



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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The Small Intestine and the Large Intestine



Figure 33.10.1

The small intestine is the site of most of the digestion and absorption of nutrients. The large intestine is primarily responsible for the absorption of water and electrolytes, and the formation and excretion of feces. The small intestine is divided into three parts: the duodenum, the jejunum, and the ileum. The large intestine is divided into the cecum, the ascending colon, the transverse colon, the descending colon, and the sigmoid colon. The sigmoid colon leads to the rectum, which ends at the anus.