

Should Institutions Expand the Academic Record?: The Elon Experiences Transcript

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Description of Purpose

Registrars are pressured to document more information on the official academic transcript. Including adding course attributes, such as Service Learning, Diversity Themed, Online, Hybrid, and Study Abroad. As of today, limitations of integrated student systems severely limit our capabilities to creatively define student academics.

Transcript Innovations & Employers

Recent developments in innovative academic transcripts include co-curricular transcripts, competency-based transcripts, and data-enabled eTranscripts. These transcripts are having a direct impact on how employers and graduate schools view our students.

"An employer needs to see the 'experiences' gained by a potential job candidate and not just a random list of courses taken. Traditional student transcripts tell us what kind of classroom learning has taken place, but they don't capture all the different ways in which a student gains knowledge, skills, and abilities. In today's work world, experiential learning is just as important as academics" (David Blake, CupaHR, 2014).



"Traditional four-year college experience can be an exploratory time for students to discover their passions and test ideas and values with the help of teachers and peers. If a degree is really about developing a whole person, and preparing them with humanistic education that will serve them in a very dynamic career landscape, surely a ledger of courses and grades alone is a poor reflection of that experience (DelBanco, 2013)."



Elon University
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Psychology and Neuroscience
2011 – 2015 (expected)



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT **SERVICE** **LEADERSHIP** **INTERNSHIPS** **RESEARCH**

The Elon Experiences

Global Engagement: Study Abroad/Study USA

The Isabella Cannon Global Education Center is home to Elon's nationally ranked study abroad program. The center also oversees the university's study away programs at nearly 100 locations around the world. Each year students bring home life-changing experiences. Here are the places where they have been recently:

Summer 2013	Australias	India	Turkey	United Arab Emirates	U.S.
1	1	1	1	1	1
Canada	1	1	1	1	1
China	1	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	1	1	1	1	1
Denmark	1	1	1	1	1
England	1	1	1	1	1
Germany	1	1	1	1	1
Hong Kong	1	1	1	1	1
Ireland	1	1	1	1	1
Japan	1	1	1	1	1
Malta	1	1	1	1	1
Middle East	1	1	1	1	1
Peter at Sea	1	1	1	1	1
Portugal	1	1	1	1	1
Spain	1	1	1	1	1
Sweden	1	1	1	1	1
Switzerland	1	1	1	1	1
U.K.	1	1	1	1	1
U.S.	1	1	1	1	1
Winter 2014	1	1	1	1	1
Australia	1	1	1	1	1
China	1	1	1	1	1
India	1	1	1	1	1
U.S.	1	1	1	1	1

What is the Elon Experiences Transcript?

The Elon Experiences Transcript allows students to present a record of their participation in the five Elon Experiences. The university values these experiences as critical to the overall educational experience available to students through OnTrack and serve as a catalyst for incorporating co-curricular experiences with academic, career and personal development.

How can the transcript be used?

Funding and staff can use the transcript to help students map their Elon Experiences throughout their college career.

• Freshmen: Students describe the value of their experiences and the impact they had on their college career. This is a great way for them to showcase their first year at Elon. Help identify ways students can be more intentional with their experiences.

