### Freshmen Students: Fall 2003

The 2003 freshmen norms are based on the responses of 276,449 students at 413 baccalaureate colleges. Of Elon’s 1,227 Fall 2003 first-time full-time freshmen, 1,126 participated in this survey (92% response rate). **Some key findings are:**

#### Nationally

- Students’ interest in politics is on the rebound
- Students seek volunteer opportunities in record numbers
- Students believing their academic ability is “above average” or “highest 10%” reach new heights
- The importance of raising a family reaches new heights, but religious involvement declines
- Students report lowest rates of drinking and smoking than any freshman class in the history of CIRP
- Financial considerations continue to influence college choice

#### Student Engagement

In 2003 Elon developed questions which explores their high school educational experience. **Some key findings are:**

- 63% stated they very often or often made class presentations
- 82% stated they very often or often contributed to class discussions
- 49% stated they very often or often worked with classmates on assignments outside of class
- 81% stated their experience contributed very much or quite a bit to working effectively with others

#### Elon vs. 4-Year Private Highly Selective Religious Schools

- More Elon students stated chances are they will be satisfied with their college choice (68% vs. 60%)
- More Elon students came from high schools that required community service (42% vs. 31%)
- More Elon students plan to obtain a master's degree (52% vs. 39%), but less terminal degrees (26% vs. 38%)
- More Elon students chose therapist (physical, occupational, speech) as a probable career (6% vs. 3%)
- More Elon parents obtain graduate degrees (fathers-36% vs. 30%, mothers-26% vs. 21%)
- Elon was chosen more often for the size of the school (65% vs. 54%), rankings in national magazines (27% vs. 16%), and website information (20% vs. 13%)
- More Elon students based their college decision on admission through an Early Action/Decision Program (29% vs. 16%)

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