer credits, grades earned at another graduate school must be at least a "B," and the credit must not be more than six calendar years old at the time of degree completion at Elon. No graduate credit will be allowed for excess credits completed in an undergraduate classification at any institution. No graduate credit will be allowed for correspondence courses or field-based work. The last six hours of graduate credit in the program must be taken at Elon.

### *Enrollment status*

After formal application to the M.Ed. program, students may be allowed to enroll in one of the following categories:

- Regular admission to the Elon University M.Ed. program is granted to students who meet all the established requirements for entrance. The Application for Graduate Admission form is required for all degree-seeking students.
- Special admission is for the nondegree-seeking student who has completed a baccalaureate degree program and is interested in taking courses for special job-related purposes (including renewal credit for teachers with existing licensure), add-on licensure or transfer credit. A Special Student Application form is required for admission.

### *International students*

Because several months may be required to receive and process forms from international applicants, applications and complete documentation should be submitted as early as possible. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required unless English is the student's native language or the language of instruction. A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based) or 79 (Internet-based) is required for admission to any graduate program at Elon. Exceptions to this requirement may be considered under special circumstances. In addition, a completed Certificate of Financial Responsibility (CFR) is necessary prior to approval of application for admission.

### *M.Ed. student status policy*

An M.Ed. student is considered full-time when he/she is enrolled in 6 or more credit hours; part-time, if enrolled in 5 or less.

### *Continuation standards*

Graduate students who fail to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. Any student who receives an "F" grade or two "C" grades is subject to dismissal from the program. A student may request re-admission to the program by writing a letter to the Dean indicating why re-admission should be granted. The Dean, advised by the M.Ed. Director and faculty committee, will

determine whether to grant the request. If the request is approved, a student can only retake a particular course once. The grade in the course that is retaken must be “B” or better, or the student will not be allowed to continue in the program.

### *Graduation and degree requirements*

To earn an M.Ed. degree, the graduate student must:

- Have an overall minimum grade point average of 3.0 in graduate coursework.
- Submit an application for graduation to the Registrar.
- Complete the courses specified under the graduate core curriculum and major area, Elementary, Gifted or Special Education.
- Complete 33 graduate hours (11 courses) within six calendar years.
- Complete in a satisfactory manner the evidence of meeting the five graduate standards required for advanced licensure.
- Complete the last six semester hours at Elon.

It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with the preceding requirements for graduation.

### *Graduate-level licensure*

Recommendation for graduate licensure will be given after completion of M.Ed. requirements. This recommendation will be given in one licensure area only: Elementary Education (K–6) or Academically/Intellectually Gifted Education (K–12) or Special Education–General Curriculum (K–12). Prior to receiving graduate licensure, a student must possess an initial North Carolina teaching license. In addition, students applying for Elementary Education or Special Education licensure must take the Praxis II specialty area examination. (No Praxis II is available for Gifted Education.)

## *Courses*

### **MED 515** 3 sh **Educational Assessment and Evaluation**

MED 515 is designed to increase graduate students’ knowledge and skills in the area of assessment, especially as it pertains to classroom practice. An emphasis is placed on the construction and use of high quality, standards-based instruments, both formative and summative, to assess understanding. Techniques for data analysis are considered and applied to data students collect for their research projects.

development, preparation, analysis, interpretation and evaluation.

### **MED 521** 3 sh **Critical Issues in Elementary Education**

This inquiry-based course approaches the design of school curricula with consideration for philosophical underpinning, theoretical research related to learning and pedagogy, cultural and political context, and systemic change. Issues related to diversity, equity and quality of educational experience will be explored.

### **MED 516** 3 sh **Educational Research**

MED 516 is designed to enable educators to become discriminating consumers and practical producers of action-based educational research. The course gives teachers the opportunity to develop the professional knowledge, skills and dispositions for critical inquiry and research

### **MED 522** 3 sh **Advanced Literacy Development**

This course explores the nature of literacy, including the critical features of the development phases of reading and writing. The course includes a study of the characteristics of developing readers and writers with special emphasis



on effective instructional practices. A variety of instructional practices and literacy programs are critiqued in relation to what it means to be literate.

**MED 523** 3 sh  
**Instructional Technologies in the Classroom**

This course examines the role of technology in teaching and learning in P-12 schools. Graduate students develop skills in using technology and in selecting and applying technology appropriately to enhance both teacher productivity and student learning. Current issues related to educational technology will be explored through written and oral reflection based on selected readings.

