

**Results from the**  
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**Graduating Senior Exit Survey**  
*Administered Fall 2022 – Spring 2023*

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# Introduction

## ***What is the Graduating Senior Exit Survey?***

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill conducts the Graduating Senior Exit Survey to gauge the perceptions of undergraduate seniors about their experiences at Carolina and their post-graduation plans. The voluntary survey is available to all seniors upon completion of their requirements for graduation. The survey questions include customized questions unique for UNC-Chapel Hill along with items from the Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) survey (<https://cshe.berkeley.edu/SERU>). For more information about the Graduating Senior Exit Survey, please visit [OIRA Surveys](#).

## ***Survey Structure***

The Graduating Senior Exit Survey consists of several parts asked of all undergraduate students:

1. Experiences at Carolina: includes questions about students' experiences in the classroom, with their peers, and with their instructors and faculty
2. Knowledge and Skill Development: includes questions about students' exposure to a variety of essential areas of higher education, such as writing, research, and presentation skills
3. Student Well-Being: includes questions about mental health challenges and students' major areas of worry and concern
4. Diversity and Overall Satisfaction: includes questions about students' perceptions of the climate for diversity and general feelings about Carolina as a respectful and welcoming campus
5. Community Engagement: includes questions about participation in a variety of co-curricular activities available to all undergraduate students
6. Global Experiences: includes questions about students' awareness of and participation in various global opportunities at Carolina
7. Plans and Aspirations: includes questions regarding students' plans now that they have graduated from Carolina, including employment and additional educational pursuits

## Part I: Experience at Carolina

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES AT CAROLINA?	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Somewhat disagree		Somewhat Agree		Agree		Strongly agree		Total Responses		Mean
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
I had the experience of exchanging and engaging with a broad range of ideas, perspectives, and visions that differed from my own.	11	0.6%	15	0.9%	25	1.5%	215	12.6%	698	41.0%	738	43.4%	1702	100.0%	5.17
My understanding was broadened and refined through discussion and dialogue with classmates and professors who differ from me.	12	0.7%	13	0.8%	31	1.8%	237	13.9%	663	39.0%	744	43.8%	1700	100.0%	5.17
In trying to come up with innovative solutions to difficult challenges, I worked with classmates who have different perspectives and different approaches to solving problems.	9	0.5%	14	0.8%	31	1.8%	235	13.8%	716	42.1%	696	40.9%	1701	100.0%	5.15
I learned that difficult societal problems may be approached from multiple disciplinary lenses.	10	0.6%	10	0.6%	31	2.0%	184	11.9%	577	37.2%	739	47.6%	1551	100.0%	5.27
I improved my ability to lead, serve, and work with people from different backgrounds.	11	0.6%	13	0.8%	23	1.4%	195	11.5%	639	37.6%	819	48.2%	1700	100.0%	5.25
I deepened my appreciation, respect, and empathy for other people.	10	0.6%	10	0.6%	39	2.3%	196	11.5%	620	36.5%	825	48.5%	1700	100.0%	5.26
I felt that I belonged at Carolina.	50	2.9%	59	3.5%	94	5.5%	343	20.2%	479	28.2%	676	39.7%	1701	100.0%	4.82
As I prepare for graduation, I am feeling nostalgic about UNC.	49	3.2%	47	3.0%	73	4.7%	249	16.1%	391	25.2%	741	47.8%	1550	100.0%	4.98
I expect that I will savor graduation.	36	2.3%	38	2.5%	83	5.4%	246	15.9%	442	28.5%	706	45.5%	1551	100.0%	4.99
Knowing what I know now, I would still choose to enroll at the University of North Carolina.	38	2.2%	38	2.2%	61	3.6%	223	13.1%	466	27.4%	875	51.4%	1701	100.0%	5.11

