



# Elmhurst University

Elmhurst Learning and Success Academy (ELSA)

# WELCOME!

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# The ELSA Program

- Three focus areas:
  - Academics
  - Work Experience & Independent Living
  - Social and Recreational Experience
- Housing Options



# ELSA Students

- Between 18 and 28 with a high school diploma or certificate
- Interested in developing skills in functional literacy, technology, employment, and independent living
- Must have:
  - Sufficient emotional skills and capacity for independence
  - Basic reading/comprehension, writing, and math skills



# Academics

- Increase student's literacy and technical skills and capacity for *writing, mathematics, purposeful reading, and reading for pleasure*
- Classes taught by ELSA faculty with Elmhurst University student teacher assistants
- ELSA students can take traditional Elmhurst University courses as ELSA electives which can lead to additional Certificate of Specialized Study
- Possibilities to transition to become an undergraduate



# Growth & Enrollment

- 2024/2025 Quick Facts:
  - 43 ELSA Students
  - 18 students are taking 28 electives

Year	ELSA	Undergraduate
2020/2021	45	7
2021/2022	44	10
2022/2023	49	17
2023/2024	45	17
2024/2025	43	11

# ELSA Advisor Overview

- Advisor for the 43 ELSA students that will be receiving an ELSA Certificate
- Meet individually with these students each semester to discuss progress, interventions, person centered plans
- Meeting outcome - course plan to register for each upcoming semester



A group of graduates in blue caps and gowns at a graduation ceremony. The graduates are standing in rows, and the background is filled with green trees. The text is overlaid on the image.

# ELSA Course Load

- Full Time Students – 4 classes per term plus Educational Coaching
- Part Time Students – 2 classes per term; Educational Coaching Encouraged
  - Each class = 1 credit
  - 32 credits needed for graduation

# ELSA Electives

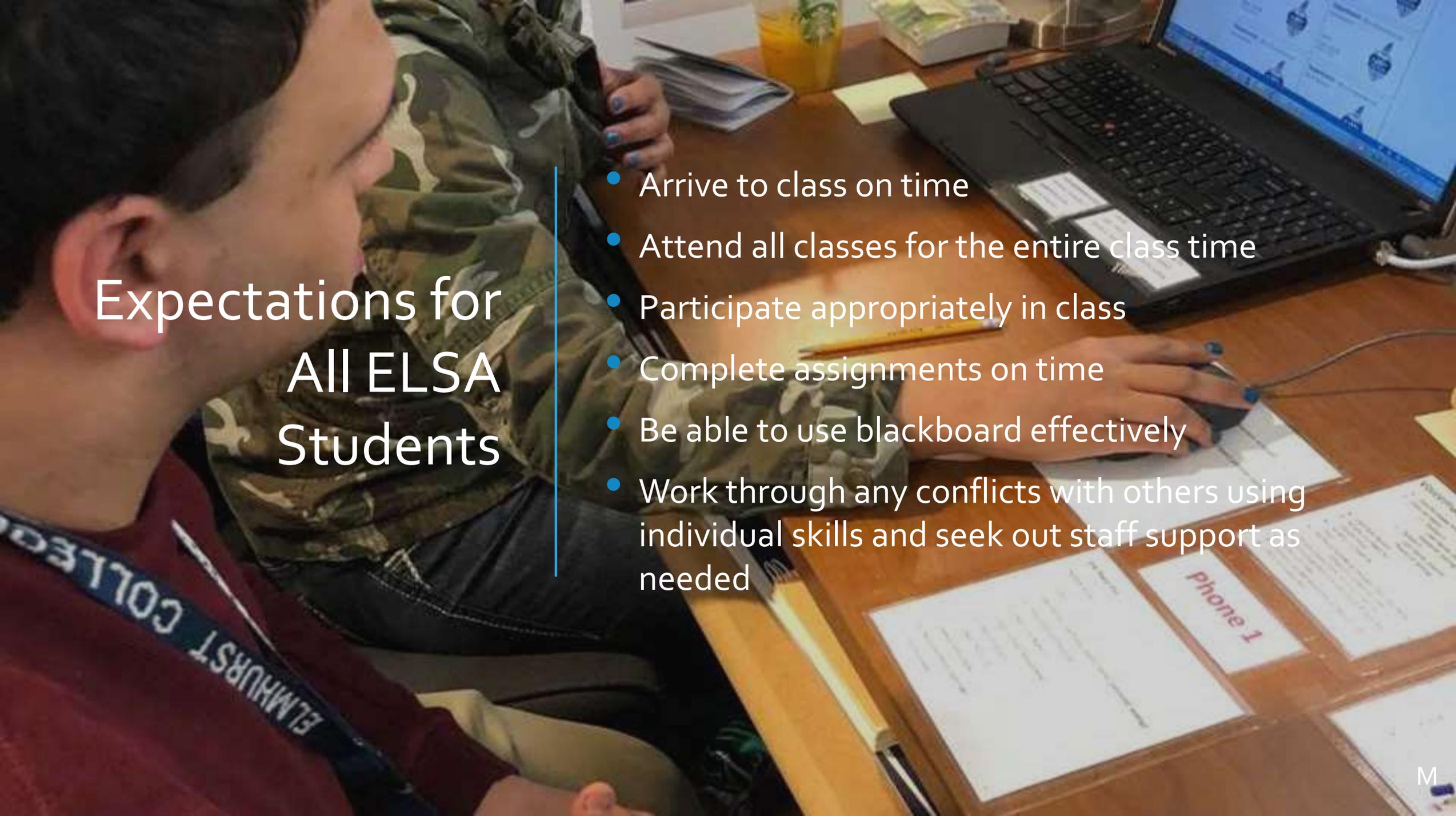
Electives are chosen if **ELSA** student has:

- Interest in a chosen topic/area
- Able or open to advocating to self -disclose
- Ability to take initiative and ask for help
- Time management skills are evident





# Life After ELSA

A student wearing a camouflage jacket and a maroon shirt with a lanyard that says "ELMHURST COLLEGE" is sitting at a desk. The desk has a laptop, a mouse, a yellow pencil, a glass of orange juice, and several papers. The student is looking at the laptop screen. The background is slightly blurred.

# Expectations for All ELSA Students

- Arrive to class on time
- Attend all classes for the entire class time
- Participate appropriately in class
- Complete assignments on time
- Be able to use blackboard effectively
- Work through any conflicts with others using individual skills and seek out staff support as needed



# ELSA Housing

- Fully Inclusive
- Two Residence Halls with Community Advisors (CA) and Resident Advisors (RA)
- Two Residence Halls with RA support only
- Apartments without support

# ELSA Housing

- ELSA Community Advisors (CAs)
  - Live and work in the residence halls
  - Serve as role models and resources for students
  - Support students who live on campus by teaching independent living skills for social and academic success.
- Life Coaches (LCs)
  - Help students improve executive functioning skills and build independence



# Career Exploration and Development

## Freshmen Year

- Career Exploration
- Develop Resumes

## Sophomore Year

- Download Lyft App
- Career Exploration + Career and Community
- On-Campus Internships

## Junior Year

- Career Internship Class
- On Campus Jobs
- 5-10 Hours per work

## Senior Year

- Career Internship Class
- Off Campus Jobs
- 8-12 Hour per week





# Internships

- On campus and off campus—most are in walking distance
- One semester or all year
- 1-2 days a week
- Morning, afternoon, evening—weekday mostly, some weekends
- Some are paid jobs, most are not
- Not every intern needs a job coach, but most do to get started

# EXAMPLES OF INTERNSHIPS

## On Campus

- Chartwells
- Center for Professional Excellence
- Guest Services
- Office for Student Involvement
- Office of Graduate Admissions
- Scene Shop (Theater)
- ELSA Office
- Nursing Program

## Off Campus

- Walgreens
- E Works
- Ray Graham
- Elmhurst Park District
- Courageous Cupcakes
- Egg Harbor
- York Theater
- Jewel
- Kie & Kate Boutique



# ELSA Admission and Deadlines

- Complete application online
  - <https://www.elmhurst.edu/admission/apply/>
- Student essays- 3 questions
- 1 letter of recommendation from teacher or counselor
- Official High School Transcript
- IEP & Psychological Evaluation

# ELSA Admission and Deadlines

## Fall Applications Deadlines:

Students interested in Housing for Fall should apply as soon as possible, but we take applications until July

## Housing:

After admission, students interested in living on campus will have a housing assessment conducted by our staff clinical psychologist

Questions or  
Comments?



# Thoughts About ELSA Electives:

I enjoyed being able to experience a class that was challenging for me

I enjoyed my Interpersonal Communication Class, it helped me understand a better way to communicate with my peers. It really helped me understand the importance of communication.

I truly believe that I can take what I learned from these electives and bring it into the next part of my life.

I really enjoy my elective this semester, which is history. The class is educational and entertaining.

I enjoyed meeting new people and making new friendships.

My experience, in all of my elective classes, was great. I got to meet a lot new people as well as see a new point of view.

Taking the communication class benefited me by helping me communicate better with others and understand the different parts of communication.

It developed my skills—networking and knowing the expectation of the industry. It gave me knowledge to be successful.

My elective gave me some fun opportunities for learning that also challenged me.