

## Peer Comparisons

In 2002, metrics were identified to assess the University's performance in key areas in relation to its public peers. These measures of excellence serve as indicators of Carolina's accomplishments and quality in the following broad areas:

- undergraduate education
- graduate and professional education
- faculty, staff, public service and engagement
- internationalization
- finance and facilities
- athletics

Read more about Peer Comparisons at Carolina:

- Reference Groups &dash; Groups used for benchmarks
- Measures of Excellence &dash; Specific metrics chosen to track progress in broad areas; tables showing recent comparisons
- National Rankings &dash; Summaries and links documenting Carolina's rankings

{mospagebreak title=Reference Groups}

### Reference Groups

UNC-Chapel Hill monitors its performance in key areas by using data from other institutions as benchmarks. These comparisons and assessments of our relative standings among similar institutions help us identify areas of strengths and weaknesses, refine strategies to be undertaken in our continuing pursuit of excellence, and guide decisions about major resource investments. Depending upon the performance area of interest, we use one or more of the following reference groups, listed below from least to most exclusive.

- Carnegie Classification: Research Universities (very high research activity). This group is composed of 96 doctoral degree-granting institutions with the highest levels of externally-funded research productivity.
- Association of American Universities (AAU). The approximately sixty major research universities belonging to the AAU form what is considered to be the most elite group of public and private doctoral institutions in the United States and Canada. These are the institutions with which UNC-Chapel Hill most frequently competes for the top faculty, students, and external research funding.
- UNC System-Defined Peer Group. The UNC System approved a smaller group of national institutions to compare to UNC-Chapel Hill for various benchmarking purposes. This group is comprised of ten public and five private institutions that are considered be "peers" of UNC-Chapel Hill in terms of mission; overall quality of faculty, students, and programs; and research productivity.
- Top Public Peers. It is often most meaningful to examine the University's performance in relation to the four institutions that - along with UNC-Chapel Hill - are most often ranked the highest among all public institutions in U.S.

News & World Report, the Lombardi series of reports on The Top Research Universities, and other published comparisons. These institutions, which are also part of all four of the larger groups above, include the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan, and the University of Virginia.

{mospagebreak title=Measures of Excellence}

## Measures of Excellence

Specific metrics were chosen to track progress in each of these areas over the most recent five-year period in comparison with Carolina's ten public peer universities:

- undergraduate education
- graduate and professional education
- faculty, staff, public service and engagement
- internationalization
- finance and facilities
- athletics

These comparisons are reviewed each year by administrators and the Board of Trustees as they determine how to further enhance the University's effectiveness in accomplishing its mission. Download the latest Measures of Excellence presentation made to the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees, Fall 2007, and the companion Measures of Excellence booklet published at the same time.

Selected tables and graphs from the Fall 2007 Measures of Excellence:

- Percentage of Course Sections with an Enrollment of Fewer than 20 in 2006
- Percentage of Course Sections with an Enrollment of 50 or More in 2006
- SAT Scores of Entering First-Year Students 2006
- Four-Year Graduation Rates for Freshmen Entering in 2002
- Six-Year Graduation Rates for Freshmen Entering in 2000
- Federal Funding for Fellowships, Traineeships, and Training Grants 2005
- Undergraduate Ratings of Quality of Instruction
- Salary Comparisons For Faculty
- Public Service Scholars Program

- Student Participation in Study Abroad 2007
- Average Alumni Giving Rate 2006
- Endowment per Student Headcount 2005
- Six-Year NCAA Graduation Rates for Freshman Student-Athletes Entering in 1999

{mospagebreak title=National Rankings}

## National Rankings

Carolina's Most Recent Rankings in Major Publications: The University's News Services office maintains an up-to-date summary of areas in which Carolina is ranked as among the nation's best in terms of programs or other institutional attributes. This summary can be accessed through the following link:  
<http://www.unc.edu/news/compendium.shtml#rankings>

## U.S. News & World Report

The following links provide analyses of Carolina's rankings in the "Best Colleges" edition over several years in comparison with its top peers — UCLA, Berkeley, Michigan, and Virginia.

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- Five-Year Trends in Overall Rankings of Carolina and Its Top Public Peer Institutions (PDF)
- Ten-Year Trends in the Rankings of Carolina and Its Top Public Peer Institutions, by Item (PDF)
- Rankings on Faculty Resources (PDF)
- Rankings on Class Size (PDF)

Additional ranking information for Carolina can be found through the following links:

- U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges" (undergraduate institutions)
- U.S. News & World Report's "Best Graduate Programs";

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## The Top American Research Universities (Lombardi, Capaldi, & Abbey)

The Center for Measuring University Performance publishes an annual report ranking institutions on each of the following nine measures: Total Research, Federal Research, Endowment Assets, Annual Giving, National Academy Members, Faculty Awards, Doctorates Granted, Postdoctoral Appointees, and SAT/ACT range. Carolina is one of only four institutions that have consistently ranked in the top 25 public institutions on all nine measures.

- Complete 2008 version of The Top American Research Universities (PDF)

- Analysis of Carolina's 2008 performance in The Top American Research Universities (PDF), a brief report prepared in 2009 by the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment.