



The Pulse: Elon PA in Charlotte



Partnering for a Healthier Charlotte

The Elon University Physician Assistant Program in Charlotte is committed to preparing compassionate, collaborative PA leaders who provide equitable care to our community. To achieve this, we are deepening our partnerships with Charlotte's nonprofit organizations—those who understand local needs best.

As we build this program, we are actively engaging with nonprofits to learn: Who do they serve? What challenges do they face? How can our students support their work? By being present in community spaces, listening, and serving, we ensure our curriculum reflects real needs and prepares students for meaningful impact.

We welcome nonprofit professionals, community partners, and alumni to connect with us over coffee and conversation—one of Elon's long-standing traditions. Meet faculty, Charlotte campus leadership, and partners from the Kernodle Center as we strengthen collaboration across the nonprofit sector.

Together, we can better understand and serve the Charlotte community.

Join Us:
Nonprofit Industry College Coffee
Friday, April 24, 2026
10 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: 330 W. Tremont Ave.
Social Hub, First Floor

Sign up here:
[Elon Charlotte Nonprofit Industry College Coffee - Elon University](#)

Greetings from the Program Director

I am proud to share two significant milestones in the continued development of our program.

First, we have officially submitted our application for Provisional Accreditation to ARC-PA. The application reflects months of preparation, collaboration, and strategic vision. It highlights not only the rigor and intentional design of our curriculum, but also the strong institutional support and foundational infrastructure that support the program. From governance and resources to academic planning and clinical partnerships, the application demonstrates that we are building a stable, and sustainable program. It was a privilege to submit a document that represents the dedication, organization, and shared commitment of this team.

Second, I am equally excited to announce that we will soon welcome our third principal faculty member. They bring valuable institutional knowledge along with meaningful experience in PA education. We will formally introduce them come March!

Momentum continues to build, and I am grateful for the professionalism and excellence driving this program forward.



Veronica Marciano, DMSc, MS, PA-C

Associate Professor, Chair &
Program Director of
Physician Assistant Studies
Charlotte

**CAC Meeting Update
from Dr. Tim Lietz**

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) gathered Feb. 12 for program updates and strategic discussion supporting the launch of Elon's Physician Assistant program in Charlotte.

The program is nearing submission of its accreditation application to the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), with preparations underway for a virtual site visit.

A critical need remains for clinical preceptors in Internal Medicine and Surgery. The committee discussed innovative ways to strengthen preceptor partnerships beyond traditional stipends and appointments.

Jeff Stein, chief integration officer for Elon regarding the proposed merger between Elon University and Queens University of Charlotte, provided an update. The merger aims to increase institutional impact and help meet Charlotte's growing demand for professionals, with planning focused on academic offerings, student housing and community impact.

The committee also discussed the procedural and clinical competencies graduates should possess. A proposed "Skills Passport" model would allow students to progress from observation to supervised performance of essential skills.

Key items were discussed:

- Strengthening foundational clinical skills (testing, procedures, charting, coding)
- Integrating patient experience and communication competencies
- Reviewing post-graduate training models to inform skill development

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be held May 14, 2026.

Thank you to all committee members for their strong engagement and continued commitment to the success of the Elon PA Studies Program in Charlotte.

Closing the Mental Health Gap: Elon's New Graduate Counseling Program

Elon University is expanding its graduate presence in Charlotte through the launch of its Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program. Applications are currently open, and interviews are underway for the inaugural cohort.



Housed within the School of Health Sciences, the 60-credit-hour, 21-month program is delivered in a hybrid format across both the Charlotte location and Elon's main campus. The curriculum emphasizes trauma-informed clinical care, relational learning, and early experiential training.

Developed in response to the growing mental health care gap across North Carolina and nationwide, the program addresses increasing demand for counseling services amid a shortage of licensed providers. By preparing graduates for ethical, competent, and culturally responsive practice, Elon is helping strengthen the region's behavioral health workforce.

"We are launching this program at a time when communities urgently need well-prepared, compassionate mental health professionals," said Judy Folmar, program director. "Our goal is to prepare counselors who are clinically strong, ethically grounded, and ready to serve."

As Elon continues to grow its graduate offerings in Charlotte, the CMHC program represents a strategic investment in preparing compassionate, well-trained counselors equipped to meet today's mental health needs. Prospective students, clinicians, and community partners are encouraged to connect with the program to learn more visit, www.elon.edu/cmhc.

Dear Preceptors,

Thank you for partnering with our developing PA program. Although our first students won't begin rotations until January 2028, this early phase gives us time to collaborate and thoughtfully design the clinical experience. This column will highlight core aspects of precepting to help you feel familiar and confident with the process.

A key next step is the site visit. The visit, required for accreditation.

Whether in person or virtual, the site visit is an informal, supportive conversation—no preparation needed. It helps us understand your practice, hear your insights, and start shaping a rotation that fits naturally within your clinical flow.

During the visit, we will briefly review:

- A tour of your clinical space
- Meeting or reconnecting with primary preceptors
- Typical patient encounters and student activities
- Supervision expectations and teaching preferences

I look forward to meeting with you, learning from you, and working together as we move toward welcoming our first students in 2028.

Warmly,

Robyn Wolkofsky, MHS, PA-C
Assistant Professor, Clinical Faculty
Liaison

