



2015-2016 Post-Secondary Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2015-2016

Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: Dr. Leo M. Lambert

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name (As it should appear on the award): Elon University

College or University Street (If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.):

Mailing Address: 2185 Campus Box; 100 Campus Drive; Elon, North Carolina 27244

County: Alamance County IPEDS Number*: 198516

Telephone: 336-278-7900 Fax: 336-278-2830

Web site/URL: www.elon.edu E-mail: lambert@elon.edu

*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015



Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU)

Name of Nominating Authority: Dr. A. Hope Williams, NC Governor's Education Cabinet
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Hope Williams".

Date: Friday, January 15, 2016

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent summary that describes how your college or university is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars and their underlying Elements. Then, include concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element. Only institutions that document progress in every Pillar and Element can be considered for this award.

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to ed.green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2018

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

ED-GRS 2015-2016 Application for Colleges and Universities

Contact Information

College/University Name: Elon University

Street Address: 2185 Campus Box; 100 Campus Drive

City: Elon State: NC Zip: 27244

Website: www.elon.edu/sustainability Facebook page: www.facebook.com/elonsustainability

President/Chancellor Name: Dr. Leo M. Lambert

President/Chancellor Email Address: lambert@elon.edu Phone Number: (336) 278-7900

Lead Applicant Name (if different): Elaine Durr (ceremony invitation contact)

Lead Applicant Email: edurr@elon.edu Phone Number: 336-278-5229

Basic Carnegie Classification	Master's	Minority-Serving Institution (check all that apply): AANAPISI _____ ANNH _____ HBCU _____ HIS _____ NASNTI _____ PBI _____ TCU _____ NONE APPLY <u> X </u>
Enrollment Profile	Size and setting Undergraduate Enrollment: <u>5,903</u> Graduate Enrollment: <u>728</u> Percent of Undergraduates Receiving Pell Grants: <u>8%</u>	Graduation rate (150% of normal time): <u>80.6%</u> Average Institutional Net Price: <u>\$31,898 (students with aid, expected family contribution is part of this figure)</u>

1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

(X) Yes () No Program(s) and level(s) achieved:

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) – Silver (2015, 2014, 2011), Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges (2010-2015)

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

(X) Yes () No Award(s) and year(s):

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) – Silver (2015, 2014, 2011), Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges (2010-2015), Triangle Clean Cities Coalition Recognition (2015), The Business Journal of the Greater Triad Area - #1 among employers of comparable size in “Healthiest Employers” report (2012), Southern Association of College and University Business Officers (SACUBO) Best Practice Finalist for Faculty/Staff Wellness Program (2013); 26 LEED certified buildings (2009-2015)

Summary Narrative:

Elon University is committed to sustainability and to serving as a positive example through sustainable operations and education. The University demonstrates this commitment by reducing environmental impacts, promoting and improving health and wellness and providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

The University is reducing environmental impacts through energy and water conservation, sustainable buildings, waste reduction and alternative transportation. Energy efficiency and conservation efforts have resulted in a 30% reduction in BTU/SF. During this same time period, square footage has more than doubled (increased by 104%) and the student population increased 35%. Only about 37% of Elon's developed landscape is irrigated, and the automatic irrigation system on the main campus is primarily supplied with reclaimed stormwater collected in three ponds on campus. Eighty-three percent of water used for irrigation on campus comes from this reclaimed stormwater. Elon adopted a Green Building Policy in 2009, which states new construction projects and major renovations consisting of 8,000 or more square feet of conditioned, occupied space will achieve LEED certification with Silver being the preferred level. There are currently 26 LEED certified buildings on campus totaling 624,240 square feet, which is 23% of the University's total square footage. Campus waste reduction efforts include yard and food waste composting. Yard waste is processed by the University into a rich soil amendment and utilized in the campus landscape. Food waste is composted by a vendor off campus, and the program was recently expanded to collect more post-consumer compostables in retail dining locations and at catered events. About 39% of the University's fleet is alternative fueled vehicles, which includes the Elon BioBuses that run on B20 fuel (20% bio-fuel and 80% ultra-low sulfur diesel). The Elon BioBus system is free to use by students, faculty, staff and community members.

Elon promotes and improves campus health and wellness through a variety of programs, practices and educational efforts. Indoor environmental quality is ensured in a number of ways, including preventive maintenance on HVAC systems. Landscaping and grounds incorporates integrated pest management into its operations with the goal of preserving and protecting the landscape, while minimizing personal and environmental impacts, and establishing sustainable landscape management practices. The RN Ellington Center for Health and Wellness houses the Faculty/Staff Health and Wellness Center, Student Health Services, Student Counseling Services and Health Promotion. These offices provide well-being services and educational programming as well as counseling and/or referral services both independently and collaboratively. Campus Recreation is another important element of campus health and wellness. Students, faculty and staff can utilize the facilities at no cost. Campus recreation also oversees a number of student led programs that promote fitness and/or overall health. Campus also features marked Phoenix Trails, which include 1 mile, 1.5 mile, 2 mile and 3.1 mile paths, for use by the campus and greater community.

The University is providing effective environmental and sustainability education through interdisciplinary learning and using the environment and sustainability to develop STEM knowledge and thinking skills and developing civic knowledge and skills. All first-year undergraduates are required to take a seminar as part of the Core Curriculum. COR 110, The Global Experience, examines personal and social responsibility in domestic and global contexts. In developing their own view of the world and its many peoples, societies and environments, students evaluate the complex relationships that may both promote and obstruct human interaction. The Sustainability Faculty Scholars Program provides faculty with resources and support to incorporate or enhance a focus on sustainable principles and practices in their course. Over 45 faculty members have participated in the program from various disciplines ranging from art to biology to business administration. As part of the undergraduate Core Curriculum, students are required to take a natural science laboratory course. Many of these courses develop STEM knowledge and thinking skills and utilize the environment or sustainability topics. Some of the thirty-six faculty members working on sustainability-related research topics as

their own scholarship and/or as faculty mentors to student research are engaged in STEM related projects. Elon University is a national leader in civic engagement, serving as one of the model campuses for the Carnegie Classification on Civic Engagement and is recognized as one of the nation's top universities for community service by earning a Presidential Award in the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement is the primary gateway for students, faculty and staff to work with community partners in service that benefits the university and the surrounding community. Based on student self-reporting to the Kernodle Center in FY 14-15, 3,286 students engaged in 128,869 hours of community service.

