2015 First Year First Term Survey

3/2/2016
Executive Summary

Survey Overview

The First Year First Term Survey was administered from Monday, October 5 until Friday, October 30 to all new first year students at NC State. This is the seventh year the survey was administered to these students. 4,296 students were contacted and given the opportunity to take the survey and 2,069 unique valid responses were received; a response rate of 48.1% which is substantially higher than the response rate in previous years (response rate was 42.1% in 2014).

There were more female respondents (54.3%) than male respondents (46.8%). Female respondents are over-represented in the sample, as new female undergraduates only make up 47.9% of the population. Respondents were distributed between the academic colleges at NC State roughly in line with the overall undergraduate population. The race/ethnicity of respondents also roughly matches the overall population of new undergraduate students with white students slightly over-represented and other races/ethnicities slightly under-represented. See the tables below for specifics.

Table 1: Survey respondents by college of enrollment

	Survey Respondents		All New FY Students*
College	n	%	%
AGI	22	1.17	2.8
CALS	147	7.8	7.1
CED	33	1.75	1.6
CHASS	168	8.91	9.1
CNR	59	3.13	3.2
COE	636	33.74	32.6
COS	255	13.53	11.5
DASA	341	18.09	18.7
DN	40	2.12	2.2
MGMT	124	6.58	7.6
TEX	60	3.18	3.6
Total	1,885	100.0	100.0

Data from NC State Office of Institutional Research and Planning

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Table 2: Survey respondents by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Survey Respondents		All New FY Students*
	n	**%**	**%**
International	106	5.12	4.8
Unknown	37	1.79	1.7
Hispanic	107	5.17	4.7
Am Indian/ Alaskan Native	7	0.34	0.4
Asian	100	4.83	4.6
Black/ African American	123	5.95	5.6
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1	0.05	0.0
White	1,494	72.21	73.8
Two or More	94	4.54	4.4
Total	**2,069**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Data on survey respondents was merged with data from SIS
*Data from NC State Office of Institutional Research and Planning

Table 3: Survey respondents by self-reported* race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	n	%
Other	39	1.9
Hispanic	91	4.4
Am Ind/Alaskan	28	1.4
Asian	174	8.4
Black/Afr Am	127	6.1
White	1,355	65.5
Missing or None selected	390	18.8

*Self-reported data from survey; respondents were allowed to select multiple categories so percentages do not sum to 100%

Table 4: Housing Status

Housing Status	n	%	All %
Off campus	330	15.9	17.3
On campus	1,739	84.1	82.7
Total	2069	100.0	100.0

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Survey Results

The tables below provide an overview of selected survey questions and responses.

Table 5: When you started at NC State, how did the difficulty of the following items compare to expectations

When you started at NC State, how did the difficulty of the following items compare to expectations	Much less difficult (1)		Somewhat less difficult (2)		Matched expectations (3)		Somewhat more difficult (4)		Much more difficult (5)		Had no expectations		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	Mean	n
Your first day of classes	283	14.29	465	23.49	958	48.38	186	9.39	39	1.97	49	2.48	2.6	1,980
Learning about involvement opportunities you plan to explore	240	12.1	263	13.3	781	39.5	499	25.2	92	4.6	104	5.3	3.0	1,979
Connecting with your peers	301	15.19	272	13.73	589	29.73	563	28.42	204	10.30	52	2.63	3.1	1,981
Being part of a diverse community	297	15.04	241	12.20	933	47.24	210	10.63	54	2.74	240	12.15	2.7	1,975
University coursework	95	4.82	314	15.93	724	36.73	635	32.22	185	9.39	18	0.91	3.3	1,971
Managing your daily life	117	6.0	259	13.2	629	32.1	640	32.7	285	14.5	30	1.5	3.4	1,960

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Table 6: How confident are you in your ability to:

How confident are you in your ability to:	Not at all confident (1)		Not very confident (2)		Somewhat confident (3)		Very confident (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Find your way around campus	5	0.3	21	1.1	591	32.3	1,214	66.3	1,831
Use online course management systems (e.g., Moodle, WebAssign)	10	0.55	52	2.84	565	30.89	1,202	65.72	1,829
Cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies	46	2.5	278	15.2	834	45.6	670	36.7	1,828
Relieve or reduce homesickness	28	1.5	171	9.4	568	31.1	1,060	58.0	1,827
Effectively manage your time (i.e., balance work, class, social life)	43	2.4	252	13.8	906	49.8	620	34.0	1,821
Identify at least one campus resource for academic support	18	1.0	146	8.0	587	32.1	1,077	58.9	1,828
Identify at least one campus resource for personal/ psychological/ health support	25	1.4	127	7.0	589	32.2	1,085	59.4	1,826
Identify at least one activity or group on campus in which you might like to get involved	26	1.4	122	6.7	464	25.4	1,212	66.4	1,824
Identify a group on campus that supports an identity important to you (e.g., ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation)	90	4.9	234	12.8	526	28.8	976	53.5	1,826
Connect with other individuals on campus	42	2.3	196	10.73	693	37.93	896	49.04	1,827
Choose the right major	65	3.55	236	12.9	675	36.88	854	46.67	1,830
Graduate on time	28	1.5	130	7.1	634	34.7	1,036	56.7	1,828

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Table 7: To what extent have you done each of the following during your time thus far at NC State?

