

Division of Student Life 2024-2025 Annual Priorities

Annual priorities are organized by theme of the Student Life Five-Year Plan, in order to facilitate effective reporting for the Five Year Plan and to draw connections to the Boldly Elon university strategic plan.

Names in parentheses indicate DLT members who will be responsible for progress reporting; many others across the division are likely to be involved in advancing the work of the priority.

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*

1. Build on the work of the Mentoring Design Team by implementing initiatives that advance the Student Life contribution to mentoring excellence at Elon, including the infusion of mentoring learning outcomes into New Student Orientation and Residence Life and a collaboration with Academic Affairs on a pilot implementation of the Manual mentor-based engagement platform. (Carrier/Krechel and Schmiederer/Tongsri)
2. Continue advancement of retention and student success initiatives through multiple coordinated efforts designed to increase first-year retention from 90 to 91 percent. (Tongsri)
 - a. Pilot and implement the use of a student success dashboard through Slate.
 - b. Implement the persistence and graduation modeling project begun in 2023-24, including a sustainable data structure monitoring multiple variables.
 - c. Implement the inaugural First Year Check-In as a retention and student success strategy designed to assess and provide direct support for students in their 5th week of transition at Elon.
 - d. Gather and share quantitative and qualitative data related to student success in collaboration with Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Admissions.
 - e. Develop and implement pilot programs supporting student populations shown to need support moving from their first year to graduation.
3. Formally convene a working group on graduate student life to evaluate current co-curricular programs/services, explore needs for support in the graduate student experience, and to develop and recommend a structure to support graduate student life given the planned growth of the graduate student population at Elon. (Dooley, Gregory)

LEADERSHIP and SKILL DEVELOPMENT: *Leverage co-curricular experiences to produce graduates who are ethical leaders with essential skills the world needs and employers desire*

4. Finalize the report from the Elon Experiences Transcript (EET) Innovation Team and begin to implement recommendations to strengthen the EET as a tool for thoughtful engagement, integration, and reflection. (Noltemeyer)
5. Develop and appoint a student organization support committee or council to improve organization development, student leadership development, student leader transitions, and advisor training and development. (Baughman, Watts)

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE: *Advance a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community*

6. Continue implementation of the Multifaith Strategic Plan.
 - a. Continue to expand opportunities to educate the campus community about antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination, while also linking religious/spiritual/secular diversity to other inclusive excellence programs, initiatives, and training. (Boswell, McElderry, Muñoz)
 - b. Evaluate and enhance spaces and locations for students to engage in religious, spiritual, and reflective practices that support well-being (Boswell, Patterson)
 - c. Explore and expand opportunities for students to enhance their multifaith understanding through academic programs, the Elon Experiences, co-curricular programs, and community settings. (Boswell)
7. Review the results of the Student Life Departmental Equity Audit pilot, revisit the recommendations from the original work group, and determine next steps for implementation. (McElderry)

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*

8. Engage the HealthEU Council and collaborate with the new Director of HealthEU Initiatives in leading and advancing collaborative efforts that integrate and build upon the six dimensions of well-being. (Patterson)
9. Develop a facility operating strategy and plan for the new HealthEU Center. (Hodnett, Patterson, C. Williams)
10. Analyze data from the HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey and develop strategies to communicate and address the findings. (Garay)

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.*

11. Implement key strategies to advance the 2030 Residential Campus Plan. (Carrier, Finger)
 - a. Implement the new collaborative residential framework which includes integrated assessment plans, collaborative marketing, and annual traditions.
 - b. Evaluate the effectiveness of current living learning communities (LLCs), revisit the list of topics and interest areas, and develop plans to launch new LLCs in collaboration with interested departments, fellows programs, advisors and students.
 - c. Conduct a process to identify new housing operations software to replace the current product, which is being discontinued.

12. Conduct a review of the student organization conduct process and update protocols and/or policies to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability while fostering a positive and inclusive campus environment. (Baughman, Jefferson)
13. Explore the implementation of restorative practices to support interventions related to residential living, behavioral incidents, and student organizations. (Baughman, Boswell, Carrier, Garay, Jefferson, Muñoz)
14. Work with Planning, Construction, and Design to complete next phases for multiple campus facility projects related to Student Life and the residential campus environment. (Dooley)
 - a. Complete and open two new residential housing facilities – East Neighborhood Commons and EcoVillage. (Carrier)
 - b. Complete and open the new Challenge Course northwest of the Phoenix Activities and Recreation Center. (Watts, C. Williams)
 - c. Complete design for the HealthEU Center. (Dooley, Patterson)
 - d. Initiate planning for the future use of the Koury Athletic Center after the new HealthEU Center opens. (Dooley, Noltemeyer)
 - e. Initiate planning for the next residential housing projects, including a new sorority/fraternity neighborhood and the second phase of the EcoVillage. (Baughman, Carrier, Finger, Schmiederer)
 - f. Initiate planning and fundraising for a new facility for Catholic Life. (Boswell, Dooley)

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.*

15. Develop and implement university programming for the 2024 election cycle, including classroom conversations and campus events that support effective discourse around local, national, and international political issues; voter registration; education on political engagement and active citizenship; coordination of an early voting site for Alamance County; and community support and learning after the election. (Frigo, Dooley)
16. Complete and submit the university's application for the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement. (Frigo)

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.*

17. Create a new Student Life Five Year Plan (2025-2030). (McElderry, Noltemeyer)
18. Develop a process to systematically and strategically define departmental scope of service/practice statements and/or determine department programs and activities that can be altered or eliminated to redirect time, resources, and attention to emerging priorities. (Division Leadership Team)

19. Create a strategy and approach for using artificial intelligence and/or machine learning in Student Life programs and services. (Division Leadership Team)
20. Implement recommendations from two prior year Student Life work groups: staff recognition and recruitment. (Division Leadership Team)
21. Review and evaluate effectiveness and impact of staff professional development funding, opportunities, and requirements last reviewed in 2019. (McElderry and Professional Development Committee)