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Elon University has a carbon neutrality goal to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2037. This goal was established in 2007 with the initial Sustainability Master Plan (2006-2007) and continues with the updated Sustainability Master Plan (2015). Emission reduction strategies in energy, transportation, solid waste and other sources are identified in the Climate Action Plan developed in 2010. The specific areas within energy addressed in the Climate Action Plan are: energy efficiency and conservation in existing buildings, energy conservation through behavior modification, green building, standards and policies, green information technology (IT) and renewable energy.

While the above referenced plans are more recent, Elon has been actively working to reduce energy consumption and emissions for decades. A few examples of those early efforts are: installed photo cells on all outside lights (late 1970s), began using building automation systems (early 1980s), began using motion sensors on lights (early 1990s), began to replace T-12 lights with more efficient T-8 lights (mid 1990s), installed first energy wheel on campus (early 2000s), switched to Energy Star washing machines (mid 2000s). Over the last 13 years, Elon has continued to invest in energy efficiency and conservation projects throughout campus, such as more efficient lighting [T-12 to T-8, some T-5, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CLFs) and LEDs where applicable], more efficient mechanical and ventilation systems, HVAC equipment scheduling, programmable thermostats, lighting occupancy sensors and window replacements. These efforts have resulted in a 30% reduction in BTU/SF. During this same time period, square footage has more than doubled (increased by 104%) and the student population increased 35%. To facilitate and continue these initiatives, Elon developed an Energy Conservation Policy in 2010.

Elon has been conducting a yearly greenhouse gas emissions inventory since 2008. The most recent inventory completed for FY 14-15 found that while overall emissions have increased, emissions per student and per square foot of building space are lower than when the university first started tracking emissions in 2008.

In 2008, Elon held its first residential energy reduction competition, which resulted in a savings of over 110,000 kWh over 7 weeks. This competition was held a total of 12 times on campus over seven years and varied in length from 2 to 7 weeks. In total, those 12 competitions resulted in savings of over 860,000 kWh or 480 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. This residential energy competition has evolved into a campus-wide energy reduction competition that is open to teams of students and faculty and staff. Teams earn points for participating in and talking about different types of energy conservation behaviors.

Elon has a Building Dashboard system that displays real-time electricity consumption information of over 60 buildings on campus. Some buildings on the system also have water and natural gas consumption displayed. The online system allows students, faculty and staff to interact with real-time energy data from a computer anywhere in the world. This system has been utilized to enhance student engagement during residential energy reduction competitions. The data is also available for class and research projects. The Physical Plant (Elon's

Facilities Management Department) is currently working on an extensive sub-metering project, which will greatly improve the ability to monitor, measure and impact energy consumption as well as water and natural gas consumption. The first phase of this project will be complete in May 2016.

Elon has incorporated solar and geothermal energy into campus, as well. Elon's first LEED building, Martha S. and Carl H. Lindner III Hall, completed in 2009 was the first building to incorporate solar energy. It has a 24 panel solar photovoltaic system for electricity generation that provides 2% of the buildings electricity needs. The building also has a 1 panel solar thermal system for heating water. In 2010, Elon received federal grant money for a large solar thermal project. The project was 50% funded by the federal grant funds, and Elon funded the rest. This project was completed in 2011 and involved 82 solar thermal panels on five buildings (one dining hall and 4 residential buildings). The estimated amount of avoided carbon of this project is 49 tons/year. Additional uses of solar energy include two electric utility vehicles that are equipped with a solar panel to extend their range during the day and reduce charging time (two additional electric utility vehicles are scheduled to have a solar panel installed on them) and several crosswalks with solar powered lights. Elon has a geothermal system that provides the primary source of heating and cooling for the 5 residence halls in the Colonnades Neighborhood. It was completed in 2011 and consists of 112 vertical bore holes each with a U-shaped pipe system that is 440 feet deep. The system utilizes the Earth's nearly constant temperature, between 50 and 60 degrees, and transfers heat from the ground into the buildings in the winter and reverses the process in the summer.

Elon adopted a Green Building Policy in 2009, which states new construction projects and major renovations consisting of 8,000 or more square feet of conditioned, occupied space will achieve LEED certification. LEED Silver certification is the strongly preferred level and in no case will such projects achieve less than LEED Certified certification. New projects less than 8,000 square feet and minor renovations must follow the University's Sustainability Design Standards at a minimum. Elon currently has 26 LEED certified buildings on campus totaling 624,240 square feet, which is 23% of the University's total square footage.



Inman Admissions Welcome Center, 26th
LEED certified building on campus

Though the energy produced is not used directly on campus, Elon was integral in the development of a nearly 3 MW (DC power) solar farm on 15 acres of University property. Construction was completed in the fall of 2015. The facility contains 9,900 solar photovoltaic panels and is expected to produce 4,500 megawatt hours of electricity each year, enough energy to power 415 U.S. homes for a year. The University is leasing the land to a private corporation, which owns, operates and manages the facility. The electricity from the facility is being sold by the private corporation to Duke Energy and integrated into the electric grid. The University is not purchasing or utilizing the electricity directly due to state laws in place when the farm was constructed. Producing this much power from a renewable source avoids the creation of 2,100 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, the equivalent of pollution produced by 450 cars in a year. The facility benefits Elon students by providing an opportunity to study the equipment, operation and economics of the system.

Water quality, efficiency and conservation

Elon University has taken a number of steps to reduce water consumption both inside and outside buildings.

Over the last eight years, the University has installed low-flow plumbing fixtures in most buildings. This includes dual flush toilets, low flow showerheads and lavatory faucet aerators. Low-flow plumbing fixtures, including pint flush urinals, are the standard for new construction projects. Switching from standard showerheads and lavatory faucets to low-flow showerheads and lavatory faucets with aerators in one residential community reduced potable water consumption by over 800,000 gallons in just one year. In 2006, the University replaced washing machines with Energy Star models, which also use less water.

Water conservation strategies extend to the outdoor environment. The fountains on campus are cleaned with automatic vacuums and other manual strategies and the water re-circulated to minimize the need to drain and re-fill them. Additionally, of all the developed landscape at Elon, only about thirty-seven percent of it is irrigated. Elon's automatic irrigation system on the main campus is primarily supplied with reclaimed stormwater from detention ponds. Elon began irrigating with reclaimed stormwater in the 1980s. Currently, eighty-three percent of water used for irrigation comes from the reclaimed stormwater. In addition, the system is centrally controlled using specialized software. Field controllers are connected to the system via radio and internet giving managers access anywhere and anytime. Data input from the on-site weather station provides automatic rain sensing shutdowns and accurate calculation of evapo-transpiration rates for accurate water run-times. Other water saving features of the system include split cycle programming, pump optimizations and percentage adjustments. This system is beneficial to the local watershed in that it prevents sediment and other materials from entering nearby natural waterways. The plant material selected for campus also contributes to reduced water use. Plants are selected based upon their proven and demonstrated success to thrive in this heat, hardiness and climatic zone.

In addition to these stormwater detention ponds, Elon has several additional stormwater management features on campus for improvement of water quality and detention. Bio-retention basins (also called rain gardens) are designed to take run-off directly from impervious surfaces into a basin filled with a high percolation rate growing media. This captures a significant amount of water and reduces storm surge in the streams. Vegetative swales combine turf area and/or plantings to slow stormwater run-off, increase the amount that infiltrates into the soil and filter out suspended sediments or nutrients. There is a vegetative tray system roof, about 1,000 square feet in size, above the Winter Garden Café area of Lakeside Dining Hall. It absorbs rainwater, provides insulation, creates a habitat for wildlife and mitigates the heat island effect.

Waste reduction and diversion

Elon has a comprehensive recycling program as well as food composting and yard waste composting programs.

Throughout campus there are recycling containers located within buildings and outdoors, as well as at athletic events. Recycling containers are identified by shape, size and color. The University recently switched to single stream recycling. Each residential building has a designated recycling area. Residents are responsible for transporting their recyclables to these locations. There are also recycling hubs on campus for recycling printer cartridges, batteries and small electronics. Writing instruments can be recycled in the library. Used cooking oil is picked up for recycling as well. Other items generated as part of the University's operations are also recycled, such as light bulbs, appliances, pallets, motor oil and tires. Furniture is reused on campus when applicable and then donated if in good condition. Construction and demolition waste diversion is standard practice on all construction projects as part of the University's Green Building Policy and Sustainable Design Guidelines. Most projects achieve a waste diversion rate of 80% or better.



Mind the Bin cabinet to streamline waste disposal at athletic events

On a regular basis, Campus Technology collects obsolete and non-working electronic equipment for recycling. Throughout the year, university-owned electronics that are identified for recycling (obsolete or non-working) are collected by Environmental Services. In addition, there are collection bins on campus for small electronic items such as cell phones, digital cameras, CDs, DVDs, cables and chargers. Students, faculty and staff can utilize these bins. Environmental Services coordinates electronics pick-ups as needed with a nearby electronics recycling company. The company recycles responsibly and does not export e-waste. It is ISO 14001 and 9001 certified as well as R2 and Green Plus certified. Audits are performed on all downstream vendors to verify compliance with environmental guidelines.

The University's food waste is picked-up regularly and composted by a third-party off campus. All three dining halls have a pre-consumer food waste composting program. The program started in the 2008-2009 academic year. In January 2011, post-consumer composting began in one retail location and has now been expanded to three retail locations. Customers are responsible for separating the compostables in these retail settings. There are designated bins with signage on and above the bin (including photos). In the dining halls, dining services staff members put all food waste that comes into the dish room into compost bins. In FY 14-15, over 180 tons of food waste was diverted from the landfill and composted. In October 2015, compostable service ware became the default for all catering orders. With this change, compost bins designated with orange lids and bags were placed in spaces with frequent catered events.

Through the Compost Leaders program, collection of compostable items is possible in residence halls and offices. The Office of Sustainability will provide a compost bin, educational materials and support to students or staff members who are interested in collecting compostables on their hall or in their shared office space. A bin is only provided once compost leaders demonstrate buy-in from others using the space and establish a structure for ensuring the bin will be emptied on a regular basis.

Elon Dining Services has changed its processes to minimize food waste. When there are leftovers, typically during breaks, those items are collected by Campus Kitchen at Elon University (CKEU) and donated to local community partners. CKEU is a service opportunity through the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement for students, faculty and staff. CKEU collects food from Elon Dining Services, Loy Farm and other community partners to cook and assemble meals for community partners. In FY 14-15, CKEU resourced or donated about 10,185 pounds of food, produced over 9,124 meals and provided 1,364 hours of service.

In fall 2008, Elon began collecting and composting 100% of its own yard waste in a facility located on the edge of campus. In 2013-2014 approximately 153 tons of compost were produced from yard waste collected. The facility closes the loop on the University's yard waste as the final compost product is used in campus landscaping to improve soil quality and reduce water and fertilizer requirements.

