



## **Residency-in-Practice Program Information**

During the Winter or Spring Trimester of your 2L year, you will complete a full-time (32-36 hours/week), 10-week Residency-in-Practice with a licensed attorney or judge in an approved governmental, judicial, non-profit, corporate or law firm setting. Central to the academic structure of the Residency is the concept of learning in practice- that is incorporating podium course learning with practical authentic experience. You will have the benefit of two differently situated teachers to guide you in this endeavor: your Field Supervisor and your Faculty Supervisor.

- Your Field Supervisor will be directly responsible on-site for ensuring a quality educational experience. She or he will help you set goals, provide opportunities for substantial lawyering experiences, and provide feedback regarding your work.
- Your Faculty Supervisor will interact with you and your Field Supervisor to help ensure a quality educational experience. This interaction begins with an orientation session before the start of the term with your Practice Affinity Group, students in similar residency placements. During the term, you will meet twice with your Faculty Supervisor (in person or virtually) and twice with your Practice Affinity Group, to discuss your progress and to wrestle with issues and problems that arise in the Residency context. You will maintain weekly contact with your Faculty Supervisor through learning journal entries.

One exception to this structure is if you complete your Residency in one of Elon Law's in-house clinics, the Humanitarian & Immigration Law Clinic (HILC) or the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Clinic (SBEC). With these placements, your clinic professor serves as both your Field and Faculty Supervisor.

### **Process and Planning for Securing a Residency**

There are three paths to securing a Residency-in-Practice: 1) The Fall Residency Match (the most common path taken) 2) The Independently Arranged Residency; and 3) The Judicial Residency. More specific information about these paths is available on the Residency website:

<https://www.elon.edu/e/law/academics/programs-and-centers/residency/placements.html>.

#### **A. The Fall Residency Match**

Most students find their Residency placement through the Fall Residency Match. Elon Law's in-house clinics (HILC and SBEC) are included in the Fall Match. To get a sense of the placements that are available, you can preview the *Residency Catalog*, available on the Residency website.

Updates to last year's catalog will begin in the summer and continue until the Fall Match, which occurs mid to late September. The Fall Match involves an application with information about yourself, interests, and goals. You will have the opportunity to indicate your preference for a practice area or specific placement and you will be "matched" accordingly. **Because some placements are popular with students and because Residencies must be distributed evenly between the two trimesters, you may not get your first choice of placement or term. However, it is rare for a student NOT to secure a Residency among the student's placement picks.** Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to consider the benefits of a broad range of placements. Do not pick a residency based upon which term you prefer because you cannot pre-select your term in Residency.

Identify opportunities that will position you to learn the law and the skills that will be helpful in your career path. If you do not see anything in the catalog that matches perfectly or if you do not know what you want to do, look for opportunities that will help you decide on a career path or provide you with easily transferable skills. Consider scheduling a career counseling appointment with the Office of Career & Student Development. If you have access to a car, consider options that require a bit of a commute or relocation, keeping in mind that your Residency will last for only 10 weeks. Be strategic for your future.

**At this point, you need not make a decision about any particular placement in the Catalog: some residency placements cannot host students every year and some will be added. You only need to decide whether to pursue one of the alternative paths described.**

## B. The Independently Arranged Placement

If you want to do your Residency in rural or coastal North Carolina or outside of North Carolina, you **may** go through the Residency Match, which includes a few of these types of placements, or you **may** independently arrange your own residency. This is a process that begins now and continues through the summer. This is an awesome opportunity to design and arrange your own Residency. We have had students independently arrange their Residency in numerous states throughout the country.

Things to know and/or do before you contact a potential independent placement:

- You **may not** attempt to arrange your own Residency with placements and host partners in the Residency Catalog.
- **BEFORE** contacting **any** potential independent placement site, you **must** check with the Director of Residencies (Professor Katherine Conner, [kconner2@elon.edu](mailto:kconner2@elon.edu)) or the Office of Career & Student Development to determine whether the location of your independent placement has already expressed an interest to participate or not participate in the Residency Program or is a placement that is best contacted by the law school to determine interest. This step ensures that you are not interfering with a relationship already established by Elon Law with that site and that you are not undermining your chances of securing a Residency.
- Research the range of opportunities available. A number of websites serve as clearinghouses for organizations looking for student interns. Links to these websites may be found on the Residency website and in the Career Resources Library on Pathways.

