UNC is one of only four public universities that have all five schools of the health-related disciplines (Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, and Public Health) located on a single, contiguous campus. Additionally, UNC Academic Affairs campus and the Health Affairs campus are within close walking distance. This arrangement encourages the formal and informal exchanges that enhance the concepts and resources of individual researchers, often resulting in new, cross-disciplinary collaborations. Each of these schools has attained a position of national leadership in its respective field. In the 2021 US News and World Report Graduate School Rankings: the School of Pharmacy was ranked #1; the Gillings School of Global Public Health was ranked #2; the School of Nursing was ranked #3; and the School of Medicine was ranked #23. The Schools of Public Health and Pharmacy were among the top three performing units in NIH grant and contract dollars received by the faculty at UNC, garnering $109.6 million, and $19.3 million in fiscal year 2019. The School of Medicine ranked #17 in NIH funding ($316.3 million), with $510 million in funding from all sources in 2019. In FY 2020, led by the School of Medicine, these five schools combined received more than $1 billion in research funds. When faculty members conduct research at UNC, they collaborate across disciplines, departments, and schools, and partner with scientists at other institutions in North Carolina and worldwide. In FY According to the 2018 HERD survey, UNC ranked 4th in the US for federally funded health sciences research investment, with $35 million devoted to clinical trials research.

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