

2015 Transfer First Term Survey

Executive Summary

Survey Overview

The Transfer First Term Survey was administered from Monday, October 5 until Friday, October 30 to all new transfer students at NC State. This is the fourth year the survey was administered to these students. 1,101 students were contacted and given the opportunity to take the survey and 478 unique valid responses were received; a response rate of 43.4% which is substantially higher than the response rate in previous years.

There were more female respondents (54.0%) than male respondents (46.0%). Female respondents are over-represented in the sample, as new female undergraduates only make up 46.5% 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

College	Survey Respondents		All New TR Students*
	n	%	%
CALS	72	15.06	14.18
CED	10	2.09	2.17
CHASS	123	25.73	26.56
CNR	31	6.49	8.04
COE	87	18.2	20.14
COS	47	9.83	9.12
DASA	10	2.09	1.72
DN	17	3.56	2.98
MGMT	72	15.06	13.19
TEX	9	1.89	1.9
Total	478	100.0	100.0

**Data from NC State Office of Institutional Research and Planning*

Table 2: Survey respondents by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Survey Respondents		All New TR Students*
	n	%	%
International	52	10.9	9.3
Unknown	11	2.3	2.6
Hispanic	29	6.1	6.2
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2	0.4	0.4
Asian	23	4.8	4.0
Black/African American	24	5.0	5.8
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1	0.2	0.1
White	317	66.3	68.3
Two or more	19	4.0	3.3
Total	478	100.0	100.0

**Data from NC State Office of Institutional Research and Planning*

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

Race/Ethnicity	n	%
Other	9	1.9
Hispanic	35	7.3
Am Ind/Alaskan	8	1.7
Asian	40	8.4
Black/Afr Am	30	6.3
White	330	69.0

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

Table 4: Gender

Gender	Survey Respondents		All New TR Students*
	n	%	%
Female	258	54.0	46.5
Male	220	46.0	53.5
Total	478	100.0	100.0

Table 5: Age

Age	N	Percent
18	4	0.8
19	98	20.5
20	131	27.4
21	82	17.2
22	34	7.1
23	15	3.1
24	18	3.8
25	10	2.1
26-30	40	8.4
31-40	32	6.7
Over 40	14	2.9
Total	478	100.0

Note: Approx 7% of full undergraduate population is over 24

Survey Results

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

Table 6: How many schools (community college, technical school, college or university) have you attended prior to NC State?

How many schools (community college, technical school, college or university) have you attended prior to NC State?	N	Percent
1	337	70.5
2	100	20.92
3	31	6.48
4	5	1.05
5	3	0.63
6+	2	0.42
Total	478	100.0

Table 7: What type of institution(s) have you attended prior to NC State? (choose all that apply)

What type of institution(s) have you attended prior to NC State? (choose all that apply)	N	Percent
2-year community college in NC	306	64
2-year out-of-state community college	37	7.7
2-year technical college in NC	25	5.2
2-year out-of-state technical college	5	1.0
4-year public college/university in NC	114	23.8
4-year out-of-state public college/university	34	7.1
4-year private college/university in NC	34	7.1
4-year out-of-state private college/university	20	4.2
Other	26	5.4

Table 8: Which of the following best represents your primary reason for transferring out of your previous institution?

Which of the following best represents your primary reason for transferring out of your previous institution?	N	Percent
My intended major/program was not available at my previous institution	150	31.6
Wanted to go to NC State initially, but went to another institution to start with	187	39.5
It was too far away from home	11	2.3
Did not feel connected to my previous institution	47	9.9
Other	79	16.7
Total	474	100

Table 9: What was the most influential factor in your decision to enroll at NC State?

What was the most influential factor in your decision to enroll at NC State?	N	Percent
Academic reputation	175	37.0
Availability of major/program	147	31.1
Knew someone already enrolled at NC State (e.g., friend, family member)	36	7.6
Location	67	14.2
Size	3	.6
Cost	11	2.3
Availability of scholarships/financial aid	9	1.9
Number of hours transferred/credited	5	1.1
Contact with a faculty or staff member	8	1.7
Other	12	2.5
Total	473	100.0

Table 10: How certain are you of your choice of college major?

