

Working to enhance new student engagement
and success...

It takes a Village!

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The Village...Elon University...who we are

- Private, selective, comprehensive university
- Strong liberal arts college and professional schools.
- Total fall 2016 enrollment (6739 / 6008 undergraduates).
- 60% acceptance rate
- First year retention (91 %); 4yr graduation rate (78 %)
- Significant residential identity with 62% living on campus
- Average class size ~ 20
- Student/faculty ~ 12/1
- Accredited programs in all schools
- National recognitions for high impact practices

National Recognition for High Impact Practices

First year experiences

Writing in the disciplines

Senior capstone experience

Learning communities

Graduates in 2016

Internship for credit ... 82%

Global Education ... 80%

Research ... 25%

Documented Volunteer /service ... 92%

Documented Leadership ... 47%

Strategic Planning

- 2010 – 2020 ~ The Elon Commitment:
Engaged minds. Inspired leaders. Global citizens.

- Shared mission within the Elon community
- Effective strategic planning at all levels
- Collaboration across all units of the university
- Student and learning-centered culture
- Emphasis upon innovative programs and student engagement

Academic Affairs Advisory Council

- **Provost and VP for Academic Affairs**
- **Associate Provosts for Academic Affairs**
- **Academic Deans from all undergraduate schools**
- **Associate Deans from all undergraduate schools**
- **Dean of the Library**
- **Associate Dean of Academic Support Systems**
- **Chair of Academic Council**
- **Assistant VP for Technology and Chief Information Officer**
- **Registrar**
- **Director of Core Curriculum**
- **Director of Institutional Research**

Residential Campus Advisory Committee

- Teaching faculty
- A faculty advisor from one of the Residential Neighborhoods
- Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
- VP for Student Life
- Director of Residence Life
- Director of Core Curriculum
- Representative from Inclusive Community Council
- Representative from Wellness Program
- Representative from the First Year Student Committee
- Students from SGA and Resident Student Association

First-Year Experience Advisory Committee

- Guides the “development and implementation of a coherent, innovative, high quality first year that supports the intellectual, person and interpersonal development of first-year students to be engaged members of the Elon Community”.

- Academic Affairs
- Student Life
- Core Curriculum
- Academic Advising
- Residential Campus
- Academic Dean
- Institutional Research

- Inclusive Community
- Faculty
- Students
- Admissions
- Financial Planning
- Inclusive Community
- Health and Wellness

Behind the scenes in the Village...

- Increased financial aid opportunities
- Institutional focus on diversity
- Supporting the Elon Teacher-Scholar-Mentor model
- Ongoing refinement of core curriculum and Elon Experiences
- Continued implementation of Residential Campus initiative
- Ongoing improvement of student support systems
 - academic advising
 - peer tutoring
 - disabilities service
 - health and wellness
 - student professional development

Welcome to the Village...

- Pre-arrival conversations... “Are you Ready?”
- Common Reading
- Opening Convocation messaging
- Orientation including session on engaged learning
- Orientation Resources Fair
- Learning Communities
- Elon 101 (transitioning, reflecting, planning)
- Core Curriculum
- Campus Organizations, academic majors and professional development fairs and programs
- Thematic, innovative winter term courses
- Departmental focus on new students

Assessing Impact....

- **First year retention data**
- **National Survey of Student Engagement data**
First year student engagement benchmark means comparisons over years / comparing Elon to current peer institutions / comparing Elon to NSSE top 50% and to NSSE top 10% performing schools
- **Cap and Gown and other alumni survey data**
- **Survey of college presidents, chief academic officers , deans**
- **First Year Student Advisory Committee working to develop additional ways to assess impact**

Special Recognitions....

- **Shannon Lundeen ~ Director of Academic Initiatives for the Residential Campus and Associate Professor of Philosophy**
- **Jeffrey Coker ~ Director of Core Curriculum and Associate Professor of Biology**
- **Brandy Propst ~ Director of Elon 101 and Associate Director of Academic Advising**
- **Robert Springer ~ Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness**



Student Retention: Strategies to Improve Retention and Engagement

Jonathan Millen, Dean
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences





RIDER
UNIVERSITY

Lawrenceville Campus

- 4,050 undergraduates, 900 graduates
- Academic Divisions
 - College of Business Administration
 - College of Continuing Studies
 - School of Fine and Performing Arts
 - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - School of Education

Princeton Campus

- 350 Undergraduates, 100 graduates
- Westminster Choir College





RIDER
UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Admission Profile

Demographics

- 29% from Outside NJ; 41 States from Maine to Hawaii
- 77 Countries
- 900 Freshmen; 250 Transfers

Freshman Averages

- 3.32 cumulative grade-point average
- SAT: 1600 (1070 Critical Reading + Math)
- ACT: 23

Transfer Average

- 3.00 cumulative grade-point average



Engagement and Retention

1. Strategic Planning
2. Embracing the Expectation



1. Strategic Planning

- Academic Excellence *and* Engaged Learning



1. Strategic Planning

- Academic Excellence *and* Engaged Learning
- Committee Membership
- Golden Rule Approach
- Work in the Gray
- B-ing SMART



Embracing the Expectation

- Graduation Requirement



Embracing the Expectation

- Graduation Requirement

...Institutions must move the most effective learning practices from the margins to the center of the student experience which often requires expanding conceptions of where learning can and does happen in higher education.



Embracing the Expectation

- Graduation Requirement
- Borrow from Elon and Robert Morris
- Point System
- Credit and Non-credit Experiences

