Building Data Competency
Elon University's QEP Plan, 2023-2028

The overarching goal for Elon University's Quality Enhancement Plan is to enhance student learning of the knowledge and skills required for working with data during and after their college experience. Our QEP emerges directly from *Boldly Elon*, the institutional strategic plan for 2030, which states that we will "Develop curricula, short courses, and certificate programs across the curriculum in all colleges and schools to ensure all students are prepared to **access, analyze, and manipulate complex data**."

The Data Competency QEP builds on Elon's ongoing efforts to bolster students' abilities to be responsible, ethical, and informed consumers and producers of data. Because data varies by field or discipline and because the specific tools, theories, and models used to analyze and interpret data are often context specific, we have defined "data competency" broadly in order to achieve the following goals:

> **Goal 1:** A majority of Elon students will establish foundational knowledge and skills necessary to consume and analyze data to aid decision-making. This includes building basic computing skills for storing and organizing data as well as foundational statistical reasoning skills necessary for consuming, interpreting, and communicating findings for decision making

> **Goal 2:** A subset of Elon students will develop an advanced level of data competency through the creation or redesign and promotion of data-designated courses and academic experiences such as data-driven undergraduate research. Building on the foundations from Goal 1, these students will be able to collect (when applicable), process, analyze, consider the quality and ethical treatment of data and interpret data within specific contexts.

A new **Data Nexus** center will oversee implementation of the plan, connect data competency efforts across departments, programs, colleges, and schools focused on student learning, and serve as a coordinating hub for data competency initiatives at Elon that support the QEP. The Data Nexus Director will partner with a Faculty Advisory Committee to:

- Create and assess targeted and specific learning outcomes (SLO's) for foundational statistical literacy and for advanced data competency,
- Connect and elevate programs, majors/minors and centers that focus on data and data competency,
- Provide new resources and opportunities to Elon students to develop data competency skills, and
- Support pedagogical development opportunities for faculty and staff teaching data competency knowledge and skills.
- Assess the ongoing success of the QEP and maintain a strong feedback loop to measure and continue to enhance student learning and data competency.

The plan is also designed to raise student awareness about ways they can incorporate additional data competencies into their Elon coursework, and to facilitate coordinated assessment, faculty development, and student learning support which can inform future targeted efforts to help students build their foundational literacies for working with data.

Contacts:

Crista Arangala, Data Nexus Director (ccoles@elon.edu)
Deandra Little, Associate Provost of Faculty Affairs (dlittle@elon.edu)