Scale: 1=Strongly disagree to 6=Strongly agree

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES AT CAROLINA?	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Somewhat disagree		Somewhat Agree		Agree		Strongly agree		Total Responses		Mean
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
I had at least one professor at Carolina who made me excited about learning.	5	0.3%	6	0.3%	8	0.5%	86	5.0%	432	25.1%	1182	68.8%	1719	100.0%	5.58
My professors at Carolina cared about me as a person.	15	0.9%	28	1.6%	60	3.5%	388	22.6%	607	35.3%	621	36.1%	1719	100.0%	4.95
I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams.	56	3.3%	142	8.3%	164	9.5%	352	20.5%	408	23.7%	597	34.7%	1719	100.0%	4.56
I worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete.	86	5.0%	164	9.5%	78	4.5%	180	10.5%	500	29.1%	711	41.4%	1719	100.0%	4.74
I was extremely active in extracurricular activities and organizations while attending Carolina.	98	5.7%	173	10.1%	184	10.7%	381	22.2%	407	23.7%	476	27.7%	1719	100.0%	4.28
I had an internship or campus job that allowed me to apply what I was learning in the classroom.	161	9.4%	218	12.7%	97	5.6%	227	13.2%	433	25.2%	583	33.9%	1719	100.0%	4.31
My Carolina experiences prepared me to make difficult ethical decisions as a professional worker and citizen of society to navigate situations in which there is not a clear "right" or "wrong" answer.	20	1.3%	36	2.3%	81	5.2%	333	21.2%	562	35.8%	539	34.3%	1571	100.0%	4.89

Scale: 1=Strongly disagree to 6=Strongly agree

WHICH OPTION DESCRIBES YOUR MAIN FOCUS WHILE AT UNC?	#	%
I focused on graduating on time and gaining my academic degree(s)/credential(s).	190	12.5%
I focused on my future job/career or graduate program. I wanted to gain valuable experience and knowledge that would help me to be successful in my post-graduation work.	414	27.2%
I focused on gaining a wide variety of academic knowledge and my social experiences. I wasn't overly concerned about the future; I was here to soak up the opportunity to meet new people, think about new ideas, and try out a variety of courses and disciplines.	258	16.9%
I focused on developing a sense of self so that I could become an active member of my community. I examined and reflected my own beliefs and values and thought about ways I want to change and grow as a person	627	41.2%
Other	34	2.2%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>1523</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Part II: Knowledge and Skill Development

DURING THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU DONE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?	Not at all		To a small extent		To some extent		To a moderate extent		To a large extent		To a very great extent		Total Responses		Mean
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Examining facts and evidence to make reasoned judgments	6	0.4%	13	0.8%	69	4.2%	342	20.6%	624	37.6%	604	36.4%	1658	100.0%	5.02
Being resilient in response to adversity	16	1.0%	33	2.0%	102	6.2%	342	20.6%	524	31.6%	640	38.6%	1657	100.0%	4.94
Writing clearly and effectively	10	0.6%	30	1.8%	92	5.6%	325	19.6%	565	34.1%	635	38.3%	1657	100.0%	4.98
Producing significant intellectual work	8	0.5%	18	1.2%	74	4.9%	246	16.2%	542	35.7%	630	41.5%	1518	100.0%	5.10
Applying scientific methods of research and inquiry	25	1.5%	54	3.3%	115	6.9%	344	20.8%	505	30.5%	614	37.1%	1657	100.0%	4.86
Arguing a position persuasively and effectively	16	1.0%	35	2.1%	127	7.7%	370	22.3%	556	33.6%	553	33.4%	1657	100.0%	4.83
Communicating information in a range of formats and to a wide variety of audiences	9	0.5%	28	1.7%	93	5.6%	293	17.7%	565	34.1%	670	40.4%	1658	100.0%	5.03
Collaborating with other students to produce quality academic work	9	0.6%	28	1.8%	66	4.3%	266	17.5%	531	35.0%	618	40.7%	1518	100.0%	5.06
Using critical thinking skills	4	0.2%	16	1.0%	49	3.0%	202	12.2%	565	34.1%	821	49.5%	1657	100.0%	5.26
Appreciating the arts and humanities	23	1.4%	64	3.9%	116	7.0%	338	20.4%	482	29.1%	633	38.2%	1656	100.0%	4.84
Applying quantitative analysis (statistical and mathematical)	28	1.7%	57	3.4%	135	8.1%	344	20.7%	498	30.0%	596	35.9%	1658	100.0%	4.80
Understanding global issues and challenges	11	0.7%	40	2.4%	112	6.8%	334	20.2%	535	32.3%	624	37.7%	1656	100.0%	4.93