- To qualify as a Residency, the placement location must provide the opportunity for you to engage in substantial lawyering experience reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks under direct attorney or judicial supervision.
- You must be supervised in a Residency by a lawyer who has a minimum of three to four years of full-time practice experience.
- The supervising lawyer or judge may not be a member of your family.

All independent placements must be reviewed and approved by the Director of Residencies. An application form will be available soon on the Residency website. In the meantime, you may provide information to your prospective Field Supervisor, available here:

<https://www.elon.edu/u/law/academics/experiential/residency-program/supervisor-interest-form>.

This is the application that the placement will complete prior to participating and sometimes it is helpful to provide so that the prospective placement will have an understanding of the overall expectations and requirements.

The DEADLINE for submitting an application for an Independently Arranged Residency is late **AUGUST, usually August 31**. The Director of Residencies will notify students who apply for an Independently Arranged Residency of her decision or of the need for more information on a rolling basis. To prevent a denial, be sure to follow all the instructions above.

## C. The Judicial Residency May Match

Judicial Residencies are an unparalleled opportunity to improve your legal research and writing skills, to learn about the justice system from the inside, to network, and to build your resume. We are fortunate to have judicial residency opportunities with federal and state judges. Many Judicial Residency placements require applicants be at the top of their class; however, we also offer Judicial Residency placements for students in the top third of the class and opportunities with specialty courts that require candidates to have strong writing skills, a desire to improve, and an interest in the subject matter. If you have performed well in Legal Method and Communication, consider a Judicial Residency.

A catalog of Judicial Residency opportunities in North Carolina will be posted on the Residency website in late March as well as information on how to apply for a Judicial Residency in May. In the meantime, since many of the judges require not only a resume but also a writing sample and cover letter, get these documents ready to go.

Students who are interested in judicial placements in states OTHER than North Carolina and in some counties outside the Greensboro Triad can independently arrange this placement consistent with the directions above. You are encouraged to visit the Office of Career & Student Development for assistance. Once you obtain a judicial internship outside of North Carolina, you can apply to make it a Residency per the instructions for an Independently Arranged Residency.

Students who participate in the Judicial Residency May Match but do not receive an offer, may proceed along either of the other paths to obtain their Residency.

## D. Component Course to Residency and Accompanying Course

Residency – at its core- is a class. It is the predominant focus of your term when you are “in Residency.” You will decide whether you want your Residency to be 7 or 8 credits. There are course requirements, which will be a function of the Component Course to Residency. In addition to your Residency placement, you must take an Accompanying Course to bring your course load to 10 credits. Therefore, if you register for a 3-credit accompanying course, your Residency will be a minimum of 7 credits; if you register for a 2-credit course, your Residency will be a minimum of 8 credits. It is strongly recommended that the course relate to the type of work in which you will be engaged during your Residency. Students working away from Greensboro will have the option of taking a course with an online participation option as their accompanying course.

Note: If you complete your Residency in the HILC, your accompanying course will be integrated for a total of 10 credits. If you complete your residency in the SBEC, your required accompanying course will be Business Drafting.

## E. Student Practice Certificate

Some placements provide an opportunity to appear in court under the supervision of an attorney. To do so, you will need to apply for a receive a Practice certificate. Your eligibility for a practice certificate is governed by the North Carolina Board of Law Examiners. You can only be certified if you will be representing indigent clients or the government. (For example, District Attorney or Public Defender’s offices) The required documentation to apply for a student practice certificate is available on the Registrar’s webpage and the Student Handbook. If your placement is in another state, you may be eligible to obtain such a certificate there, depending on that state’s bar requirements. You are encouraged to review those state bar requirements prior to arranging an independent Residency placement outside of North Carolina.

## F. Tuition and Fees

During your Residency, you will pay all standard tuition and fees required by your enrollment at Elon University School of Law and are eligible for financial aid. You are responsible for your own housing, transportation, and health insurance during your Residency. Thus, if you are considering a Residency beyond the Triad, start planning your financing now.

Compensation for Residency Work: You cannot receive financial remuneration for your work in Residency. However, your site placement may reimburse you for work-related expenses.