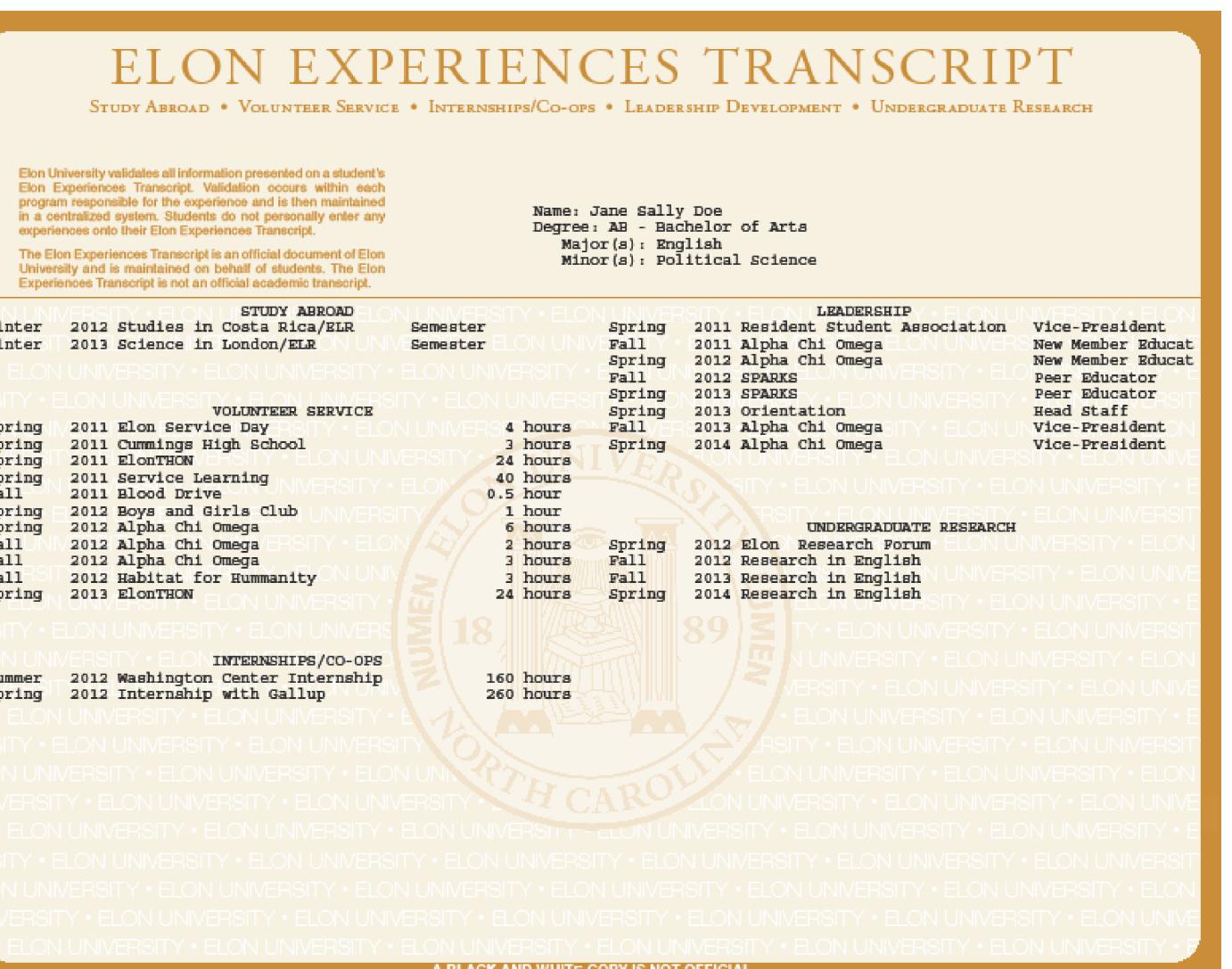
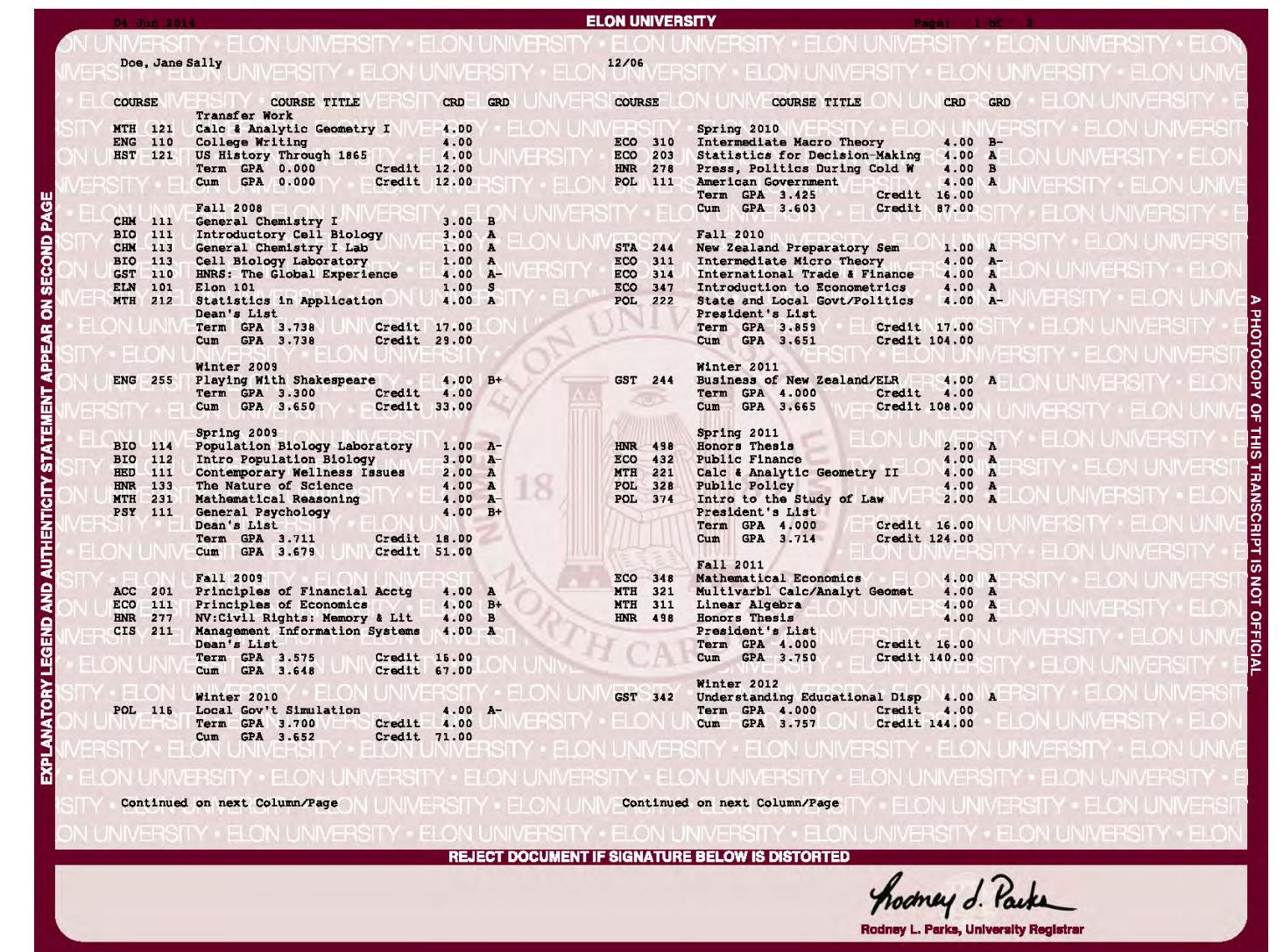
• Sophomore and junior: Review what students have done so far during their time at Elon. Look for patterns that can lead to major interests and career paths, and encourage students to find ways to continue to grow and develop their skills.