The University's Don't Trash It! program diverts year-end move out waste from the landfill. This effort is targeted to both on- and off-campus students and seeks non-perishable food items, clothing, electronics, bedding and furniture in good condition. During the two week period, which includes final exams and graduation, items are collected and donated to several community non-profit organizations. In 2014-2015, over six tons of donations were collected (not including furniture) and given to a variety of non-profit partners.

Where possible, Elon has taken steps to reduce chemical waste. Laboratories that utilize chemicals have waste minimization plans that include, among other items, the following to reduce waste: choice of experiments to reduce waste, choice of non-hazardous or less hazardous chemicals in procedures and labs, reduction in the purchase of hazardous materials and reduction in the use of cleaning solvents. Other departments that generate waste, such as the Physical Plant, have also taken steps to reduce generation by using less or non-hazardous products and/or adjusting processes to generate less waste. All chemical waste is disposed of or recycled with a company licensed for such activity.

Alternative transportation

The University's fleet contains 83 alternative fueled vehicles, which is about 39% of the total fleet. This includes the bio-fueled buses and other vehicles that use bio-fuel, several hybrids and 36 all electric vehicles, which are mostly electric utility vehicles utilized by Physical Plant personnel. A few of the electric utility vehicles have had a solar panel added to them to extend their range during the day and reduce charging time.

Elon further promotes alternative transportation strategies by providing a number of services and incentives.

Elon BioBuses run on B20 fuel, which is 20% bio-fuel and 80% ultra-low sulfur diesel. The Elon BioBus System consists of 5 routes available to students, faculty, staff and community members and is free of charge to everyone. Routes service local apartment complexes, a campus living facility, local shopping and entertainment centers and community partners in downtown Burlington. Total ridership for all routes in FY 14-15 was 135,802.

To encourage the use of low-emitting vehicles (LEV), Elon has designated parking spaces for them in several parking lots on campus. An Elon issued LEV sticker is required to park in the designated spaces. Elon also supports the use of electric vehicles with charging stations that are accessible to all members of the community. One electric charging station is in the McMichael parking lot, and a Tesla Connector/Charging Station is located in the Inman Admissions Welcome Center parking lot.

To decrease the number of cars on campus and still ensure reliable ways of getting around, Elon supports multiple types of transportation. Carpooling is facilitated through Zimride, which is an Elon specific web and map based system that helps users find carpool partners. Elon's car sharing program was established in October of 2007. There are currently four vehicles on campus that are available 24/7 to students, faculty and staff.

To support the use of bicycles, there are bike racks within 50 feet of at least one entrance of most buildings on campus, including residential buildings. There is an extensive network of sidewalks throughout campus which cyclists and pedestrians share. Elon also has a bike rental program through Campus Recreation. Students can rent bikes by the semester or year.

Elon employees are eligible to participate in an Emergency Ride Home Program on days they use alternative transportation to get to work. The program is available through the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) and provides a taxi home free of charge.

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students, faculty and staff

Integrated campus environmental health program

Elon provides a safe and sound environment for its students, faculty and staff through several programs and practices.

The University's Safety Committee is responsible for advising on matters of policy and procedure for safety issues on campus pertaining to several areas, including but not limited to, emergency response, accident reporting and disaster planning. The Committee has representatives from more than 10 departments, including athletics, construction and physical plant. Twice a year members of the Safety Committee and other key personnel complete a walk with Student Government Association (SGA) members to gather student input on health and safety items, such as lighting. The University's Building/Area managers also assist with ensuring campus facilities are properly maintained and safe. They make regular inspections of their buildings/areas and submit work orders to correct unsafe conditions.

Indoor environmental quality is ensured in a number of ways, including preventive maintenance on HVAC systems; carbon dioxide sensors in several buildings; entry way mats or grates to minimize contaminants brought into buildings; low or no volatile organic compound (VOC) products (e.g., paint); covered ventilation systems during construction; appropriate ventilation based on the use of the space. Outside air is brought into buildings as part of the ventilation system when outdoor conditions are appropriate. Elon has a green cleaning program that covers all normal cleaning activities undertaken in the course of managing facilities and addresses the following: cleaning chemicals, janitorial products and equipment, entryway systems maintenance, waste and education. The program specifies the use of cleaning chemicals that are Green Seal certified, certified under the EcoLogo Program of Environmental Choice or certified by the EPA's Design for the Environment Program. In a few buildings, where appropriate and applicable, new furniture is SCS Certified Indoor Advantage, which means it meets strict indoor air quality chemical emission limits. Moisture control can be challenging in the humid southeast; however, Elon takes a proactive approach by ensuring building envelopes are appropriately maintained, providing educational information on prevention and responding to concerns promptly and fully.

In addition to waste minimization plans, laboratories that utilize chemicals have chemical hygiene plans to ensure faculty, staff and student safety when handling chemicals in the lab.

Landscaping and grounds incorporates integrated pest management into its operations with the goal of preserving and protecting the landscape, while minimizing personal and environmental impacts, and establishing sustainable landscape management practices. To this effect the integrated pest management protocol consists of six principles. Although specific practices vary widely, there are several guidelines. First, the campus landscape will be maintained to meet established standards of landscape management and appearance. Typically, the thresholds of tolerance will be damage and/or appearance. Secondly, in accordance with IPM principles, the order of control options should be: plant species options; cultural; physical or mechanical; biorational; biological; and lastly synthetic chemical control. Thirdly, new options or products will be sought, especially concerning weed control.

Health and wellness

Elon University is committed to supporting and encouraging student, faculty and staff health and wellness.

Elon University's RN Ellington Center for Health and Wellness houses the Faculty/Staff Health and Wellness Center, Student Health Services, Student Counseling Services and Health Promotion. These offices provide well-being services as well as counseling and/or referral services both independently and collaboratively.

The Faculty/Staff Health and Wellness Center offers services including medical provider appointments (to treat minor illnesses such as flu, colds, etc.), lab and wellness screening tests, massage therapy and a smoking cessation program. Programming and activities offered through the Center include educational lunch and learn sessions, movement classes (e.g., Zumba, Yoga, Weight Lifting), Weight Watchers, personal training and wellness challenges, such as an annual pedometer competition program. The Faculty/Staff Health and Wellness Center has also partnered with the university's health insurance provider to provide a program called Healthy Outcomes. Healthy Outcomes gives employees the resources they need to live healthier and make healthier lifestyle choices delivered through an informative, easy to use website. The University also has an Employee Assistance and Counseling Program (EACP) through the local hospital that provides free confidential counseling for employees and dependents.

Student Health Services provides acute care for illnesses and injury as well as physical exams, health education and counseling, allergy injection service, prescription delivery service and vaccines and other injections. Student Counseling Services provides crisis intervention, psychological support, individual counseling, mental health wellness outreach and clinical collaboration. Health Promotion provides inclusive health programming, advocacy and outreach to support mental, physical and social well-being. The Office of Student Health and Wellness also coordinates additional wellness related activities for students including flu vaccine clinics, massage therapy appointments, maintenance of over 30 AED units on campus and free adult and child CPR/AED Trainings.

The Alliance for A Healthy Elon, a programmatic and service alliance committed to supporting the goals and strategies of the International Healthy Campus 2020 initiative, provides a framework for improving the overall health status on campus through the collaborative efforts of health, academic, student life, student organizations and administrative areas. The Alliance for A Healthy Elon is chaired by the Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Health and Wellness and brings together representation from all facets of campus to:

- Identify current and ongoing nationwide health improvement priorities in higher education;
- Increase campus community awareness and understanding of determinants of health, disease and disability and the opportunities for progress;
- Engage multiple stakeholders to take actions that are driven by the best available evidence and knowledge to strengthen policies, improve practices and empower behavior change;
- Collaborate to implement state of the art strategies, programs and initiatives to promote good health for all;
- Identify and promote relevant assessment, research and data collection needs.

As part of the International Healthy Campus 2020 Initiative, The Alliance for A Healthy Elon has evolved to: include national health objectives for students and faculty/staff; promote an action model using an ecological approach; and provide a toolkit for implementation based on the MAP-IT (Mobilize, Assess, Plan, Implement and Track) framework. The Alliance sponsors a variety of wellness-related activities including Healthy Monday outreach activities and an annual Wellness Fair that brings together over 50 wellness related organizations and vendors and is open to all students, faculty and staff.

Elon also has a Health and Wellness Living Learning Community. Living Learning Communities (LLCs) are groups of students residing in the same residential area, interacting academically and socially with each other and with faculty and sharing the same academic major, program or interest. LLCs provide students the

opportunity to attend events, speakers and programs on or off campus, participate in community service experiences and meet new friends with a shared interest. The Health and Wellness LLC emphasizes activities that help students define and fulfill their personal needs and interests in various wellness dimensions, including intellectual, physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, vocational and environmental. Students are encouraged to participate if they have or want to have an active, healthy lifestyle, want to improve their ability to balance academics and other responsibilities with personal and social life and want to live a well-rounded life.

Campus Recreation is another important element of campus health and wellness. The available facilities include the primary fitness center with a gym, racquetball courts, group exercise studios and pool; a secondary fitness center with a gym and a driving range. Students, faculty and staff can use these facilities at no cost. Certain group exercise classes require a small yearly fee to participate. Personal training is also available at very reasonable rates. Campus recreation also oversees a number of student led programs. The intramural program is strong with over 20 different activities in various competitive levels in men's, women's and co-ed leagues. Club Sports is another opportunity for students to compete against collegiate club teams throughout the southeast. Elon Outdoors allows students several opportunities to experience nature each semester. Program offerings vary by semester and have included canoeing, climbing, kayaking, backpacking, indoor climbing, white water rafting and sailing. Programs foster the development of leadership skills and outdoor ethics in student leaders and participants and follow leave no trace practices. Camping equipment is available for weekend rental for those wishing to explore the vast array of outdoor pursuits available throughout the region. Campus Recreation also manages the Challenge Course, an accredited high and low ropes course located just ½ mile from Elon's main campus. At the Course, participants work together to reach beyond their perceived boundaries, overcome obstacles and experience success in a variety of problem-solving initiatives and ropes course elements. Challenge Course experiences can be requested by any group on campus, such as classes, student organizations, athletic teams and faculty/staff departments. Throughout the year, Campus Recreation hosts a number of events to support and encourage fitness and health, such as the annual Turkey Trot 5K, ZumbaThon and SportsFest.



Racquetball courts and one of the many group exercise areas available to students, faculty and staff in the Koury Athletic Center

Students, faculty, staff and community members can enjoy a walk or run outside through campus following the marked Phoenix Trails, which include 1 mile, 1.5 mile, 2 mile and 3.1 mile paths. Belk Track is also available when not in use by athletic teams. The Office of Sustainability also has a 1.5 mile self-guided walking tour of campus that highlights sustainability features.

Elon University is a smoke free campus with respect to all facilities, except outdoor facilities. Smoking is not permitted within 30 feet of University Buildings or in Rhodes Stadium. There is signage on campus communicating the policy. The policy is communicated in the student handbook and the faculty and staff manuals. All students and employees are expected to be familiar with and follow the policies and procedures in these documents.

The Staff Advisory Council has a Quality of Life Committee, which contributes to work-life balance. The committee conducted research and focus groups to develop an action plan with several recommendations. Implementation of those recommendations continues. As a result of the committee's work and other employee feedback, starting in 2015 staff have an additional vacation day and two personal paid days off each year. Additional opportunities available to employees that contribute to work-life balance are free or discount tickets to cultural and athletic events and discount movie theater tickets. Employees are also encouraged to bring their families to kid friendly events held on campus.

