

## **The Instructional Program: Policies and Procedures**

### A. Faculty Attendance related to Instructional Responsibilities

Full-time members of the teaching faculty are required to report to campus 1 week before the opening of each term, and remain until 1 week after commencement. They are expected to use the time in professional improvement and preparation, or assisting with registration and student orientation and counseling.

### B. Introduction to the Course

At the first class meeting of the term, every faculty member teaching a course should, among other things, introduce the students to the major aspects of the course. The entire period will be required; no classes should be given assignments and dismissed. Topics of discussion regarding introduction to the course should include the following:

1. Announcement of the time of all meetings, including such requirements as laboratory periods, scheduled in connection with the class.
2. Statement of the prerequisites of the course; students not eligible for the course should be sent immediately to the registrar's office.
3. Discussion of the objectives and the value to be derived from the course.
4. Discussion of the contents of the course.
5. Statement of the complete requirements of the course: textbook(s) and required library readings; number and nature of required reports, themes and term papers; supplementary readings; types of quizzes/examinations to be used.
6. Explanation of method to be used in computing the final course grade.
7. Distribution of a course syllabus containing course goals and relevant data from the items above to each student.
8. Explanation of the Elon University academic honor code and how it will be applied in the course.

### C. Class Rolls

1. Faculty members will be provided with tentative class rolls before the first meeting of classes. If a student is present whose name is not on the roll, the

faculty member should request that the student report immediately to the registrar's office. If the name of a student not present appears on the roll, the faculty member should follow normal procedures for reporting absences.

2. At the end of the registration period, permanent class rolls will be supplied. The faculty members should inform the registrar immediately of any discrepancies between class membership and rolls. Students not officially enrolled in the class may not receive credit and should not be permitted to attend.

#### D. Use of Class Periods

1. All class periods in both day and evening classes, and including those immediately preceding holidays and vacations, should be used in their entirety for instruction purposes. Early dismissal of classes disturbs others.
2. If for some reason a faculty member must be absent from a class, change the time or place of a class and/or cancel the class for one day in the event of an emergency, he/she should inform the department chair and the dean of the absence and of provisions made for the class.

#### E. Classroom Responsibilities

1. Classroom assignments are made by the registrar's office. Classroom changes are not to be made without approval from that office.
2. Faculty members should report any physical classroom needs to the building coordinator without delay.
3. Faculty should enforce the university policy on smoking: smoking is not permitted in the classroom at any time by either faculty members or students. Eating and drinking in classrooms are also prohibited.
4. Maintenance of a complete and accurate record of the grades students earned (including tests, papers, field work and final grade) in each course, and submission of these records to the chair, dean or provost/vice president for academic affairs if requested.

#### F. Class Absences

It is the institutional policy to urge students to attend class meetings on a regular basis, recognizing that such attendance is an integral part of learning. With this policy in mind, the following procedures and guidelines have been adopted by the Elon faculty:

1. Each department should establish a policy on class attendance. Policies should address excused absences due to official institutional functions. Each faculty or

staff member who is in charge of an official institutional program which will require a student to be absent from class is required to file with the registrar's office a notice of students in the program.

2. Faculty members should inform each class of the absentee policy in effect. This policy should be incorporated into the class syllabus.
3. Excused absences may also include: absence when the faculty member is satisfied that each absence is due to illness, or emergency, or absence for a job, graduate school admittance interview, or similar reason with prior approval of the faculty member concerned.
4. Before a student exceeds the absence criterion established for that class, the faculty member should make an attempt to contact the student, either through e-mail, through the student's advisor or through counseling services, and determine the reason for the excessive absence.
5. If the student persists in being absent, the faculty member should notify the school/college dean and recommend that the student be dropped from the class.
6. Students should be apprised that they are responsible for material and assignments whether or not the absence was excused.

#### G. Religious Holidays

Elon University embraces the mission of an academic community that influences and transforms mind, body, and spirit. The following policy guiding procedure for the observance of recognized holidays is consistent with and complementary to the University's mission.