To what extent have you done each of the following during your time thus far at NC State?	Not at all (1)		A little (2)		Some (3)		A great deal (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Made friends with other students	41	2.3	258	14.3	644	35.7	860	47.7	1,803
Use students such as RAs, classmates or village mentors to learn about campus and activities	243	13.5	420	23.4	597	33.2	537	29.9	1,797
Gotten involved in campus activities	99	5.5	301	16.7	637	35.4	764	42.4	1,801
Developed a relationship with a faculty member	404	22.47	561	31.20	521	28.98	312	17.35	1,798
Developed a relationship with a staff member	476	26.49	475	26.43	502	27.94	344	19.14	1,797
Sought out academic assistance for help you might have needed with your school work	346	19.2	479	26.6	550	30.6	425	23.6	1,800
Used services offered by the Counseling Center	1,183	65.65	181	10.05	221	12.26	217	12.04	1,802
Used Student Health Services	767	42.64	311	17.29	400	22.23	321	17.84	1,799

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Table 8: How important it is to you that you experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings at NC State?

How important it is to you that you experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings at NC State?	Not at all important (1)		Slightly important (2)		Moderately important (3)		Very important (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
With NC State overall	37	2.06	152	8.47	567	31.59	1,039	57.88	1,795
In formal organizations (e.g., student organizations, residence halls, learning villages, athletic groups)	65	3.6	227	12.6	631	35.1	877	48.7	1,800
In your academic college or major	20	1.1	128	7.1	543	30.2	1,109	61.6	1,800
In small groups (e.g., with friends)	14	0.78	61	3.4	299	16.66	1,421	79.16	1,795

Table 9: To what extent do you actually experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings at NC State?

To what extent do you actually experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings at NC State?	Not at all (1)		A little (2)		Some (3)		A great extent (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
With NC State overall	61	3.4	254	14.3	735	41.3	730	41.0	1,780
In formal organizations (e.g., student organizations, residence halls, learning villages, athletic groups)	152	8.5	326	18.3	738	41.4	566	31.8	1,782
In your academic college or major	134	7.53	362	20.35	715	40.19	568	31.93	1,779
In small groups (e.g., with friends)	53	3.0	166	9.3	532	29.9	1,031	57.9	1,782

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Table 10: Since arriving at NC State, how often have you felt:

Since arriving at NC State, how often have you felt:	Never (1)		Once in a while (2)		Sometimes (3)		Often (4)		Constantly (5)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Lonely/Isolated	393	21.99	607	33.97	488	27.31	228	12.76	71	3.97	1,787
Homesick	644	36.22	590	33.18	356	20.02	141	7.93	47	2.65	1,778
Depressed	895	50.17	415	23.26	299	16.76	120	6.73	55	3.08	1,784
Overwhelmed	248	13.92	432	24.24	565	31.71	396	22.22	141	7.91	1,782
Highly anxious	471	26.45	466	26.2	439	24.6	282	15.8	123	6.9	1,781
Very distressed	731	41.1	486	27.3	339	19.1	155	8.7	68	3.8	1,779
Bored	503	28.3	560	31.5	486	27.3	183	10.3	47	2.6	1,779
Concerned about financial issues	611	34.1	430	24.0	341	19.1	241	13.5	167	9.3	1,790
Academically underprepared	500	28.0	542	30.3	474	26.5	182	10.2	89	5.0	1,787
Concerned about family issues	874	49.14	458	25.76	256	14.4	128	7.2	62	3.5	1,778
That your major is not right for you	772	43.1	427	23.9	285	15.9	175	9.8	131	7.3	1,790
That NC State is not a good fit for you	1,200	67.1	306	17.1	161	9.0	69	3.9	52	2.9	1,788

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Table 11: You noted that you have sometimes or more frequently felt overwhelmed since arriving at NC State. What is the primary source of this feeling?