**MED 530** 3 sh  
**Curriculum & Instructional Design in Elementary Education**

This course emphasizes the importance of a strong alignment among curriculum, instruction and assessment. Graduate students will explore the fundamental question of "What should students know and be able to do as a result of schooling?" A major emphasis in the course is facilitating a deep understanding of the content of curriculum through the use of careful instructional planning and sound pedagogy.

**MED 532** 3 sh  
**Consultation and Collaboration Skills**

(Three sections with internship: Special, Elementary and Gifted education.) This course explores the collaborative nature of education with particular emphasis on developing the skills required to be an effective member of an educational team. The course includes examination of communication skills with a focus on those skills needed to form effective partnerships with families, community agencies, paraprofessionals, administrators and others involved in students' education. Each section of the course allows graduate students to exercise and refine the knowledge, skills and dispositions they have developed through their participation in the M.Ed. program. Students will work, in collaboration with Elon University leaders and fellow cohort members, to facilitate cognitive, affective and social development of P-12 learners by designing, administering and evaluating a summer learning enrichment experience on the Elon University campus.

**MED 534** 3 sh  
**Curriculum & Instructional Design in Special Education**

The focus of this course is on planning curriculum and designing instruction for students with mild or moderate disabilities so that they can participate fully in core curricular activities. Topics include individualized educational program (IEP) development, universal design for learning (UDL), differentiation of instruction, and selection and use of accommodations.

**MED 540** 3 sh  
**Literature for Children & Youth: Analysis and Application**

This course features the analysis of contemporary books for children and youth and examines how literature can be effectively incorporated into the school curriculum. The course includes methods for presenting a variety of print and non-print materials to students, using student interest to motivate reading, and capitalizing on literature to help children progress as readers, writers and critical thinkers.

**MED 542** 3 sh  
**Foundations of Special Education**

This course addresses the evolution of the field of special education, its philosophical and theoretical foundations, legal underpinnings and current trends and controversies. Emphasis is on acquiring a broad knowledge base regarding exceptional learners and the programming needed to meet their unique needs. Family involvement is highlighted, and special consideration is given to issues of cultural diversity in terms of special education placement and services.

**MED 544** 3 sh  
**Language and Literacy Methods in Special Education**

This course develops the knowledge base necessary for making instructional decisions for exceptional learners in the area of literacy. Graduate students will examine the research base on instructional techniques for students with high incidence disabilities. They will learn to apply effective teaching methods that involve explicit, systematic and intensive instruction and use informal assessments as basis for planning, monitoring and modifying instruction.



**MED 545** 3 sh  
**Classroom Management for Exceptional Learners**

In this course graduate students are taught to analyze the disturbing behaviors of exceptional students in classroom environments and to design effective behavior management interventions. The framework of positive behavior support is adopted, providing students with varying levels of intervention dependent upon severity of their need. The importance of family involvement is stressed and methods for gaining family support are addressed.

**MED 550** 3 sh  
**Educating Diverse Learners**

This course is designed to prepare teachers to work effectively in today's inclusive classrooms. The course includes a consideration of a wide variety of diversity, including of ability; racial, cultural and ethnic diversity; linguistic diversity; and socio-economic diversity. An emphasis is placed on both cultural sensitivity and a solid knowledge base in historical and legal factors as being important in creating respectful learning environments.

**MED 561** 3 sh  
**Advanced Masters Seminar, II & III**

Seminar II: This section provides graduate students with the opportunity to synthesize the content and skills acquired during the first year of graduate studies as they assemble their research report. Upon completion of the graduate program, the research report is submitted as evidence of students' ability to plan and carry out action research designed to improve student learning. Seminar III: This section, taken during graduate students' third summer in the program, provides an opportunity for students to explore various roles of the teacher-leader and to consider opportunities for leadership in their school, community and the profession. Students will develop an action project to take with them and carry out in the school or professional community after they graduate. (Summer)

**MED 562** 3 sh  
**Foundations of Education of Gifted Students**

MED 562 is designed to provide graduate students with the historical and legal foundations, the key issues and trends, and the guiding policies of gifted students. They will examine the role of families, communities and the educational environment in supporting the development and education of individuals with academic and/or intellectual gifts.

**MED 564** 3 sh  
**Curriculum & Instructional Design in Gifted Education**

This course will acquaint graduate students with the central concepts of curriculum and instructional design and differentiation. Students will study models of curriculum and a wide range of instructional methods that enhance the strengths of gifted learners. The principle of alignment will be emphasized throughout, in terms of alignment with standards and with learner characteristics as well as internal alignment of curriculum elements.

**MED 567** 3 sh  
**Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students**

MED 567 will introduce graduate students to the social and emotional issues that confront students who are gifted. Special populations, including gifted/learning disabled, culturally diverse and those who are extremely precocious, will be considered regarding their unique characteristics and needs. An emphasis will be placed on programming and promising practices for these special groups of students.

