Our new undergraduate students

This fall, Carolina welcomed 5,138 new undergraduate students to campus. The class includes 4,355 first-year students — the largest first-year class ever — and 783 transfer students. The class was selected from 44,443 applicants, marking the 12th consecutive year of record applications.

Who they are...

- 35% of NC students are from rural counties
- 10% were born outside the United States
- 3% are global students
- 14% are Covenant Scholars

Extracurricular Activities

- service: 91%
- sport: 68%
- family: 58%
- travel: 53%
- job: 50%
- faith: 47%

Carolina Firsts

- 20% will be the first in their families to graduate from college

Degree Intentions

- 90% of first-year students plan to continue their education after earning undergraduate degrees

- 22% of first-year students turned down a higher-ranked college or university
- 47% receive need-based aid
- 34% identify as a race or ethnicity other than Caucasian
- 7% have a military affiliation
Choosing a university.

University characteristics most important to first-year students:

#1 Career Preparation
#2 Academic Reputation
#3 Inclusive Environment

First-year students are seeking:

95% to get better at leading, serving, and working with people from different backgrounds
94% broadened understanding through dialogue with classmates and professors who differ from them

Where they want to go.

Top 5 Intended Majors*

- Biology
- Business
- Psychology
- Chemistry
- Economics

*Excludes 15% of students who are undecided.

Future Careers most mentioned by first-year students:

- physician
- business executive
- scientific researcher
- lawyer or judge
- engineer
- computer programmer
- nurse
- writer or journalist
- government policy maker
- pharmacist

81% very likely or somewhat likely to study abroad

What they believe.

46% participate in a faith community

39% liberal
4% far left
1% far right
18% conservative
38% moderate
Family Background

Parents

Marital Status
- 77% married
- 2% widowed
- 6% other
- 15% divorced

Parent Education
- 97% high school diploma
- 81% 2- or 4-year degree
- 44% graduate degree

Parent Employment
- self-employed 19%
- Unemployed 14%
- Retired 7%

Top 10 Parent Occupations
1) Business owner, executive
2) School teacher, administrator
3) Full-time homemaker
4) Engineer
5) Salesperson or buyer
6) Nurse
7) Physician
8) Accountant, actuary
9) Computer programmer
10) Lawyer, judge

30% at least one parent born outside the U.S.

Home

Number of Siblings
- 45% one
- 29% two
- 16% three or more

Languages other than English
- Spanish 5%
- Mandarin 4%
- Hindi 1%
- Gujarati 1%
- Vietnamese 1%

10% only child
Academic Success

In their high school class

Of the 71% of enrolling first-year students reporting class rank:

- 4% ranked 1st or 2nd
- 44% ranked in the top ten students
- 78% ranked in the top 10 percent
- 94% ranked in the top 20 percent

On advanced exams

Advanced Placement and International Bacalaureate scores submitted:

25,852

83% of students submitted at least one test score.

Most popular AP exams:
1) US History
2) English Language
3) English Literature
4) Psychology
5) Statistics

81% of those scores demonstrated subject matter mastery.

(AP tests: score of 3 or higher; IB tests: score of 6 or higher.)

On standardized testing

Middle 50% of students’ highest reported scores.

ACT scores have been converted to SAT critical reading and math scale.

- 1300-1470 North Carolinians
- 1310-1470 all students
- 1370-1540 out-of-state students

*all data in this profile refers to enrolling first-year students