

## UNC Chapel Hill

- Location: Chapel Hill, NC
- Undergrad Population: 19,750
- Acceptance Rate: 20% (43% for North Carolina applicants and 8% percent for out-of-state applicants)
- PDQ (Parental Distance Quotient): zone 7 (15 hours from CHILLS)
- Comparable Schools: “public Ivy”
- [Common Data Set](#)

### **Mystery Expert’s Top 5 Takeaways**

1. My daughter studied Spanish at her University so I always notice when schools have a Spanish major or minor. Spanish, in case you didn’t know, is the second most spoken language in the world. UNC has what one student referred to as “niche” Spanish minors that are very specific to a major. They have Spanish for the Professions with specialized tracks in business, health, and law (among others). And the capstone class is actually an internship at a local agency, business, or school using your Spanish skills to help those in need of an interpreter. There is also a Spanish House living and learning community.
2. There are 13 libraries on campus, Yes, 13. The UNC library system consistently ranks among the top 20 in the country. Davis, the main library stays open until 2:00 a.m. and on the library web page you can use a filter to find the perfect spot to study. You can even make a reservation and save your spot.
3. I was so taken by the beautiful brickwork under foot on the walkway between the two Student Union buildings, that I had to do a little digging to find out more. Called "The Gift," the mosaic of colored bricks form Native American symbols that stretch 240 feet. The symbols include: corn (representing food and the staff of life, turtle (long life and fertility), dogwood flower (new beginnings), eagle shield (protects us), water (life), land (stability), medicine wheel (unity and cycles of life), and path (the directions we take). The Gift was designed by Senora Lynch / (b. 1963) of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, North Carolina.
4. The campus is just a little over 725 acres (for those who have been to UMaine - the UMaine campus is 660 acres). It has a great campus feel. There are big old trees and plants and winding brick walkways. There are numerous quads and a sweeping mall filled with benches and grass and students lounging around. Students held doors and said ‘hi’ when they passed by. There is a main street just off one end of campus, Franklin, that has cool eateries, bars, and fun stores. This is also the street all the students drop everything and run to whenever UNC beats Duke to cheer and whoop it up.
5. Housing is guaranteed for all 4 years, which is not the norm on many campuses. It is nice to know the option exists. The rooms are pretty typical but I’d say a bit bigger than most. Dorms vary quite a bit and often have distinct amenities. For instance Cobb has an escape room and in room 385 Phillips Hall there is an hour of swing dancing every Tuesday and Thursday night.

### **Mr. Lammert’s Top 5 Takeaways**

1. We choose not to highlight Duke because, well, it’s Duke. Everybody knows it, and it has a 6% acceptance rate in the latest cycle; we are instead focusing on schools where our

students have a decent chance to get in. We knew going in that UNC had a 20% admit rate, about as low as we like to go. You can imagine our surprise, then, when we learned that North Carolina passed a [law](#) in 1986 that mandates an 82/18 split favoring ISS (in-state students) for all public institutions. Although the TOTAL admit rate is 20%, the admit rate for OOS (out of state) students is 8%. So Maine kids fare only slightly better at UNC than Duke. Best laid plans... That percentage breakdown only applies to first year students, so a savvy transfer student can increase their chances of acceptance.

2. I'm not a huge college sports fan but I do know that Jordan played at UNC, and that they have a bitter rivalry with Duke. There's absolutely no doubt that UNC is a big sports school, but it doesn't feel gratuitous or singular, like some schools where sports is all they have to laude. It's a part of the story, but just a part. Women's sports has vastly outperformed men's in terms of [national titles](#), yet they continue to get short shrift (according to one of the student ambassadors in the info session). Men's basketball and football continue to be the marquee events, and tickets are hard to get, even for students. They have incentivised attendance at other events by instituting a "[Carolina Fever](#)" points system in which students can earn points for attending "lesser" sports events, so the kids who attend a varied slate of games have a leg up getting tickets for the big games. When the football team wins, the bell tower on campus is lit blue for the night, and the entire campus morphs into downtown to celebrate. Their [Ultimate](#) team is perennial national champions.
3. UNC is the [oldest public university in the US](#), chartered in 1789, and is considered a [public Ivy](#), putting it into some pretty exclusive company.
4. If you have read any of my reviews, you are aware that I always gauge diversity when I visit a campus. It starts with the info session. Who is in the audience? Who are the student ambassadors? Although the three presenting ambassadors were all white, those that led tours were more diverse. The audience was definitely more diverse than some places that we visited. But remember, North Carolina students have a HUGE advantage in admissions, and 70% of North Carolinians are white; ergo, white students still have a leg up. All that being said, our tour guide identified as Native American and illuminated the [indigenous elements](#) on campus, including the [Native American Center](#) and the annual [powwow](#). Interestingly, he didn't mince words when articulating the ubiquitous statement that the university is on "stolen land" and the university itself originally built by black and brown enslaved people.
5. It's always fun to discover the quirky traditions at the schools we visit. If you happen to have noticed the UNC logo, it depicts a cupola standing guard over a water fountain. Legend has it that first year students who drink from the well before attending their first class will earn a 4.0 GPA. Naturally, students won't pass on a good thing, so they [line up in droves](#) on the first day of class. Our tour guide chose to forego a sip, and has not earned a 4.0 in his first two semesters. Coincidence?

## **The P.I.E.T. (Postsecondary Introvert-Extrovert Testimony) Report**

### ***The Introvert's POV:***

UNC Chapel Hill has 13 libraries. Each of them has the usual configuration of graduated noise levels that become increasingly strict as you go up. By the time you get to the 8th floor you'll be asked to leave if you blink too loud. Besides that, there were noticeable outside spaces where students were working or relaxing alone in silence. I left feeling confident that Introverts have what they need at Chapel Hill.

### [11 Hidden Study Spots](#)

### ***The Extrovert's POV:***

[The Pit](#) - an extroverts happy place. It is a huge sunken brick-walled 'pit' (think 1970's sunken living room without the shag carpet) in the middle of campus filled with chairs and giant potted plants. They say if you sit here for 24 hours you'd see every single person on campus because everyone has to pass through here no matter where they are going. People watching at its finest. While we were there we saw: a therapy dog for students to pat and snuggle, a "mom" giving out mom hugs, big wooden 'walls' and paint so students could express themselves, a group of kids blasting music and dancing, and a student group giving out t-shirts for others to tie dye. And a random side note - there are over 900 clubs, one of which is the "[Eat a Head of Lettuce](#)" club. It meets once a year and club members are given 1 hour to eat a head of lettuce. The person who finishes their lettuce first is given the title of the "Head Lechuga" and runs the meeting for the next year. You're welcome.

### **[Campus Photos](#)**