



2020 Record Enrollment

September 2020

For the third consecutive year, the UNC System has achieved record-breaking enrollment numbers, according to final census data for the Fall 2020 semester.

Total enrollment across the UNC System is 242,464—an increase of one percent compared to 2019's enrollment of 239,981. Undergraduate enrollment is up 0.2 percent, while graduate enrollment increased by four percent.

The record enrollment reflects the impact of ongoing efforts to put NC's college options more within reach for aspiring students, particularly those from low-income families and rural counties. Improved access and affordability are key pillars of the UNC System's five-year Strategic Plan.

Eight institutions all have record enrollments (Appalachian State University, Fayetteville State University, N.C. A&T State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, UNC Pembroke, UNC Wilmington, and Western Carolina University). Four institutions have enrolled their largest new transfer class ever (ECSU, NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, and UNC Pembroke).

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Difference Between 2019 and 2020
Appalachian State University	19,108	19,280	20,023	3.9%
East Carolina University	28,718	28,651	28,798	0.5%
Elizabeth City State University	1,677	1,769	2,002	13.2%
Fayetteville State University	6,318	6,551	6,726	2.7%
N.C. A&T State University	12,142	12,556	12,753	1.6%
North Carolina Central University	8,207	8,011	8,078	0.8%
North Carolina State University	35,479	36,304	36,042	-0.7%
UNC Asheville	3,762	3,600	3,363	-6.6%
UNC-Chapel Hill	30,011	29,877	30,092	0.7%
UNC Charlotte	29,710	29,615	30,164*	1.9%
UNC Greensboro	20,106	20,196	19,764	-2.1%
UNC Pembroke	7,137	7,698	8,262	7.3%
UNC Wilmington	16,747	17,499	17,915	2.4%
UNC School of the Arts	1,042	1,086	1,070	-1.5%
Western Carolina University	11,639	12,167	12,243	0.6%
Winston-Salem State University	5,190	5,121	5,169	0.9%
UNC System	236,993	239,981	242,464	1.0%
*UNC Charlotte's Fall 2020 census data is not available yet, so its Fall 2020 beginning of term data is substituted as an estimate.				Shaded areas represent record enrollments.

Key Milestones

- ECSU enrollment exceeds 2,000 students for the first time since 2013.
- Appalachian enrollment exceeds 20,000 students for the first time ever.
- UNC Charlotte enrollment exceeds 30,000 students for the first time ever.