DUKE UNIVERSITY’S ROOTS IN NORTH CAROLINA can be traced back to 1838, with humble beginnings in Randolph County as a one-room schoolhouse. Duke University was officially established in 1924 when James B. Duke designated a gift that transformed Trinity College into a comprehensive research university. Over the last century, Duke University has evolved into a world-renowned academic medical center and health system and become a leading research institution, major employer, and economic engine for North Carolina. Today, Duke’s impact in North Carolina extends far beyond its home in Durham, with a presence in communities all across the state. Through education, collaborative research, community service, and meeting the healthcare needs of our communities, Duke is committed to advancing the prosperity of the state it calls home.

Duke in North Carolina

By the Numbers

- 2nd largest private employer in NC
- 43,000 employees
- 33,000 Duke alumni in NC
- $3.4 billion in salaries and wages
- $1.1 billion with NC contractors and vendors
- 8,000 Duke-trained healthcare professionals live and work in NC
- 400 clinic and care locations
- $945 million in community benefit and investment for DUHS
- $1.2 billion in annual research expenditures

Duke is a top employer and economic engine in North Carolina

DUKEx UNIVERSITY AND DUKE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM employ over 43,000 individuals across the state and provide health insurance to over 65,000 beneficiaries through Duke’s employee benefits. Duke University and Duke University Health System were honored by Forbes in 2022 as among the top employers in the state and in the nation. Duke consistently ranks as the state’s second largest private employer by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Duke also ranks as the largest employer in Durham County, and Wake County Economic Development recently recognized Duke as the largest employer in Wake County and the Research Triangle Park. As such, Duke fuels the economy locally and statewide through campus and clinical operations, purchasing goods and services, construction, and leasing building space. Healthcare and higher education are key economic drivers in North Carolina, and Duke attracts a wide range of talent, visitors, and investment from across the state and worldwide.

In 2022, North Carolina residents working for Duke earned over $3.4 billion in salaries and wages and Duke remitted over $132 million in state income taxes. Duke also pays nearly $5.5 million in sales taxes and $3.7 million in property taxes annually. Duke paid an estimated $165 million in rental fees for leased spaces in North Carolina in 2022, leasing over 4.9 million square feet of building space across the state. In Durham alone, Duke paid nearly $113 million in rent and leased close to 3.4 million square feet of building space. Duke supports local businesses in the state by spending more than $1.1 billion with over 4,000 North Carolina-based vendors and contractors annually.
Duke is a leader in higher education

DUKE UNIVERSITY HAS EARNED A REPUTATION as a top university in the state and nationally, providing a rich educational experience for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Nearly 18,000 students are enrolled at the university, including 10,902 graduate and professional students and 6,991 undergraduate students. North Carolina is the #1 state represented in the Class of 2026.

Duke University is proud to be “need-blind” in admissions. Students are admitted without regard to their ability to pay, and Duke meets 100 percent of students’ demonstrated financial need for four years. Talented students from the Carolinas are automatically considered for special merit-based scholarships when they apply for admission. The Benjamin N. Duke Memorial Scholarship recognizes students from North or South Carolina who excel academically, engage their communities, and aspire to become leaders at Duke and beyond. The Trinity Scholars Program honors Duke’s origins as Trinity College, located in Randolph County, North Carolina. This scholarship is offered to students from specific regions of North and South Carolina.

Of note, Duke University School of Medicine is one of the nation’s leading institutions for medical, health professions and biomedical education, clinical care, and biomedical research. A diverse community of scholars and clinicians, Duke University School of Nursing is educating the next generation of transformational leaders in nursing as one of the top-ranked nursing schools in the country. Hundreds of healthcare professionals graduate from Duke every year, with 8,000 who currently live and work in North Carolina.

In total, over 33,000 Duke University alumni continue to reside in North Carolina, with 11,000 who still call Durham home.

Duke is a premier institution for research and innovation

NORTH CAROLINA IS THE #1 STATE REPRESENTED IN THE CLASS OF 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED as a research powerhouse, with Duke University playing a leading role in the state’s innovation ecosystem. Duke University surpassed $1.2 billion in research expenditures in FY22. Duke is one of the world’s top research institutions, ranking 11th in the nation for total research expenditures with more than $776 million in federally-sponsored research and over $307 million from non-federal sources. Duke’s research grants were directly responsible for purchasing more than $50 million in services, equipment, and supplies from North Carolina businesses last fiscal year.

Duke’s Office for Translation and Commercialization (OTC) continues to grow and set new records for commercializing innovations. Duke spawned 14 new companies last fiscal year, and licensing revenue rose to $95.7 million, with 107 new agreements signed. Many of Duke’s startups have stayed in North Carolina over the years, with 64% of the new startups formed this year headquartered in the state.