##### 1. Policy

In recognition that observance of recognized religious holidays may affect students' classroom attendance and the submission of graded work in courses, Elon University has established procedures to be followed by students for notifying their instructors of an absence necessitated by the observance. This policy reflects the University's commitment to being responsive to our increasing diversity and to encourage students' spiritual development. In accordance with the policy, students who miss class to observe a specified religious holiday are required to discuss with their instructor when and how any missed assignments will be made up. The student should consult his or her academic dean if an instructor is unable or unwilling to grant the request. Absence from class due to observance of a religious holiday is excused according to University policy.

## 2. Procedure

- a. The religious observance notification procedure is based on the operating principle that you will act in accordance with the Elon University Honor Code. This procedure can only be used to notify an instructor of an absence from class necessitated by observance on a religious holiday.
- b. Since religious holidays are scheduled in advance, you are expected to formally notify your instructor within the first week of the semester that you will miss class in order to observe a religious holiday by completing the secure online Religious Observance Notification Form. It is required that you send an additional notification to your instructor at least one class before each absence.
- c. You are also required to make prior arrangements with your instructor for completion of any work missed during your absence. Since your instructor may want to use the same exercise that the rest of the class has completed, you are obligated to avoid obtaining any information about that graded exercise that would give you an unfair advantage over other students taking the course.

Note: When you submit this form, your instructor will be notified by email, and copies will be sent to you and to your academic dean. In completing the form, you may find it useful to consult OnTrack, where you can view your class schedule to obtain the name and the number of the course and the name of the course instructor. Your actual or electronic signature on the form affirms your compliance with the Elon University Honor Code.

- d. Given the time limitations inherent in completing end-of-semester assignments or making up a missed final exam, this procedure cannot be used during the final exam period. You are expected to take final examinations at the scheduled times and to complete end-of-semester work by the deadlines set by the instructor. In the event that a religious holiday should fall during exam week, contact your academic dean as soon as possible, before the scheduled assignments or exam. There may also be certain circumstances (a concert or a performance for example) which cannot be made up. In this case, the student may be advised to take that specific course in another school semester.

(06/09)

## H. Testing Procedures

1. Periodic testing (testing over work covered in a significant period of time such as a month) should always be planned and announced in advance. Fair notice should always be given for a periodic test. At least a week is considered fair. These

periodic tests should not be given during the final week prior to semester examinations.

2. Students must be allowed to see their graded test papers for each test given during the term. Either by class discussion or in written comments, students should be apprised of the quality of their work.

(7/11)

I. Missing or Rescheduling Tests or Final Examinations during the Semester/Term

1. Missing or Rescheduling a Test

When a student misses an announced test during the semester/term, he/she must secure permission from the professor to make up the test. Individual instructors are authorized by faculty vote to use retest programs (for tests other than the final examinations) tailored to their individual courses. Each professor should make clear the departmental policy and outline the procedure to be followed in validating the reasons for missing a test. This information should be carefully explained at the beginning of each semester and included in the course syllabus.

2. Missing or Rescheduling One or More Final Examinations

If a student misses final examinations during a semester, the student must secure permission based on the reason for missing (see below)

a. Multiple Final Examinations on One Day

If a student has three (3) exams scheduled for the same day, he/she may secure a "Change Request Form" from the Registrar's Office. This change request form must be completed and returned to the Registrar's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of classes before final exams.

b. Medical Reasons

- 1.) Medical Emergency. Students who have completed sufficient work to complete a course but who become ill or injured just prior to or during the final exam period should contact the associate vice president for academic affairs in the provost's office (Alamance 120) to present verification. The AVPAA will notify instructors of the student's situation. As soon as they are able, students should contact individual instructors to discuss arrangements for completing work. In cases where the instructor is no longer employed at Elon after the end of the semester, the student should contact the department chairperson.

