

## 2012 First Year First Term Survey

April, 2013

### Results Summary and Four-Year Overview

#### Overview

First year students were surveyed during their first fall semester for the fourth consecutive year in 2012. As was the case in 2011, students were able to access the survey for slightly over three weeks (October 3rd – October 26th). Despite the comparable length of survey availability, the number of respondents (1,344) and response rate (30.6%) decreased from the previous year's figures (1,511 and 32.4%, respectively).

Although the 2012 survey had fewer respondents, those respondents and their responses remain generally consistent with the prior three years of survey administration. Females continue to be overrepresented, as more female students return the survey than do their male counterparts. However, the 2012 survey saw a higher percentage of males return the survey than any other year. The distribution of respondents among the different colleges continues to remain fairly steady, mirroring the trends of the previous three years. The one noticeable spike is in the College of Engineering, which had a higher number of respondents than any previous year (36.6%) and an eight percent increase from 2011.

This summary includes a four-year overview report that includes information about the survey respondents, as well as their actions and attitudes in several areas. Notable exceptions will be discussed below, but overall, the survey appears to provide a consistent window into the experiences of NC State first year first term students.

#### Significant Changes in Responses:

- **Missing Class** – The number of classes that students indicated that they skipped in 2012 decreased after a three-year high in 2011. 38.1% of respondents said that they missed none (compared to 31.7% the previous year). Accordingly, all other response categories also saw a decline. Although the reported number of classes missed are still higher than in 2009 and 2010 (2009 – 44.5% said none; 2010 – 46.4% said none), the 2012 survey does show an increase in class attendance from the year prior.
- **Sense of Belonging and Community** – 52.3% of 2012 First Year First Term survey respondents said that a sense of belonging or community at NC State was very important. While these results are higher than the three-year low in 2011 (47.3%), they are still lower than 2009 (56.7%) and 2010 (60.8%). When asked about the extent to which they experienced a sense of belonging/community at the institution, more 2012 respondents answered a great deal (34.6%) than in 2011 (31.9%). Although this figure is not as high as in 2010 (41.6%), it has returned to the 2009 level of response and indicates a certain level of positive change.

2011 marked the first year that the survey asked a sub-series of sense of belonging/community questions for first year students. As was the case in 2011, the vast majority of 2012 first year students said that it was moderately or very important to have a sense of belonging/community in small groups (94.4%). This percentage was a slight increase over the previous year (93.9% in 2011). Additionally, more 2012 students reported having experienced a sense of belonging/community some or a great deal in small groups at NC State (89.4%, compared to 87.7% in 2011). When asked about the importance of a sense of belonging/community in formal

organizations, 2012 responses were greater than they were the previous year (83% said it was moderately or very important, compared to 79.3% in 2011). The same was true for the extent to which they experienced belonging/community in formal organizations (75.1% said they experienced it some or a great deal in 2012, compared to 72.6% in 2011).

- **Confidence** – Students were asked about their confidence in their ability in several areas, and there were a few notable changes.
  - The 2012 survey featured a new question on students' confidence in their ability to use online course management systems. 68.6% of respondents said that they were very confident. 28.3% indicated that they were somewhat confident. Only 3% of first year students said that they were not very confident or not at all confident with their ability to use online course management systems.
  - Fewer students in 2012 reported feeling very confident about their ability to cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies (35.2%) than in 2011. This trend of decline reflects patterns seen with all previous years of the first year first term survey (44.7% in 2009, 40.1% in 2010, and 37.4% in 2011).
  - Reflecting similar trends that emerged in 2011, a slightly larger percentage of 2012 first year students reported having less confidence in their ability to relieve or reduce homesickness than in earlier surveys (10.6% said they were not at all confident or not very confident in 2012, compared to 9% in 2011 and 6.6% in both 2009 and 2010).
  - Compared to all previous years, first year students in 2012 were very confident in their ability to identify at least one campus resource for academic support (64% compared to 51.2% in 2009, 50.5% in 2010, and 56.5% in 2011).
  - The 2012 survey also featured a new question on students' confidence in their ability to identify at least one campus resource for personal/psych/health support. 62.7% of respondents said that they were very confident. 26.6% indicated that they were somewhat confident. Only 10.6% of first year students said that they were not very confident or not at all confident with their ability to identify at least one campus resource for personal/psych/health support.
- **Feelings** – First year students in 2012 were more likely to feel homesick often/constantly (12.2% compared to 11.9% in 2011, 9.8% in 2010, and 10.4% in 2009), more likely to feel overwhelmed often/constantly (35.6% compared to 33.2% in 2011, 24.4% in 2010, and 25.4% in 2009), more likely to feel often/constantly concerned about financial issues (33.1% compared to 31.3% in 2011, 19.4% in 2010, and 19.2% in 2009), and more likely to feel academically underprepared often/constantly (19.8% compared to 16.5% in 2011, 11.9% in 2010, and 13.8% in 2009).