Elon Dining Services has a Healthy for Life™ philosophy – “live a good life; eat what you want but choose it wisely; your food should be made from good stuff, healthy and wholesome; take care of yourself and our planet so we all can be healthy for life”. Menus are created by experienced chefs and meals are made fresh as close to the meal time as possible and incorporate fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and low or non-fat dairy options. Calorie conscious choices are provided and nutritional information is available online for all of the food served. Elon Dining is reducing the amounts of sodium and unhealthy fats in recipes and working with suppliers to do the same in their ingredients. Nutrition education programs are offered at various times throughout the year, and a registered dietitian is available to consult with students, especially those with special dietary needs. Vegetarian, vegan, made without gluten and Smart Choice options are available and labeled as such. When available, local and sustainable products are incorporated into meals and labeled accordingly. Local refers to items sourced within a radius of 250 miles of Elon's main campus. Preference is placed on food grown within the Piedmont region of North Carolina, the state and then region of the country in that order. Elon Dining also participates in the NC 10% Campaign, which means it pledges to purchase at least 10% of all food from North Carolina. Elon Dining meets the 10% requirement.

Pillar 3: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Interdisciplinary learning

Elon University provides a number of opportunities for interdisciplinary learning around environmental and sustainability issues – inside and outside the classroom.

All first-year undergraduates are required to take a seminar as part of the Core Curriculum. COR 110, The Global Experience, examines personal and social responsibility in domestic and global contexts. In developing their own view of the world and its many peoples, societies and environments, students evaluate the complex relationships that may both promote and obstruct human interaction. The course emphasizes critical thinking and creativity focused on contemporary and salient issues as informed by their historical contexts. The seminar is inquiry-based, writing intensive and taught from a variety of perspectives. The COR 110 themes are:

- The impact of globalization in an increasingly connected, technological and rapidly changing world
- The influence of power and resistance in historical and contemporary interactions
- The relationship between humans and the natural world
- Diversity and its relationship to intercultural competency
- The analysis and evaluation of personal and social responsibility
- The processes, limitations and implications of ethical reasoning

In addition, there are over 50 courses from a wide range of disciplines that either focus on sustainability or incorporate sustainability in some manner. Many of these courses, such as Humans and Nature, Solar Greenhouse and Fourth Season Harvest and Permaculture: Food, Culture and Sustainability, draw students from a variety of disciplines, which leads to rich student interaction and discussion. Another course example is the Environmental Studies Senior Seminar – Environmental Impact Assessment and Project Development. This

course is taken by all Environmental Studies majors and requires the students to analyze data, conduct field research and critically analyze studies and other materials associated with environmental issues. Students work collaboratively in teams with a community partner to address a real-life need of the partner. The goal of the course is for students to improve and demonstrate cross-disciplinary skills.

The Sustainability Faculty Scholars Program identifies, supports and recognizes faculty who are interested in incorporating or enhancing a focus on sustainable principles and practices in their courses, and exploring a range of pedagogies to develop this theme. Participants are selected through an application process. Each participant identifies a course that he or she would like to modify to include a sustainability component, is provided with relevant sustainability resources and pedagogies, modifies the selected course accordingly and then teaches the course the next semester it is offered. The Program started in 2008 and continues today. Over 45 faculty have participated in the program from various disciplines including anthropology, art, biology, business administration, business law, chemistry, communications, computing sciences, economics, education, engineering, English, exercise science, geography, health and human performance, history, international business, leisure and sports management, mathematics, physics, sociology and statistics.

Thirty-six faculty members have been identified as working on sustainability-related research topics as their own scholarship and/or as faculty mentors to student research. These faculty members come from a wide range of disciplines – from communications to biology to finance. Undergraduate research is a strong program at Elon. In the 14-15 academic year, 453 students were engaged in undergraduate research and 200 faculty (roughly 50% of full-time faculty) mentored undergraduate research.

For first-year students the University offers a 5-day summer orientation program framed around sustainability. The program, Thrive, is open to about 20 self-selected incoming first-year students. Each day of the program, students explore campus and community resources and examine how some of our basic needs like food, water and more equitable communities are met while living at Elon. Activities may include discussions, a hike at a nearby nature preserve, a service learning project or tour of a water treatment facility. Thrive helps students become familiar with their new home and provides tools for choosing to live more sustainably.

A unique opportunity to which Elon students can apply is the Periclean Scholars Program. The program provides an avenue for participants to be civically engaged and explore practices of social responsibility. In the 3-year program a faculty mentor leads each cohort of Periclean Scholars as they take classes together and determine a global social problem to study and address. The projects often address sustainability-related issues. These culminating class projects typically involve significant fundraising and study abroad. Major project implementation often happens during a senior capstone course. An example is the Periclean Scholars Class of 2013 whose project involved working with immigrants from Chiapas, Mexico and establishing the Hogares Sanos program in Burlington, NC that is now a project of the Class of 2016. The Hogares Sanos program promotes community health by identifying mothers in the Burlington Latina population who have knowledge and experience raising a healthy family that other members of the community may not have. These mothers, in collaboration with Periclean Scholars and other community partners, host a number of public sessions each themed around a health topic. The goal is for participants to improve the health of their own families, as well as share existing and acquired knowledge with those around them.

Elon requires all undergraduate students to complete an Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR). Students complete the ELR through internships, practica, co-ops, study abroad, student teaching or approved field-based courses. The ELR may also be met through service, leadership or individualized learning experiences. The ELR encourages students to become actively involved in the world around them, practice close observation of their activities and reflect insightfully about those observations.

A few examples of semester and summer study abroad programs that incorporate sustainability are Australia: Tropical Rainforest Studies (SFS); Costa Rica: Sustainable Development Studies; Denmark: DIS (Danish Institute for Study Abroad); Panama: Tropical Island Biodiversity and Conservation Studies. There are also short-term study abroad courses with a sustainability focus, such as Australia: Ecotourism in Australia; Adventure Based Eco-Tourism in New Zealand; Costa Rica Jungle: Community, Conservation, Service; Belize/Peru: Field Biology and Peru: Sustainable Development: Microfinance and Agriculture.