2.) Medical Leave of Absence (WD). If a student has a documented medical condition that has impacted his/her ability to complete course work and will keep him/her from taking exams, the student should consult the assistant vice president for student life for a medical leave of absence which will remove the student permanently (with grades of WD) from all classes. Students seeking a medical withdrawal must withdraw from all courses; they may not obtain a medical withdrawal from only selected courses. Students with medical withdrawals will not be permitted to complete courses.

c. Other Documented Excuses for Missing Final Exams

Occasionally, a student will find him/herself in a situation that may be best resolved by not taking one or more final examinations as scheduled. Justifiable reasons for such absences may include school-sponsored representation at events, but will generally not include travel arrangements, starting a job or an internship, or participation in family events such as weddings and graduations.

- 1.) Missing or Rescheduling ONE final exam only per semester. Requests by a student to miss or reschedule only one final exam during a semester must be made to the appropriate department chairperson. When the chair agrees that the reason for missing is justifiable, the student is responsible for working with the faculty member to complete the work for that course.
- 2.) Missing or Rescheduling MULTIPLE final exams in one semester. Requests by a student to miss or reschedule more than one final exam during any given semester must be made to the associate vice president for academic affairs. Because of the burden on faculty to revise or recreate and administer additional final exams, such absences are not commonly awarded. If approved, the AVPAA will notify instructors that appropriate verification has been received. Students should, as soon as they are able, contact individual instructors to discuss completion of course work.

Students who misrepresent their requests to miss or adjust final exams will be charged with violating Elon's Honor Code.

(7/11)

J. Reading Lists

Careful consideration should be given to the use of reading lists and the implementation of a reading program for students. This will help students become acquainted with those great books which the liberal arts university graduate should be aware. The institution takes seriously the importance of the library to the educational

experience. Each instructor is strongly encouraged to incorporate library usage into his/her courses.

#### K. Term Papers

For term papers (those papers of the research type which are normally assigned some time ahead of the deadline for turning them in) the instructor should announce the general nature of the requirements the first day of class or as soon thereafter as possible. Further announcements as to other details should be given to the class in an appropriately timely manner before the paper is due.

#### L. Honor Code Policy

1. As a member of the university community, each faculty member has a responsibility to promote and enforce the academic honor policy. This responsibility involves appropriate interpretation of the honor policy and the promotion of conditions favorable to academic honor and academic citizenship. Instructors should provide:
  - a. Clear exposition of the values of Elon's honor code and students' obligations to uphold the policy
  - b. The maintenance of order
  - c. Demonstration of the importance of personal interest, fairness and mutual consideration
  - d. Uniform procedure in handling violations
2. It is recommended that faculty ask students to sign an honor pledge for all tests, examinations and all outside written work which is to be completed independently, indicating that they have neither given nor received unauthorized aid.
3. Each faculty member should indicate to his/her classes the policies regarding assigned work done outside of class, indicating when and how collaboration and use of resources is acceptable.
4. If an instructor has reason to believe that a student has violated the honor code by cheating, plagiarizing, lying, stealing, vandalizing or facilitating academic dishonesty in others, he/she is to indicate to the student that there is a problem and arrange for a meeting. During that meeting the charge is to be explained to the student, and the student is asked whether he/she wishes to take responsibility.
5. In cases where students take responsibility, the instructor should assign sanctions related to the course and return the completed Incident Form to the associate vice president for academic affairs.
6. In cases where the student does not take responsibility, the instructor should complete the Incident Form, taking it and any evidence to the associate vice

president for academic affairs who will arrange for a hearing before the judicial board.

7. The instructor is responsible for completing the grade report for the course the student is enrolled in. In no case may an honor code F (or any reduction in grades or student credit for work) be assigned in a course without the necessary paperwork and procedures having been followed to verify an honor code violation has occurred and the student was made aware of the charge.
8. The office of the provost/vice president for academic affairs will determine and administer any institutional sanctions (in addition to course related sanctions given by the faculty). Institutional sanctions include, but are not limited to probation, suspension or dismissal from the institution for students whose violations are grievous or repeat offenses.
9. In order to monitor the honor code behaviors and record of each student, it is vital that instructors submit an incident report for each student who has violated the honor code policy, even when the faculty members elects to assign only minimal (or no) course sanctions.