Despite these increases, fewer 2012 first year students said that they did not feel that NC State is not a good fit than any previous year. 86.2% of 2012 respondents said that they felt that NC State is not a good fit never/once in a while, as compared to 84.7% in 2011, 84.1% in 2010, and 80.5% in 2009.

- **Actions to Engage with NC State** – Students were asked about several areas where they could engage with individuals on campus. In most areas, 2012 first year students had an increase from all prior years. Increases were seen in the percentage of students who answered a great deal when asked to what extent they had made friends with other students, gotten involved in campus activities, developed a relationship with a faculty member, developed a relationship with a staff member, and sought out academic assistance for help with school work. Decreases were seen in the percentages of students who answered a great deal when asked to what extent they had used upper-class students to learn about campus/activities (28.6% compared to 29.0% in 2011, 25.6% in 2010, and 25.7% in 2009).

- **Facility Usage** – This was the first year that the survey posed a series of questions for first year students related to the frequency with which they used campus facilities or their programs/services. The majority of 2012 first year students said that they use the university student centers a few times a week (43.3%), the Student Health Center never (44.7%), campus dining facilities daily (71.2%), NC State Libraries a few times a week (35.7%), open lounges in academic buildings a few times a week (26.1%), Carmichael Complex a few times a week (46.1%), athletic facilities never (40.3%), outdoor spaces a few times a week (27.5%), the Career Development Center never (62.7%), and residence halls daily (80.9%).

## Survey Results

### 2012

Dates: October 3rd through October 26th

Population: 4,398

Return Rate: 30.6% (1,344)

Respondents: Women are overrepresented among survey respondents. Students in the College of Engineering are overrepresented, while students in the Poole College of Management are underrepresented.

### What is your gender?

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Female	653	53.8	822	56.8	850	56.3	717	53.3
Male	661	46.2	625	43.2	661	43.7	627	46.7

### What is your race/ethnicity?

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
African American/Black	86	7.1	109	7.5	125	8.3	103	7.7
American Indian/Alaska Native*					9	0.6	6	0.4
Asian/Asian American	62	5.1	67	4.6	78	5.2	87	6.5
Hispanic/Latino	45	3.7	65	4.5	27	1.8	69	5.1
White/Caucasian	939	77.3	1107	76.5	1145	75.8	978	72.8
Multiple Races*					94	6.2	52	3.9
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*							1	0.1
Nonresident Alien*							31	2.3
Race Unknown	82	6.8	99	6.8	33	2.2	17	1.3

\* "American Indian/Alaska Native" was not provided as an answer choice for the 2009 and 2010 surveys. Respondents were also not given the option to select multiple races/ethnicities until the 2011 survey. "Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander" and "Nonresident Alien" were included in the 2012 survey.

**College/School of Enrollment?**

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
CALS	260	21.4	310	21.4	301	19.9	242	18.0
Design	23	1.9	35	2.4	43	2.8	36	2.7
CED	47	3.9	58	4	49	3.2	45	3.3
COE	328	27.0	365	25.2	432	28.6	492	36.6
CNR	28	2.3	45	3.1	44	2.9	40	3.0
CHASS	132	10.9	154	10.6	160	10.6	99	7.4
PAMS	67	5.5	55	3.8	69	4.6	52	3.9
COT	51	4.2	60	4.1	60	4.0	38	2.8
COM	98	8.1	113	7.8	109	7.2	84	6.3
DASA*	153	12.6	226	15.6	218	14.4	216	16.1
AGI	27	2.2	26	1.8	8	0.5		
Unknown					18	1.2		

\* DASA (formerly DUAP) includes respondents from the First Year College, Transition Program, and Environmental Sciences Program.