• Seniors: Help students articulate the value of their experiences as they prepare for job and graduate school interviews. Students can also use the transcript to demonstrate their Elon Experiences to include with applications for jobs and graduate schools.

The Elon Experiences Transcript

Created in 1994, the Elon Experiences Transcript (EET) seeks to deepen the documentation of the student experience by recording participation in five key program area as including Leadership, Service, Internship, Global Engagement, and Undergraduate Research.

Director of Experiential Unit	Faculty Development Fellow for the Experiential Unit
Manages student facing office	Recruits faculty participation in experiential education and manages faculty development workshops
Directs staff to support experiential education	Leads curriculum development, course offerings
Manages an advisory council for the experiential unit	Resources faculty with current research, brown bags and best practices in pedagogy
Collects annual data for Elon Experiences Transcript	Provides support for faculty balancing experiential education with other duties
Supports student development in experiential education	Communicates with department chairs and key committees (Promotion and Tenure) as to the value of experiential education
Runs assessment with faculty development fellow	Runs assessment with director of experiential unit



The advisory council has established a set of minimum expectations and processes for the EET that crosses all experiences, as well as established learning outcomes for each of their respective experiences. The seven common processes and criteria for the Elon Experiences are outline below. These draw on the eight conditions found by Kuh (2013) and his colleagues to be critical components when linking high-impact experiences with knowledge to create the desired learning outcomes sought in higher education.

- Intentional Preparation with a Mentor
- A Significant Out-of-Class, Real-world Experience
- Experience Viewed through a Disciplinary Lens or Body of Knowledge
- Continuous Feedback and Evaluation
- Integrative Project
- Structured Reflection and Integrative Assignments
- Sustained Relationships

On the Horizon...

- In the Fall of 2014, Elon began to aggressively market the EET to incoming first year students through an introductory seminar (Elon 101). The Registrar's Office has worked with the Student Professional Development Center to educate students on how to market themselves effectively using the new transcript with social media. Improvements to the descriptions of the data are well underway and students are being more proactive to have information recorded on the transcript through approved mechanisms.
- One of the most difficult challenges is assessment of co-curricular transcripts by employers, alumni, and higher education offices. Administrators often wonder to what extent students deliver employers copies of the EET and what outcomes such transcripts yield on hiring officials. In the fall of 2014, the Registrar's Office began reaching out to corporate partners and third party recipients of the EET for feedback on the document. While results are in a fledgling status, initial returns have been relatively positive.
- With the new ordering system in place Elon saw the number of EET transcripts increase from a combined 94 printed EET transcripts in 2012 and 2013 to 727 EET's in 2013 representing a 773% increase. Using a national vendor to offer PDF transcripts, Elon took it a step further and began concatenating the two transcripts into one certified PDF document during fall 2013. Today, Elon is running approximately 40% PDF to paper transcripts with 15% of those PDF orders including the EET.