**MED 570** 3 sh  
**Special Topics**

This course deals with topics of special interest, which may vary each time the course is offered and are outlined in the current class schedule handbook.

**MED 588** 3 sh  
**Studies in International Education**

This course includes 10 days of travel in Costa Rica and five days of class meetings on campus. In this course, graduate students explore cultural, historical, political and economic factors that influence the education system (both private and public) in Costa Rica. Through readings, discussion and completion of a class project, students will gain information and insight into specific issues that affect schooling in Costa Rica.

**MED 591** 3 sh  
**Independent Study**

The Independent Study allows graduate students to plan an independent course of study in consultation with a faculty advisor. Permission of M.Ed. director is required. No more than three hours of independent study may be applied toward M.Ed. degree.

**MTH 521** 3 sh**Mathematical Concepts and Connections**

The main focus of this course is the integration of content standards of mathematics with the process standards – problem solving, communication, reasoning, representation and within and outside of mathematics. Graduate students will enhance their knowledge and understanding of both the content and process standards of mathematics through research and collaboration with others.

**PSY 515** 3 sh**Advanced Psychological Theory in the Classroom**

This course is designed to provide a background in the application of psychology to education with a focus on cognitive approaches to

learning, development and motivation. Graduate students will learn to apply current theory and recent research findings to practical problems of education.

**SCI 565** 3 sh**Integrated Science**

SCI 565 is designed to increase graduate students' knowledge and skills in the natural sciences using a team-based format. Classes are interactive and students will experience inquiry-based learning. Emphasis is placed in the nature and processes of science and how scientific knowledge is acquired and refined. Graduate students will explore the relationship of science to the classroom and to the world beyond the classroom.

**Administration**

**Leo M. Lambert**, *B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.*

President

**Steven House**, *B.S., Ph.D.*

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**David H. Cooper**, *B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.*

Dean of School of Education

**Judith B. Howard**, *B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.*

Director of M.Ed. Program

**Arthur W. Fadde**, *B.S., M.Ed.*

Associate Dean of Admissions and Director of Graduate Admissions

**Mark R. Albertson**, *B.B.A.*

University Registrar

**Faculty**

**Joan Barnatt**, *Assistant Professor of Education*

B.A., Murray State University; M.Ed., Bridgewater State College; Ph.D., Boston College

**E. Stephen Byrd**, *Associate Professor of Education*

B.S., Liberty University; M.A., Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University; Ph.D., University of Virginia

**David H. Cooper**, *Professor of Education; Dean, School of Education*

B.A., Brown University; M.Ed., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Glenda W. Crawford**, *Professor of Education*

B.A., M.Ed., Ed.D., The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Alexandra N. Darby**, *Associate Professor of Psychology*

B.A., North Central College; M.A., University of Connecticut; Ph.D., University of Georgia

**Ayesha N. Delpish**, *Associate Professor of Mathematics*

B.S., Mt. St. Mary's College; M.S., Ph.D., The Florida State University

**F. Gerald Dillashaw**, *Professor of Education*

B.S., Furman University; M.A.T., Converse College; Ed.D., University of Georgia

**Mark T. Enfield**, *Assistant Professor of Education*

B.S., East Central University; M.Ed., University of Central Oklahoma; Ph.D., Michigan State University

**Heidi L. Hollingsworth**, *Assistant Professor of Education*

B.S., The University of North Carolina at Greensboro; M.Ed., William & Mary University; Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Judith B. Howard**, *Professor of Education; Director, Teacher Education and M.Ed. Program*

B.A., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.Ed., Tulane University; Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Catherine A. King**, *Associate Professor of Psychology*

B.A., University of California at San Diego; M.A., Northwestern University; Ph.D., University of California at San Diego

**Mary Knight-McKenna**, *Associate Professor of Education*

B.S., Nazareth College; M.Ed., Northeastern University; Ph.D., Lesley University

**Richard Mihans**, *Associate Professor of Education*

B.S., M.Ed., Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Jean Rattigan-Rohr**, *Associate Professor of Education*

B.S., M.A., Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Janice L. Richardson**, *Associate Professor of Mathematics*

B.A., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.A., Wake Forest University

**Carolyn B. Stuart**, *Associate Professor of Education; Chair, Department of Education*

B.S., M.Ed., Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Barbara Taylor**, *Associate Professor of Computing Sciences*

A.B., Elon College; M.S., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.S., University of Evansville

**Terry M. Tomasek**, *Assistant Professor of Education*

B.A., University of South Florida; M.A., M.S., Marshall University; Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Greensboro