**How many hours have you worked per week at an on-campus job?**

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	1017	94.5	1216	92.3	1243	94.2	1118	93.9
10 hours or less	44	4.1	75	5.7	60	4.5	60	5.0
11-19 hours	13	1.2	25	1.9	15	1.1	11	0.9
20-29 hours	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1
30 or more hours	2	0.2	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1

**How many hours have you worked per week at an off-campus job?**

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	958	89.4	1174	89.9	1188	89.9	1060	88.6
10 hours or less	67	6.3	82	6.3	90	6.8	91	7.6
11-19 hours	31	2.9	38	2.9	34	2.6	39	3.3
20-29 hours	10	0.9	10	0.8	7	0.5	6	0.5
30 or more hours	5	0.5	2	0.2	3	0.2	1	0.1

**About how many individual class meetings have you missed this semester (total for all classes combined)?**

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	486	44.5	618	46.4	424	31.7	462	38.1
One	248	22.7	299	22.4	289	21.6	246	20.3
Two to three	251	23.0	284	21.3	380	28.4	317	26.2
Four to five	62	5.7	94	7.1	151	11.3	120	9.9
Six to nine	32	2.9	26	2.0	71	5.3	47	3.9
10 or more	14	1.3	11	0.8	24	1.8	20	1.7

**Importance of sense of belonging or community at NC State?**

	2009		2010		2011*		2012*	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not at all important	20	1.8	26	1.9	32	2.4	21	1.8
Slightly important	94	8.7	83	6.2	170	12.8	110	9.2
Moderately important	356	32.8	414	31.0	499	37.5	440	36.7
Very important	616	56.7	811	60.8	328	47.3	627	52.3

\* Beginning with the 2011 survey, this question was asked as part of a series of three questions about the importance of a sense of belonging and community. The two related questions are below.

**Importance of sense of belonging or community in formal organizations? (2011 & 2012 surveys only)**

	2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%
Not at all important	55	4.1	46	3.8
Slightly important	222	16.6	160	13.2
Moderately important	541	40.6	468	38.7
Very important	516	38.7	536	44.3

**Importance of sense of belonging or community in small groups? (2011 & 2012 surveys only)**

	2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%
Not at all important	13	1.0	13	1.1
Slightly important	68	5.1	55	4.6
Moderately important	333	25.0	241	20.0
Very important	916	68.9	898	74.4

**Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community at NC State?**

	2009		2010		2011*		2012*	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not at all	34	3.1	38	2.8	54	4.5	34	3.1
A little	160	14.6	167	12.5	216	17.8	171	15.5
Some	519	47.4	577	43.1	556	45.8	516	46.8
A great deal	382	34.9	556	41.6	387	31.9	381	34.6

\* Beginning with the 2011 survey, this question was asked as part of a series of three questions about the importance of a sense of belonging and community. The two related questions are below.

**Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community in formal organizations?  
(2011 & 2012 surveys only)**

	2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%
Not at all	123	10.1	86	7.8
A little	211	17.3	188	17.1
Some	519	42.6	461	41.9
A great deal	365	30.0	366	33.2

**Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community in small groups? (2011 & 2012 surveys only)**

	2011		2012	
	N	%	N	%
Not at all	36	3.0	23	2.1
A little	112	9.3	94	8.6
Some	390	32.2	355	32.3
A great deal	672	55.5	627	57.1

