



DIVISION *of* **STUDENT LIFE**

2020-2025 FIVE-YEAR PLAN



DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE DEPARTMENTS

- Campus Recreation and Wellness
- Center for Leadership
- Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity Education (CREDE)
- Counseling Services
- Dean of Students
- Gender and LGBTQIA Center
- Kernodle Center for Civic Life
- Moseley Center
- New Student Programs
- Residence Life
- Student Care and Outreach
- Student Conduct
- Student Health Services
- Student Involvement
- Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life

THE STUDENT LIFE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

In spring 2020 Elon University launched Boldly Elon, the strategic plan that will guide the advancement of the university's model of student- and learning-centered higher education over the next decade. The Division of Student Life simultaneously announced a new five-year plan to articulate our contributions to these efforts.

The Student Life Five-Year Plan is grounded in our values as a division, a commitment to student engagement, and our goal to foster a positive campus culture and thriving community. It is the culmination of an inclusive two-year planning process and is grounded in seven themes that provide guidance for departmental and individual commitments to our roles outlined in Boldly Elon:

- Mentoring Relationships
- Leadership and Skill Development
- Inclusive Excellence
- Wellness and Well-Being
- Vibrant Residential Campus
- Civic Engagement
- Divisional Excellence

These themes will serve as a foundation to guide the establishment of annual priorities at the division level and inspire the goals implemented by departments, committees and work groups. Each theme includes areas of focus that invite collaboration between Student Life staff, faculty or staff partners and students to accomplish the change we seek. They should not be seen as limitations or boxes to be checked, but rather a handful of the many complex ways we will be working to accomplish our greater vision for 2025.





VISION *for* 2025

The Division of Student Life will be recognized as a visionary leader and national model for programs, services and partnerships across the institution focused on engaged learning and transformative student experiences.

THE DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE

The Division of Student Life facilitates a transformational student experience that integrates in-and-out-of-class learning, promotes holistic development and facilitates student engagement within their communities. Our staff and faculty partners are committed to fostering an equitable and inclusive community that is essential for students to learn, develop and thrive.

As we serve our students and each other in important and meaningful ways, we are also guided by core professional values that inform our work and help us to be deeply caring, committed and innovative educators:

- Leadership that is visionary, transformative and learning-focused
- Decision-making that is purposeful, strategic and data-informed
- Relationships that are genuine, inclusive and just

Visit www.elon.edu/u/administration/student-life/strategic-plan to read the full 2020-2025 Student Life Five-Year Plan.



THEMES *and* AREAS OF FOCUS

1. MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

Ensure all students have access to high-quality mentoring relationships, learn how to build a mentoring network and are empowered to serve as peer mentors.

Mentoring relationships begin as students transition into our community and continue throughout their college journey. Through engagement with a diverse network of mentors — including peers, staff, faculty, alumni and community members — students are supported in the process of exploring their passions, making meaning from their experiences, finding purpose, developing essential skills and fluencies needed to shape the future, and living with integrity to make a positive difference in the world.

Areas of Focus:

- Prepare all staff members to have strong and meaningful mentoring relationships with students.
- Develop initiatives and strategies that communicate the importance of mentoring and teach students how to build a network of mentors.
- Advance effective training and development of peer mentors and create structures that contribute to a layered, collaborative system of peer mentoring.



2. LEADERSHIP AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Leverage co-curricular experiences to produce graduates who are ethical leaders with essential skills the world needs and employers desire.

Student Life will engage all students in developing essential skills and fluencies needed to shape the future — writing, speaking, creative problem solving, collaboration, intercultural learning, data competency, media literacy, ethics, and personal and professional agility. This focus will encourage students to see leadership not just as a position but as the interdependent and ethical process of working with others to accomplish positive change.

Areas of Focus:

- Establish pathways that both challenge and empower students to use their time at Elon in an intentional way and make meaning from those integrated curricular and co-curricular experiences.
- Work with campus partners to define the essential skills that will prepare graduates for their future and create a comprehensive strategy to emphasize the development of those skills through student organizations, peer mentor roles, student employment and leadership.
- Re-envision the Elon Experiences Transcript as a tool to help students thoughtfully select co-curricular engagement opportunities, integrate their campus experiences, communicate the development of skills and reflect on their development in the areas of meaning and purpose.

3. INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Advance a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community.

The Division of Student Life is committed to advancing the inclusion and success of students, faculty and staff from a wider range of experiences, talents, abilities, nations, cultures, races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations and socioeconomic backgrounds. Majority and historically underrepresented students will be charged to engage across differences, and understand principles of power, privilege and oppression. Students will cultivate cultural humility and multifaith understanding in their interactions and relationships.