The Sustainable Living Learning Community (SLLC) brings together students from any major who are interested in learning how to personally live in a manner that supports ecologically, socially and economically healthy environments and communities. As with the Health and Wellness LLC, these students reside in the same residential area. Members of the SLLC explore what it means to personally live sustainably, share their own experiences of trying to live more sustainably and learn about sustainability at Elon and in the surrounding area. There is also a STEM and Service Learning LLC. The STEM LLC is designed for students with an interest in astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics or physics. Members interact with faculty from STEM disciplines and each other to explore their interests in STEM topics. The Service Learning LLC is Elon's oldest learning community and comprised of mostly first-year students who share a common interest in service learning. Members are expected to participate in various direct and indirect service projects during the school year. Through these, they learn about the important social issues that affect our local, national and global communities. They have the unique opportunity to plan and participate in projects, take leadership positions on campus and in the LLC and develop deep friendships with fellow students who share their commitment to service.

Elon has a number of student organizations that address sustainability and environmental interests either directly or indirectly. Two examples are the Sierra Club and Kappa Alpha Omicron (KAO). The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. KAO aims to celebrate students' academic and professional achievements in environmental studies while supporting students as they delve into new environmental endeavors. KAO helps students become successful environmental leaders by: holding general meetings (open to anyone) in which environmental professionals discuss their careers; providing a cohort of environmentally-minded peers; and encouraging continued engagement with the environmental field.

The University's Eco-Reps program is a peer education program dedicated to raising awareness of sustainability issues and encouraging environmentally, socially and economically responsible behavior. Eco-Reps educate their peers about environmental issues, such as population growth and waste generation, through Sustainable Living Lessons as requested by faculty and staff for appropriate classes and related programs and activities in coordination with Residence Life staff. Eco-Reps also assist in the development and execution of various environmental sustainability awareness activities on campus. Outreach activities have included sustainability themed bulletin boards in the residence halls, Lights Out Bingo, behavior change campaigns and promotion of energy and waste reduction competitions.

STEM learning

The Center for Environmental Studies includes the Community Garden and the Environmental Center at Loy Farm. The goals of the Center are to promote community outreach and education, champion conservation, encourage research and support student initiatives. As such the Center directs a number of environmental projects and research, as well as hosts activities, clubs, classes and seasonal festivals at both locations. The

Farm and Garden are also utilized for a variety of experience based classes and co-curricular learning activities. The Center serves students across all disciplines at Elon and the greater community.



View of the solar farm during construction (left) and the Elon Environmental Center at Loy Farm (right)

The Elon Environmental Center at Loy Farm demonstrates the integration of food and natural systems with the built environment. Its activities and functions include food and farming systems, the design build studio for responsible architecture, the Piedmont Prairie ecological restoration project and long-term ecological research. The food and farming systems include a 3,000 square foot high tunnel greenhouse built by students that does not use fossil fuels for its operation. It runs entirely off of passive solar energy and the ambient heat of the earth and allows produce to be grown year round in North Carolina. The agricultural method used at the Loy Farm is Grow Biointensive, which is an organic method of sustainable food system production that is low-tech, uses close-looped fertility and open-pollinated seeds. Loy Farm also includes beehives, which are utilized for student teaching and faculty and student research, and an heirloom apple orchard, which students helped to develop.

The design-build studio for responsible architecture focuses on community-oriented design-build work. The space serves as studio, shop and classroom and was built by students from repurposed intermodal shipping containers. The studio is used for service-learning courses where students design-build products for community partners in Alamance County. Projects include classroom furniture, the renovation of community spaces and the construction of micro dwellings. It is also being used by students researching, designing and constructing micro-housing units based on responsible design principles and portability that could be used to assist homeless with temporary shelter, as well as in disaster response situations.

The Piedmont Prairie ecological restoration project is the result of a proposal from students in the 2012 Restoration Ecology course. The prairie was seeded in 2013 with seeds native to the NC Piedmont and is now maintained through annual mowing. The area provides a refuge for native plants and animals and is part of an ongoing research project assessing changes in vegetation over time.

The Elon University Forest is a 56 acre protected natural area just north of campus that serves primarily as a teaching resource and research site and secondarily as a service learning site and quiet place for reflection and observation. It is the largest remaining intact forest in the Town of Elon and safeguards thousands of species of plants, animals and other organisms. Some trees in the hardwood sections of Elon Forest, which make up more than 50 percent of the property, are estimated to be 150-200 years old. It is utilized by a variety of courses and as a research site for faculty mentored undergraduate research. Two such projects are “Assessment of invasive plant species on Elon University Forest” and “The impacts of ice storm damage to the structure and composition of Elon University Forest”.

As part of the undergraduate Core Curriculum, students are required to take a natural science laboratory course. Many of these courses develop STEM knowledge and thinking skills and utilize the environment or

sustainability topics, such as Diversity of Life. A project example from this course is conducting a Bioblitz (catalogue every animal observed) at the Elon University Forest, which teaches identification skills and an appreciation for the vast biodiversity in the local environment. Other examples are comparing habitats between the Elon University Forest and Loy Farm by cataloguing and sampling soil macroinvertebrates, woody plants or herbaceous plants and utilizing the Trees of Elon Map to identify tree species on campus, which both contribute to understanding and appreciating biodiversity.

Additional examples of courses that develop STEM knowledge and thinking skills are Environmental Chemistry, Sustainable Food Production, Energy and Environmental, Science without Borders and Designing Sustainable Buildings. For example, in Science without Borders students learn to think critically about the big ideas related to the natural sciences (spanning from atoms to the universe and everything in between) and to use the scientific method to approach complex real-world problems that intersect with the natural world. In Designing Sustainable Buildings students use science to determine what makes a building sustainable and then apply math and engineering skills to actually design and build a structure.

