

## Staff at the Admissions office tackle everyday problems with new applicants

**Summer Shaikh**  
*Contributing Reporter*

John Smith has a 3.0 GPA, is a solid B student, his math teacher thinks he is a hard worker and he wants to be the first one in his family to go to college. Should Smith be accepted to the college or university of his choice?

The admissions staff at schools like Elon College tackle this question every day.

A student's application goes through many important steps in the admissions office of Elon College. The application is first reviewed in the records office, where staff members make sure it has everything it needs. After their information has been keyed in to the data system, it can then either end up being reviewed by various people such as admissions counselors or the director of admission records, Staci Powell.

"Academics are very important to the selection process," said Powell when describing the judgment of a student's work in high school. She said the order of the application review process is to look at a student's high school grades,

then check the competitiveness of that school, analyze his or her academic curriculum, gauge the standardized test scores and finally evaluate the essay. The SAT is vital in the review, though his or her words can help us to know this person on a better level than before."

Powell said she sees these myths play out every day in student applications. Her attention is not devoted to students who simply list every activity and club they joined. The essays that jump out at her are the ones with significant learning experiences and stories about what makes that person who they are.

High school teacher recommendations can often beat around the bush with descriptions of students. Powell said red flags go up very quickly when she reads sugar-coated evaluations. The real emphasis is placed on the counselor recommendations from people who know the student quite well. These kinds of evaluations give an accurate picture of what this person is really like.

Many universities have struggled with the question of whether they can take race into account when admitting students.

Schools that have used a form of affirmative action in the selection process argue that they are using it as a plus factor. These schools attest that preference is not only given in regard to race, but also monetary need and athletic prowess.

The exclusion of affirmative action is one of the similarities between Elon and other universities in North Carolina. Affirmative action is an issue that does not come into play at Elon College, Duke University and North Carolina State University. This is because they generally don't make judgments on the basis of race, color and ethnic origin.

Powell said Elon College is more similar to N.C.S.U. academically, but it differs from both schools in many of its admissions statistics. Duke and N.C. State both have a "highly selective" entrance level, whereas Elon has a "selective" status. N.C. State gives a lot of preference to in-state students, making its out-of-state percentage only eight percent. Duke and Elon have much higher percentages of out-of-state students with 88 and 75.

The admissions staffs at Duke

and N.C. State are looking for students with average GPAs of 3.8. Powell said Elon accepts solid B+ students with an average GPAs 3.4.

The number of admitted students varies in the three schools. Duke and Elon have similar acceptance rates of 3,777 and 3,300 students this year. N.C. State is a much bigger school; so its acceptance rate for this year is 7,555 students. "The number of admitted students each year at Elon is decided by many people, such as the board of trustees, and the president," said Powell. "It is based on class size, the school's financial needs, the number of faculty and facilities."

Powell said Elon works on a rolling scale, where many things in a student's application can determine his or her acceptance, rejection or wait-list status. Contrary to popular belief, SAT scores do not always make or break a student's future. She said it is better to earn a good GPA than a good SAT score, because it says more about the consistent work ethic of a student.

To differentiate between students, a formula called the "Elon GPA" is used to measure the quality of applicants as well. The Elon

GPA is an adjusted GPA figure that assesses honors and advanced placement classes that students have taken. This number can sometimes be very different than a person's high school scores.

Classifying yourself as early decisions -meaning Elon is your choice, is another factor that can enhance a student's chance of acceptance at Elon. Counselors want to see that students have a lot of interest in their school, and applying early decision does just that.

An 18-year-old might not want to have the same professors and live in the same dorm that his or her parents did, but that legacy can certainly help them on the path to acceptance. Legacy stands out on a student's application at Elon. Powell said it does not give a specified advantage, but Elon likes to see generation after generation come to this school.

Application assessment is a process of six to eight weeks of careful consideration and questioning by the admissions staff, but the only question hovering in every high school senior's mind is always: Is the envelope going to be thick or thin?

## Unrequited love prompts beating of an 18-year-old high school boy

**Lauren Vilis**  
*The Pendulum*

A 15-year-old high school student pleaded guilty to beating her 18-year-old prom date. She will be sentenced before the end of the month in juvenile court. Prosecutors said the Skokie, Ill. girl beat her ex-boyfriend at an after-prom party at his house last May because he refused to kiss her.

She initially claimed he had tried to rape her. After the investigating police found no evidence of any sexual assault, she retracted her charge and admitted the truth.

The girl, whose name was not released because she is a juvenile, said she made up the sexual assault allegation because the boy rejected her advances. She was drunk at the time of the encounter,

With the White Ribbon Campaign going on this week many issues of violence towards women are being dealt with, but this girl's case raises comments and concerns of just the opposite: women abusing men. "If a girl or woman beat[s] up her boyfriend or husband, then I think she is opening the door for violence," says Lin Nelson of Chicago, Illinois.

As far as the rights of men go in the event that they are attacked by a female, Elon College sophomore Annie Chalmers says "[The man] has the same right to say 'no' just as the woman does, regardless of the situation."

In this case of unrequited love, the girl's ex-boyfriend received two black eyes from the incident. He says he did not try and defend himself because he was taught never

to hit a girl. Many students on campus feel he did the right thing by not hitting the girl back.

Sophomore, Joe Preli, said that the ex-boyfriend "was being upright and righteous about not taking advantage of her." He added, "a guy should not hit a girl, period."

Bryan McFarland, an Elon College student, echoed Preli's statement but adds a little more to it saying, "A guy should defend himself in a non-physical way, like hold her back or restrain her in some sort of way."

This case gives students at both the high school and college a new concept to ponder, men can be victims of physical abuse too. The girl has since apologized for her behavior said she needs to learn to control her temper.

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