Duke is committed to advancing the health of all North Carolinians

Duke University Health System

Duke University Health System (DUHS) is a world-class hospital and health care network supported by outstanding and renowned clinical faculty, nurses and care teams. The health system comprises three leading hospitals in North Carolina, including Duke University Hospital, Duke Regional Hospital and Duke Raleigh Hospital. Duke’s hospitals consistently receive high rankings in patient care and safety, and Duke University Hospital was ranked #1 in North Carolina from U.S. News & World Report’s rankings for 2022-2023.

DUHS has more than 400 clinic and care locations serving North Carolina communities. In addition to its hospitals, Duke has an extensive network of outpatient facilities across the state. Duke Primary Care is the largest primary care network in the greater Triangle area with nearly 50 locations throughout the region. Duke Connected Care, a community-based, physician-led network, includes a group of doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers who work together to deliver high-quality care to Medicare Fee-for-Service patients. Duke Connected Care has close to three dozen participating practices in communities throughout North Carolina.

Community Benefit

DUHS is committed to promoting health, wellness, and access to quality affordable care for the people and communities of North Carolina, providing charity care and community benefit investment to ensure that all patients receive the treatment they need. DUHS serves patients in all 100 North Carolina counties, with more than 2.6 million patients from North Carolina in FY22. Of the nearly 66,000 inpatient discharges in FY2022, 92% involved North Carolina residents, with the top 3 counties by patient volume being Durham, Wake and Granville. Of the 2.7 million outpatient encounters, 95% were North Carolina residents, with the top 3 counties by patient volume being Durham, Wake and Orange.

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Duke in North Carolina

PINPOINTS ON THE MAP represent Duke’s prominent locations across the state. For additional locations and information, visit our interactive Duke in North Carolina map.

Duke’s impact in North Carolina extends far beyond its home in Durham, with a presence in communities all across the state. Through education, collaborative research, community service, and meeting the healthcare needs of our communities, Duke is committed to advancing the prosperity of the state it calls home.
Duke is committed to forging purposeful partnerships with our neighbors in Durham and beyond

IN SEPTEMBER 2021, DUKE’S OFFICE OF DURHAM AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (DCA) launched its first Strategic Community Impact Plan to bring together community voices and Duke’s resources to create a community engagement strategy to maximize impact and improve well-being in communities. With Durham as the center of Duke’s work, the plan identified five community-driven focus areas and associated priorities to guide our engagement efforts, including housing, health, education, employment, and community.

DCA leads several community-based programs, including the Duke-Durham Partnership, a collaborative open to 14 neighborhood associations close to Duke’s campus to advance community priorities with a focus on affordable homeownership, educational achievement, youth outreach, neighborhood safety, and quality health care. The Duke College Advising Corps works to increase the number of low-income, First Generation College and underrepresented high school students in rural North Carolina who enter and complete higher education. Duke currently supports 18 college advisers in central North Carolina high schools. The Duke community also supports affordable housing for local residents, disaster relief work, community health clinics, early childhood learning, and more through the Doing Good Employee Giving program. During the 2021–2022 campaign, employees donated more than $400,000 to local nonprofits, schools, and neighborhoods.

The Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort has been home to scientists conducting world-class, cutting-edge research on many aspects of marine ecosystems and the human communities that depend on them since the 1930s. Today, the Marine Laboratory operates year-round to provide educational, training, and research opportunities to about 3,500 persons annually. The Marine Lab also collaborates with community organizations in coastal North Carolina with educational and conservation missions, and partners with local K-12 schools to provide opportunities for area residents to take part in Marine Lab research.

In Kannapolis, the Duke Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) operates a state-of-the-art site that accelerates precision genomics and population health research, in partnership with a diverse community of engaged study participants. Founded in 2007, Duke Kannapolis has enrolled more than 14,000 volunteers using a successful community-engaged research model, including the groundbreaking MURDOCK Study. Duke Kannapolis manages a wide variety of projects focusing on the exploration, discovery, and validation of biomarkers to inform a deeper understanding of health and disease. Located on the North Carolina Research Campus with seven UNC research institutes and a public health department, Duke Kannapolis is active in community engagement efforts throughout Cabarrus County and committed to supporting the health and wellness of the local community.

The Duke Divinity School partners with dozens of churches and faith leaders across North Carolina to foster thriving communities, including offering a variety of internship experiences for students through the Office of Field Education. The Thriving Rural Communities Initiative focuses on rural communities in North Carolina by cultivating faithful rural Christian leadership and Fruitful rural United Methodist congregations, while preparing a select group of students for effective ministry in rural North Carolina. Over 550 Duke-trained religious leaders serve in communities across North Carolina.

