

RANKINGS AND FACTS 2025-2026



The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

– the third-largest institution in the UNC System and the second-largest for undergraduates – is the Charlotte region’s only R1 research university. Charlotte’s outstanding academics, world-class research, innovative student success services and productive community connections – all in the 15th-largest city in the U.S. – serve a dynamic and growing student body and the region’s vibrant business community.

32,207

Enrollment (Fall 2025)
Undergraduate: **26,213**
Graduate: **5,994**
Students from: **50** U.S. states,
99 NC counties and **128** countries



400+ Student organizations

19 NCAA Division I teams competing in the American Athletic Conference

189,000+ Alumni with **more than 60%** living in the Charlotte region

170+ Undergraduate majors in **83** programs lead to bachelor’s, **64** master’s and **25** doctoral degrees

Degrees/Grad Certificates
Awarded: **8,970 (2024-25)**

Bachelor’s: **6,101**
Master’s: **2,081**

Doctoral: **181**
Graduate Certificates: **607**



Notable U.S. News & World Report Rankings

One of the fastest-rising universities in the U.S.

#74

Best Public University
+35 spots since 2020

#38

Most Innovative Schools
The highest ranked public university in North Carolina

#69

Top Performer for Social Mobility

Research & Innovation

CARNEGIE R1 CLASSIFICATION AWARDED IN 2025

- **\$94.9 million** in research expenditures in 2024-25, 307% increase over 10 years
- **\$283.3 million** total grant profile (2024-25)
- **Ranks in the Top 10 in the U.S.** for patents filed and startups per million dollars in research funding (AUTM 2024)
- **51** Charlotte faculty lead initiatives with \$1 million or more in active external funding

Outcomes

- **80%** of bachelor’s degree graduates experienced research, internships, co-ops and/or study abroad (2023-24)
- On Money’s 2024 **Best Colleges** list for quality and affordability
- **87%** of recent graduates are employed, self-employed or continuing their education six months post-graduation (Next Destination Survey, 2023)
- **85%** first-year retention rate

Stellar Campus

- 1,000-acre, **bike-friendly** main campus
- **143,000**-square-foot Dubois Center Uptown
- Campuses connected by **light rail**
- **No. 1** most beautiful campus among NC public universities (Niche, 2025)



#1 IN NORTH CAROLINA:

- Community college transfers
- First-generation college students

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FRESHMAN CLASS PROFILE

4,678*

3.93

Average Weighted GPA

29%

First-Generation
College Students

40%

STEM Majors

**University Record*



FINANCIAL AID

75% of all students receive financial aid

51% receive federal direct loans

37% of undergraduates receive federal Pell grants

SCHOLARSHIPS

\$8.5 million awarded for 2,803 annual, endowed scholarships

105 competitive, full-merit scholarships

90% increase in scholarships awarded over 5 years



HISTORY

1946: Charlotte Center of the University of North Carolina opened

1949: Became Charlotte College

1961: Campus opened

1965: Joined the UNC System

1969: First master's degrees established

1993: Doctoral programs authorized

2000: Reclassified as doctoral/research university

2011: The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City opened

2018: UNC Charlotte-Main light rail station opened

2025: UNC Charlotte achieves Carnegie R1 status

MOST POPULAR UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

- Business
- Computer and Information Sciences
- Engineering
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Health Professions



ATHLETICS ACCOLADES (23-24)

5 conference championships for first year in AAC

259 Academic All-Conference honorees

12 All-American honors

3,875 community service hours

#94 in Learfield Directors Cup*

Excellence in Management Cup

Champions recognized for maximizing resources and winning championships

**University Record*



"Every great city has a great university. UNC Charlotte is Charlotte's great university."

– Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber