

Early Arrival Activities

Monday, July 20

5:30 - 8 p.m.

Franklin Street Meetup—OPTIONAL

Franklin Street, Chapel Hill

If you're arriving early in Chapel Hill, join the UNC program team and other colleagues for dinner and exploration of the Franklin Street neighborhood, a short walk from The Carolina Inn. A walking map with restaurant options will be provided for guidance.

Tuesday, July 21

8:30 - 10 a.m.

Breakfast—OPTIONAL

Old Well Room

Enjoy breakfast available for any attendees arriving early.

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Newcomers Meeting

Club Room, The Carolina Inn

If it's your first time attending the Summer Convening, this gathering is for you! Join fellow first-timers for an introductory meeting to learn about the Collaborative, our community of practice, and more. **This event is ONLY for first-time attendees.**

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Campus Scavenger Hunt and Exploration—OPTIONAL

Meet in the Annie Watts Hill Courtyard (behind The Carolina Inn lobby)

For anyone arriving early, join up with your colleagues for a scavenger hunt! Led by the UNC team, you'll follow clues that will lead you to some of the notable landmarks around campus and downtown Chapel Hill.

Day One

Tuesday, July 21

11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Meeting Registration

Check-in outside Chancellor's Ballroom

12 - 1 p.m.

Lunch

Old Well Room

1 - 1:45 p.m.

Welcome and Convening Kick-Off

Chancellor's Ballroom

Begin the Summer Convening with a welcome from the Kessler Scholars Collaborative and an overview of this year's focus on supporting upper-level students and program graduates.

2- 3:45 p.m.

Alumni Transitions and Storytelling

Chancellor's Ballroom

Hear from Kessler Scholars alumni and campus staff who are engaging program graduates to gain insight into the Collaborative's alumni tracking and storytelling efforts.

4 - 5 p.m.

Break

5 - 7:30 p.m.

Cocktail Hour & Welcome Dinner

Gallery and Old Well Room

Gather with your Collaborative colleagues for dinner with remarks from UNC senior leadership followed by a fireside chat with Kessler Scholars alumni!

Day Two

Wednesday, July 22

8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Breakfast with Your Buddy

Old Well Room

Enjoy breakfast with your Collaborative buddy/squad to reflect on the first day of the Convening, share insights, and deepen your connections.

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Welcome and Program Spotlight: Kessler Scholars at UNC

Chancellor's Ballroom

Hear from the UNC team and Kessler Scholars to learn about the program's unique features and key strengths, with a focus on rurality and FGLI student support.

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Designing a Life: Framing Unique Supports for Upper-Level Scholars

Chancellor's Ballroom

Explore life design theory and approaches to supporting career and personal exploration.

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Group Photos

The Carolina Inn

Put on your best smile and join colleagues for the annual Summer Convening group photo.

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

Old Well Room

1:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Annual Giant Rock, Paper, Scissors Competition!

Chancellor's Ballroom

1:30 - 2 p.m.

Planning for the Year Ahead: Collaborative Guidance and Activities

Chancellor's Ballroom

Review of key program activities during the 2026-27 academic year, led by the Collaborative team.

2 - 3:30 p.m.

Exploring the "Kessler Effect": Supporting Program Sustainability through Ripple Mapping

Chancellor's Ballroom

Explore the broader campus impact of the Kessler Scholars Program with this interactive session led by the Ithaka S+R evaluation team. Learn how the knowledge being created can support efforts to institutionalize our work with first-generation, limited-income students.

3:30 - 4 p.m.

Closing Remarks and Reflection

Chancellor's Ballroom

Wrap up the Summer Convening with gratitude, recognition, and final thoughts for the year ahead.

4 - 5:30 p.m.

Break

5:30 - 8 p.m.

Wind Down Dinner

Blue Zone at Kenan Memorial Stadium; meet in The Carolina Inn lobby

Enjoy food, drinks, games, and other informal activities at the Blue Zone skybox inside Kenan Memorial Stadium, the home of UNC football.

8 - 10 p.m.

Group Hang Out—OPTIONAL

Crossroads Barroom and Restaurant

Not finished with the Summer Convening? Gather with colleagues back at The Carolina Inn's Crossroads Restaurant or grab a seat outside.

Departure

Thursday, July 23

7 - 10 a.m.

Breakfast and Goodbyes—OPTIONAL

Old Well Room

Drop in to fill up with an open-house buffet breakfast before you head home and let the Collaborative team wish you safe travels!