How certain are you of your choice of college major?	N	Percent
Very uncertain	10	2.1
Uncertain	56	12.0
Certain	175	37.4
Very certain	227	48.5
Total	468	100.0

Table 11: From the time you enter NC State, how long do you intend to take to complete your bachelor’s degree?

From the time you enter NC State, how long do you intend to take to complete your bachelor’s degree?	N	Percent
1 year	7	1.5
2 years	223	47.5
3 years	188	40.1
4 years	36	7.7
More than 4 years	10	2.1
Do not intend to complete a bachelor’s degree at NC State	5	1.1
Total	469	100.0

Table 12: 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	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	
Your first day of classes	21	4.9	38	8.86	268	62.47	69	16.08	23	5.36	10	2.33	429
Learning about involvement opportunities you plan to explore	40	9.32	45	10.49	183	42.66	99	23.08	26	6.06	36	8.39	429
Connecting with your peers	41	9.5	42	9.8	155	36.0	113	26.3	58	13.5	21	4.9	430
Being part of a diverse community	44	10.3	39	9.1	223	52.0	49	11.4	22	5.1	52	12.1	429
University coursework	7	1.65	23	5.41	158	37.18	159	37.41	74	17.41	4	0.94	425
Managing your daily life	9	2.1	18	4.3	141	33.4	158	37.4	88	20.9	8	1.9	422

Table 13: 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	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
Find your way around campus	6	1.3	27	6.0	216	48.0	201	44.7	450
Use online course management systems (e.g., Moodle, WebAssign)	4	0.9	18	4.0	180	40.0	248	55.1	450
Cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies	18	4.0	84	18.8	215	48.1	130	29.1	447
Relieve or reduce homesickness	10	2.24	30	6.73	146	32.73	260	58.3	446
Effectively manage your time (i.e., balance work, class, social life)	18	4.02	84	18.75	222	49.55	124	27.68	448
Identify at least one campus resource for academic support	12	2.7	41	9.2	191	42.7	203	45.4	447
Identify at least one campus resource for personal/ psychological/ health support	12	2.68	58	12.98	154	34.45	223	49.89	447
Identify at least one activity or group on campus in which you might like to get involved	16	3.6	51	11.4	155	34.6	226	50.4	448
Identify a group on campus that supports an identity important to you (e.g., ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation)	32	7.2	77	17.2	168	37.6	170	38.0	447
Connect with other individuals on campus	21	4.7	77	17.3	187	41.9	161	36.1	446
Choose the right major	9	2.0	35	7.8	155	34.4	251	55.8	450
Graduate on time	16	3.56	73	16.26	190	42.32	170	37.86	449

Table 14: 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	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
Made friends with other students	39	8.74	115	25.79	179	40.13	113	25.34	446
Use students such as RAs, classmates or village mentors to learn about campus and activities	142	31.84	97	21.75	133	29.82	74	16.59	446
Gotten involved in campus activities	99	22.2	117	26.2	122	27.4	108	24.2	446
Developed a relationship with a faculty member	111	24.83	137	30.65	132	29.53	67	14.99	447
Developed a relationship with a staff member	177	39.87	107	24.1	110	24.77	50	11.26	444
Sought out academic assistance for help you might have needed with your school work	125	28.1	106	23.8	126	28.3	88	19.8	445
Used services offered by the Counseling Center	306	68.76	40	8.99	52	11.69	47	10.56	445
Used Student Health Services	235	52.8	71	16.0	78	17.5	61	13.7	445

Table 15: 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		Slightly important		Moderately important		Very important		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
With NC State overall	16	3.6	50	11.3	147	33.1	231	52.0	444
In formal organizations (e.g., student organizations, residence halls, learning villages, athletic groups)	59	13.3	88	19.9	149	33.6	147	33.2	443
In your academic college or major	7	1.6	26	5.9	132	29.7	279	62.8	444
In small groups (e.g., with friends)	18	4.1	39	8.8	134	30.2	252	56.9	443

Table 16: 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		A little		Some		A great extent		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
With NC State overall	39	8.8	81	18.3	184	41.5	139	31.4	443
In formal organizations (e.g., student organizations, residence halls, learning villages, athletic groups)	124	28.2	105	23.9	133	30.2	78	17.7	440
In your academic college or major	50	11.29	99	22.35	164	37.02	130	29.34	443
In small groups (e.g., with friends)	53	12.0	73	16.5	160	36.2	156	35.3	442