Areas of Focus:

- Strengthen support networks to ensure the success of historically marginalized groups.
- Create structures and learning opportunities that engage all students, staff and faculty in advancing their intercultural learning, multifaith understanding and related competencies for leading social change.
- Advance an inclusive excellence framework across all Student Life departments to ensure equitable access to programs, services and experiences.
- Develop and begin to implement a plan that addresses, promotes and infuses anti-racism strategies across the division.





4. WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING

Foster holistic wellness by inspiring and educating students who are active, resilient and mentally healthy and engage in meaningful and purposeful commitments within their communities.

Student Life is committed to cultivating a campus culture and creating programs that support all aspects of personal wellness — community, emotional, financial, social, physical and spiritual — and collaborating with faculty and other departments to engage our community in learning around holistic wellness. We are giving careful attention to community awareness, understanding and action for young adult mental health in the process of working toward the designation of being a JED campus.

Areas of Focus:

- Develop plans to renovate the Koury Athletic Center to support comprehensive community wellness, physical and mental health, and recreation in the heart of campus.
- Establish more seamless programs and services among Student Life departments that address recreation, wellness, physical and mental health, and resiliency, creating strong operational collaboration in advance of facility renovation.
- Model and assist with the development of wellness strategies for students, staff and faculty.





5. VIBRANT RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS

Advance the goals for an innovative, integrated approach to living and learning at Elon, establish the next set of priorities to advance a vibrant residential campus and deepen student belonging and traditions within the Elon community.

Student Life will create and sustain an inclusive and vibrant residential campus by investing in programs, staffing and infrastructure that support formal and informal mentoring, holistic well-being, increased affinity to Elon, positive social engagement and academic achievement.

Areas of Focus:

- Expand and deepen academic-residential partnerships, increase staff and faculty engagement in the residential experience of students and continue to advance Elon's nationally-recognized living-learning communities.
- Complete and implement a housing master plan to address residential facility renovation and new construction.
- Complete the implementation of recommendations from the Presidential Task Force on Social Climate and Out-of-Class Engagement, which include programmatic and facility recommendations such as reimagining and renovating Moseley Center as a vibrant hub of student activity.
- Strengthen systems designed to respond to community concerns, including emergency response, student care and restorative practices.



6. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Prepare every student to engage with communities, developing the next generation of informed leaders motivated by the common good who will help strengthen communities and shape democracies.

Student Life educators, in partnership with faculty and community colleagues, will facilitate experiential learning opportunities designed to prepare all students to engage with diverse communities and actively contribute to civic life. These opportunities will allow students to make a difference in the life of our communities and develop knowledge, skills, values and an overall understanding of their civic responsibilities.

Areas of Focus:

- Incorporate civic learning, service, civic responsibility and community partnerships across the work of multiple Student Life departments and programs.
- Expand and deepen dialogue opportunities for students to engage with beliefs different from their own that lead to understanding multiple perspectives and discussing the common good.
- Partner with community organizations and increase opportunities for engagement around current local, state, national and international issues.

7. DIVISIONAL EXCELLENCE

Advance a culture of excellence as a Student Life division, providing exceptional programs and services and supporting a team of educators committed to student success, inclusive excellence, professional growth and wellness and well-being.

Investing in the transformation of mind, body and spirit will cultivate a healthy culture of work-life integration that embraces essential aspects of professional development and wellness for all staff. Our division will engage in strategies that affirm a commitment to wellness for our staff and model the importance of well-being to our students.

Areas of Focus:

- Increase our effectiveness with recruiting, developing and retaining excellent staff who are diverse in identities, backgrounds and experiences.
- Deepen and expand innovative professional development, coaching and mentoring experiences that are accessible and responsive to career stages or pathways, advance intercultural learning and multifaith understanding, and promote staff wellness and well-being.
- Regularly assess divisional culture, evaluate departmental programs and services, and establish strategies and systems for continuous improvement.







DIVISION *of* STUDENT LIFE

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ABOUT ELON

Elon has built a national reputation as a premier student-centered arts and sciences university that values strong relationships between students and their faculty and staff mentors. Elon's more than 7,000 students prepare to become the resilient, ambitious and ethical leaders the world needs, putting their knowledge into action on campus, in the community and around the globe. Elon is the national leader in the U.S. News & World Report spotlight on academic programs that lead to student success. As a U.S. News top-100 National University, Elon is ranked #1 for study abroad, #2 for teaching excellence and #10 for innovation.

