University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
RESEARCH FACTS & FIGURES

For each dollar of state funding, research centers & institutes attract $5 from external sources // UNC RAMSeS, 2020

$1.16 BILLION
UNC conducts more than one billion dollars of sponsored research from all sources annually, making it the 13th largest US research university in research volume and annual expenditures // HERD Survey, 2020

$1.6 billion
UNC spin-out businesses generate $1.6 billion in added income (GSP) to NC annually – the equivalent of 15,000 additional NC jobs //EMSI, 2013

$45 million
in annual clinical trials research // HERD Survey, 2020

$64 million
in annual R&D from private industry sponsors // UNC RAMSeS, 2021

60%
UNC-Chapel Hill performs more than half of all UNC System research // HERD Survey, 2020

884
UNC research projects directly addressing the health, education, or well-being of NC citizens, in 2021 // UNC RAMSeS, 2021

$5
For each dollar of state funding, research centers & institutes attract $5 from external sources // UNC RAMSeS, 2020

10th
top-ranked university in the United States for federal research, totaling $706M annually // HERD Survey, 2020

$5.2.6 BILLION
total annual North Carolina economic impact of UNC research and UNC startup companies // EMSI, 2013

274
NC BUSINESSES
spun out of research at UNC, creating 9,573 jobs in North Carolina and generating nearly $14 billion in annual revenues // UNC OCED, 2020

3,500
NC BUSINESSES
in 89 North Carolina counties are supported by $97 million in annual purchases by UNC Research // UNC Research, 2021

ECONOMIC IMPACT

EXCEPTIONALISM
1 of only 10 public US institutions in the Top 25 for all measures of excellence // CMUP, 2020

150+ faculty at UNC are members of the National Academies & prestigious learned societies // UNC Research, 2021

2 Nobel Laureates
Royal Swedish Academy of Science

21 faculty in the National Academy of Medicine // National Academy of Medicine, 2021

16 faculty elected to the National Academy of Sciences // National Academy of Sciences, 2021

21st most cited university in the world // CWUR, 2019

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

A trusted partner for research, UNC ranks 7th in the nation for R&D received as a sub-recipient from other universities // HERD Survey, 2020

60%
Multi-Investigator Projects

48%
Multi-Department Projects

33%
Multi-School Projects

Multi-Investigator Projects
Multi-Department Projects
Multi-School Projects

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

800+ postdoctoral fellows // UNC Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, 2021

20th in the nation for the total number of postdoctoral fellows // GSS Survey, 2019

FEDERAL INVESTMENT

6th in the US for federally funded health sciences research // HERD Survey, 2020

The NIH is UNC’s largest federal funder, awarding more than $538M in 2021 // UNC RAMSeS, 2021

5th among the nation’s Schools of Public Health for NIH funding // BMIR, 2021

1st in the nation for federally funded social and behavioral science research and development // COSSA, 2021

COMMERICALIZATION

3,605 inventions have been disclosed at UNC // UNC OCED, 2021

1,003 US patents have been awarded to UNC // UNC OCED, 2021

Technology created at UNC has generated $112 million in income for the university, funding the development of new technologies and incubation of startups // UNC OCED, 2021

UNC spin-out businesses generate $1.6 billion in added income (GSP) to NC annually – the equivalent of 15,000 additional NC jobs //EMSI, 2013

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

13th in the US for privately sponsored clinical trials // HERD Survey, 2020

21st in industry-sponsored life sciences research in the US // HERD Survey, 2020

35th for industry-sponsored R&D among the nation’s private and public institutions // HERD Survey, 2020

$45 million in annual clinical trials research // HERD Survey, 2020

$64 million in annual R&D from private industry sponsors // UNC RAMSeS, 2021

(April 2022)