Table 17: 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	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
Lonely/Isolated	107	24.15	135	30.48	112	25.28	70	15.8	19	4.29	443
Homesick	243	54.98	87	19.68	72	16.29	29	6.56	11	2.49	442
Depressed	208	46.85	102	22.97	86	19.37	34	7.66	14	3.15	444
Overwhelmed	59	13.3	92	20.7	124	27.9	114	25.7	55	12.4	444
Highly anxious	107	24.1	109	24.5	118	26.6	79	17.8	31	7.0	444
Very distressed	180	40.8	103	23.4	90	20.4	45	10.2	23	5.2	441
Bored	198	44.8	115	26.02	96	21.72	24	5.43	9	2.04	442
Concerned about financial issues	117	26.47	83	18.78	87	19.68	88	19.91	67	15.16	442
Academically underprepared	109	24.55	119	26.80	120	27.03	59	13.29	37	8.33	444
Concerned about family issues	181	41.04	113	25.63	73	16.55	46	10.43	28	6.35	441
That your major is not right for you	221	49.77	98	22.07	76	17.12	27	6.08	22	4.96	444
That NC State is not a good fit for you	289	65.4	87	19.7	43	9.7	12	2.7	11	2.5	442

Table 18: 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	Percent
Academics	120	40.96
Social life	6	2.05
Personal challenges	18	6.14
The combination of academics, social life, and personal challenges	139	47.44
Other	10	3.41
Total	293	100.0

Table 19: 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	Percent
Sibling	158	33.1
Mother/Step mother	298	62.3
Female guardian	4	0.8
Foster mother	3	0.6
Father/Step father	196	41.0
Male guardian	3	0.6
Foster father	1	0.2
Extended family (aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc.)	53	11.1
Other	76	15.9
None – I would not contact anyone from home	23	4.8

Table 20: 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	Percent
Every day	197	46.4
Multiple times a week (but less than every day)	125	29.4
Once a week	68	16.0
Multiple times a month (but less than once a week)	18	4.2
Once a month or less	10	2.4
Never	7	1.6
Total	425	100.0

Table 21: 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	Percent
Every day	175	41.57
Multiple times a week (but less than every day)	124	29.45
Once a week	79	18.76
Multiple times a month (but less than once a week)	26	6.18
Once a month or less	9	2.14
Never	8	1.9
Total	421	100.0

Table 22: 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	Percent
Not at all supportive	3	0.7
Somewhat Unsupportive	5	1.2
Somewhat supportive	45	10.7
Very supportive	367	87.4
Total	420	100

Table 23: 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	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
Your physical health and safety (illness, feeling safe on campus, etc.)	33	8.1	36	8.8	129	31.6	210	51.5	408
Your emotional health (homesickness, stress, etc.)	45	11.0	63	15.4	121	29.6	180	44.0	409
Finances (tuition, spending money, etc.)	39	9.5	36	8.8	118	28.9	216	52.8	409
Academics (dropping/adding classes, grades, assignments, etc.)	42	10.27	61	14.92	143	34.96	163	39.85	409
Relationships with faculty/staff	59	14.46	91	22.3	139	34.07	119	29.17	408
Getting involved on campus (student organizations, athletic events, etc.)	60	14.78	75	18.47	140	34.48	131	32.27	406
Career planning (internships, career exploration, etc.)	29	7.1	41	10.0	134	32.8	205	50.1	409
Personal relationships (boyfriends/girlfriends, making friends, etc.)	60	14.67	74	18.09	127	31.05	148	36.19	409
Current “hot” issues on campus (H1N1, budget crisis, potentially controversial issues, etc.)	75	18.29	76	18.55	142	34.63	117	28.54	410

Table 24: 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	Percent
Huge crowd	30	7.19
Large crowd	46	11.03
Moderate-sized group	164	39.33
Relatively small group	124	29.74
Very small group	41	9.83
None - I prefer to be alone	12	2.88
Total	417	100.0

Table 25: 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		Not very likely		Somewhat likely		Very likely		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
Huge crowd	56	13.76	92	22.6	168	41.28	91	22.36	407
Large crowd	39	9.6	71	17.5	498	48.8	98	24.1	706
Moderate-sized group	16	3.94	42	10.34	210	51.72	138	34	406
Relatively small group	12	2.95	39	9.58	200	49.14	156	38.33	407
Very small group	25	6.2	71	17.5	167	41.2	142	35.1	405

Table 26: Where are you living this semester?

