UNC Research: Facts and Figures



9th

top-ranked university in the United States for research. (HERD Survey, 2023)



UNC-Chapel Hill conducts more than \$1 billion in sponsored research annually, placing 9th nationally in research volume and expenditures. (HERD Survey, 2023)

61%

UNC-CH performs more than half of all UNC System research. (HERD Survey, 2023)

2,187

UNC Research projects directly addressing the health, education, or well-being of N.C. citizens. (UNC RAMSeS, 2024)

S Fe

For each dollar of state funding, research centers & institutes attract \$7.96 from external sources. (UNC RAMSeS, 2024)

Economic Impact

3,250+

More than 3,250 N.C. businesses in 83 N.C. counties are supported by \$124 million in annual purchases by UNC Research. (UNC Research, 2024)

\$2.6BILLION

UNC Research and UNC startup companies generate an annual N.C. economic impact totaling \$2.6 billion. (EMSI, 2013)

12,704

UNC Research employs over 12,700 N.C. residents across 92 counties, with an annual payroll of \$457 million. (UNC Research, 2024)

350+

Over 350 N.C. businesses have spun out of UNC, creating 8,500+ N.C. jobs and generating nearly \$17.5B in annual revenue. (UNC Research, 2025)

33

Over 30 research centers and institutes attract top faculty and over \$378M in annual external funding to N.C. for scientific research. (UNC RAMSeS, 2025)

Exceptionalism

1 of only 10 public U.S. institutions in the Top-25 for all measures of excellence. *(CMUP, 2020)*

Over 150 UNC-CH faculty belong to the National Academies and other prestigious learned societies (UNC Research, 2025)

2 Nobel Laureates

(Royal Swedish Academy of Science)

25 UNC-CH faculty are in the National Academy of Medicine (*National Academy of Medicine, 2025*)

16 UNC-CH faculty elected to the National Academy of Sciences (National Academy of Sciences, 2025)

21st most cited university in the world *(CSIC Webmetrics, 2023)*

Industry Partnerships

20th in the U.S. for privately sponsored clinical trials (*HERD Survey*, 2023)

25th in industry-sponsored life sciences research in the U.S. (*HERD Survey*, 2023)

34th for industry-sponsored R&D among the nation's private and public institutions (HERD Survey, 2023)

\$55 million in annual clinical trials research (HERD Survey, 2023)

\$68 million in annual R&D from private industry sponsors (UNC RAMSeS, 2025)

Research Collaboration



Multi-Investigator Projects



Multi-Department Projects 33%

Multi-School Projects

Ranked 1st nationally for R&D received as a sub-recipient from other institutions, UNC-CH is a trusted partner for research. (HERD Survey, 2023)

Postdoctoral Research

950+ postdoctoral fellows (UNC Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, 2024)

22nd in the nation for total number of postdoc fellows (GSS Survey, 2023)

Commercialization

4,776 inventions have been disclosed at UNC-CH. (UNC OCED, 2025)

1,426 U.S. patents have been awarded to Carolina. (UNC OCED, 2025)

\$123 million in income for the University from Carolina-created technology supports new technology development and startup incubation. (UNC OCED, 2025)

\$4.29B in added income (GSP) to N.C. annually from UNC-CH spin-out businesses, the equivalent of 33,643 additional N.C. jobs. (*Innovate Carolina, 2025*)

National Rankings and Research Expenditures by Field (HERD Survey, 2023)

10th

life sciences research, \$1.14B

3rd

social sciences research, \$95M

24th

biological and biomedical sciences research, **\$231M**

5th

health sciences research, \$910M

17th

chemistry research, \$30M

1st

psychology research, \$57M

11th

biomedical engineering research, \$36M jointly with NCSU

4th

social work research, \$19M

Federal Investment

9th in the U.S. for federally funded health sciences research (HERD Survey, 2022)

More than \$514M awarded in 2025 by the NIH makes it Carolina's largest federal funder (UNC RAMSeS, 2025)

4th among the nation's Schools of Public Health for NIH funding (BRIMR, 2024)

2nd nationally in federally funded social and behavioral science R&D (COSSA, 2023)