**How confident are you in your ability to:**

		Not at all confident		Not very confident		Somewhat confident		Very confident	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Find way around campus	2009	3	0.3%	15	1.4%	414	37.7%	665	60.6%
	2010	2	0.1%	9	0.7%	522	38.9%	809	60.3%
	2011	4	0.3%	13	1.0%	379	28.2%	948	70.5%
	2012	0	0.0%	18	1.5%	340	28.0%	856	70.5%
Use online course management systems*	2012	5	0.4%	32	2.6%	344	28.3%	834	68.6%
Cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies	2009	12	1.1%	97	8.8%	498	45.4%	490	44.7%
	2010	16	1.2%	128	9.6%	658	49.2%	536	40.1%
	2011	33	2.5%	161	12.0%	648	48.2%	503	37.4%
	2012	31	2.6%	184	15.1%	572	47.1%	428	35.2%
Relieve or reduce homesickness	2009	20	1.8%	53	4.8%	352	32.1%	672	61.3%
	2010	12	0.9%	76	5.7%	481	35.9%	769	57.5%
	2011	36	2.7%	85	6.3%	397	29.6%	824	61.4%
	2012	36	3.0%	92	7.6%	341	28.1%	743	61.3%
Effectively manage your time	2009	29	2.6%	145	13.2%	545	49.7%	377	34.4%
	2010	14	1.0%	164	12.3%	725	54.2%	435	32.5%
	2011	34	2.5%	218	16.3%	723	54.1%	361	27.0%
	2012	36	3.0%	202	16.7%	627	51.7%	347	28.6%
Identify at least one campus resource for academic support	2009	10	0.9%	97	8.9%	425	39.0%	559	51.2%
	2010	14	1.0%	109	8.2%	538	40.3%	675	50.5%
	2011	23	1.7%	113	8.4%	446	33.3%	757	56.5%
	2012	8	0.7%	62	5.1%	366	30.2%	775	64.0%
Identify at least one campus resource for personal/psychological/health support*	2012	26	2.1%	105	8.6%	323	26.6%	762	62.7%
Identify at least one activity/ group on campus in which you might like to get involved	2009	14	1.3%	53	4.8%	354	32.4%	672	61.5%
	2010	14	1.0%	76	5.7%	392	29.4%	853	63.9%
	2011	16	1.2%	79	5.9%	327	24.4%	920	68.6%
	2012	13	1.1%	53	4.4%	243	20.0%	904	74.5%
Identify a group on campus that supports an identity important to you	2009	66	6.0%	172	15.8%	368	33.7%	485	44.5%
	2010	66	4.9%	180	13.5%	467	35.0%	621	46.6%
	2011	70	5.2%	202	15.1%	376	28.1%	692	51.6%
	2012	70	5.8%	162	13.3%	323	26.6%	659	54.3%

\* These questions were not asked until the 2012 survey.



Since arriving at NC State, how often have you:

		Never/Once in a While		Sometimes		Often/Constantly	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Felt lonely	2009	681	62.1%	254	23.2%	161	14.7%
	2010	856	63.7%	295	22.0%	192	14.3%
	2011	775	57.8%	368	27.5%	197	14.7%
	2012	708	58.6%	326	27.0%	174	14.4%
Felt homesick	2009	777	71.1%	202	18.5%	114	10.4%
	2010	943	70.3%	266	19.8%	132	9.8%
	2011	928	69.4%	250	18.7%	159	11.9%
	2012	845	70.1%	213	17.7%	147	12.2%
Felt depressed	2009	832	76.1%	165	15.1%	97	8.9%
	2010	1062	79.3%	177	13.2%	101	7.5%
	2011	1007	75.4%	215	16.1%	113	8.5%
	2012	924	76.6%	187	15.5%	95	7.9%
Felt overwhelmed	2009	468	42.7%	349	31.9%	278	25.4%
	2010	553	41.2%	462	34.4%	328	24.4%
	2011	413	30.9%	481	35.9%	444	33.2%
	2012	397	33.0%	377	31.4%	428	35.6%
Felt bored	2009	583	53.2%	320	29.2%	192	17.5%
	2010	761	56.7%	417	31.0%	165	12.3%
	2011	757	56.5%	378	28.2%	205	15.3%
	2012	702	58.2%	336	27.9%	168	13.9%
Felt concerned about financial issues	2009	656	59.9%	229	20.9%	210	19.2%
	2010	777	57.9%	305	22.7%	260	19.4%
	2011	604	45.0%	317	23.6%	420	31.3%
	2012	525	43.5%	282	23.4%	399	33.1%
Felt academically underprepared	2009	685	62.5%	260	23.7%	151	13.8%
	2010	817	61.0%	364	27.2%	159	11.9%
	2011	686	51.1%	435	32.4%	221	16.5%
	2012	636	52.7%	331	27.4%	239	19.8%
Felt concerned about family issues	2009	783	71.6%	186	17.0%	124	11.3%
	2010	966	72.1%	240	17.9%	134	10.0%
	2011	886	66.1%	231	17.2%	224	16.7%
	2012	766	63.5%	243	20.1%	198	16.4%
Felt that NC State is not a good fit	2009	882	80.5%	112	10.2%	102	9.3%
	2010	1129	84.1%	120	8.9%	93	6.9%
	2011	1137	84.7%	104	7.7%	101	7.5%
	2012	1041	86.2%	99	8.2%	67	5.6%