Where are you living this semester?	N	Percent
On-campus residence hall	54	12.9
Wolf Village/Western Manor/King Village/Wolf Ridge	53	12.6
Living and Learning Village	7	1.7
University Towers/College Inn/Valentine Commons	25	6.0
Apartment or house (less than two miles away from campus)	70	16.7
Apartment or house (two or more miles away from campus)	174	41.5
Other (please specify)	36	8.6
Total	419	100.0

Table 27: 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	Percent
None	132	29.7
1	86	19.4
2-3	147	33.1
4-5	49	11.0
6-9	23	5.2
10 or more	7	1.6
Total	444	100.0

Table 28: 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	Percent
None	316	90.8
10 hours or less	16	4.6
11-19 hours	13	3.7
20-29 hours	2	.6
30 or more hours	1	.3
Total	348	100.0

Table 29: 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	Percent
None	228	57.72
10 hours or less	46	11.65
11-19 hours	51	12.91
20-29 hours	42	10.63
30 or more hours	28	7.09
Total	395	100.0

Table 30: 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	Percent
None	280	80.92
10 hours or less	59	17.05
11-19 hours	3	.87
20-29 hours	2	.58
30 or more hours	2	.58
Total	346	100.0

Table 31: 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	Percent
Prefer not to be a part of the NC State community	5	1.1
Not important at all	9	2.1
Not very important	41	9.4
Somewhat important	104	23.7
Important	140	32.0
Very important	139	31.7
Total	438	100.0

Table 32: 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	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
I get important needs of mine met because I am part of this community	74	17.41	202	47.53	108	25.41	41	9.65	425
Community members and I value the same things	42	9.9	210	49.53	138	32.55	34	8.02	424
This community has been successful in getting the needs of its members met	39	9.2	164	38.7	173	40.8	48	11.3	424
Being a member of this community makes me feel good	42	9.95	134	31.76	125	29.62	121	28.67	422
When I have a problem, I can talk about it with members of this community	70	16.5	178	42.0	103	24.3	73	17.2	424
People in this community have similar needs, priorities, and goals	44	10.4	163	38.4	150	35.4	67	15.8	424
I can trust people in this community	24	5.7	170	40.3	171	40.5	57	13.5	422
I can recognize most members of this community	108	25.6	180	42.7	106	25.1	28	6.6	422
Most community members know me	189	44.8	162	38.4	52	12.3	19	4.5	422
This community has symbols and expressions of membership such as clothes, signs, art, architecture, logos, landmarks, and flags that people can recognize	25	5.9	111	26.3	130	30.8	156	37.0	422
I put a lot of time and effort into being part of this community	96	22.9	185	44.0	106	25.2	33	7.9	420
Being a member of this community is part of my identity	96	22.8	179	42.52	97	23.04	49	11.64	421
Fitting into this community is important to me	49	11.8	154	36.9	136	32.6	78	18.7	417
This community can influence other communities	18	4.35	128	30.92	159	38.4	109	26.33	414
I care about what other community members think of me	69	16.55	179	42.92	115	27.58	54	12.95	417
I have influence over what this community is like	114	27.41	189	45.43	80	19.23	33	7.93	416
If there is a problem in this community, members can get it solved	21	5.06	138	33.26	180	43.37	76	18.31	415
This community has good leaders	15	3.6	102	24.8	182	44.3	112	27.3	411
It is very important to me to be a part of this community	50	12.05	134	32.29	142	34.22	89	21.44	415

Table 32: 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)	Not at all (1)		Somewhat (2)		Mostly (3)		Completely (4)		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
I am with other community members a lot and enjoy being with them	71	17.1	166	40.1	125	30.2	52	12.6	414
I expect to be a part of this community for a long time	38	9.2	139	33.66	137	33.17	99	23.97	413
Members of this community have shared important events together, such as holidays, celebrations, or disasters	43	10.41	148	35.84	145	35.11	77	18.64	413
I feel hopeful about the future of this community	25	6.0	104	25.1	168	40.6	117	28.3	414
Members of this community care about each other	21	5.1	124	30.0	179	43.2	90	21.7	414