(8/07)

#### M. Final Examinations

- a. The university calendar provides a week at the end of each semester for final exams. A three-hour period is set aside for an exam for each course. The day and time of final exams are set by the provost/vice-president for academic affairs and are available on Ontrack and in the Web Reference section of the Table of Contents. The time of an exam may not be changed, and no student may be excused from a scheduled examination without appropriate authorization as stated in this section. At the request of a student, the faculty member should allow the student to see the graded final exam paper. It is not customary to permit the student to keep it.
- b. The final exam period should be used for a culminating final exam or activity. When pedagogical concerns dictate, other meaningful and significant use of the time may occur with notification to the department chair. In rare cases when the exam period will not be used, the time may be made up in other ways to be determined in consultation with the department chair.
- c. When constructing syllabi and determining assignments and deadlines for the final weeks of classes and exam week, faculty should make decisions that reflect respect for the integrity and length of the exam week and consideration of students' performances and obligations in other classes.

(07/06)

N. Collection Policy

No student is permitted to take a final examination unless his/her account is cleared in the business office. This is a policy statement by the Board of Trustees. Students who do not pay their accounts or make satisfactory arrangements may be disenrolled from class by a memo from the Bursar's Office at the request of the business office. Faculty cooperation in this matter is necessary.

O. Grading System and Quality Points

- a. Graduation is dependent upon quality as well as upon quantity of work done. A student earns quality points as well as semester hours if his/her level of performance does not fall below that of a "D-." Letter grades are used. They are interpreted in the table below, with the quality points for each hour of credit shown at right.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0
I     Incomplete	0.0
P     Passing (not counted in cumulative avg.)	0.0
S     Satisfactory (not counted in cumulative avg.)	0.0
U     Unsatisfactory (counted in cumulative avg.)	0.0
WD    Medical Withdrawal	0.0
W     Withdrawal	0.0
NR    No Report	0.0

1. A grade in the "A" range indicates distinguished performance in a course.
2. A grade in the "B" range indicates an above-average performance in class.
3. A grade in the "C" range indicates an average performance in which a basic understanding of the subject has been demonstrated.

4. A grade in the "D" range indicates a passing performance despite some deficiencies.
5. A grade of "F" indicates failure.

Grades of "A" through "F" are permanent grades and may not be changed except in case of error. After an instructor has certified a grade to the registrar, he/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 department chair.

(08/07)

- b. Class roles for all classes will be put in faculty mailboxes during examination week. Faculty should submit course grades electronically via OnTrack, adhering to the deadlines set by the Registrar's Office and published each year in the university calendar.
- c. The student and the student's academic advisor can view grades on OnTrack anytime after the grade has been submitted.
- d. Repeat Courses: Courses repeated within four semesters of attendance (excluding winter and summer sessions) following the first enrollment in the course count only once in computing the cumulative grade point average. In such cases the most recent grade is counted rather than any previous grade(s) received. However, a course repeated more than once will count in the cumulative grade point average each time it is repeated.
- e. Pass/Fail Courses: Students may take two courses outside the major, minor or general studies requirements on a pass/fail basis. However, this option must be chosen at registration and may not be chosen after classes have begun.

(08/07)

#### P. Posting of Grades

In courses where faculty use Blackboard or some other university-approved electronic course management system, grades on assignments, tests and other course activities may be shared directly with individual students in the course. In classes where faculty members do not use an electronic course management system, the grades, which are considered a part of a student's educational record, will not be released or posted in any personally identifiable form, including listing by student identification/social security number, unless the student gives written consent.

Acceptable alternatives for distributing test results and grade information to students include:

- a. Posting of grades by student identification/social security number of all students who sign a consent statement for each occasion on which grades are to be posted or for the entire semester. The written consent may be obtained by a petition to be signed by all members of the class who wish their grades posted or by having a consent statement on the answer sheet of each test or exam.

Posting of grades without a consent statement by using a system of random numbers or letters or other symbols, not personally identifiable, known only by the faculty member and the individual student.

- b. The mailing of grades in self-addressed and self-stamped envelopes.
- c. A faculty member may also leave examinations and other graded material with the secretary assigned to his/her department who may distribute the material to students who offer sufficient identification.

