

The Furman Advantage

Best Practices and Population-Level Approaches

2025 COLLEGE PRESIDENTS' CONVENING ON
STUDENT WELLBEING



Furman University turns 200 in 2026

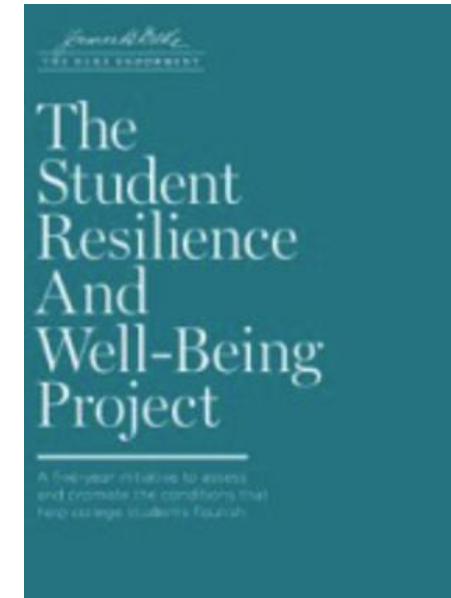
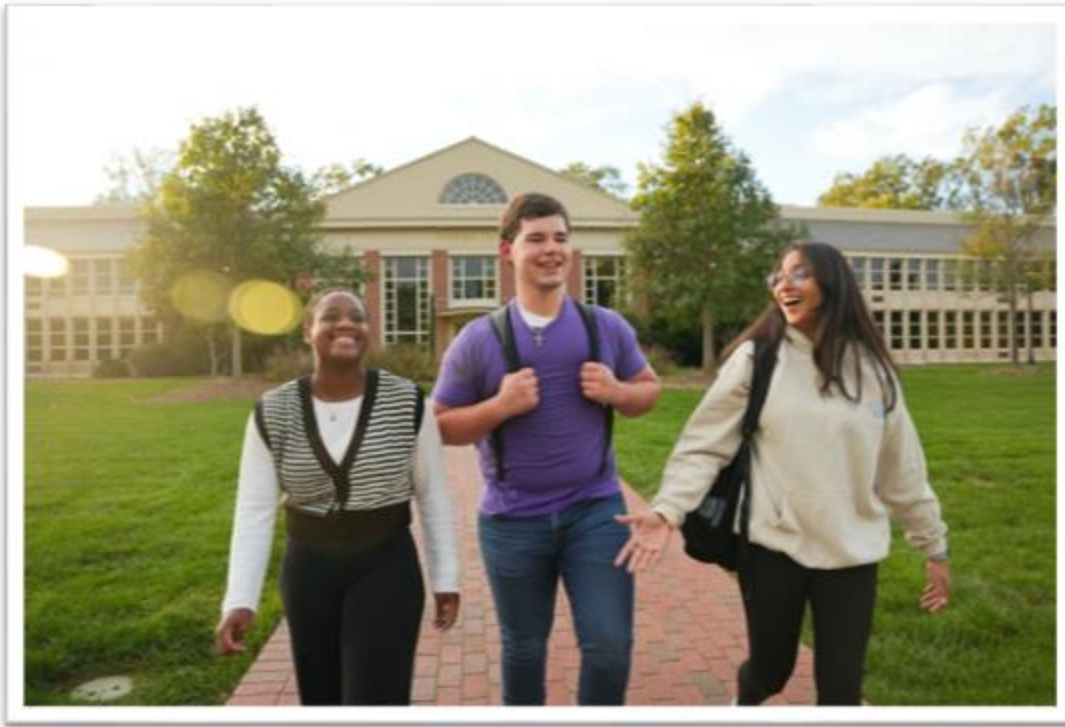


Long Commitment to the Student Experience



Support and Opportunity

The Duke Endowment



The Furman Advantage

The Furman Advantage guarantees every student an unparalleled education that combines classroom learning with real-world experiences and self-discovery. This integrated four-year pathway, guided by a diverse community of mentors, prepares students for lives of purpose and accelerated career and community impact — demonstrating in concrete terms the value of a Furman education.



Partnership with Gallup to establish baseline and assess TFA progress

Focus on student and alumni outcomes:

- Well-being
- Belongingness
- Mentoring and Support
- Perception of post college preparedness



GALLUP®

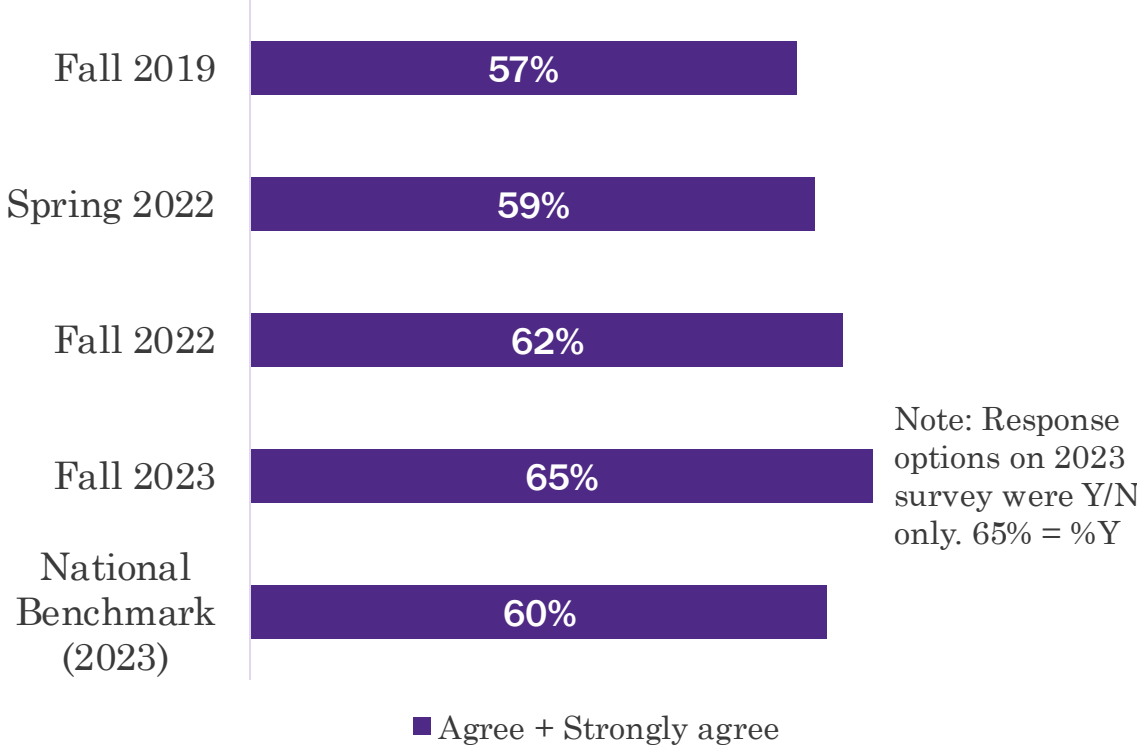


Gallup: Strong Mentorship and Supportive Professors Set Furman Apart

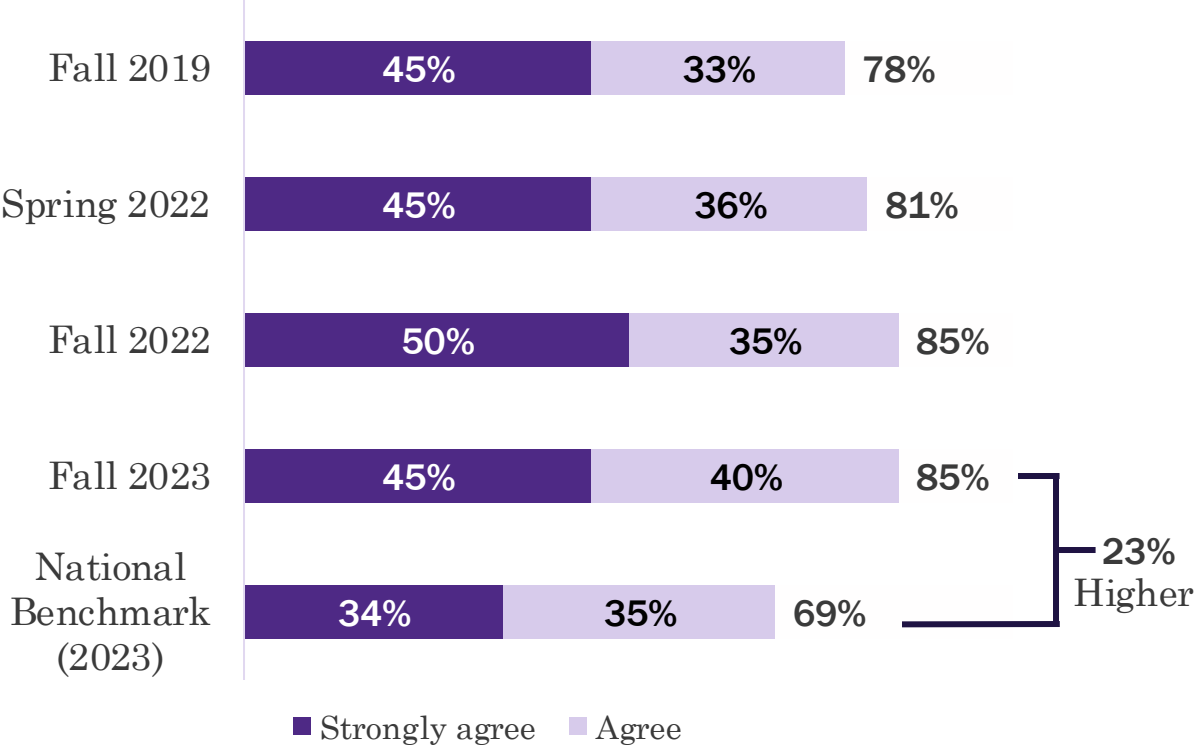