**To what extent have you done each of the following during your time thus far at NC State:**

		Not applicable*		Not at all		A little		Some		A great deal	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Made friends with other students	2009			17	1.6%	160	14.7%	329	30.2%	584	53.6%
	2010			16	1.2%	179	13.4%	400	30.0%	737	55.3%
	2011	2	0.1%	18	1.3%	184	13.7%	462	34.4%	678	50.4%
	2012	0	0.0%	17	1.4%	152	12.5%	420	34.7%	623	51.4%
Used upper-class students to learn about campus/activities	2009			216	19.8%	273	25.1%	320	29.4%	280	25.7%
	2010			243	18.2%	325	24.3%	425	31.8%	342	25.6%
	2011	27	2.0%	199	14.8%	303	22.6%	424	31.6%	390	29.0%
	2012	17	1.4%	170	14.1%	294	24.3%	382	31.6%	346	28.6%
Gotten involved in campus activities	2009			125	11.5%	264	24.2%	355	32.6%	345	31.7%
	2010			112	8.4%	306	22.9%	453	34.0%	463	34.7%
	2011	20	1.5%	104	7.7%	251	18.7%	447	33.3%	522	38.8%
	2012	5	0.4%	78	6.4%	207	17.1%	401	33.1%	521	43.0%
Developed a relationship with a faculty member	2009			369	33.8%	398	36.5%	227	20.8%	97	8.9%
	2010			473	35.5%	452	33.9%	274	20.6%	133	10.0%
	2011	25	1.9%	422	31.4%	425	31.7%	307	22.9%	163	12.1%
	2012	7	0.6%	328	27.3%	402	33.4%	296	24.6%	170	14.1%
Developed a relationship with a staff member	2009			453	41.5%	373	34.2%	177	16.2%	89	8.2%
	2010			567	42.6%	405	30.5%	239	18.0%	119	8.9%
	2011	41	3.1%	427	31.8%	362	27.0%	317	23.6%	194	14.5%
	2012	14	1.2%	302	24.9%	346	28.5%	357	29.5%	193	15.9%
Sought out academic assistance for help with school work	2009	62	5.7%	245	22.5%	301	27.7%	295	27.1%	184	16.9%
	2010	61	4.6%	266	19.9%	364	27.2%	393	29.4%	252	18.9%
	2011	34	2.5%	251	18.7%	319	23.8%	431	32.1%	308	22.9%
	2012	34	2.8%	234	19.3%	283	23.4%	378	31.2%	281	23.2%

\*"Not applicable" was not given as an answer choice in the 2009 and 2010 surveys.

**During your time thus far at NC State, about how frequently have you used the following facilities or their programs/services? (2012 survey only)**

		Never		Less than once a month		Once or twice a month		Once a week		A few times a week		Daily	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
University Student Centers	<b>2012</b>	67	5.5%	66	5.5%	162	13.4%	216	17.9%	523	43.3%	175	14.5%
Student Health Center	<b>2012</b>	538	44.7%	324	26.9%	241	20.0%	52	4.3%	36	3.0%	12	1.0%
Dining Facilities	<b>2012</b>	46	3.8%	34	2.8%	33	2.7%	54	4.5%	182	15.0%	862	71.2%
NC State Libraries	<b>2012</b>	23	1.9%	42	3.5%	167	13.8%	272	22.5%	432	35.7%	273	22.6%
Open Lounges in Academic Buildings	<b>2012</b>	161	13.4%	117	9.7%	206	17.1%	231	19.2%	315	26.1%	175	14.5%
Carmichael Complex	<b>2012</b>	112	9.3%	63	5.2%	103	8.5%	156	12.9%	557	46.1%	218	18.0%
Athletic Facilities	<b>2012</b>	486	40.3%	154	12.8%	214	17.8%	128	10.6%	143	11.9%	80	6.6%
Outdoor Spaces	<b>2012</b>	113	9.3%	101	8.4%	187	15.5%	226	18.7%	332	27.5%	250	20.7%
Career Development Center	<b>2012</b>	755	62.7%	205	17.0%	146	12.1%	51	4.2%	35	2.9%	13	1.1%
Residence Halls	<b>2012</b>	110	9.1%	20	1.7%	31	2.6%	28	2.3%	42	3.5%	976	80.9%