(08/07)

#### Q. Mid-Semester Progress Reports

Mid-semester grades constitute formalized feedback for students prior to the drop/add date and are a vital means of communication between faculty and students. Faculty are encouraged to communicate clearly to their classes the meaning of the mid-semester grade, including how it was calculated and the portion of the final grade that it represents. The intent of the mid-semester grade is to provide early, accurate, and significant feedback regarding a student's progress in the course, making it helpful to both students and their advisors. Therefore, mid-semester grades of S, U, NR, and I must be cleared through the appropriate dean.

(7/02)

#### R. Final Grades

Final grades for each course are to be submitted electronically via OnTrack by the deadlines specified in the university calendar. In the spring term, grades for graduating seniors are due on an accelerated schedule published by the registrar's office. In determining grades, faculty are expected to conform to university policy and established professional norms.

(08/07)

#### S. Academic Warning, Probation & Suspension

At least a "C" average (grade point average of 2.00) is necessary to satisfy the institution's academic requirements. Records of each student whose grades fall below

this average in any semester are reviewed by the committee on academic standing, which may (1) place the student on academic probation or (2) suspend the student. One academic semester must elapse before students suspended for failure to maintain normal academic progress are eligible for reinstatement. A student who is suspended a second time for academic reasons is normally not readmitted to the university for further study.

#### T. Independent Study Guidelines

Independent study application forms are available at the registrar's office. Instruction by independent study can be a stimulating experience for instructor and student alike. In order for this to occur the faculty adopted the following guidelines in 1975:

- a. There are two uses of independent study:
  - i. For students who, in the opinion of the course director and the department chair, are academically talented
  - ii. For students who need a specific catalog course to graduate
- b. The requirements for an independent study course should be roughly equivalent to those of a course taught in a regular classroom environment.
- c. Normally, independent study:
  - i. Will not be used to repeat a course
  - ii. Will be limited to juniors and seniors
- d. Independent study will not be used to avoid a specific professor.
- e. Normally:
  - i. A student will be enrolled in only one independent study course at a time
  - ii. A professor will direct no more than 8 hours of independent studies at a time
  - iii. A 4-hour course will require one fall or spring semester's time
- f. A student will not be allowed to enroll in a course by independent study, if that course is scheduled for that semester.

#### U. Special Courses

Courses are not to be given privately or to small groups of students without the approval of the provost/vice president for academic affairs. Under NO circumstances is a faculty member permitted to receive money from a student for private instruction.

The student pays money only to the business office and the teacher is paid only by the institution.

#### V. Incomplete Grade Policy

- a. 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 department chair upon communication from the student. In any case, an instructor giving the grade of "I" will note the reason for the grade in the "comments" column of the final grade report sheet.
- b. The student receiving a grade of "I" completes all work no later than nine class days after mid semester grades are due in the following regular semester. A final grade is submitted to the registrar by the instructor the following Monday. After this date, the "I" grade automatically changes to "F" unless an extension is granted by the dean of the school/college.

#### W. Notes

- a. The precise dates in fall and spring semesters by which all work toward removing an "I" grade is due to the instructor are printed in the official university calendar, registration schedules, on the grade report of the semester on which the "I" is given.
- b. When a student has an "I" grade, the faculty advisor is encouraged to recommend a lighter load the next semester.

#### W. Advising Students

1. Considered a part of teaching responsibilities, academic advising provides important opportunities to discuss course selection, choice of major/minor and career opportunities.
2. Advisors are expected to give students individual attention when needed and to participate effectively in the advising program.

#### X. Teaching Faculty Office Hours

Each full-time teaching faculty member is expected to maintain a schedule of office hours on at least 3 days per week distributed so that students may be able to make convenient appointments. As soon as the semester schedule is arranged, faculty members are expected to file a copy of their daily schedule with the secretary assigned to their department. Office hours should be indicated, as well as regularly scheduled extra-curricular activities. Faculty members should also post a copy of their schedule on their office door.

(7/05)