Strong individualized relationships between students and faculty continue to set Furman ahead of other universities.

“I love the connectedness on campus and the fact that my professors all know me personally. That is something that is rare and hard to find in a college education these days.”

I have a mentor who encourages me to pursue my goals and dreams.

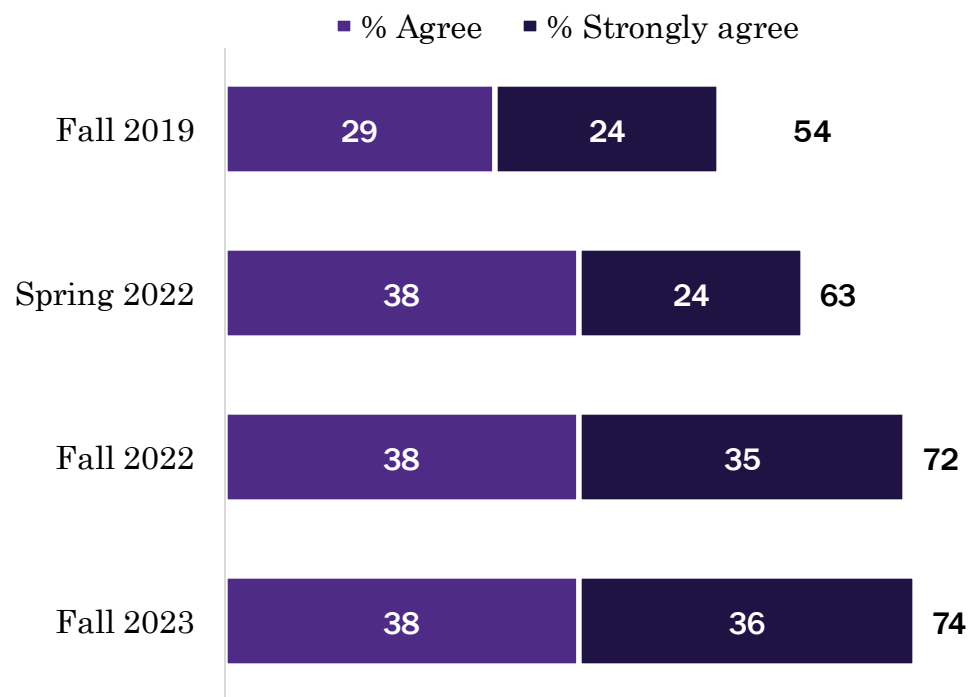


My professors at Furman care about me as a person.



