

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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A Few of the Schools From Elon's Comparison Group for CIRP 2003

Agnes Scott College

Albion College

Augustana College

Austin College

Cornell College

Davidson College

Earlham College

Eckerd College

Gettysburg College

Gustavus Adolphus College

Hamline University

Hendrix College

Lake Forest College

Luther College

Muhlenberg College

Randolph-Macon Woman's College

Rhodes College

Roanoke College

Southwestern University

University of the South

Wittenberg University

Wofford College