Some of the thirty-six faculty members working on sustainability-related research topics as their own scholarship and/or as faculty mentors to student research are engaged in STEM related projects. A chemistry faculty member has ongoing research in which students are engaged that involves the synthesis of chemicals that might serve to speed up chemical reactions (i.e., catalysts) that convert CO₂ to other, more useful substances. An environmental studies faculty member is doing ongoing research that involves inventorying wildlife at the Elon University Forest and the Loy Farm as part of an investigation of the impact of farming practices on biodiversity. One way students are involved in this research is by conducting small mammal studies at the two locations as undergraduate research projects. Additional faculty mentored student research includes designing protocols for decontamination of water through solar pasteurization for use in under-resourced and developing communities and evaluating the microbial ecology of streambed soil as influenced by degree of erosion (streambank height) to further understand the impact of soil erosion on stream health.

The Engineering department utilizes a photoelectric trailer to educate students about solar energy technology. It consists of solar panels with batteries on a trailer. The trailer can easily be moved between events where it can power small electric devices, such as a sound system for an outdoor event.

Civic knowledge and skills

Elon University is a national leader in civic engagement, serving as one of the model campuses for the Carnegie Classification on Civic Engagement and is recognized as one of the nation's top universities for community service by earning a Presidential Award in the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Elon University defines civic engagement as the process of learning about the assets, needs and concerns of the larger communities of which we are a part and the willingness to collaborate with others to help define and achieve the common good. This is central to the Elon University mission of preparing civically engaged graduates who are "global citizens and informed leaders motivated by a concern for the common good." As a university, we emphasize our responsibility to live in community, acknowledging our interdependency with others.

The Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement is the primary gateway for students, faculty and staff to work with community partners in service that benefits the university and the surrounding community. The Kernodle Center houses Elon Volunteers!, a student-led program offering over 30 different volunteer activities; coordinates Elon's signature academic service-learning programs and courses and sponsors

the Alternative Breaks Program. Based on student self-reporting to the Kernodle Center in FY 14-15, 3,286 students engaged in 128,869 hours of community service.



Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, the first stop for the 3,286 students who volunteered over 128,000 community service hours in one year

The Civic Engagement Scholars program educates, prepares and inspires students to become agents of change in their communities and in society. Scholars acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become engaged, active citizens throughout their lives. Building on academic study, service-learning, community based research and critical analysis of social issues, the Scholars link knowledge and social action to address unmet human needs in collaboration with the local community. Over the course of two or three years (depending on how a student organizes his/her schedule), students participate in course work, service-learning, seminars, service trips and workshops to engage them in understanding the needs and problems of the local community and how to respond to these needs. Toward this end, students serve in, study and develop genuine partnerships with local community agencies over the course of their time in the program. The program culminates in the students exploring multiple pathways (e.g., service, policy, community-based research, public awareness/community education and innovation/social entrepreneurship) through which they can make their own contribution to the local community in response to identified community needs.

Elon University partners with the Burlington Times News to hold Community Connections, a forum for students, faculty, staff and local community members to discuss a topic of concern to the entire community. Sessions typically begin with opening remarks from a panel of faculty, representatives from local government and/or community organizations. A moderator then facilitates discussion among audience members and panelists. Topics have included: Improving Race Relations in the U.S., Understanding Hispanic and Latino Relations in the United States and Hunger in Alamance County.

The Elon Academy is a college access and success program for academically promising high school students in Alamance County. The program is for potential first-generation college students and/or students with financial need. The Academy includes three consecutive summer residential experiences prior to the sophomore, junior and senior years, as well as year-round Saturday programs for students and families. The summer after high school graduation, scholars and families participate in the Elon Academy Transitions to College Program. Once on their respective college campuses, Elon Academy graduates and families are provided with continuing support through the Elon Academy College Success Program to ensure college completion. Eighty-eight percent of the students who enter the program as high school students complete the program. Of those who complete the high school program, 100% are accepted at colleges and universities, most within North Carolina.

The Center for Leadership helps students develop a greater leadership self-efficacy, the desire and ability to work collaboratively within diverse communities of people, as well as the confidence and competence to put innovative ideas into action for positive change. The Center's Leadership Education and Development (LEAD)

Program is a self-paced program with three tiers (Leading the Self, Leading with Others and Leading for Change) that culminates in a positive social change experience project.

Elon is part of the North Carolina Campus Compact (NCCC), a coalition of University Presidents and Chancellors that join together to build the capacity of colleges and universities to produce civically-engaged graduates and strengthen communities. Elon is also part of the National Campaign for Student Political and Civic Engagement, which is a non-partisan group that fosters political awareness and civic engagement among students. Student members of the National Campaign plan and sponsor voter registration drives, political debates and debate watches. In 2014, Elon University won the NCCC voter registration contest by registering the most students among eight participating North Carolina universities.

The Elon Poll conducts frequent regional and statewide surveys on issues of importance to North Carolinians, as well as other southern states. Information from these polls is shared with media, citizens and public officials to facilitate informed public policy making through the better understanding of citizens' opinions and attitudes. The Elon Poll is fully funded by Elon University as a public service to citizens; it is a neutral, independent operation and does no contract work.

Elon has partnered with four Alamance County agencies to form the Elon-Alamance Health Partners Program, which is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Alamance County residents. The program employs four graduating seniors, one at each of the agencies: Healthy Alamance, Impact Alamance, the Alamance County Health Department and Alamance Regional Medical Center. The program is funded by Elon University and the four partner agencies. The students receive an annual salary, on campus housing, health insurance and a year-end bonus for those who attend graduate school in North Carolina or accept full-time employment in Alamance or a neighboring county. The inaugural cohort began their work at the four partner agencies in June 2015 and will conclude in May 2016. The program is expected to continue with a new cohort beginning in June 2016.