Scale: 1=Not at all to 6=To a very great extent

## Part III: Student Well-Being

WHILE A STUDENT AT UNC-CHAPEL HILL, DID YOU EXPERIENCE MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES THAT INTERFERED WITH YOUR ABILITY TO COMPLETE DAILY TASKS RELATED TO YOUR WORK, SCHOOL, AND/OR SOCIAL LIFE?	#	%
Yes, most of my undergraduate years	446	29.1%
Yes, some of my undergraduate years	449	29.3%
Yes, 1-2 times during my undergraduate years	343	22.4%
No, none of the time	240	15.7%
Prefer not to say	55	3.6%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

DURING YOUR TIME AT CAROLINA, WHAT WERE YOUR MAIN WORRIES (I.E., WHAT "KEPT YOU UP AT NIGHT")? <i>From the following list, please select three</i>	#	%
My future (e.g., jobs, career, life after college)	290	18.3%
My grades and GPA	262	16.6%
My mental health	206	13.0%
Completing work for class, time management for course work	173	10.9%
Balancing social life with course work	103	6.5%
Current financial situation	94	5.9%
Making friends and connecting with peers	90	5.7%
Balancing paid work (on or off-campus) with college work	85	5.4%
Understanding academic content	68	4.3%
My romantic relationship(s)	57	3.6%
My physical health	45	2.8%
Balancing home responsibilities with college work	42	2.7%
Societal issues (e.g., climate, politics)	38	2.4%
Basic life skills (laundry, cooking, sleep habits, etc.)	19	1.2%
Other	10	0.6%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Part IV: Diversity and Overall Satisfaction

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES AT CAROLINA?	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Somewhat disagree		Somewhat Agree		Agree		Strongly agree		Total Responses		Mean
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	%	%	#	%	#	%	
Overall, I felt comfortable with the climate for diversity and inclusion at Carolina.	42	2.5%	76	4.6%	119	7.2%	399	24.1%	621	37.5%	401	24.2%	1658	100.0%	4.60
Overall, I felt comfortable with the campus climate for diversity and inclusion in my major.	35	2.1%	64	3.9%	119	7.2%	341	20.6%	640	38.6%	458	27.6%	1657	100.0%	4.71
Overall, I felt comfortable with the climate for diversity and inclusion in my classes.	31	1.9%	46	2.8%	119	7.2%	352	21.3%	646	39.0%	462	27.9%	1656	100.0%	4.75
Overall, I felt safe from crime and violence on campus.	43	2.6%	97	5.9%	155	9.3%	387	23.3%	589	35.5%	387	23.3%	1658	100.0%	4.48
Carolina is a welcoming campus.	19	1.1%	41	2.5%	99	6.0%	357	21.5%	623	37.6%	519	31.3%	1658	100.0%	4.84
I felt valued as an individual at Carolina.	48	2.9%	77	4.6%	148	8.9%	413	24.9%	525	31.7%	446	26.9%	1657	100.0%	4.56
I was respected at Carolina.	19	1.1%	30	1.8%	86	5.2%	362	21.8%	634	38.2%	528	31.8%	1659	100.0%	4.88
I am proud to be a graduate of Carolina.	14	0.8%	23	1.4%	31	1.9%	201	12.1%	510	30.8%	877	53.0%	1656	100.0%	5.27
I expect to be nostalgic about Carolina a year from now.	44	2.9%	40	2.6%	80	5.3%	209	13.7%	423	27.8%	727	47.7%	1523	100.0%	5.02
I think that I will be savoring my time at Carolina a year from now.	46	3.0%	42	2.8%	91	6.0%	236	15.5%	423	27.8%	685	45.0%	1523	100.0%	4.96
Carolina values students' opinions.	82	4.9%	116	7.0%	194	11.7%	416	25.1%	424	25.6%	425	25.6%	1657	100.0%	4.34
Diversity is important to Carolina.	48	2.9%	55	3.3%	148	8.9%	390	23.6%	508	30.7%	507	30.6%	1656	100.0%	4.65
Diversity is important to me.	9	0.5%	13	0.8%	25	1.5%	150	9.1%	441	26.6%	1019	61.5%	1657	100.0%	5.42
Having had a college experience that involved students who differed on so many dimensions was very important to me.	10	0.7%	13	0.9%	38	2.5%	221	14.5%	486	31.9%	754	49.5%	1522	100.0%	5.25