In FY22, DUHS provided a total of $945 million in community benefit and investments—a 15% increase from the previous year. Of that, $145 million represents financial assistance for over 318,000 patients, nearly all of whom call North Carolina home. 83% of these patients reside in Duke’s primary service area of Alamance, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, Vance, and Wake counties. Duke’s total community benefit and investment over the past 10 years is more than $5.9 billion.

Our impact goes far beyond hospital and clinic walls. The health system collaborates with local public health departments and numerous community organizations to better understand and improve the health of communities throughout the Carolinas. In FY22, Duke provided more than $13 million in cash and in-kind support for community groups. The Building Healthy Communities Grants through Duke Health’s Office of Community Health strive to advance the health and well-being of all by financially contributing to the efforts of community-based organizations whose goals, priorities and initiatives align with Duke’s mission and values. In FY22, Duke awarded a total of $948,000 to 94 organizations.

Duke LifePoint Healthcare
DUHS reaches many rural parts of the state through its joint venture with LifePoint Healthcare. Duke LifePoint hospitals uniquely benefit from Duke’s patient safety and clinical quality expertise and LifePoint’s operational and financial resources and expertise operating community hospitals and healthcare organizations. Innovation is at the core of our joint venture, as Duke LifePoint was among the first successful collaborations between academic medical centers and investor-owned health care systems. Duke LifePoint operates nine hospitals in rural areas of North Carolina, from the mountains to the eastern part of the state, with a shared goal of bringing high-quality, innovative healthcare services to communities. In its most recent Community Benefit Report (FY21), Duke LifePoint reported a total economic impact of nearly $385 million in North Carolina.

In addition to its hospitals, Duke has an extensive network of outpatient facilities across the state.
Duke offers many cultural and educational resources for the region

**DUKE UNIVERSITY’S CAMPUS** is a welcoming environment for all who wish to visit, with many unique attractions and opportunities available to enjoy.

**Duke Chapel**

Duke Chapel has become a widely recognized symbol of the university. Built in 1932, the chapel is dominated by a 210-foot tower housing a 50-bell carillon. About 1,000 people participate in services in Duke Chapel each week, and the Chapel offers more than 150 opportunities for worship each year. The Chapel is open to the public daily, and all are welcome in the sanctuary during these hours for reflection, prayer, or meditation.

**Duke Forest**

Duke Forest, established in 1931, covers more than 7,000 acres in the north-central Piedmont region of North Carolina. It serves as a natural outdoor laboratory for Duke and neighboring universities, and its trails are popular with local walkers and runners. The forest is managed for multiple uses, including education, research, protection of wildlife and rare plant species, and demonstration of timber management practices.

**Duke Lemur Center**

The Duke Lemur Center, the only university-based facility in the world devoted to studying prosimian primates, is home to the world’s largest colony of endangered primates, including more than 200 lemurs, bush babies and lorises.

**Duke Gardens**

The Sarah P. Duke Gardens welcomes more than 600,000 visitors every year from all over the world to enjoy the gardens’ five miles of walkways and more than 8,000 species and varieties of plants. Admission is free, and the 55 acres of specialized gardens are open 365 days a year.

**Cultural Arts**

Duke Performances—the professional performing arts presenter at Duke University—offers 80–90 concerts and productions of music, dance, and theater by world-class artists each season, with around 35,000 tickets sold annually. Duke Performances engages diverse, virtuosic, and future-thinking artists from our own region and around the world to present meaningful and celebratory performances at Duke and in Durham, in service to our mission of enhancing learning and research, fostering community, and furthering the presentation of new performance.

The Nasher Museum of Art is a major center for the arts on Duke’s campus and in the surrounding region. Since its opening in 2005, the museum has organized and presented leading-edge exhibitions that travel worldwide. Around 100,000 people visit the Nasher Museum annually free of admission, with more than 1 million visitors since 2005.
DUKE STATE RELATIONS works to advance the priorities of Duke with state policymakers and opinion leaders in order to achieve broad engagement in North Carolina and the region. Our office is responsible for representing Duke University, Duke University Health System and Duke LifePoint Healthcare’s issues and interests with government officials and legislators in Raleigh and throughout the state. Duke State Relations works closely with faculty and staff to advance Duke’s legislative and administrative interests, to connect Duke’s expertise to policymakers in state government, and to foster relationships with North Carolina officials on policies related to higher education, health care, employment, public safety and other issues that affect Duke’s stakeholders.

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