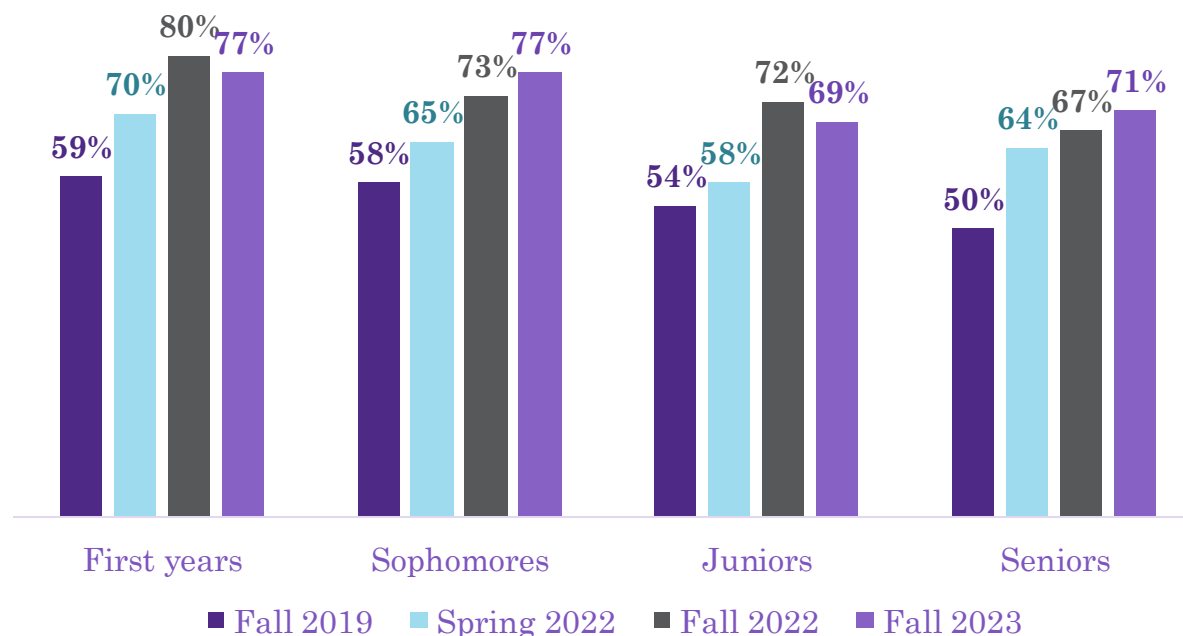
Furman continues to improve on its career resource communication to students, especially among upperclassmen

Furman clearly communicates about resources available to help students prepare for life after college.



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% Strongly agree + % Agree



Removing Barriers Data Driven Approach

Financial

- Summer Funding for Undergraduate Research and Internships
- Need based support for short-term Study Away

Awareness and Timing

- Pathways Program® graduation requirement



Overview of the Pathways Program®

Advisors meet with 15 students once per week for 50 minutes during their first two years and cover common curriculum developed by on-campus experts.

- Students earn 1 credit each semester for the letter graded course (for a total of 4 credit hours over 2 years).
- Advisors receive a stipend or count the course within load.
- Peer Mentors receive a stipend for co-facilitating in the first year of the program.



Years 1 and 2: Pathways Curricular Themes



First-Year to Sophomore Retention Two Years at Scale vs. 2021-2022

**2 & 3%
INCREASE**

OVERALL

90% & 91%

**6 & 8%
INCREASE**

FOR FIRST-GEN STUDENTS

89% & 91%

**5 & 11%
INCREASE**

FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR

90% & 96%

Retention at Scale = Pre-Pandemic Retention

TFA Holistic, Integrative, Full-Campus Effort

- Four-Year Residential Requirement
- Well-Being Task Force
- Pathways training reaches nearly all parts of campus



FUture Focused Three Strategic Priorities



01

**A UNIVERSITY OF
INNOVATION & IMPACT**



02

**A THRIVING
COMMUNITY**



03

**A SUSTAINABLE AND
STRONG FUTURE**

TFA provides the foundation for these.
FUture Focused refines, elevates and amplifies.

Challenges and Future Opportunities

- TFA today is our educational philosophy
- Challenges
 - Broader Higher Ed
 - Sustainability (campus commitment; financial support)
- Opportunities
 - Pathways Program = nimbleness to react to changing demographics and evolving needs of students



Take Aways - "Secret Sauce"

- Work from your strengths & campus culture (assets)
- Consider funding and make connections to the broader higher ed community (partners)
- Commit to working across Divisions for authentic campus integration
- Build organizational structures around priorities
- Commit to robust assessment and continual learning and improvement
- Identify barriers to participation
- Value Proposition