Scale: 1=Strongly disagree to 6=Strongly agree

## Part V: Community Engagement

IF YOU WERE STARTING COLLEGE TODAY, WHAT ACADEMIC OR CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES WOULD YOU PURSUE THAT YOU DIDN'T OR COULDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DURING YOUR YEARS AT CAROLINA? <i>Select all that apply.</i>	#	%
Participate in Study Abroad	1032	59.9%
Work more with faculty on research/independent study	636	36.9%
Do an internship related to my major(s)	578	33.5%
Take greater advantage of leadership opportunities	512	29.7%
Select different major(s)	390	22.6%
Take a more specialized course of study	247	14.3%
Take a broader range of courses	287	16.6%
I would not change much of anything about my experience at Carolina	281	16.3%
Gain proficiency in a language other than English	436	25.3%
Other	57	3.3%

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WHILE ATTENDING CAROLINA?	#	%
Very involved in multiple activities/organizations.	386	25.3%
Somewhat involved in multiple activities/organizations.	204	13.4%
Very involved in a single activity/organization.	499	32.7%
Somewhat involved in a single activity/organization.	240	15.7%
Not involved with co-curricular activities/organizations.	196	12.9%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>1525</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

WHICH TYPES OF CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU ACTIVE IN WHILE ATTENDING CAROLINA? <i>Select all that apply</i>	#	%
Career Exploration/Development	480	27.8%
Civic Engagement/Public Service/Philanthropy	298	17.3%
Community Building/Social	520	30.2%
Cultural/Identity Focused	263	15.3%
Innovation/Entrepreneurship	103	6.0%
Justice/Equity/Inclusion	148	8.6%
Leadership Development	242	14.0%
Religious/Spiritual	236	13.7%
Self-Awareness/Health/Well-being	144	8.4%
Sport/Fitness/Active Lifestyle	568	32.9%
Student Governance/Leadership	121	7.0%
Other	151	8.8%

MY INVOLVEMENT IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT CAROLINA HAS PREPARED ME TO:	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Somewhat disagree		Somewhat Agree		Agree		Strongly agree		Total Responses		Mean
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
build and maintain positive relationships	50	3.5%	44	3.1%	50	3.5%	267	18.6%	489	34.1%	532	37.2%	1432	100.0%	4.87
work through setbacks, barriers or challenges you have encountered at Carolina	53	3.7%	50	3.5%	82	5.7%	250	17.5%	493	34.5%	503	35.2%	1431	100.0%	4.79
engage in equitable and inclusive community building	50	3.5%	42	2.9%	61	4.3%	271	18.9%	488	34.1%	520	36.3%	1432	100.0%	4.84
act in accordance with your personal values and beliefs	50	3.5%	36	2.5%	39	2.7%	255	17.8%	491	34.3%	560	39.1%	1431	100.0%	4.93