You noted that you have sometimes or more frequently felt overwhelmed since arriving at NC State. What is the primary source of this feeling?	n	%
Academics	408	37.12
Social life	57	5.19
Personal challenges	39	3.55
The combination of academics, social life, and personal challenges	566	51.5
Other	29	2.64
Total	1099	100.0

Table 12: When you need advice or support, what family/support members from home are you most likely to contact? (select all that apply)

When you need advice or support, what family/support members from home are you most likely to contact? (select all that apply)	n	%
Sibling	730	35.3
Mother/Step mother	1,413	68.3
Female guardian	25	1.2
Foster mother	2	0.1
Father/Step father	961	46.4
Male guardian	24	1.2
Foster father	5	0.2
Extended family (aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc.)	245	11.8
Other	154	7.4
None – I would not contact anyone from home	63	3.0

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Table 13: About how often were you in contact with your family/support from home during your first couple of weeks on campus?

About how often were you in contact with your family/support from home during your first couple of weeks on campus?	n	%
Every day	492	28.8
Multiple times a week (but less than every day)	722	42.3
Once a week	367	21.5
Multiple times a month (but less than once a week)	96	5.6
Once a month or less	22	1.3
Never	8	0.5
Total	1,707	100.0

Table 14: And, thinking about more recently, about how often are you in contact with your family/support from home now?

And, thinking about more recently, about how often are you in contact with your family/support from home now?	n	%
Every day	339	19.99
Multiple times a week (but less than every day)	700	41.27
Once a week	485	28.6
Multiple times a month (but less than once a week)	130	7.67
Once a month or less	35	2.06
Never	7	0.41
Total	1,696	100.0

Table 15: How supportive was your parent/guardian of your decision to attend NC State?

How supportive was your parent/guardian of your decision to attend NC State?	n	%
Not at all supportive	6	0.4
Somewhat Unsupportive	21	1.2
Somewhat supportive	149	8.8
Very supportive	1,510	89.6
Total	1,686	100.0

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Table 16: How likely are you to seek advice or assistance from your family/support members from home regarding each of the following issues?

How likely are you to seek advice or assistance from your family/support members from home regarding each of the following issues?	Very unlikely (1)		Somewhat unlikely (2)		Somewhat likely (3)		Very likely (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Your physical health and safety (illness, feeling safe on campus, etc.)	142	8.5	201	12.1	530	31.8	794	47.6	1,667
Your emotional health (homesickness, stress, etc.)	215	12.91	322	19.34	513	30.81	615	36.94	1,665
Finances (tuition, spending money, etc.)	83	5.0	197	11.8	467	28.1	916	55.1	1,663
Academics (dropping/adding classes, grades, assignments, etc.)	144	8.65	293	17.61	602	36.18	625	37.56	1,664
Relationships with faculty/staff	261	15.7	486	29.2	533	32.0	385	23.1	1,665
Getting involved on campus (student organizations, athletic events, etc.)	213	12.8	378	22.7	586	35.2	487	29.3	1,664
Career planning (internships, career exploration, etc.)	104	6.3	207	12.4	652	39.2	700	42.1	1,663
Personal relationships (boyfriends/girlfriends, making friends, etc.)	281	16.88	391	23.48	484	29.07	509	30.57	1,665
Current "hot" issues on campus (H1N1, budget crisis, potentially controversial issues, etc.)	285	17.1	433	26.1	542	32.6	402	24.2	1,662

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Table 17: If you had to pick, in which of the following group-sized settings would you say you typically prefer to be for campus-related social programs/activities?

If you had to pick, in which of the following group-sized settings would you say you typically prefer to be for campus-related social programs/activities?	n	%
Huge crowd	90	5.35
Large crowd	206	12.24
Moderate-sized group	684	40.64
Relatively small group	524	31.14
Very small group	152	9.03
None - I prefer to be alone	27	1.60
Total	1,683	100.0

Table 18: Thinking only about your comfort-level in being among groups of people, how likely are you to attend an organized social program/activity at NC State with the following attendance levels:

Thinking only about your comfort-level in being among groups of people, how likely are you to attend an organized social program/activity at NC State with the following attendance levels:	Not at all likely (1)		Not very likely (2)		Somewhat likely (3)		Very likely (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Huge crowd	132	7.94	331	19.92	667	40.13	532	32.01	1,662
Large crowd	61	3.93	169	10.89	747	48.13	575	37.05	1,552
Moderate-sized group	17	1.03	128	7.74	741	44.8	768	46.43	1,654
Relatively small group	24	1.45	182	10.97	734	44.24	719	43.34	1,659
Very small group	105	6.3	340	20.5	674	40.7	539	32.5	1,658

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Table 19: Where are you living this semester?

Where are you living this semester?	n	%
On-campus residence hall	1,206	71.7
Wolf Village/Western Manor/King Village/Wolf Ridge	5	0.3
Living and Learning Village	197	11.7
University Towers/College Inn/Valentine Commons	147	8.7
Greek Court	1	0.1
Apartment or house (less than two miles away from campus)	34	2.0
Apartment or house (two or more miles away from campus)	67	4.0
Other (please specify)	25	1.5
Total	1,682	100.0

Table 20: About how many individual class meetings have you missed this semester (total for all classes)?