Scale: 1=Strongly disagree to 6=Strongly agree

THE UNIVERSITY SCHEDULES WELL-BEING DAYS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR.	No, not at all helpful		Yes, slightly helpful		Yes, moderately helpful		Yes, very helpful		Not sure		Total Responses		Mean
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Have these Well-Being Days been helpful to support your mental health and/or well-being?	38	2.8%	196	14.3%	317	23.1%	808	58.9%	12	0.7%	1371	100.0%	3.35

Scale: 1=Not at all helpful to 4=Yes, very helpful

## Part VI: Global Experiences

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING GLOBAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCES DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN WHILE AT CAROLINA? <i>Select all that apply</i>	#	%
Global major, minor or track within a major	177	8.5%
Study abroad for academic credit (including virtual study abroad)	348	16.8%
Internship abroad	83	4.0%
Research abroad	43	2.1%
Service-learning abroad	26	1.3%
Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) course	72	3.5%
Events or programming as part of the Diplomacy Initiative	28	1.4%
Language courses beyond the graduation requirement	312	15.1%
Global events on campus	257	12.4%
Other	95	4.6%

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Somewhat disagree		Somewhat Agree		Agree		Strongly agree		Total Responses		Mean
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
I was aware of the global education opportunities available to me at Carolina.	99	6.2%	120	7.5%	197	12.4%	419	26.3%	484	30.4%	419	26.3%	273	17.1%	2.81
I had access to the global education opportunities available to me at Carolina.	108	6.8%	136	8.5%	205	12.9%	420	26.4%	461	29.0%	420	26.4%	261	16.4%	2.88
I participated in the global education opportunities available to me at Carolina.	371	23.3%	408	25.7%	175	11.0%	212	13.3%	213	13.4%	212	13.3%	210	13.2%	3.93
I have heard of the Global Guarantee, Carolina's commitment that a global education is available to all Tar Heels.	474	29.9%	393	24.8%	196	12.4%	209	13.2%	185	11.7%	209	13.2%	128	8.1%	4.23
I feel that I received a global education as part of my Carolina degree.	223	14.1%	237	14.9%	259	16.3%	374	23.6%	303	19.1%	374	23.6%	191	12.0%	3.46

Scale: 1=Strongly disagree to 6=Strongly agree

## Part VII: Plans and Aspirations

WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR POST-GRADUATION STATUS? <i>Select all that apply</i>	#	%
Employed full-time (30 or more hours per week)	760	44.1%
Employed part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	161	9.3%
Volunteer service	89	5.2%
Military service	23	1.3%
Continuing education (accepted to or attending a program)	393	22.8%
Seeking employment	563	32.7%
Seeking continuing education	481	27.9%
Not seeking employment or education at this time	19	1.1%

IN WHICH CATEGORY IS YOUR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT?	#	%
Entrepreneur	25	3.6%
Temporary/contract work assignment	71	10.2%
Freelance	12	1.7%
Postgraduate internship or fellowship	70	10.0%
All other work categories	521	74.5%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR EMPLOYMENT STATUS?	#	%
I have accepted a position already.	446	68.1%
I have not yet accepted a position.	209	31.9%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



IN WHICH CATEGORY IS YOUR PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT?	#	%
Entrepreneur	3	2.1%
Temporary/contract work assignment	23	16.0%
Freelance	10	6.9%
Postgraduate internship or fellowship	26	18.1%
All other work categories	82	56.9%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

ARE YOU ACCEPTED INTO A PROGRAM NOW OR ARE YOU NOT YET ACCEPTED INTO A PROGRAM?	#	%
I am accepted into a program now.	190	54.8%
I am not yet accepted into a program.	157	45.2%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

WHAT DEGREE WILL YOU BE EARNING?	#	%
Additional bachelor's degree	12	3.4%
Master's degree	178	50.7%
Doctoral degree	96	27.4%
Professional degree	26	7.4%
Post-bachelor certificate	14	4.0%
Vocational certificate	3	0.9%
Other	22	6.3%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100.0%</b>