About how many individual class meetings have you missed this semester (total for all classes)?	n	%
None	728	40.65
1	377	21.05
2-3	418	23.34
4-5	162	9.05
6-9	71	3.96
10 or more	35	1.95
Total	1,791	100.0

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Table 21: On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working at an on-campus job for pay?

On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working at an on-campus job for pay?	n	%
None	1,412	92.65
10 hours or less	82	5.38
11-19 hours	23	1.51
20-29 hours	4	0.26
30 or more hours	3	0.2
Total	1,524	100.0

Table 22: On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working at an off-campus job for pay?

On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working at an off-campus job for pay?	n	%
None	1,362	89.0
10 hours or less	112	7.3
11-19 hours	38	2.5
20-29 hours	15	1.0
30 or more hours	3	0.2
Total	1,530	100.0

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Table 23: On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working as an unpaid intern or volunteer, or in another unpaid job/position?

On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working as an unpaid intern or volunteer, or in another unpaid job/position?	n	%
None	1,344	90.63
10 hours or less	130	8.76
11-19 hours	7	0.47
20-29 hours	1	0.07
30 or more hours	1	0.07
Total	1,483	100.0

Table 24: How important is it to you to feel a sense of community with other community members at NC State?

How important is it to you to feel a sense of community with other community members at NC State?	n	%
Prefer not to be a part of the NC State community	7	0.4
Not important at all	13	0.7
Not very important	93	5.3
Somewhat important	396	22.4
Important	646	36.5
Very important	615	34.7
Total	1,770	100.0

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Table 25: How well does each of the following statements represent how you feel about the NC State community? (Sense of Community Index)

How well does each of the following statements represent how you feel about the NC State community? (Sense of Community Index)	Not at all (1)		Somewhat (2)		Mostly (3)		Completely (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
I get important needs of mine met because I am part of this community	153	8.9	710	41.4	617	35.9	237	13.8	1,717
Community members and I value the same things	94	5.5	727	42.4	699	40.8	193	11.3	1,713
This community has been successful in getting the needs of its members met	80	4.7	524	30.7	828	48.4	277	16.2	1,709
Being a member of this community makes me feel good	103	6.0	403	23.6	649	38.0	554	32.4	1,709
When I have a problem, I can talk about it with members of this community	173	10.1	569	33.2	597	34.9	373	21.8	1,712
People in this community have similar needs, priorities, and goals	91	5.3	501	29.3	762	44.6	356	20.8	1,710
I can trust people in this community	69	4.05	507	29.79	851	50.0	275	16.16	1,702
I can recognize most members of this community	391	23.01	670	39.44	471	27.72	167	9.83	1,699
Most community members know me	645	37.9	684	40.2	257	15.1	115	6.8	1,701
This community has symbols and expressions of membership such as clothes, signs, art, architecture, logos, landmarks, and flags that people can recognize	63	3.7	319	18.8	556	32.7	762	44.8	1,700
I put a lot of time and effort into being part of this community	193	11.4	724	42.6	557	32.8	226	13.3	1,700
Being a member of this community is part of my identity	228	13.4	611	35.9	509	29.9	352	20.7	1,700
Fitting into this community is important to me	97	5.7	562	33.3	601	35.6	430	25.4	1,690
This community can influence other communities	40	2.4	396	23.4	713	42.2	540	32.0	1,689
I care about what other community members think of me	152	9.0	676	40.1	548	32.5	311	18.4	1,687
I have influence over what this community is like	359	21.4	773	46.0	345	20.5	204	12.1	1,681
If there is a problem in this community, members can get it solved	46	2.72	485	28.7	783	46.33	376	22.25	1,690
This community has good leaders	33	2.0	337	20.0	760	45.1	555	32.9	1,685
It is very important to me to be a part of this community	102	6.1	502	29.9	595	35.4	480	28.6	1,679

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Table 25: How well does each of the following statements represent how you feel about the NC State community? (Sense of Community Index) (con't)

How well does each of the following statements represent how you feel about the NC State community? (Sense of Community Index) (con't)	Not at all (1)		Somewhat (2)		Mostly (3)		Completely (4)		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
I am with other community members a lot and enjoy being with them	122	7.3	515	30.7	633	37.7	408	24.3	1,678
I expect to be a part of this community for a long time	75	4.5	392	23.4	620	36.9	591	35.2	1,678
Members of this community have shared important events together, such as holidays, celebrations, or disasters	90	5.4	395	23.5	656	39.0	539	32.1	1,680
I feel hopeful about the future of this community	49	2.92	324	19.3	659	39.25	647	38.53	1,679
Members of this community care about each other	51	3.0	375	22.4	705	42.1	545	32.5	1,676